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When COVID-19 shutdowns began in Spring 2020, we all watched in earnest and with the utmost concern as first responders worked around the clock at great personal risk. Coldwell Banker Westfield West agents began to brainstorm ideas to show their appreciation and provide meaningful support for our local first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Branch Vice President George Kraus had the idea of producing a limited edition "Doors of Fanwood" poster that could be sold to the public with 100% of the net proceeds going to support the Fanwood Rescue Squad. A committee of sales agents who live in or are from Fanwood volunteered to identify a collection of residential doors that were representative of Fanwood's architecturally diverse neighborhoods, as well as those that had unique characteristics or historical significance. With the help of Diana Chaves, Pat Plante, and Jill Skibinsky, dozens of doors were identified, and those homeowners were contacted to discuss the project. We are deeply grateful for the many homeowners who graciously agreed to be included.

For those who would like to make a financial contribution to the Fanwood Rescue Squad and receive a Fanwood keepsake in return, Coldwell Banker Westfield West now has beautiful 18" x 24" color posters, suitable for framing, that are available for purchase at \$20.00. Other posters available are Cranford, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, and Westfield, with 100% of those net proceeds supporting their respective Rescue Squads. To order, either call (908) 233-0065, email george.kraus@cbmoves.com or stop by the office located at 600 North

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The Doors of Fanwood Poster. Photo by Glenn Marsh

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(above, l-r) Fanwood Rescue Squad: Squad members John Crifasi, Nick Tripodi, Capt. Ian Lewis, Diana Chaves of Coldwell Banker Westfield West, squad members Sgt. Ed Winsor, Juliana Lance and Katarina Zikas.

Photo by Tom Kranz

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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

FANWOOD POLICE SERGEANT DAN KRANZ PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT

Dan Kranz, who was promoted to sergeant only four months ago, was promoted to lieutenant on April 2, 2021, in a ceremony outside Fanwood Borough Hall.

Kranz was sworn in by Mayor Colleen Mahr in the presence of a number of his fellow officers, his family and members of the Borough Council Public Safety committee. His wife Holly held the bible and pinned his badge to his uniform.

Kranz is a 7-year veteran of the Fanwood Police Department. He joined after serving two years as a U.S. Capitol Police Officer. He began

his public service career as one of Fanwood's first civilian police dispatchers and served as a volunteer EMT on the Rescue Squad. He grew up in Fanwood, went through the SPF public school system and is a graduate of Rutgers University.

With his promotion today, Kranz becomes the highest ranking Fanwood police officer in a department being overseen by the Union County Prosecutor's office in the wake of the retirements last year of the chief and two lieutenants. The Borough is currently considering candidates for a civilian police director.



(above) Dan with parents Marianne and Tom and wife Holly

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VETERAN FANWOOD OFFICER RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted by Tom Kranz

Marc Gottlick, who served the Borough of Fanwood as an EMT, firefighter and police officer, retired on March 31, 2021 after 25 years with the police department.

Raised in Fanwood and now a resident of Greenbrook, Gottlick was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and helped run the Fanwood Police Department during a period of transition following the retirement of the Chief and two Lieutenants in 2020. The police department was being run day to day by a Captain from the Union County Prosecutor's office and Lt. Gottlick since September. The Borough is now seeking a civilian Police Director to run the department.

Lt. Gottlick has received numerous awards for

valor and outstanding service to our community. He has mentored many other officers and is respected across the first responder communities in Fanwood, Scotch Plains and other nearby towns.

He received the traditional "clap out" as he left police headquarters this afternoon to applause of his family, fellow officers and colleagues from the Fanwood Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Borough Departments, Councilwomen Tricia Walsh and Kathy Mitchell and Mayor Colleen Mahr. Friends and colleagues from the Scotch Plains PD and Fire Department and Union County Police and OEM also participated.

Watch a Video of the clapout online at: <https://youtu.be/4CDLAI6axc>



(above) Marc receives a commemorative plaque from Sgt. Kevin Stomber.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Marc greets fellow retiree, former Lt. Eugene Chin



(above, l-r) Sons Jackson and Ethan, Lt. Gottlick, and wife Jen

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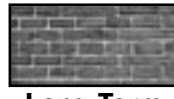
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SHILOH VERRICO STARS IN COUNTRY COMFORT



(above) Scotch Plains Native Shiloh Verrico stars in Netflix's Country Comfort

Photo by Ballerina Biker Photography

Ten-year-old up and coming actress, and Scotch Plains local, Shiloh Verrico, can be seen in a starring role as 'Cassidy' in Netflix's new original comedy series "Country Comfort." The 10-episode first season recently started streaming.

