Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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SERVING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES

Contributing Author Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

For more than 30 years, one of the ways lifelong residents Robert and Joanne Gurske have been actively contributing to their community is as members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. Married for 46 years with two children, the two have always believed in the importance of helping

"I grew up on Mountain Avenue, and when I'd hear that siren, I'd run out to the curb to watch it go by," says Robert. "And I would say to myself, 'Someday I'm going to do that.' Not because I liked the lights and sirens, but because it was a chance to really do something good, something important, something to help people. That's been a theme my whole life. That's who I am."

When Robert joined the rescue squad in 1989, Joanne had no intention of joining along with him. "It was so far out of my comfort zone," she says. "After Bob joined, he was there all the time, so I used to go down and keep him company. What changed for me was going on a call.

"We went to a house and there was a woman having what appeared to be a heart attack. She had this terrible pained look on her face, but when she saw me, all of a sudden that look went away. She said, 'I know you from somewhere.' I then recognized her from church, and just for that second, the fear left her face. And I thought to myself, 'If I can do something like that to help somebody, that would be good."

So, in 1990, Joanne became a member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. Since then, she has held many officer positions. She served as a first and second lieutenant, and was the captain during 9-11. She has also been keeping the records for the squad as secretary for the last 13 years.

Robert is the chaplain of the squad, and has been either a first or second lieutenant for many years. He is currently the deputy chief (formerly known as lieutenant). "I like being in that first officer kind of role," he says. "I don't need to be the leader. I'm a good worker bee, and you really need some good worker bees to get the job done."

Before retiring, Joanne was a public school elementary vocal music teacher for 38 years in South Plainfield and for nine years at St. Bartholomew's in Scotch Plains. She is also the conductor of the adult choir at St. Bart's.

Robert is also heavily involved in the church. After being the director of operations and communications at St. Bart's for many years, he was ordained in 2002 as a permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Church.

For him, being on the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad means



(above) Joanne and Robert Gurske

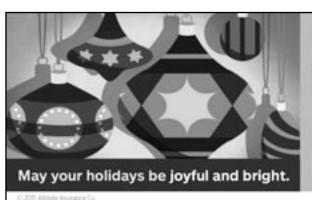
being part of a team. "Nobody does it alone," he says. "We work together; I like that camaraderie. Everybody has a strength. Some people are good at pediatric emergencies, others are better at psychiatric emergencies, so you never have to be everything. You just have to be the best that you can be."

"Bob and I have very small families, and being on the squad is like having a second family," says Joanne. "I feel like we have support and can also have fun with a lot of people on the squad."

"I would invite people to move beyond where they are now and to do more," says Robert. "You discover something in yourself when you become an EMT [Emergency Medical Technician.] You find out you have skills you never thought you had.

"You're part of the larger community and you're doing something that is intrinsically valuable. And everybody recognizes that. I think that there is a lot an individual gets out of being an EMT and being part of our wonderful team."

For information on volunteering for the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad or to obtain an application, go to www.scotchplainsrescuesquad.com, send an email to scotchplainsrescuesquad@gmail.com, or call 908-322-2103.



look forward to serving you in 2020.





WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email editor@ rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

Scotch Plains Monthly is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Scotch Plains Monthly

REBECCA STRUG NAMED "YOUTH OF THE YEAR"

Submitted by Laura Queller

Rebecca Strug, a junior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, has been named a "Youth of the Year" by the Northern New Jersey Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Inc.

Rebecca won the award through the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) in Scotch Plains, which names one exemplary teen each year for the distinction. The presentation was made on Sunday, November 1, in front of students at Congregation Beth Israel's religious school.

Last year, Rebecca was selected for the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest's Diller Teen Fellowship program. Along with 19 other teens across Northern New Jersey, Rebecca embarked upon a journey of Jewish reflection and Israel education. Despite limits from the pandemic, Rebecca said her experience was nothing short of life-changing as she gained a deeper appreciation for Judaism and Israel.

Jonathan Jaffe, Men's Club President at CBI, said there are a number of teens affiliated with the synagogue who are deserving of this year's award, but the selection committee noted Rebecca's strong and ongoing commitment to the synagogue's religious school, making the decision unanimous.

For example, Rebecca is already in her second year as a "madricha" (teen support) for the CBI religious school.

"When she worked in a classroom as a sophomore, she enjoyed her time so much that she knew she would want to return, and she is back again this year, mask and all, back with the kids she enjoys so much," Jaffe said.

Next summer, if travel is allowed, Rebecca hopes to return to Israel. As she starts to think about college, her visits always include a stop at the campus Hillel, as well as a strong interest in Birthright Israel and study abroad in Israel.

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs presents awards annually to recognize volunteers who have been active leaders within their communities. Congregation Beth Israel is affiliated with The United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism and has an active Men's Club and youth program. For synagogue information, call 908-889-1830.



