



A black and white photograph of five young women standing in a row in front of a large banner. The banner features the text "SCOTCH PLAINS-FARWOOD KANCER JAM" at the top, with "KANCER JAM" in large, bold letters. Below the text is a graphic of a coffee cup with a heart inside. The women are wearing dark t-shirts with a circular logo that includes the text "SCOTCH PLAINS-FARWOOD" and "KANCER JAM". The woman on the far left is wearing a white baseball cap. The woman in the center is wearing a white face mask. The woman on the far right is wearing a black face mask. The woman second from the right is wearing a face mask with a graphic design. The woman second from the left is smiling. The background shows some trees and a building.

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JUNE 26, 2021
10:00 AM

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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

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WALK OR RUN TO SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS JUNE 21-26

Hop on a treadmill, go to a local park, or walk or run in your neighborhood to support services for people with disabilities and youth at risk in New Jersey!

The Community Access Unlimited virtual Ira Geller Walkathon runs the week of June 21-June 26. On June 26, individuals living near Warinanco Park in Roselle are invited to walk or run in the park. Registration details are available at caunj.org and on our event flyer.

Walker or runner tickets are \$30 and include a Walkathon t-shirt & race bib.

All event proceeds will support CAU programs serving more than 3,000 individuals and families in New Jersey, including housing, academics, employment training, day program and support

services for people with disabilities and youth at risk. These programs serve the agency's mission to create an all-inclusive, accessible world where everyone can lead a fulfilling life as part of the greater community.

CAU's annual Walkathon is named in memory of Ira Geller, a CAU member known for his advocacy for people with special needs who worked tirelessly to raise funds for the agency.

Walkers and runners are encouraged to invite friends, family and coworkers to join them virtually in the Walkathon June 21-26. Run or walk a route of your choosing and share your success on social media using #CAUWalk2021. When you're done, make sure to submit your photos to sthana@caunj.org for a chance to win a prize! Prizes will be awarded for: most dollars raised, best team photo and most creative challenge.

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

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2021, 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 3,000 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.cauj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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(above) Walkathon 2020 at Warinanco Park.

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FANWOOD RECOGNIZES NATIONAL NURSES DAY

The Chelsea assisted living residence in Fanwood celebrated National Nurses Day on Thursday May 6, 2021 with lunch for the nurses who have worked so hard to keep their residents safe during the pandemic.

Pictured are nurses Andrea Cassese, Sandy Venezia, Executive Director Annette Watson, RN, and Health Services Director Michelle Elie-Valcin. Working at the time the photo was taken was nurse Utilia Dormeus.

Our community greatly appreciates the heroic work of all the nurses at the Chelsea, our local medical practices and those who live in town and work at our regional hospitals and long term care facilities. Thank you!

SEEKING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club

The College Club is seeking community participation for two raffle drawings that will take place on October 3, 2021 at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains. Winners need not be present.

Raffle tickets are available for a 50/50 drawing with three cash prizes and the other is for a \$500 Shop Rite gift card. 50/50 tickets are \$2 per ticket or a book of ten for \$20. The Shop Rite tickets are \$5 per ticket with 500 tickets available.

All proceeds will go directly into the club's scholarship fund. The College Club has been awarding annual scholarships to young women in our community for over 80 years. The club is looking forward to awarding \$31,500 in scholarships for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

Please consider supporting this very worthy cause since the College Club has not been able to hold fundraising events due to the pandemic.

Anyone interested in purchasing Shop Rite raffle tickets can contact Dorothy Lusk at 908-230-4917 or dorothyculleylusk@gmail.com and for 50/50 tickets contact Sue Spirko at 908-472-8515 or at sslkt@verizon.net.



Photo by Tom Kranz

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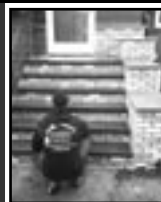


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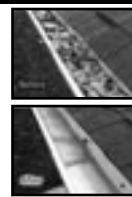
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ARBOR DAY - FIRST PUBLIC EVENT IN OVER A YEAR

Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood Shade Tree Commission hosted its annual Arbor Day observance, cancelled last year due to COVID, in a scaled down, socially distanced event at Carriage House Park on Watson Road.

