

The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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INTERACT CLUB HELPS COMMUNITY PUMPKIN PATCH

A beautiful Fall day greeted members of the Interact Club of North Plainfield High School as they volunteered to unload 1,000 pumpkins at Holy Cross Church in North Plainfield.

Interact Adviser Joe Lombardo brought almost twenty Interact members to the event to support the Church's Pumpkin Patch fundraiser.

Joined by Rotary Club members Janice, Harry, Timothy, Roberta, Vicky, and Michael and over thirty other volunteers, the Interact members made short work of unloading the pumpkins and setting them up in the Pumpkin Patch.

Using wheelbarrows and carts and wagons, a steady stream of helpers moved from the tractor trailer to the Church grounds at Grove Street and Mercer Avenue, stacking the pumpkins on pallets and then returning for more. Others carried one or two pumpkins from the truck to the pallets, keeping those on the truck constantly busy.

Rotarians Timothy and Michael thanked the Interact Club for their first project of the school year, and promised that Rotary would join them and support them in their own Interact Club projects.

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields normally meets weekly for lunch to share in friendship and to plan projects and activities to support the people in the Plainfields. Meetings are suspended during the pandemic; visit www.rotarynp.org to find out when and where the meetings will resume. Contact Michael Townley, club secretary, for more information - secretary@rotarynp.org.



(above) Approximately 600 of the 1000 pumpkins remain to be unloaded from the truck at the Holy Cross Community Pumpkin Patch. With all of the community volunteers, including the Interact and Rotary Club members, the entire delivery was completed in just over an hour.

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(above) Interact Club Adviser Joe Lombardo (second from left) with members of the Interact Club from North Plainfield High School pose after helping unload 1000 pumpkins at the Holy Cross Church's Community Pumpkin Patch.

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The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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VISION LOSS ALLIANCE OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey will be able to offer FREE virtual wellness classes, peer support groups and technology-focused offerings over Zoom thanks to a grant from the Grotta Fund for Senior Care. Anyone who has low vision in New Jersey, as well as out-of-state residents, can participate.

VLANJ offers virtual classes in managing grocery shopping, yoga, Zen, meditation and mindfulness. Additionally, their tech talk classes help people understand their tech devices and how to use them to connect to online events. The classes have been a hit, helping people with vision loss stay active, learn skills and connect socially.

Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey is a nonprofit organization serving people who are blind or have low vision. Through the group's

programs, participants learn skills that allow them to manage their lives, and create a welcoming community in which they feel safe and supported.

The Grotta Fund provides its grantees with opportunities for technical assistance, learning, and networking with other non-profits. In turn, grantees are encouraged to promote the results of their grant, leverage funding, and sustain programs which have been funded by Grotta. The fund is administered through the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

To Register for Classes visit <https://www.vlanj.org/programs/>

The post Vision Loss Alliance's Virtual Classes Get a Boost from Grotta Fund first appeared on Morris County, NJ.

COMMUNITY HOPE CONNECTS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH HOUSING, SERVICES

CALL THE REFERRAL HOTLINE FOR ELIGIBILITY

Veterans and their families who are experiencing a housing crisis may be eligible for emergency assistance such as motel/hotel stays, security deposits, rent, rental arrears, groceries and utilities through Community Hope.

Community Hope's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is currently providing assistance remotely. Urgent community-based services such as critical supplies and veteran wellness-checks are provided in person.

The increase in support services to veterans and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic is possible thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

To make a referral, please call the referral hotline at 1-855-483-8466 or email SSVF@communityhope-nj.org, or email Gema Diaz at gdiaz@communityhope-nj.org.

Community Hope is a nonprofit that helps individuals, including veterans, and their families, overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty.



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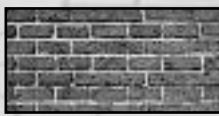
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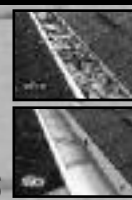
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IMAGINE LAUNCHES SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR NURSES

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss announced the expansion of its virtual group support programs with one designed to help nurses dealing with the stressors of healthcare work during Covid-19. Imagine, which serves more than 2,000 individuals annually and is nationally recognized for its work helping bereaved children and their families, offers its Peer Support Group for Nurses at no cost. Interested nurses can join the weekly support group at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning September 30.

