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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

Published by Renna Media On-line at [RennaMedia.com](http://RennaMedia.com)

ISSUE 101 • DECEMBER 2020

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## COOPER GETS HELP FROM NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE IN FIGHT AGAINST TYPE 1 DIABETES

Cooper, a North Plainfield resident, recently reached out to the North Plainfield Police Department (NPPD) asking for help in supporting his cause in the fight against Type 1 diabetes. Cooper, who has Type 1 diabetes, chose to work with a recycling company that will donate money for every shoe that he collected to be recycled. NYPD officers collected additional shoes for Cooper's effort. Thank you for letting us be a part of this! Cooper you are kind young man and a leader! NPPD is proud of you!

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# The PRIDE of North Plainfield

*The Pride of North Plainfield* is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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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Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent via phone, fax or email to:

Renna Media, LLC

Publisher: Joe Renna

202 Walnut Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016

Phone: 908-447-1295

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## PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

*Organizations who are interested  
in submitting content can email  
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or call 908-858-4012*

## BLOOD DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED CHRONIC SHORTAGES THREATEN HEALTHCARE

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 pre-pandemic 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](https://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 up at [nybloodcenter.org/support-us/host-blood-drive/apply-host-drive](https://nybloodcenter.org/support-us/host-blood-drive/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 collect approximately 4,000 units of blood products each day and serve local communities of more than 75 million people i. 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 blood-purification technology worldwide.

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# RENTAL RELIEF FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COVID-IMPACTED TENANTS

Somerset County is using federal CARES Act funding to establish the Emergency Rental Relief Program (ERRP) to help households that lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic make monthly rent payments. The majority of the ERRP will be paid directly to landlords, with additional funding used to help families by paying for legal representation to residents currently in Landlord/Tenant court.

“Somerset County is committed to working with renters and landlords to prevent homelessness and maintain a stable rental market during the economic crisis caused by COVID-19,” said Freeholder Director Shanel Robinson. “The Emergency Rental Relief Program, in conjunction with other state and federal efforts, will help keep families in their homes and reduce the vacancies and expense of finding new tenants for landlords.”

Only tenants who can demonstrate their rent was up to date for March 2020, prior to the COVID-19 disruptions to our economy, should apply. Successful applicants are eligible for the lesser of three months’ rent or \$3,000 to be used to pay past months’ rent and will be paid directly to landlords through a partnership with Somerset County Board of Social Services.

The program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation of \$646,398 from the March 2020 Federal C.A.R.E.S. Act for the majority of Somerset County, with separate CDBG funding allocated

to Franklin Township. As a result, Franklin Township residents are not eligible for ERRP assistance.

In order to be eligible, an applicant must:

Be a resident of any Somerset County municipality (except Franklin Township) and have a current 12-month lease or rent agreement.

Have a household income that is less than the following income limits, based on household size including children: 1 Person - \$66,900; 2 People - \$76,500; 3 People - \$86,100; 4 People - \$95,600; 5 People - \$103,200; 6 People - \$110,900.

Be able to demonstrate that rent payments were current as of March 2020.

Provide documentation of COVID-related loss of income after March 9, 2020. Examples include:

layoff or reduced work hours; unpaid leave to take care of children due to school and daycare closure; self-quarantine for 14 days resulting in a loss of income; other consequence of the virus that led to a reduction of income.

In order to receive assistance, eligible residents must complete an application and submit the required documentation. For your convenience, there are 3 different ways to apply.

Complete and submit the application and required documentation online at [co.somerset.nj.us/CDBG-CVERR](http://co.somerset.nj.us/CDBG-CVERR).

Print an application from the above link and submit printed copy via email to

[commdevel@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:commdevel@co.somerset.nj.us);

Request and submit a paper copy by calling or emailing the Community Development Office at 908-541-5756 or [commdevel@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:commdevel@co.somerset.nj.us) respectively.

To learn more about Somerset County’s Community Development Office, please visit [co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/community-development](http://co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/community-development).

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

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## SOMERSET COUNTY 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 visit

[co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/aging-disability-services/senior-centers](https://www.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.



## 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 [bit.ly/RegisterReady2020](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.

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for free email alerts at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe](https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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## THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE PLAINFIELDS CONTINUES COMMUNITY WORK

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields, representing North Plainfield, Plainfield, and South Plainfield, continues to work for the community in many ways, including last month's Community Pumpkin Patch as well as supporting a local Eagle Scout project.

In between these efforts, the Club meets as often as possible for coffee and breakfast goodies at The Coffee Box in Plainfield. Located next to

the Dairy Queen at 1359 South Avenue, the Coffee Box has outdoor seating for social distancing.