For the 28th consecutive year, Fanwood was awarded Tree City USA status, a distinction that recognizes the town's efforts to preserve and care for trees, plant new ones and document those with longevity. The Tree City USA flag was proudly displayed by Shade Tree Commission chairman Steve Falco, commission members and children from the Park Middle School Environmental Club.

Commission member Dean Talcott reported that the commission is applying for a \$2,500 state grant that will facilitate making the Carriage House/Borough Hall area into an arboretum. Talcott continues his work as a tree steward, documenting more than 100 trees of note across town.

Falco recognized the late Ken Blom, a public works employee who would demonstrate tree-pruning using the borough's bucket truck at every Arbor Day event. Mr. Blom died unexpectedly earlier in the month.

Following the event, free cherry tree seedlings were available to anyone who wanted one. Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell read the Arbor Day proclamation from the mayor and council.



(above) Tree City USA flag



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FLINTLOCKS - EX BOY SCOUTS READY FOR ACTION

Submitted by Dr. Michael Hart

The Flintlocks, BSA, Inc. met for their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021. They elected the new slate of officers for the coming year; updated their Bylaws and Mission Statement; reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year; and discussed projects the Council needs to have done to prepare for summer camp and the upcoming year.

The Flintlocks are a group of retired scouts who devote themselves to helping the Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). They meet every Thursday at Camp Winnebago, all year round. They are organized as a 501c3 non profit corporation. All of the members are registered with the BSA. They provide a variety of skilled services to the Council. They have built cabins, picnic tables, painted the dining hall, built the archery range, built all the structures at the waterfront, financed, built and equipped the STEM Lab at Allamuchy Scout Reservation, repaired damage to camp structures, etc. In addition to building structures and doing repairs and maintenance, they also volunteer at many Council activities throughout the year. More than half of the Flintlocks have been awarded the Silver Beaver or have received other Council and National Awards. They typically provide approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer skilled labor every year. Last year was interrupted by COVID shutdowns, and the camps were not operational last summer, but now the Flintlocks are all vaccinated and ready to get back

to work. The Council plans to open the summer Scout camps again, but there has been a lot of storm damage over the winter which needs to be repaired. The Flintlocks are ready to pitch in.

The Officers and Trustees elected for the coming year are as follows: John Koneski, President; George Van Dyke, Vice President; Michael Hart, Secretary; Russ Jenkins, Treasurer; Ted Marquardt, Chair of the Trustees; Bob

Pysher, Trustee; Bob Germinder, Trustee; and Frank Wallace, Trustee.

The Flintlocks suggest getting vaccinations, hand washing, face masks, social distancing, and temperature checks. They can be found online at their Facebook page, "Flintlocks". Guests are always welcome. For more information contact Secretary Dr. Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Flintlocks, a group of retired scouts who devote themselves to helping the Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America, pose for a picture during their meeting.



(above, Back, l-r) Newly elected officers: President John Koneski; Secretary Dr. Michael Hart; Treasurer Russ Jenkins; Vice President George Van Dyke; (front) Trustees Bob Germinder; Bob Pysher; Chair of Trustees Ted Marquardt; missing Trustee Frank Wallace.

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NETWORK HELPS VETS AND FAMILIES LIVE BETTER LIVES

Submitted by Michael D. Boll, President

Memorial Day weekend is one of the most challenging for the New Jersey Veterans Network and its team of volunteers and mentors. This is a difficult time for many veterans because they reflect on their brothers and sisters that didn't make it home. Every day our nation loses 22 veterans to suicide, and it seems that number isn't coming down. If you are a veteran, or a family member, who is feeling alone, or are in need of assistance, we are here for you. Please reach out to us.

Our team focuses on helping our veterans and first responders have a better way of life through our volunteer mobile outreach mentoring program. We believe by aggressively seeking out veterans in need and contacting them before they are in crisis, we can really have some positive results. Contacting a person in need first is a great way to build trust and make it easier to begin a friendship. People will do better when they have human contact in their lives, too many programs are automated and lack the empathy and compassion needed to help someone in crisis.