"Country Comfort" follows a down-on-her-luck, aspiring country singer 'Bailey' (Katharine McPhee) who takes a job as a nanny for a rugged, widowed cowboy (Eddie Cibrian) and his musically inclined children. Shiloh portrays the emotional center of the family, 'Cassidy,' who is having an especially tough time coming to terms with the loss of her mother 2 years prior. Ultimately 'Cassidy' and 'Bailey' (their 9th nanny) bond over the fact that they are both suffering from losses. "Bailey" has lost her band and boyfriend, and the kids ultimately become her new band. The show is a family friendly series that can be described as "The Nanny" meets "The Sound of

Music."

Shiloh began acting in the theater at the age of five and has since performed in a number of features and short films such as "Crown Vic."

Musically inclined in real life, she has always found joy in singing wherever she goes, and she has fun playing her ukulele and guitar, which she was able to use on "Country Comfort."

When she's not singing or acting, Shiloh loves to play football and spend time with her rescue pups. A huge animal lover, she fosters dogs in NJ with her family for an organization called Traveling 4 Paws, and they currently have a one-year-old dog who they are teaching how to live indoors in a home and to not be fearful of people. Shiloh's dream is to become financially successful enough that she can purchase a large piece of land to have a shelter/sanctuary for animals, including farm animals.

Follow along on her adventures on Instagram @shilolovestosing.

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THE PASSING OF RESCUE SQUAD ICON BOB KRUTHERS



(above) BOB KRUTHERS

Submitted by Tom Kranz

Robert Kruthers, who helped thousands of people as a member of the Fanwood Rescue Squad since 1957, died early Saturday, April 24, 2021, at Overlook Hospital. He was 94.

A Fanwood resident since 1954, Bob provided volunteer service to our town in ways that have touched three generations of Fanwood and Scotch Plains residents.

Bob held many positions with the Rescue Squad. He served in several elected posts. He served as the squad's treasurer since 1965, retiring from that position in 2017. He remained a trusted advisor and an inspiration to the rest of our volunteers until his passing.

As an EMT, first responder and ambulance driver, Bob helped literally thousands of sick or injured people with well over 5,000 call responses. He did so with humility and a sense of service to others.

Bob's other passion for many years was the church. As a member of St. Bartholomew the Apostle parish in Scotch Plains, Bob lent assistance in keeping their books, taught CCD

classes, provided altar service and, as a Eucharistic minister, offered communion for homebound people. Bob was also active in the Knights of Columbus and as such was a fixture at the annual Shield Awards at which the Knights recognized first responders in Fanwood and Scotch Plains (attached photo from the 2017 awards). Bob also spent four years as a member of the Fanwood Library Board of Trustees.

Bob was married to his wife, Grace, for 72 years. They met at age 7 when they lived next door to each other in Jersey City.

In 2017, Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Borough Council honored Bob for his 60 years of service. He was recognized several times by the Mayor and Council for his volunteer service. Bob was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award at the New Jersey Statewide EMS Conference in 2014.

In addition to his beloved wife Grace, Bob is survived by two daughters and three grandsons. Our thoughts are with them. Funeral arrangements are pending.

FANWOOD MOURNS THE LOSS OF KEN BLOM

Borough of Fanwood

On behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood, our deepest sympathies go to the family of Ken Blom, a valued and beloved member of the Borough's public works team who passed away suddenly over the weekend of April 3. Ken was a fixture at many Fanwood events which he helped make possible through his friendly professionalism. He staged a demonstration of the Borough's bucket truck at the annual Arbor Day observance, among many other activities. Ken will be sorely missed.



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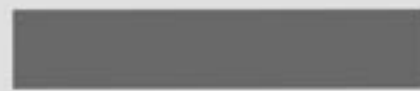
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(above) Bikes filled the P4P truck to capacity.

On Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South Street in New Providence, will be collecting second-hand bikes for use by adults and children in third world countries.

The collection is being conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress (P4P), an organization which annually recycles 6,000 bicycles for persons in developing countries.

Anyone with a bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate to this worthy cause. Bikes may be dropped off at the parking lot next to the church. Members of Faith will repair and process the bikes for shipment.

Since 2002, Faith Lutheran has been collecting bikes. In 2020, 170 bikes were collected from persons in New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, Westfield, Warren, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. This range

of towns was aided by articles published in Renna Media town newspapers.

