Green Brook Gazette

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LIBRARY SYSTEM DONATION DRIVE

Submitted by Tracy Carney

A recent article from "The Wall Street Journal" cited that approximately 1.2 million New Jersey residents cannot afford regular access to food, which is a "33 percent increase prior to the pandemic." In response to this community need, staff from the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) donated non-perishable food items and school supplies to The Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

"Libraries are all about sharing and I couldn't be more proud to work with such a fine and generous staff," said County Library Administrator Brian Auger. "The Library System's drop-offs have been a reliable and significant source for the food bank for the last decade. Even during these trying times caused by the pandemic, Library staff rose to the occasion and made contributions from their own resources."

Library System staff donated approximately 1,000 pounds of food, 10 boxes of school supplies, and 100 backpacks to the organization.

"The Food Bank Network of Somerset County regularly services 350 families, but that number has nearly doubled this year due to the impact of the pandemic," said SCLSNJ Operations Supervisor Edith Lit. "For the 10th year, SCLSNJ

staff was able to continue the Library System's mission to help those in need through their dedication to give back. Because of our staff's donations, hundreds of families will have school supplies for their children and food on the table."

The mission of The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is "to distribute food and to provide other basic human needs to those less fortunate in our community in a manner which recognizes and advances self worth and human dignity." For more information or to donate to The Food Bank Network of Somerset County visit: somersetfoodbank.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.

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(above, l-r) Staff from the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) donated non-perishable food items and school supplies to The Food Bank Network of Somerset County. Pictured are SCLSNJ staff members Jennifer McClear, library technician; Charlene Perkins, human resources and payroll associate; and Edith Lit, operations supervisor; after sorting and boxing the donations. For more information or to donate to The Food Bank Network of Somerset County visit: somersetfoodbank.org.

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BLOOD DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED CHRONIC SHORTAGES THREATEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AS POTENTIAL SECOND WAVE LOOMS

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center (NYBC), wants to increase blood donations for area hospitals. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a chronic shortage across the country that shows no sign of improving. This is particularly dangerous given the looming uncertainty surrounding the pandemic's trajectory over the course of the next few months.

Blood is urgently needed. The region's healthcare system requires 1,500 donations each day to treat patients ranging from trauma victims and cancer patients to newborn babies and their mothers. Prior to the pandemic, blood drives were held at businesses, high schools, colleges and community groups. Most of those groups have had to cancel their blood drives due to COVID-19. Donations are at just 65% of prepandemic levels - well below what is needed by hospitals and patients in our area.

"This is an incredibly challenging time for our communities. We are now relying on people seeking out a place to donate. So far, that is not happening at the level we need," said Andrea H. Cefarelli, Senior Executive Director of Recruitment & Marketing for New York Blood Center.

We are asking our community to visit our donor centers or to find a convenient community blood drive to donate. "The Covid-19 pandemic has created blood shortages for all New Jersey and NY hospital systems, said Cefarelli. Donated blood is essential for trauma and surgery patients in need.

We encourage healthy New Jersey residents, aged 16 to 75, to donate blood at NJBS blood drives and donation sites now. Visit NYBC.org or Call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566) to make an appointment today."

HOW NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS CAN HELP:

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/zip.

NYBC also needs more partners to step up and help host drives in large venues. If you have a space available and would like to host a blood drive, please sign nybloodcenter.org/support-us/host-blooddrive/apply-host-drive.

For information on the extra precautions being taken to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, visit our website.

ABOUT NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER

Founded in 1964, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is a nonprofit organization that is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the world. NYBC, along with its operating divisions Community Blood Center of Kansas City, Missouri (CBC), Innovative Blood Resources (IBR), Blood Bank of Delmarva (BBD), and Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC), collect approximately 4,000 units of blood products each day and serve local communities of more than 75 million people in the Tri-State area (NY, NJ, CT), Mid Atlantic area (PA, DE, MD, VA), Missouri and Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Southern New England. NYBC and its operating divisions also provide a wide array of transfusion-related medical services to over 500 hospitals nationally, including Comprehensive Cell Solutions, the National Center for Blood Group Genomics, the National Cord Blood Program, and the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, which — among other milestones developed a practical screening method for hepatitis B as well as a safe, effective and affordable vaccine, and a patented solvent detergent plasma process innovating bloodpurification technology worldwide.