When asked about the decision to launch this program, Imagine's Founder and Executive Director Mary Robinson said, "Through the pandemic, we recognized a gap in support for some of the people we rely on most: our nurses. Supporting nurses who are themselves supporting grieving families felt like a perfect fit for our mission."

Robinson, who was named a 2019 CNN Hero, went on to say, "Nurses continue to selflessly care for others despite their own fears about their potential exposure to Covid-19. We need to ensure they have a place to turn to for support."

For many, the anxiety they feel going to work in a healthcare environment comes on top of grief they were feeling before the pandemic even hit.

Talia Sion, a newly minted nurse, had attended Imagine's Young Adult Group for support following the death of her mother in January, and then joined the organization's pilot support program for First Responders when the pandemic hit.

Of her experience, Sion said, "I was quickly overwhelmed with the weight of so many sick and unstable patients, not knowing if and when things would ever get back to 'normal.' Once again, Imagine created a program for me to turn to with people who understood how I feel; people who understood what I was facing on a daily basis at work."

The nature of the program's virtual environment breaks down geographic boundaries for those seeking support. Nurses from New Jersey and throughout the country are welcome to attend.

"New Jersey is no longer a hotspot for Covid-19, but many of the nurses here are processing what they went through and bracing for a

possible resurgence," Robinson said. "Meanwhile, there are nurses in other states in similar positions to where we were a few months ago. Sharing these stories, fears, and challenges at all different stages in a peer support model is proven to be an effective way to learn coping strategies."

As with all of Imagine's offerings, this free Peer Group Support for Nurses program will be available year-round for as long as is needed. Those who are interested can register at imaginej.org/nurses.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a New Jersey-based grief support center for children, young adults and families dealing with the death or life-altering illness of a parent, sibling or child. In addition to its peer grief support programs, Imagine provides training through education and outreach programs across the state to a variety of organizations including schools, houses of worship and corporations. Its goal is to create communities where grief and loss are transformed into resilience, empathy and compassion; and where no child grieves alone.

THERAPY DOG, LOCAL STORY MAY HELP SOMERSET COUNTY CHILDREN IMPROVE SELF-ESTEEM, HAPPINESS DURING VIRTUAL LIBRARY PROGRAM



(above) On November 9 from 4:30-5 p.m., families will have the opportunity to meet local children's author Valerie Peña and her certified therapy dog Zoey with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) through a virtual program. For more information or to register, visit sclsj.libnet.info/event/4506706.

On November 9 from 4:30 - 5 p.m., families will have the opportunity to meet local children's author Valerie Peña and her certified therapy dog Zoey with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) through a virtual program.

During the program Peña, an occupational therapist and therapy dog handler, will read her first published book "Wally's Wish" from the Wally's World series; discuss how she writes and where her ideas come from; and answer any questions Library customers may have.

"The 'World of Wally' books were written to be a source of comfort and empowerment for all children," said Peña. "When I began writing, I became aware of the parallels between the topics in the stories to the issues children face in their lives. Their purpose is to help children believe in themselves and their own abilities to face and conquer whatever life throws their way."

Continued Peña, "Children face many challenges in their lives, and sometimes it is difficult to know how to overcome them. My books provide a way for children to experience life's difficulties through the eyes of Wally, who faces many of the same challenges that they do. Whatever it is that a child may be experiencing, it is comforting to know that Wally has also gone through a similar situation, and was able to overcome it."

In addition to delving into her experiences as an author Peña, who has visited SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch with her therapy dog Zoey, will also explore the benefits of reading to a therapy dog.

"I believe therapy dogs provide unconditional love and comfort without any judgement, and enable children to be themselves without feeling

intimidated, the way they might feel being around people," said Peña. "What I would like to accomplish through my therapy dog visits is to work with Zoey to help develop self-esteem, comfort, and happiness in every child we meet and with whom we develop relationships."

"Valerie and Zoey have become a beloved part of SCLSNJ's programming lineup," said Lynn Mazur, youth services supervisor. "I am so excited for Valerie to share her first book with the children of Somerset County, and to give them the chance to explore her writing process. She will surely help children discover a lifelong love of reading and writing."