Every year affluent Americans buy 22 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more in basements, sheds and garages. Most of these end up in our already overburdened landfills.

P4P ships its reconditioned bikes to persons in need of countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The bikes provide reliable transportation to commute to work, transport produce to market, access health care and other services. Steady employment for adults is vital to the development and success of these economies.

Persons who have bikes but are unable to deliver them to Faith on May 8 may call the church office on 908-464-5177 or email family.faith@verizon.net.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Registration is now open for these Fanwood Recreation Summer programs: Summer Park Program (day camp), Skateboarding Camp, Babysitting Certification, Junior First Responders Camp, TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp, Soccer Squirts Camp, Multi-Sports Camp, T-Ball Camp, Golf Camp, Basketball Camp, Girls Xtra Edge Lacrosse Camp and Fashion Sewing Camps.

For more information about all these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

IZZIE THE CAT RESCUED BY FANWOOD FD AND PD

Izzie the cat is doing just fine after his adventure up a very high tree outside 225 North Avenue on Thursday, April 22nd. Owners Barbara and Jim Vierschilling got worried when Izzy climbed more than 50 feet up the tree and stayed there. They called 911 and the cavalry responded. Two firefighters climbed a ladder to retrieve Izzie, who was none too pleased. They

were able to gently remove him from his perch, then drop him down for a soft landing into a blanket held by more firefighters and police officers.

“We are so grateful for your amazing rescue of Izzie,” wrote the Vierschillings to the rescuers in a thank you note.

Photos from Jim and Barbara Vierschilling



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OFFICERS ECKERSON AND PINIERO JOIN THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood's newest police officers were sworn in on Tuesday, April 6 by Mayor Colleen Mahr during ceremonies outside Borough Hall. They are Christopher Eckerson, most recently of the Kean University Police Department, and Christopher Piniero, formerly with the Gibbsboro Police Department in Camden County. Both officers had family members and other supporters on hand.

The swearings-in, along with several others earlier this year, fill positions left empty by a

spate of retirements. Since last year's retirement of Chief Richard Trigo and two Lieutenants, the Union County Prosecutor's office has been in charge of the Fanwood Police Department. Captain Joe Vendas from that office recently assumed command after the retirement last month of Captain Kevin Grimmer, also of the prosecutor's office.

The Borough Council has decided to hire a civilian police director and is currently accepting applications for the position.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Officer Piniero sworn in, his father holding the Bible.

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CASA of Union County

Nine Union County residents ranging from age 22 to 63 make up the newest class of volunteer child advocates for CASA of Union County, the only nonprofit advocating for the best interests of Union County youth removed from home due to abuse or neglect, and placed in foster care.

Superior Court Judge Marc R. Brown presided over the recent swearing-in ceremony via Zoom; advocates will now be matched to a foster youth

or siblings and begin putting their 30 hours of training into practice. The class includes both non-parents and parents, and such backgrounds as teaching, freelance, law and homemaking. They are Jacqui Lenner and Nicole Sandstedt of Westfield, Laurie Litterio of Cranford, Rebecca Muston and Amy Saunders of Summit, Sue Pangis of Berkeley Heights, Tamara Parraga-Sez of Newark, Lydia Pernia of Linden, and Jackie Rodriguez of Clark.

Prior to administering the oath, the judge shared, "I find the value of CASA volunteers immeasurable. Although I practiced family law for decades, it involved pieces related to a family, like divorce. In these cases, everything we do is attuned to the entire family and it's the most rewarding in my career. I didn't previously realize the extent of need out there – from poverty, substance use, mental health, and the guidance needed, all of it. CASA is so significant; I always make a point of hearing from the CASA volunteer during the hearing." Acknowledging that COVID-19 requires the swearing-in and court hearings remain virtual for now, he added, "I so look forward to being able to shake your hand and congratulate you. The assistance you will provide is, again, immeasurable. Thank you for doing this."

Currently, the organization serves just over 80 percent of all Union County foster youth in care. With a goal to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one, the organization has remained steadfast – despite the pandemic – in efforts to ensure its work continues. To that end, a fully online training and recruiting infrastructure was put into place, and protocols implemented to ensure advocates remained both connected to their youth and able to report to judges, and staff continued recruiting and training volunteers to help meet the need for youth still awaiting an advocate.