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VULNERABLE RESIDENTS CAN SIGN UP FOR A FREE SAFETY RESOURCE

Somerset County's Office of Emergency Management supports the New Jersey "Register Ready" system — a special needs registry for vulnerable residents to use as a safety resource during a disaster or other emergency.

Experts agree the best way of managing a crisis is to be proactive and have a plan. Residents with disabilities and others who have special needs can better prepare for an emergency by signing up for Register Ready. Through this safety resource, emergency response teams have access to each registrant's specific health and safety needs as well as their location.

Caregivers or family members can register on behalf of their loved one or patient. Each individual's personal information is kept confidential. The service is password protected and will not be shared with other entities. Personal information will only be used for wellness checks and emergency response activities. Register Ready profiles will expire after one year, so personal information must be updated annually.

To register, call 2-1-1 for assistance or visit https://bit.ly/RegisterReady2020

Residents who are interested in more community support can contact the Somerset County Department of Human Services at 908-704-6300 or visit https://bit.ly/HumanServicesPrograms

The Department of Human Services is responsible for the supervision and administration of divisions that help support juveniles, youth, the aging, people with disabilities, veterans and other residents. For more information, visit https://bit.ly/HumanServicesPrograms

The Somerset County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for Emergency Management Planning, Emergency Services Training Academy, Hazardous Materials Response Team, County Emergency Response Team (CERT), County Animal Response Team (CART), Search and Rescue Team (SAR), National Incident Management System Compliance, Fire Coordination and EMS Coordination.

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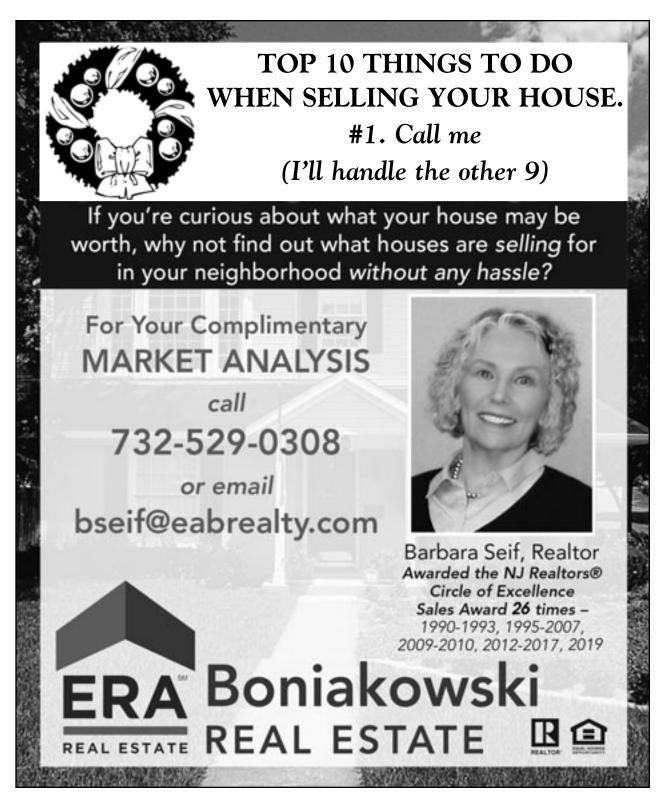
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POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE LISTS SCAMS TARGETING VETERANS; OFFERS VALUABLE INFORMATION TO PROTECT AGAINST THEM

prevention program created by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and AARP, is alerting the more than 17 million U.S. veterans to scams specifically targeting them.

THESE INCLUDE:

Secret Veterans Benefits Scam: Veterans are told they qualify for "secret" government programs or benefits that offer thousands of dollars. But first, they attempt to collect personal information or a fee.

Pension Poaching Scam: Scammers often offer veterans lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefit checks.

Bogus Employment Scam: Scammers post fake job descriptions to collect personal information from a veteran's job application, or they charge an employment fee.