The author, who began writing in 2004, is currently working on a book that she hopes will help empower children. The book will feature Zoey and explore Peña's 25-plus years of experience working as a school-based occupational therapist.

#BeSafeAtHome and explore "Wally's Wish" with Peña, Zoey, and your Library. For more information or to register: sclsj.libnet.info/event/4506706.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

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NORTH PLAINFIELD LIBRARY CONNECTS RESIDENTS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT

HOLIDAY DRIVE FOR SURVIVORS

During the holidays, Safe+Sound Somerset (S+SS) seeks to give additional support to our clients and their families through our Holiday Drive. Last year, with the help of supporters like you, S+SS was able to provide close to 150 individual family members with a brighter holiday season and the creation of new, positive memories.

As we prepare for the 2020 Holiday Drive during the coronavirus pandemic, we are asking for your help as we find ourselves needing to make some changes for the safety and security of our clients, volunteers and staff.

Most importantly, we will only be collecting \$25 Amazon, Walmart, Target and Visa gift cards for our Holiday Drive this year.

If you purchase electronic cards, please send them to kcantwell@safe-sound.org.

If you purchase actual gift cards, please mail them to Safe+Sound Somerset, Attn: Kristin Cantwell, 427 Homestead Rd, Hillsborough, NJ 08844.

We are collecting gift cards for the Holiday Drive now through Friday, November 20.

Gift cards will be provided for each member of the family, along with a family gift. Zarephath Christian Church will be providing our families with a holiday dinner.

Monetary gifts are also greatly appreciated for the Holiday Drive and to ensure the availability of services for survivors. You can make a gift today at safe-sound.org/support/donate. If you want to designate your gift, in the "This gift is made in Memory or Honor of:" field, type "Holiday Drive."

If you belong to a business, community or other group that is interested in hosting a Holiday Drive on behalf of our clients, please reach out to Kristin Cantwell, Director of Development at kcantwell@safe-sound.org, if you need promotional support or to make special arrangements for delivery of your collected gift cards.

Thank you in advance for helping to make the holiday season special for the clients of Safe+Sound Somerset. Because of you and your generosity, these survivors of domestic abuse and their families can look forward to a brighter holiday season.

Safe+Sound Somerset is the only private, non-profit organization in Somerset County providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic abuse and their families. Our trauma-informed, evidence-based programs are designed to support and empower survivors and their families. Established in 1978, S+SS has continually expanded, offering a comprehensive range of services for survivors while working towards ending intimate partner violence and domestic abuse once and for all.

For help or to request additional information about Safe+Sound Somerset's services, call or text our 24/7 confidential hotline at 866-685-1122. Services are provided free of charge, in a confidential and culturally sensitive environment.

Submitted by Tracy Carney

U.S. Census Bureau data from 2019 states that approximately 5 percent of Somerset County residents live at or below the poverty line and 5.4 percent of Somerset County residents under the age of 65 do not have access to health insurance.

If you or a loved one are facing hardships due to the pandemic or other circumstances, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) can help. Since 2017, SCLSNJ has partnered with interns from Rutgers School of Social Work to connect Library customers to resources.

"Not only can an intern provide information and referral services to those in need, an intern can facilitate the referral of an individual to a community partner, including police, family and children's services, employment centers, housing, food programs, immigrant and refugee services, and more," said Lauren Ryan, manager of branch services, strategic initiatives and special projects. "The social work intern protects the privacy of patrons and works to establish a therapeutic relationship with a patron to facilitate lasting change."

"For the last four years, SCLSNJ's partnership with the Rutgers University School of Social Work internship program has enhanced the organization's ability to provide personalized support to the community," said Nicole Pascoe, civic services supervisor. "As an extension of existing library services, our social work interns address the needs of shifting demographics by connecting patrons to community resources and providing assistance in navigating supportive information and services."

Social work interns are available at the Bound Brook, North Plainfield, and Somerville branches; for the first time, at the Manville branch; and for the convenience of all Library customers, also available remotely.