As shown in the photo, the morning was quite foggy but the group still enjoyed each other's company and a chance to socialize safely. Learn more about Rotary at [www.rotarypnp.org](http://www.rotarypnp.org) or email the club at [secretary@rotarypnp.org](mailto:secretary@rotarypnp.org).



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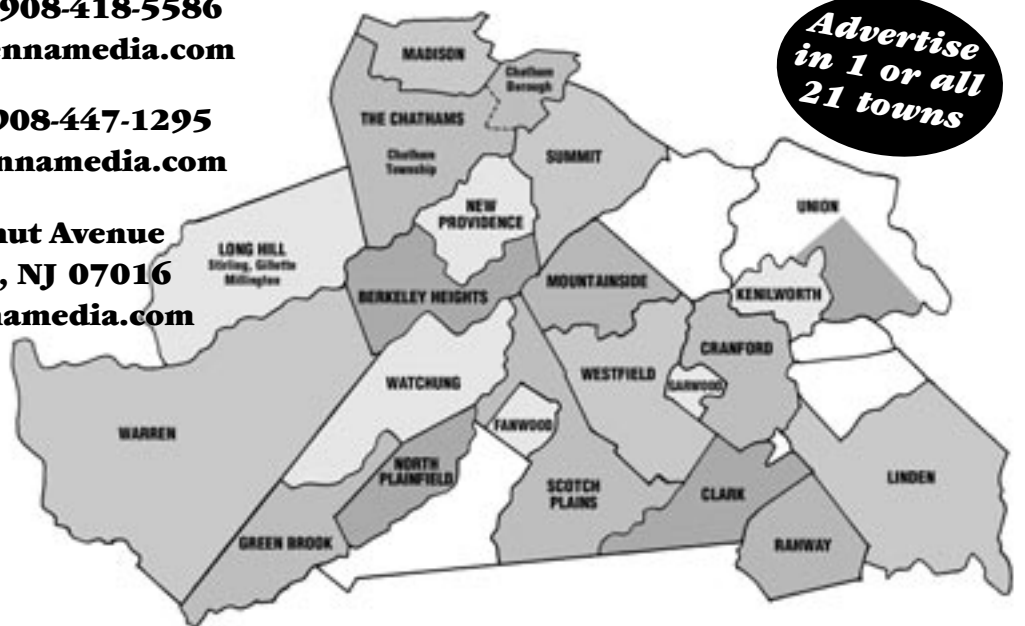
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
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## SCLSNJ RELEASES ON-DEMAND, ANYWHERE E-LEARNING FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS

Are you or your child struggling with virtual learning this school year? The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) has you covered with Brainfuse HelpNow, an on-demand, anywhere e-learning resource, that features interactive learning solutions for all ages.

"As a part of the Supportive Assistance for Education (S.A.F.E.) Families initiative, SCLSNJ continues to create meaningful interactions and connections by supporting our youth who need homework help during the school year," said Christine Jansen, manager of youth services programming and collaborations, public services. "We are excited to connect Library customers to Brainfuse HelpNow, which can help support students and parents with virtual and hybrid learning."

Through the resource, students can connect to live, one-on-one tutors that provide personalized help in all core subjects including math, social studies, science, and language arts.

"Pre-COVID, the Library System hosted homework help and study buddy programs in-person at many of our branches," said Linda Tripp, collection development librarian. "Since not every family can afford the expense of hiring a tutor, we are thrilled to be able to offer a resource that provides free e-learning. Whether your child needs assistance tackling a tough homework problem, mastering a particular topic, or writing a paper, Brainfuse HelpNow is available."

In addition to live tutors, Brainfuse HelpNow

also offers students access to writing and language labs; the opportunity to form study groups; the ability to record class projects; and more.

"I really encourage Library customers to explore the other resources Brainfuse HelpNow offers beyond tutoring," continued Tripp. "For college admissions the resource provides test prep help, career exploration, and live FAFSA assistance, which can help college-age students discover their next steps."

Not only does the resource offer assistance for students and college admissions, but Brainfuse HelpNow also houses an adult learning center, that includes career resources, resume and cover letter assistance, and live tutors for lifelong learning.

"One of the core services at SCLSNJ is to promote and support lifelong learning, and that is just what the adult learning center from Brainfuse HelpNow provides," said Chris Murray, adult services supervisor. "The resource offers useful services for the adult learner including help with high school equivalency exams; preparation for the U.S. citizenship exam, in languages including English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese; and live, interactive help with the Microsoft Office Suite and resume writing."

Students of all ages and learning levels can connect with a live tutor from anywhere from 2-11 p.m. with their Library card.

#BeSafeAtHome and get HelpNow with your Library today: [sclsnj.org/brainfuse](https://sclsnj.org/brainfuse).

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