We are not afraid to tell our veterans and first responders that they are loved and we strive to give them purpose. The team immediately empowers and gives its members a new family unit to be part of again. Nearly everyone that joins the team wants to help others and make a difference in someone else's life. Helping others definitely is a medicine that will make you become a better person, and you'll feel really

good about it.

New Jersey Veterans Network is constantly keeping active thru our Operation Rebound Racing Team which hosts numerous hikes, runs, bike rides and all other types of physically challenging events. However, we also focus on non athletic events like hosting a BBQ, comedy show, tailgate, camping trip, and several other fun outings throughout the year. But it doesn't stop there, the team works well with other charities and hosts numerous food drives and clothing events which normally take place at our veteran hospitals and shelters. If you would like to help, there is something for you to contribute.

Most recently, in April, our outreach director Frank "Doc" Schupp spearheaded our "Helping Heroes" program, and "Hero Day". These two programs were responsible for providing over 3,000 veterans and National Guardsmen throughout the state with food, PPE, and personal items.

In the last few years New Jersey Veterans Network has grown and has been able to save lives, provide cars, employment, housing, clothing, food, toiletries, and so much more to heroes.

In the next few weeks, we will be launching a statewide anti-suicide and PTSD awareness campaign. We have joined forces with the NJ VFW, NJ American Legion, NJSPBA, NJ FMBA, NJ FOP, NJ Veterans Affairs, State Legislators, and numerous other groups and organizations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Financial donations are great but we mostly rely on volunteers and donated resources. Our charity allows donors the opportunity to choose where their funds go and the volunteers get to play an active role in changing someone's life.

If you are interested in joining the team as a volunteer, or are a veteran in need of assistance or comradeship, please contact us at NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Visit online at NJVN.org.

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 contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.



(above) Operation Rebound Racing Team family hiking and camping trip at Watchung Reservation. If you are interested in donating, joining the team as a volunteer, or are a veteran in need of assistance or comradeship, please contact us at NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Visit online at NJVN.org.

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COLES SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS STAFF

SP/F Public Schools

Staff Appreciation Week at Coles Elementary School was busy! The week started off with handwritten notes for teachers and staff from students. These notes went in balloon bouquets that were made by CZ Balloons, a business owned by a Coles Moms.

On Tuesday staff was treated to breakfast donated from Coles families and bagels from Fanwood Bagels. Wednesday was the loved Granola Bar with handmade granola from the Berdan family.

Thursday, Hershey's Deli catered lunch for the staff along with more family lunch donations.

Friday was a delicious popcorn and candy bar—a fun treat for all the sweet staff! Each staff member was also given a bag of goodies put together by Coles families. Everyone really went above and beyond for our “You Lift Us UP” week to show their appreciation for this hardworking staff.



(above) Balloon bouquet baskets filled with notes of appreciation.

Photos by Scotch Plains Fanwood Public Schools

SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop, located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, is run by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, an all volunteer non-profit organization which has served local communities since 1974. We are pleased to announce that we will return to our original schedule of days opened as of June 1. Due to the pandemic we were closed from mid-March until Labor Day when we returned with a three day schedule following all CDC guidelines, which we will continue to maintain as they evolve. Our schedule will be as follows: Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We continue to offer selections of clothes, shoes, handbags, bric-a-brac, linens, pictures, toys, games, books, CDs and DVDs. We also feature seasonal specials.

We are able to run this Shop selling gently used items, in good condition, that are generously donated. We accept donations during our regular hours when the shop is open. Donations can be dropped off in the back of the shop which can be accessed through the Willow Avenue driveway. Our telephone number during business hours is (908)322-5420.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS

Fanwood Recreation is offering these summer programs and camps for kids: Summer Park Program, Fashion Design, Karate, Junior Tennis Lessons, Golf, Skateboarding, Soccer, Multi-Sports, T-Ball, Girls Lacrosse, Babysitting Certification, Junior First Responders and Yoga. All programs will be held outdoors and run in accordance with health safety guidelines.

For more information and to register, please visit fanwoodrecreation.org.