"We are going to be doing things a bit differently at the Manville branch," continued Pascoe. "While the social work intern will not physically be at the branch, the Library System has arranged equipment in a private space to mimic the in-person experience so that Library customers can connect with the intern privately through a Google Meet session. During the pandemic and beyond, we want our customers to feel safe and comfortable when communicating with our social work interns."

The interns, Veronica Delmonte, Isabelle Gunn, Jessica Jerez, and Cathryn Salladin, are working towards obtaining their bachelor's degrees in social work. In addition to helping Library customers discover resources and information, they are also working with SCLSNJ staff to enhance the Library System's offerings and programs.

"Searching for resources can be overwhelming, or one simply may not know where to start," said Gunn. "By connecting patrons with resources directly I hope to remove any barriers and challenges that come with seeking resources. It's helpful for a community to know that there is someone they can go to who cares about their well-being and wants to equip

them with the tools to help them succeed."

"Through interning with SCLSNJ, I hope to leave an impact on the lives of others and use my own experiences to empathize with people from all walks of life," said Salladin. "This program also helps to eliminate gaps in access to technology and language, while creating a personal and warm environment."

Social services assistance is available in English, Spanish, and Korean. All interns are available to meet remotely during their scheduled hours.

CONNECT WITH A SOCIAL WORK INTERN:

North Plainfield branch

6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays,
4-8 p.m.

Contact Jerez: jjerez@sclibnj.org
908-458-8400 x2384

Bound Brook branch

402 East High Street in Bound Brook
Mondays and Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m.
Wednesdays, 3-6 p.m.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact Delmonte: vdelmonte@sclibnj.org
or 908-458-8400 x2131

Manville branch

100 South 10th Avenue in Manville
Mondays, 2-5 p.m.
Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact Salladin: csalladin@sclibnj.org
or 908-458-8400 x2281

Somerville branch

35 West End Avenue in Somerville
Mondays, 4-8 p.m.
Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fridays: October 9, 16, 23;
November 6, 13, 20;

December 4, 11; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• Saturdays: October 31;

November 28; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Gunn: igunn@sclibnj.org or
908-458-8400 x2482

In-branch hours start on October 5 and conclude on December 12. To schedule an in-person or virtual meeting with a social work intern:

sclsnj.org/using-our-libraries/social-services-support. For more information about the social work program at SCLSNJ contact: npascoe@sclibnj.org.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

EXPLORE SCLSNJ'S VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Programs are subject to change. All programs are virtual unless otherwise indicated. Visit sclsnj.libnet.info/events.org for SCLSNJ's complete calendar of events. For questions contact SCLSNJ staff at ask@sclibnj.org.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

The Wizard of Oz - A Staged Radio Play

November 7, 2-3 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4504625.

The Declaration of Independence - The Influence of Mary Kathryn Goddard

November 9, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4509221.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Wanted - Villains (grades 9-12)

November 2, 4-5 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4529259.

Bilingual English/Spanish Storytime (ages 3-7)

November 3, 5:30-6 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4510709.

STEAM Lab (grades K-2 and their caregivers)

November 4, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4517524.

Hooray for Veterans Day - Meet a Veteran (families with children)

November 7, 2-2:45 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4524517.

Meet the Author - Valerie Peña (families)

November 9, 4:30-5 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4506706.

NaNoWriMo - National Novel Writing Month Challenge (grades 6-12)

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
November 9

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4555512.

November 23

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4561060.

November 30

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4561809.

Diwali - One Festival Many Stories (families with children)

November 11, 4-5 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4524615.

LEAD - Leadership Exploration and Development Club (grades 6-8)

November 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4517548.

December 2: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4517554.

Young Adult Crossover Club - "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott (grades 6-12)

November 18, 6-7 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4560200.

Intro to Robotics - Sweep the Castle (grades 6-12)

November 19, 5-6:30 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4479977.

Story and Craft - Pumpkin Pie (families)

November 23, 10-10:30 a.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4560827.

Baby Songs

(ages birth - 2 years and caregivers)

November 30, 2:30-3 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4561118.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Conquering Mount Everest

November 5, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4498242.

My Favorites - An Evening of Jazz With Danielle Illario

November 6, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4561837.

Book Discussion Salon

November 11, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

Traditionally hosted at the Warren Twp. branch

- "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4565954.

Meet the Author

Michael C. Gabriele

November 12, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4500448.