VA Loan Scams: Offers to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates.

Update Your File Scam: An imposter, claiming to be from a government agency, attempts to get a veteran's personal information to "update their file," so they can maintain their benefits.

Aid and Attendance Scam: Veterans (or their family members) receive an offer to move their assets into a living trust so that they can qualify for financial assisted living benefits.

According to research conducted by AARP, veterans are twice as likely as the general public

Operation Protect Veterans, a joint crime to be victims of scams. What can veterans – and those who care about them – do to prevent being taken advantage of by scammers?

> The Postal Inspection Service advises every veteran do the following:

> Visit the Postal Inspection Service's website (uspis.gov) to learn about scams targeting veterans and what they can do to prevent becoming a victim.

> Check out any offer with a trusted family member, friend or your local veteran's affairs office before acting.

> Don't be pressured into acting immediately. If you are dealing with a legitimate outfit, they won't try to pressure you to act before having a chance to check it out and think about it. If they do, just say "no" and hang up.

> Get an answering machine and caller ID display. Then, let the machine answer the phone for you. If you don't recognize the person leaving a message, don't pick up the phone!

> Contact your telephone service provider, and ask them what kind of services they offer to help you block unwanted calls.

> Report if you believe you have been the victim of a scam. Contact your local police or AARP (protectveterans@aarp.org or 877-908-3360).

> Get credible information on how to qualify for veterans' benefits by contacting your state veterans' affairs agency. Visit nasdva.us, and click on "Links."

"Veterans have access to special benefits and share a special bond that scammers know and use to take advantage of them," said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale. "The Postal Inspection Service works hard every day to stop scams targeting veterans, but we need everyone to become better informed, so they can help spread the knowledge to the veterans they know and love. I encourage all Americans to make this Veteran's Day not only a day of remembrance and thanks for our veterans, but also to make it the start of learning about, and helping to spread information on scams targeting veterans."

For more information on scams targeting veterans and other scams, visit uspis.gov.

ABOUT THE U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency. It supports and protects the U.S. Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure and customers; it enforces the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and it ensures public trust in the mail. Over 2,400 postal inspectors, postal police, technical and administrative people are spread out over 17 divisions and the national headquarters in Washington.

For more information, visit uspis.gov, and follow us on Twitter (@USPISpressroom), Facebook (@Postalinspectors), and Instagram (@postalinspectors).

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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

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 as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.

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

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NEW JERSEY'S FAITH LEADERS DISCUSSED SUPPORT FOR ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION DURING LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

Submitted by Gary Mignone

On November 12, NJ Sharing Network kicked off National Donor Sabbath weekend with an interactive Donation and Faith Panel Discussion that brought together faith leaders from throughout New Jersey to discuss why most major religions in the United States support organ and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity. A recording of the panel discussion can be viewed on NJ Sharing Network's Facebook page or at www.YouTube.com/NJSharingNetwork. Some of the key messages from the panelists included:

E. Denise Peoples, Agape Family Worship Center of Rahway and NJ Sharing Network panel moderator, and double-lung transplant recipient - "We are extremely fortunate to have strong partners in our local faith-based communities who support our life-saving mission by discussing organ and tissue donation with their congregations and by sharing their inspirational stories and unique perspectives about donation."

Rev. Dr. Vanessa M. Brown, Rivers of Living Water Ministries UCC of Newark - "Life is one of the greatest gifts that you can give, and it is a gift that can be shared. It is part of us doing good in this world by saving lives."

Church of Teaneck – "We share information with our community about organ and tissue donation to show them what love looks like. Many in our faith community have had life-saving transplants and they show others what the gift of life looks like."

Rajesh Karnani, son of a tissue donor and member of the Hindu community – "My father was passionate about his family, his faith and his support for organ and tissue donation. He would often speak with our Hindu religious leaders to discuss the virtues of organ donation, and they recognized it as the best gift anyone could give to another person."

Rabbi Ari Lucas, Congregation Agudath Israel (CAI) of Caldwell – "Organ and tissue donation is supported by all major streams of Judaism. Many in our synagogue community have been profoundly affected by the generosity of people who gave and they are the greatest preachers of the importance of this because they are living testaments to the value of organ and tissue donation."