ORDINANCE GOVERNING DOGS IN PARKS

Lt. Daniel Kranz

The Fanwood Police Department would like to remind all residents and visitors of the Borough Ordinance governing dogs in the Borough Parks. Since the weather has been improving we have been receiving more reports of leashed and unleashed dogs in the Borough parks. Residents are reminded that the police department will be enforcing the below ordinances.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

VINTAGE & ANTIQUES CRAFTS FAIR – JUNE 13

Hosted by the Borough of Fanwood, two Vintage & Antiques Crafts Fairs will be held on Sundays June 13 and October 24, 2021 in the Fanwood Train Station (south side). Featuring 50+ exhibitors selling vintage items from days gone by along with hand made items from artisans and craftspeople. This free event is open to the public from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. There will be a selection of food so come hungry and enjoy.

PARKING

The event is held on the south side of the station. There is parking for visitors on the north side of the train station. You can walk over to the south side with the adjoining walking bridge. The GPS address for parking is 238 North Avenue, Fanwood, NJ.

For more general information, or on becoming an exhibitor please, contact JC Promotions at 201.998.6311, events@jcpromotions.info.

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RAYNA HARRIS TACKLES THE BUSINESS OF RUNNING FANWOOD

Borough of Fanwood

Mayor Colleen Mahr is delighted to introduce Rayna E. Harris as Administrator for the Borough of Fanwood. Born and raised in Union County, and currently living in Linden, Ms. Harris comes from a family of public servants and always felt that working in government to serve the people was her calling.

Well qualified for the position with undergraduate and Master's degrees in public administration, Ms. Harris returns to Fanwood after serving as clerk in several other communities. Long-time Fanwood residents may recall Ms. Harris having worked as deputy clerk here in the borough several years ago.

"We were so pleased when Rayna answered the call to return and serve here in Fanwood," said Mayor Mahr. "We know her to be a talented woman who is up for the challenge of taking Fanwood into the future. With the added advantage of having an established relationship with most of the current staff and a clear understanding of Borough operations, I have no doubt that Rayna is the right choice."

Ms. Harris describes the scope of her duties this way: "The Borough Administrator runs the day-to-day operations of the borough. I report to the mayor and the council. I make sure the lights stay on and everybody comes to work. I'm involved in personnel activities. I manage grants

and contracts and basically make sure that we have all the resources that we need."

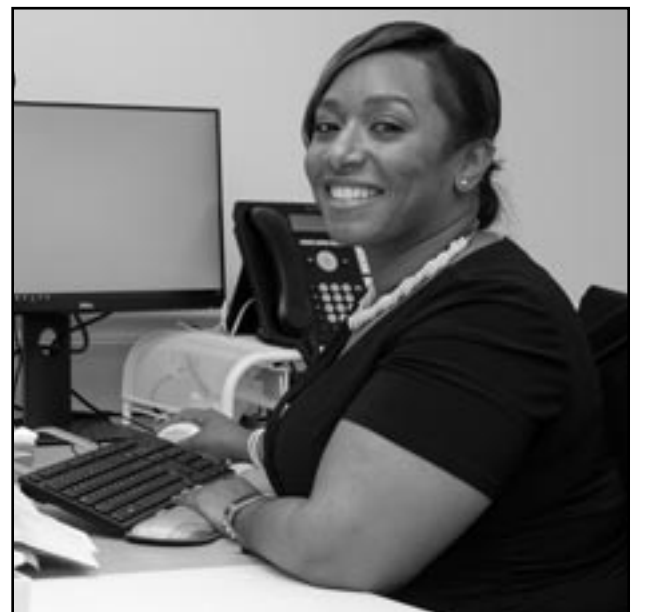
Ms. Harris joined the team in December 2020, taking over a position that had been held for 34 years by Eleanor McGovern.

"It's a transition," remarked Ms. Harris. "Fred Tomkins, our current CFO, had been serving as Acting Borough Administrator for almost a year, so I have Fred to guide me."

Ms. Harris finds the single biggest challenge to the job is translating the objectives of the mayor and council, who represent the public, into policy and active programming. "Compromise is key when translating a Council objective into an actual work product," she said. "You need to be extremely flexible."

Looking ahead to Fanwood's challenges in 2021, Ms. Harris sees crafting the budget as always being high on the list. Other challenges ahead will be selecting the new Police Director and opening the newly renovated Borough Hall to the public after being closed for over a year for COVID.