(above, l-r) Steve Harkavy, of the Northern New Jersey Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Inc., smiles (behind masks) with Mike, Rebecca and Lisa Strug, as well as CBI President Aaron Kessler, during the award presentation at CBI's religious school.



Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com



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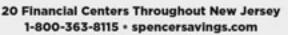


Rich Vaill Business Development Officer Team Leader

Learn more about our Union County Team at spencersavings.com/unioncounty.



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(above) General Edward Chrystal, a resident of Scotch Plains, was awarded the NJVN Plaque, State proclamation, and the NJVFW medal. General Chrystal is NJ Veterans Network board member. He serves as the team's military liaison and assists with numerous ceremonies and speaking engagements.

GENERAL EDWARD CHRYSTAL HONORED BY NJ VETERANS NETWORK

On Veterans Day the New Jersey Veterans Network hosted its first team awards ceremony at the Union VFW. General Edward Chrystal, a resident of Scotch Plains, was one of over 50 contributors who were honored during a ceremony that practiced social distancing protocol.

The New Jersey Veterans Network is a volunteer mobile outreach team that aggressively seeks out veterans and their families members in

In the last few years the NVN has saved over a dozen lives, donated 20 cars, 400 business suits, and during covid the team provided over 3,000 meals and thousands of PPE items for disabled veterans and active servicemen.

The Team is fully backed by the NJ VFW, NJ American Legion, NJ PBA, NJ FOP, NJ FMBA, multiple service groups, and several elected state officials.

Former VFW State Commander Barbara Hagemann presented over 30 NJ VFW Award Commendations.

NJVN President Michael Boll presented all the members in attendance with NJVN team plaques in recognition of their contributions. Each member also received a proclamations from the New Jersey Senate and Assembly.

Congressmen Tom Malinowski presented the To learn more visit njvn.org.

Presidents Volunteer Service Award with a Gold Medal and a Congressional Commendation to the team's executive board including Michael Boll, Sara Abraham, Frank Schupp, Bob Johnsen, and Leo Graf. Frank Schupp was presented an American Flag that was flown over the Capital Building in his honor. Schupp is the mobile outreach program director. He was awarded for his outstanding work mentoring veterans during Covid and organizing an effort to feed over 3,000 veterans.

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.

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Edward Anthony Somma, MD

Internal Medicine

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.

After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal

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NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES IN URGENT NEED OF DONORS

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of blood drive to donate. "The Covid-19 pandemic 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 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 up at 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.

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.

▲ New Jersey Blood Services A Division of New York Blood Center



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ROTARY HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and UNICO, who share the mission of "Service Above Self" are sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive. Deanna Dell Bene has managed the Toy Drive for the past 15 years. In the past, toys were collected for Children's Specialized Hospital. This year, the goal is to make the holiday special for families in our community who might be struggling. The Board of Education has been able to identify families in need, who will remain anonymous. Residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are asked to consider signing up for an item

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club and NICO, who share the mission of "Service bove Self" are sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive. Leanna Dell Bene has managed the Toy Drive for the past 15 years. In the past, toys were collected or Children's Specialized Hospital. This year, the requested by one of these families. Monetary donations and Venmo payments will also be accepted. A sign-up genius has been set up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4baaac2 2a2fb6-2020 and the toy drive will run through Friday, December 18th.

All unwrapped gifts, gift cards, or cash donations can be dropped off at Apple Blossom Flower Shop, 381 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, during normal business hours. Call Deanna Dell-Bene at 908-463-6538 for additional information.



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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

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Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere,

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets Northeast Spine & Wellness Center apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to ostcoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough, Call Northeast Spine & Wellness Center now for a RISK FREE consultation.



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
 Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- · Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- · Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with Northeast Spine & Wellness Center investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy.

This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast

OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey will be the second se

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.

VISION LOSS ALLIANCE

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. The fund is administered through the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

To Register for Classes visit www.vlanj.org/programs/

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. Northeast Spine & Wellness Center understands the symptoms you have been

living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- Pain Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- Swelling This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- Stiffness Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- Loss of muscle strength This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- · Joint deformity Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- Creaking Joints Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- Sleepless nights Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoros-

copy we use at Northeast Spine & Wellness Center these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact Northeast Spine & Wellness Center today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation.

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Scot Paris MD, FACS

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"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal." - Perry O.

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DONATION LOCATIONS

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1571 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains

YMCA 1340 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains Foods needed: Vegetables, potatoes, taco dinner kits, hamburger helper dinner kits, instant mashed potatoes, rice jelly, peanut butter, pasta

mashed potatoes, rice jelly, peanut butter, pasta sauce, tuna fish, coffee, canned fruits, snacks, cake mix, mac & cheese, soups with meat.

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Christmas Day - Nativity of Our Lord Friday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, January 3 at 10:00 a.m.