Fr. Edmund Luciano, Parish of the Visitation of New Brunswick, and heart transplant recipient NJSharingNetwork.org.

Rev. Dr. Marilyn M. Harris, First Baptist – "The Catholic Church is very much in support of organ and tissue donation. We encourage our families to be aware of this. It is a testament of love for our neighbor."

> Observed annually in November, National Donor Sabbath seeks to educate faith-based communities across the country about the critical need for organ and tissue donation, and the vital role faith plays in making the decision to register as a donor. For National Donor Sabbath tools and other resources visit

NJSharingNetwork.org/donor-sabbath.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization responsible recovering organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization is part of the national recovery system, serving the 110,000 people on the national waiting list. NJ Sharing Network was selected by NJBiz as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit

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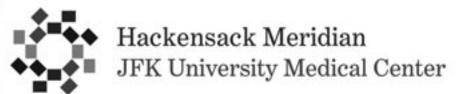








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SOMERSET COUNTY POSTMASTERS SHARE TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

were attacked by dogs in the United States. New Jersey ranked ninth among the 50 states with 169 dog attacks in 2019. The 17 postmasters serving the 21 municipalities in Somerset County are joining their colleagues throughout the Garden State and across the nation to raise public awareness of the importance of responsible pet ownership in helping prevent dog bites.

To prevent dog bites, Somerset County Postmasters recommend the following tips for responsible pet ownership:

Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation.

When the letter carrier comes to your home,

Last year, a total of 5,803 USPS employees keep your dog inside, away from the door, in another room, or on a leash.

> Dogs can be protective of their territory and may interpret the actions of letter carriers as a threat. Please take precautions when accepting mail in the presence of your pet.

> Dogs that haven't been properly socialized, receive little attention or handling, or are left tiedup for long periods of time frequently turn into biters.

> By following these few simple tips, pet owners can significantly improve neighborhood safety for everyone.

> The Postal Service has a short animated dog bite video available on its YouTube site, USPS TV on www.youtube.com

SENIOR CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL THE END OF 2020

All Somerset County-operated senior wellness centers will continue to follow public healthcare guidelines for the safety of its clients and caregivers by remaining temporarily closed until the end of 2020. County staff is working diligently to provide food deliveries and remote services.

To learn more about Zoom virtual programs, Meals on Wheels, Grab & Go lunch and to stay up to date about the Somerset County Senior Centers

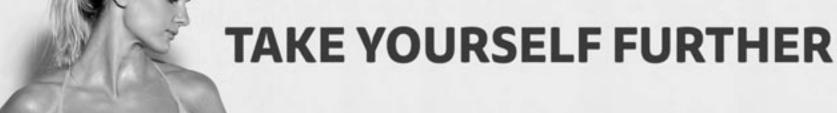
co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-

services/aging-disability-services/senior-centers.

For more information contact the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services at 908-704-6346 or toll free at 1-888-747-1122.









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SCLSNJ'S DECEMBER 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.

*Please note:

The North Plainfield will be closed on December 24, 25, 31; and January 1. The Warren Twp. will be closed on December 24, 25; January 1. The branch will be open limited hours from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on December 31. The Watchung branch will be closed on December 24, 25, 31; and January 1.

ACCESS TO PUBLICATIONS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

Connect with thousands of newspapers and magazines from all around the world with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) state-of-the-art digital news platform, PressReader.

"PressReader is like the Netflix of news," said Yvonne Selander, collection development manager. "Many of our customers have adapted to online reading during the quarantine, and this is a great way to continue to deliver even more materials to them safely. I'm thrilled our customers will be able to get world news directly on their screens."

PressReader offers unlimited access to over 7,000 publications from across the globe in over 60 languages. Library customers can explore news from countries including India, China, and Australia on their personal computers or Apple and Android apps. The resource also has the ability to translate news in up to 18 different languages.

"PressReader offers a diverse collection of magazines and newspapers," said Elizabete Pata, adult services supervisor. "This resource is inclusive to Somerset County residents because it incorporates language selections, which are helpful to our bilingual and multilingual patrons, as well as those looking to learn, and/or brush up on their language skills."