David Treuer

November 19, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4497284.

Fantastic Plant Stories - Presented by Somerset County Park Commission

November 14, 2-3 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4440510.

Implicit Bias in Public Education - Presented by Dr. Anne Gregory of Rutgers University

November 16, 6-7:30 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4551783.

Using Online Job Applications

November 17, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4519407.

The RVCC Workforce Training Center - Career Pathways and Continuing Education

November 18, 7-8 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4527666.

Let's Talk Turkey and Side Dishes With Chef Jesse

November 20, 3-4 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4513508.

Presidential Signatures

November 21, 2-3 p.m.

Program is virtual. Register now:
sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4498324.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I NEED SHELTER IN A CRISIS?

Safe+Sound Somerset's advocates, staff and volunteers with extensive training in domestic violence, answer hotline calls and respond to text messages 24 hours a day, seven days a week including weekends and holidays. Our services are free of charge, confidential, and provided in the caller's preferred language.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, or you have questions about domestic violence or our services, reach out to Safe+Sound Somerset's 24/7 call and text hotline at 866-685-1122.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE TRAINING – VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

A 40-Hour Domestic Violence Advocate training for Safe+Sound Somerset volunteers provides an understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse, options available to individuals who experience abuse, and a philosophy of empowering survivors. Safe+Sound Somerset offers this training in the Spring and Fall of each year. Our fully remote Fall session will begin in October and run for ten weeks. To apply for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, please complete a volunteer interest form at safe-sound.org/volunteer.

Safe+Sound Somerset is the lead domestic violence agency in Somerset County. Our mission is to prevent domestic violence and empower victims by providing protection, education, and resources. All services for victims are confidential and free of charge. For more information call 908-359-0003.

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- Always lock your vehicle
- Notify the police of any suspicious activity

WHEN COVID-19 HITS THE NJ VETERAN COMMUNITY HITS BACK

Submitted by Jesus MiroQuesada and Angie Abbot, NJVN

A group of veterans and veterans' organizations are making a huge difference during New Jersey's Covid-19 pandemic. The New Jersey Veterans Networks' "Operation: Helping Heroes" project has two objectives including providing meals and groceries to veterans, and protective equipment to first responders. Food and PPE have been delivered to first responders, hospital workers, and activated National Guardsmen throughout the state.

They have distributed almost 3,000 hot meals and groceries to veterans, National Guardsmen and essential frontline workers at 61 different drop-off locations. The NJVN also provided personal protective equipment and helped distribute over 10,000 gallons of hand sanitizer to hospitals, EMS squads and police departments, and provided over 2,000 protective masks. This all happened during a crucial time when things like food, masks and hand sanitizer were very much needed, but hard to find.



(above) NJVN President Michael Boll dropping off masks and gloves to a care facility.

The New Jersey Veteran Network has truly lived up to its name and partnered with a rich network of almost a dozen other organizations in order to fulfill their mission. Non-profits like the Samaritan Outreach Services, Operation Jersey Cares, the CSM Robert Gallagher Charitable Foundation, and Milltown VFW 2319, worked tirelessly to contribute to the Helping Heroes effort by either supporting heroes and first responders working through the crisis, or helping veterans whose health and finances were affected by the pandemic.

Doc Schupp who created the Helping Heroes program had this to say "We were only able to reach and help as many people as we did because we are working with some of the best and most passionate organizations and people in the state. People like James Ludolph, would drive for hours dropping off food to sick and quarantined vets only to ask me what the next mission to help was, or 2319 VFW Commander Bob Kolesare, who would personally go out to help fill veterans' pantries."

NJVN Outreach Director, Frank "Doc" Schupp organized the hot meal and groceries portion of the program in collaboration with VFW 2319, Operation: Jersey Cares and Samaritan Outreach Services. Food was donated by restaurants including Jim Dandy of East Rutherford, Marinelli's and 55 Main both of Flemington, Amici's of Linden, Burnett BBQ of Union, and Applebee's of Garfield. Donations were delivered to National Guard units, hospital workers and veteran shelters such as Operation Valor in Newark and Vet Haven North.

Home deliveries of food as well as social service assistance, in coordination with Catholic Charities and PACO agency, were also provided to assist veterans who were quarantined at home due the COVID-19 crisis.