Executive Director Mariel S. Hufnagel noted, "In the face of the challenging life circumstances we are all facing due to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, this tremendous group of

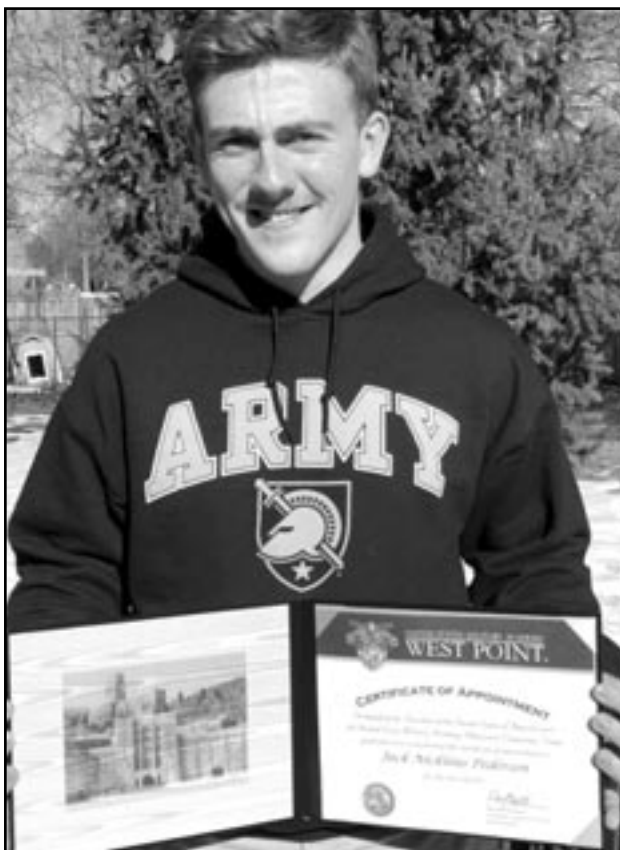
women still made a decision to give of their time and energy, and train virtually to become advocates. I am so proud to welcome them to the CASA family and can't wait to see all of the ways in which they positively impact the youth to whom they will be assigned."

Upon being court-ordered to a case, CASA volunteers have access to the youth as well as foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers in order to identify concerns and unmet needs, and protect best interests. For details on upcoming trainings and how you can Change a Child's Story, contact Walia at wworrill@casaofunioncounty.org.


JACK PEDERSEN HEADS TO WEST POINT

Jack Pedersen is a 2019 graduate of Scotch Plains High School and has been appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point for the Class of 2025. He will report to West Point for Cadet Basic Training "Beast Barracks" on June 28.

West Point is very selective, they receive approximately 15,000 applications each year for 1,200 spots in the Corps of Cadets. Jack's older brother, Steven graduated from West Point in 2017.



(above) CASA volunteers for foster youth who were recently sworn in during a ceremony held via Zoom. For details on upcoming classes and how you can Change a Child's Story, contact Walia at wworrill@casaofunioncounty.org.



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SISTERS RELEASE SINGLE DONATING PROFITS TO COVID-19 CHARITIES

The Grober sisters Winnie, 14, and Katie, 8, of Berkeley Heights, also known as the band “Sisters G”, officially dropped a single titled “Heal The Earth” in December of 2020. Seeing so many people in need the sisters decided to donate the proceeds of their music towards two charities close to their hearts, getboxesofhope.com and Actors Equity Curtains Up.

Boxes Of Hope is a charity started out of Evangel Church in Scotch Plains but has now gone nationwide. The charity consists of filling boxes with food and supplies for people who can't get out of their home due to Covid or any other reason and bringing it right to their doorstep.

Both girls had a chance to pack boxes and personally deliver some to homes, getting to see first hand and meet the people whose lives their song helped impact.

“This was an amazing journey in so many ways,” said Winnie, a freshman at Governor Livingston High School. “We wanted to give back to the world and bring hope.”

“Curtains Up is my charity,” said Katie, a 3rd grader who attends William Woodruff Elementary School. “It goes to support all of my Broadway family who have been out of work this last year due to Covid.”

The sisters’ friends and former colleagues in the arts, including Broadway talent that Katie

worked with while performing on the show Waitress, and other Broadway hits like Chicago, King Kong, and Tina Turner, also helped by contributing instrumental and vocals to the song, all of which was done in quarantine with artists connecting with Winnie and Katie virtually to help create the song.

“Heal The Earth” can be found streaming on all platforms or you can purchase a physical CD with all proceeds going to the two charities at sistersg.bandcamp.com. Or, if you’re old school, you can buy a personalized one of a kind record Vinyl from Leesta Vall Records at leestavall.com/products/sistersg.