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NEW JERSEY'S FAITH LEADERS DISCUSS 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."

Rev. Dr. Marilyn M. Harris, First Baptist 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 - "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.

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 NJSharingNetwork.org.



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THE GIFT OF SIGHT: SAYING YES! CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

lifesaving and enhancing message of organ and tissue donation because I know the powerful impact it can have," said Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient. "It is an honor to bring together two organizations (The Lions Club and Eversight) that do so much good and have personally impacted my life".

That was the way the presentation at the November 4 New Providence Lions Club meeting began as members heard the personal story of one of its own members receiving the gift of sight and discussed the 50-year history of Eye Banking in New Jersey with Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy at Eversight.

Peter went on to share that when he was in high school, he was diagnosed with a condition called Keratoconus that affected both of his eyes and at the age of 24. He then received two cornea transplants that restored his vision and forever changed his life.

The gift of his first donor cornea in his left eye came to him with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of Texas. The second transplant in his right eye was procured with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey (now Eversight) working in conjunction with the New Providence based, NJ Sharing Network.

The Lions Club's work in fighting blindness goes back many years. In 1925, as an ambassador for the newly formed American Foundation for

"I am passionate about spreading the important the Blind, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio hoping that the Lions would partner with the American Foundation for the Blind and lend their support as an organization to those who had lost their sight.

> It was at that convention where she appealed to the Lions and challenged them to become "knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness."

> Since 1925, millions of lives have been changed through the vision-related work of Lions around the world, and today the association is as dedicated as ever to hastening the day when no one should suffer unnecessarily from vision problems. Lions work to end preventable blindness and aid the visually impaired through eye centers and hospitals, medicines and surgeries, eye glasses and eye banks.

> From its home in Clark, NJ, Eversight proudly partners with NJ Sharing Network, Lions Clubs, surgeons, businesses and philanthropists throughout New Jersey to advance its mission.

In 2019, Eversight worked with the families of 882 New Jersey residents who gave the gift of sight for transplantation, research and education. Through outreach and programs, Eversight provided donated tissue for 8,176 sight-restoring corneal transplants in 2019 in New Jersey and around the world.

Saying "yes" to donation can change someone's life.





(above, left) Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy of Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Banking in New *Jersey and the work of her organization.* (above, right) Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient, recently shared his personal story with the Lions Club.

For details about donation and to become a donor visit eversightvision.org.

The New Providence Lions Club is a 501(c)3 organization, giving back to the community 100% of the proceeds raised. Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that no one person could alone. The Lions are dedicated to helping others. Lions make a difference! For more information/membership please email info@nplions.org and visit nplions.org.

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People who have fallen behind on their rent payments may be eligible for up to three months of back rent assistance. Applicants must already be at least one month behind on their rent

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Contact Community Access Unlimited at Landlords or any person who knows a renter who is struggling are encouraged to let tenants know about this program.

CAU is a Union County-based, statewide nonprofit that works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at risk into the general community through comprehensive supports.

Funding for this program has been provided by the City of Elizabeth and Union County.

To learn more about CAU, visit cauni.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about supporting the agency and become a monthly donor at caunj.org/support-us/.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2020, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 4,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year.

For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.cauni.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

SCOTCH PLAINS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

American Legion Post 209 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122 held their annual Veterans Day Ceremony on the morning of Wednesday, November 11 in the downtown district of Scotch Plains.

The ceremony featured the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial on the corner of Park Avenue and Front Street. A photo album and video of the event is posted on the Scotch Plains Township Facebook page.

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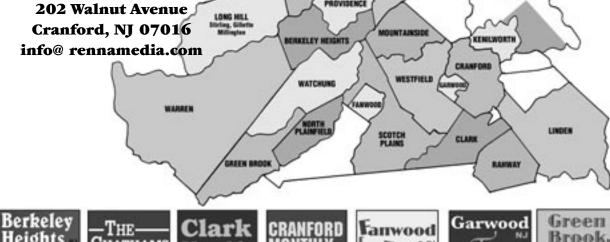
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ROTARIANS PAY TRIBUTE TO VETS DURING ZOOM MEETING

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club honored veterans during their meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 11, 2020. Veterans in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains were invited to attend. A video was shown featuring club members who attended this meeting in years' past.

This is an annual event. The Rotary Club is very grateful to all men and women who served the United States Armed Forces and they pay tribute to those who served, those who continue to serve, and those who made the ultimate create change. sacrifice.

Rotary clubs provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Rotary is the original business networking organization. Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to

If you're passionate about serving your local community, are interested in working on international projects, or just want to change the world, then join the Rotary Club. First time guests are invited Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at The Stage House on Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to enjoy a free Lunch.

Visit our website at fsprotary.org or on FB: Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary, or call Carmela at 908-499-4782 for more info.

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