The protective equipment distribution was managed by NJVN President Michael Boll in collaboration with Ashland Chemical who sponsored the hand sanitizer, and Backpacks for

Life - a veterans' organization who has created a full-scale operation to create masks to give to first responders and hospital staff. Protective equipment was given to hospitals including Holy Name of Teaneck, the East Orange and Lyons VA Hospitals, Jersey City and New Bridge Medical Centers, and police departments including New Providence and Florham Park.

Both the food distribution and PPE could not have been made possible without the volunteers who took the time to pick up and distribute the goods. Great people like James Ludolph, Robert Bouthille, Dana Black, Juan Peris, Jamel Dobbins and Michael Salerno (with the team Mascots Shadow and Mush) and many others made this project happen! Many good people came together and were able to make a positive impact on the community during a difficult time. All of this was done by strong partnerships, unpaid volunteers, and sponsored through donations.

Perhaps, VFW 2319s Commander Bob Kolesare said it best, "VFW 2319 really enjoyed taking care of our vets. We hope that we were able to brighten their days just a little bit during this crisis."

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that EVERY single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contributing to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mbollo@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) NJVN President Michael Boll, Outreach Director Frank "Doc" Schupp and Reverend Richard Starling dropping off food and snacks for the Senior Veterans of Menlo Park Senior Home.



(above) NJVN Outreach Director Doc Schupp and sidekick Shadow dropping off hot meals to National Guardsmen.

ORGAN DONOR ENROLLMENT DAY

On October 8, NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state worked together to register organ and tissue donors in celebration of Organ Donor Enrollment Day. The non-profit, federally designated organ procurement organization set a goal of amassing at least 2,020 new donor registrations on 2020 Organ Donor Enrollment Day. The 2,020 goal helps create a positive spin on the number '2020' as opposed to the negative '2020' references seen virtually everywhere due to the challenges faced this year.

Currently, there are nearly 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. You can register to be a donor at any time by visiting njsharingnetwork.org/register.

“Organ Donor Enrollment Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation,” said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. “One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people.”

In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant. However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey’s organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is now easier than ever for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

Online at www.NJSharingNetwork.org

Through the iPhone Health App

In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency
Another key component of Organ Donor Enrollment Day is encouraging those who register to have a conversation with their family and friends about their decision to donate.

“Donation provides comfort and healing to so many families after losing a loved one. It is so important to talk to your family and share your

decision about organ donation so your gift is honored,” said Carolyn M. Welsh, vice president and chief clinical officer, NJ Sharing Network.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

Dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation, NJ Sharing Network is the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization, selected by NJBiz as one of the state’s “Best Places to Work” for the third consecutive year, is also part of the national recovery system, serving the nearly 110,000 people on the national waiting list. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.

(above) Jim Rhatican of Berkeley Heights was in desperate need of a life-saving liver transplant. Thanks to the selflessness of his donor, Jim gets to enjoy precious time with his grandchildren. You can register as an organ and tissue donor by visiting: <https://njsharingnetwork.org/register>

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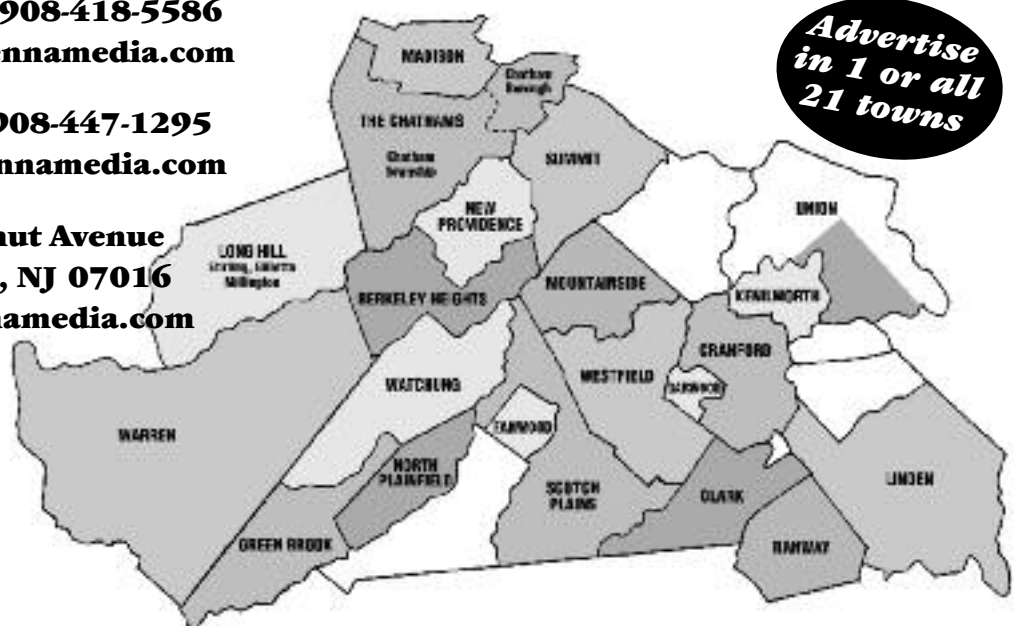
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1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500							
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320							
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NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