In addition to the multi-language offerings and capabilities, Library customers can stay up-to-date with the most recent national and international news on hot topics including the current pandemic, or a more personalized research topic.

"The personalization offered by PressReader lets users tailor news feeds to their interests" said Linda Tripp, collection development librarian. "They can explore the most recent information about the COVID-19 pandemic from diverse, international perspectives by setting a my topic alert. Customers who want to read specific sections across multiple publications can customize their feed, and also easily share stories by email or on social media."

Library customers can also listen to stories through the audio feature; access back issues from up to 90 days; and search by county, language, category, and publication type.

Discover the news you want today: SCLSNJ.org/pressreader.k

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Teen Classical Music Night

December 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4556862.

Songs of the Season Performed by Robin Greenstein

December 16, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4545440.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN

Myths and Legends of the Ancient World (families with children)

1-2 p.m. Register now:

December 2: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4524319.

December 9: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4524440.

December 16: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4524448.

Learn to Crochet an Infinity Scarf (grades 6-12)

December 2, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4555631.

Optical Illusions (grades 2-5)

December 4, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4556685.

Holidays Around the World (families)

December 5, 10-10:45 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4508343.

Graham Cracker Houses (grades K-5)

December 5, 2-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4519497.

Penguin Plunder - A Honey Heist Adventure (grades 6-12)

December 8, 6-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4556877.

Kids Chat - Holidays (grades 3-6)

December 9, 5:30-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4532342.

Laundry 101 (grades 9-12)

December 11, 3-3:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4532986.

Figure Drawing (grades 6-12)

December 12, 2-3:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4550509.

Kids Cook Holiday Edition - Vegan Mug Cakes (grades 1-5 and caregivers)

December 14, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4532503.

A Year in Reads (grades 6-12)

December 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4515598.

Elephant and Piggie Performance (grades K-3 and caregivers)

December 15, 5-5:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4532238.

2020 Headline Trivia (grades 6-12)

December 15, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4559604.

Virtual Escape Room - Lost in the White House (grades 4 and up)

December 19, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4546093.

Get Movin'

(ages birth - 5 years and caregivers)

December 21, 10-10:30 a.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4517769.

Hink Pinks (grades 3-6)

December 22, 4-4:45 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4559643.

Game Design Workshop (grades 5-7)

December 29, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4547982.

Say Goodbye to 2020

Happy Noon Year (families with children)

December 30, 11 a.m. - noon

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4559648.

New Year Trivia (grades 3-6)

December 30, 3-4 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4544801.

Bullet Journaling (grades 6-12)

December 30, 4-6 p.m

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4559656.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Meditation - Presented by Jean Leigh

December 2, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4498580.

Navigating the FAFSA (teens, adults)

December 3, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4498504.

Fraud Watch Network Basics - Presented by Cristina Anastasio of AARP

December 4, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4525461.

Remembering Pearl Harbor

December 7, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4504139.

Email 101 for the Job Seeker

December 8, 11 a.m. - noon

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4532743.

Seasonal Mocktails - The Art of Non-Alcoholic Mixology

December 8, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4500457.

Christmas Lights of New York City Presented by Mario Medici

December 9, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4551728.

Lunch 'N Learn With the Doctors - Lung Cancer

December 10, noon - 1 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568318.

Tai Chi - For Beginners

December 10, 7-8 p.m.

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December 14, 7-8 p.m.

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Keeping the Christmas Spirit in the Victorian Era and Now

December 19, 2-3 p.m.

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WHEN COVID-19 HITS THE NJ VETERANS 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.

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 Salermo (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 mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



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



(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.

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🌌 Season's Greetings 📚



As the holiday season is upon us, we reflect on the challenges we have faced as a community and think of those who have helped us during the tough times. It has been quite a difficult year for all of us.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all who have trusted me with the purchase or sale of their home in 2020, and I look forward to helping many more of you with your upcoming real estate needs.

I wish you good health & best wishes for 2021.

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Matt W. Green Brook seller closed 8/31/2020