(above) The Sisters G, a band of Grober sisters Winnie, 14, and Katie, 8, of Berkeley Heights, released a single titled “Heal The Earth”. All proceeds from sales are being donated to two organizations to help with COVID relief efforts.

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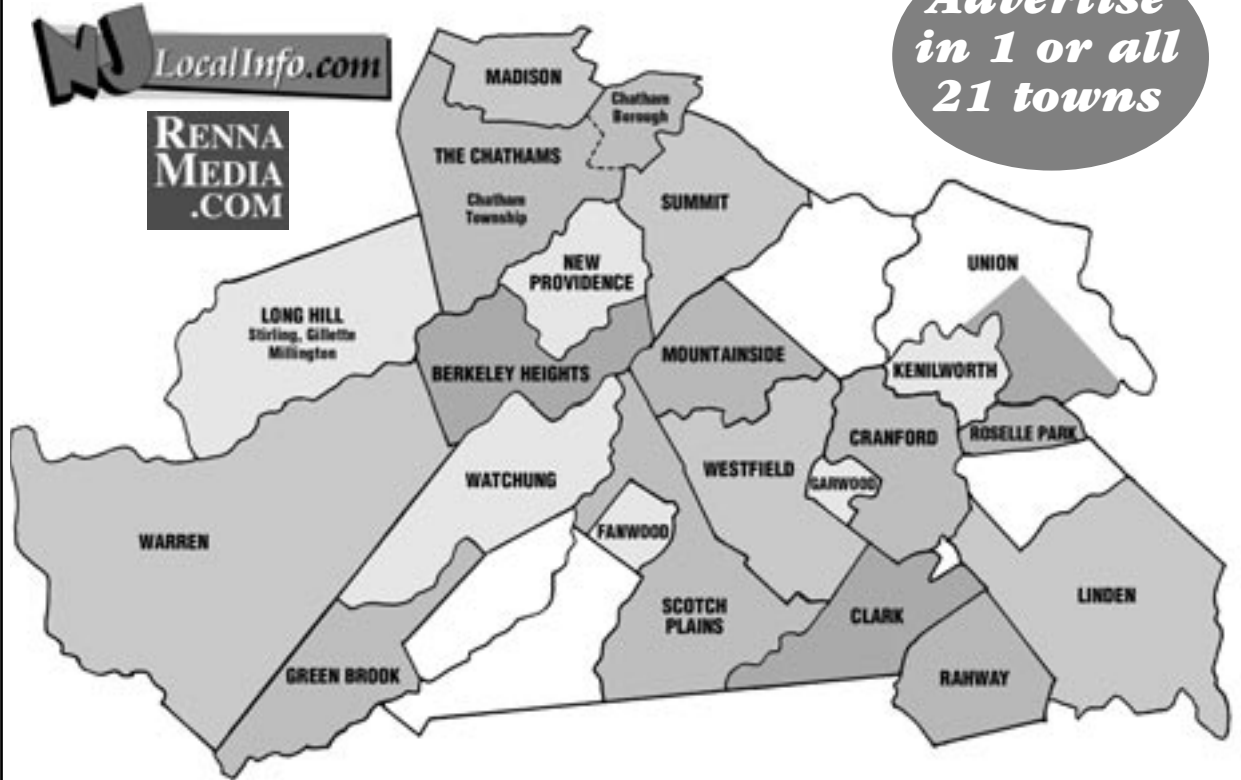
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1263 Cedar Avenue	List Price 485,000	Sale Price 500,000
259 Central Avenue	List Price 495,000	Sale Price 480,000
1400 Orchard Road	List Price 534,000	Sale Price 566,000
1322 Wood Valley Rd	List Price 535,000	Sale Price 546,000
1229 Beech Avenue	List Price 628,900	Sale Price 600,000
1459 Dunn Parkway	List Price 650,000	Sale Price 650,000
324 Partridge Run	List Price 679,000	Sale Price 701,000
225 Pembroke Rd	List Price 799,000	Sale Price 839,000
320 Cherry Hill Rd	List Price 835,000	Sale Price 835,000
1512 Fox Trail	List Price 879,000	Sale Price 876,470
1427 Coles Avenue	List Price 899,000	Sale Price 850,000
181 New Providence Road	List Price 939,000	Sale Price 900,000
1246 Knollwood Rd	List Price 1,139,000	Sale Price 1,149,000