*William F. Eaton, Fire Chief/Director,
North Plainfield Fire Dept.*

October is National Fire Prevention Month and the North Plainfield Fire Department actively participates in this nationwide initiative. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Department modified our typical FPW activities. First and foremost, all residents should take this time and opportunity to be reminded of some important fire safety facts and tips that are listed below and provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a global self-funded nonprofit organization, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fires.

In 2019, local fire departments across the country responded to an estimated 1.3 million fires. These fires caused roughly 3,700 civilian fire deaths (10 fire deaths per day) and 16,600 reported civilian fire injuries. Property damage was estimated at \$14.8 billion. On average, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the US every 24 seconds in 2019. Fire departments protecting populations under 2,500 had the highest rate of fires.

This year's theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen, so we are trying to raise awareness about the importance of fire safety while cooking. Of course, it is equally important to have working smoke detectors to help alert you to a possible fire. Now is a good time to test/check all your detectors for operation and change the battery.

During this campaign, activities throughout the month included working with the schools, as best as possible, to provide a revised instructional format that educates the students, while at the same time, takes health and safety precautions into account. We also kicked-off our 2020 Change Your Clock Change Your Battery program. It will be in a modified format, where visits will only be made upon request of the senior citizen, with responding Fire Department personnel wearing appropriate protective equipment and taking all necessary precautions. This cost-free program is typically for any senior citizen in the community, but we will also assist any other resident who requests our help. Interested seniors or any other participants should call fire headquarters at 908-769-2935 to schedule a time/date.

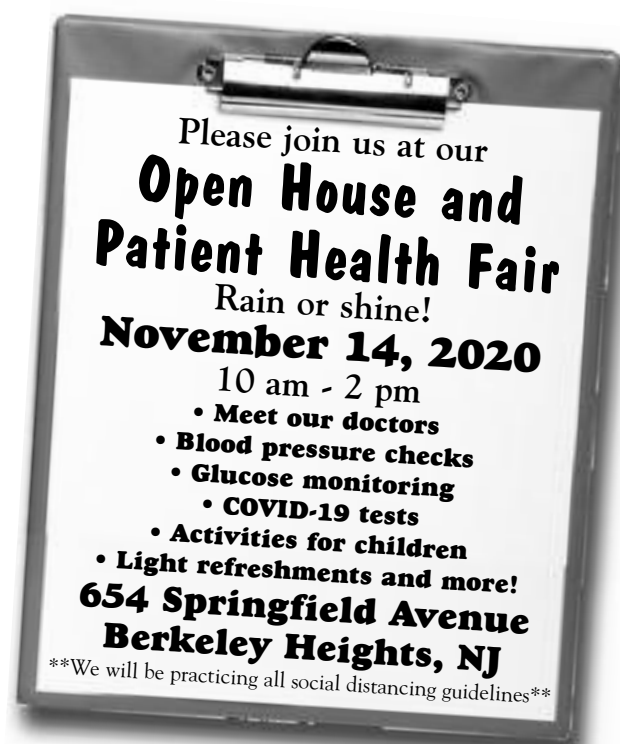
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Announcing
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After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program and is an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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