Until reopening, which is targeted for June 1st, the public may continue to do business with Borough Hall by telephone, email and, when appropriate, ZOOM or in-person by appointment. The relevant numbers and email addresses can be found at fanwoodnj.org. The main borough phone number is 908-322-8236.



(above) Rayna Harris at her desk at Fanwood Borough Hall

Photo by Tom Kranz

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SPFHS REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS: THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre is proud to present the New Jersey high school premiere of the Broadway hit The SpongeBob Musical.

Performances will be held on Friday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 5 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All performances will take place outdoors at the Perry Tyson Football Stadium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, located at 667 Westfield Road, in Scotch Plains. A livestream option will be available for the performance on Friday, June 4th. Please visit www.spfrep.com for more information.

The SpongeBob Musical follows our favorite eponymous yellow sponge and his undersea friends -- like Patrick, Squidward, Sandy, and Mr. Krabs -- in the ocean floor town of Bikini Bottom. When their community suddenly faces an existential threat, they soon learn the value of working together during the most uncertain of times. When speaking to Director Morgan Knight, he shared "The SpongeBob Musical actually touches on many themes which audiences will find surprisingly relevant: a community's response to a disaster, and the everyday acts of heroism that get us through troubled times. This is a musical for right now."

The entire community is invited to share in this comical and heartwarming production. The SpongeBob Musical will be performed outdoors on a concert stage designed for this production. When asked about this unique performance setting, Assistant Director Courtney Nemec replied, "We're so excited to put on a live performance! It's been so much fun to rehearse outside in this beautiful spring weather. We can't wait for the community to join us."

The score of The SpongeBob Musical is

unique for a modern musical. Trey Shore, the Pit Orchestra Director remarked, "SpongeBob is particularly interesting because it employed songwriters ranging the gamut from John Legend to Aerosmith, yet despite that it still manages to feel like one cohesive musical whole." Choreographer, Kara Drake, is excited for the eclectic dance styles in SpongeBob. "The choreography of this show is fun and colorful, just like the characters. It has a little mix of every style -- hip hop, jazz, musical theatre, and even tap...that's what makes it so exciting!"

The SpongeBob Musical involves over 75 student actors, instrumentalists, stylists, and production crew from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community. The cast and crew are under the artful direction of Mr. Morgan Knight (Director), Mrs. Jan Allen (Musical Director, Producer), Ms. Courtney Nemec (Assistant Director), Ms. Kara Drake (Choreographer), Mr. Trey Shore (Pit Orchestra Director), Mr. Jeffrey Allen (Set Designer), and Ms. Joanne Sprague (Costume Designer). One of the biggest challenges for this year's outdoor performance has been the social distancing protocols in place due to COVID-19. "Everything is different this year," says Jan Allen, the Musical Director and Producer. "It definitely requires some adjustments for the students vocally, but we are very excited for the presentation." Safety for students, staff and patrons is a top priority this year. Audience seating will be arranged to allow for social distancing between parties and all patrons will be required to wear a mask.

The ticket cost for The SpongeBob Musical performances is \$18 for students and senior citizens, \$20 for adults. The live streaming option is \$20 and will only be available for the performance on Friday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. Please

visit spfrep.com for livestream and ticketing information. The Perry Tyson Field stadium is wheelchair accessible. Audience members in need of wheelchair accessible seating, along with any senior citizens who would like to use their "Gold Card," may contact Victoria Fortna at vfortna@gmail.com or call 908-787-7492 to make arrangements. The SpongeBob Musical is a rain or shine event. In the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms, a performance may be paused, delayed, or cancelled. All tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable, except in the event of a show cancellation.

COLES SCHOOL CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Submitted by Elizabeth Valcich

The Earth Day committee at JA Coles School was busy this April. They planned two Earth Day projects to promote recycling for both students and parents. First, the Superhero Recycled Project asked students to create superheroes using recycled materials like paper towels rolls, egg cartons and craft supplies. The wonderful creations are on display in the main lobby of Coles for all students and staff to see.

The committee also conducted a shoe collection and collected over 150 pairs of shoes. Jack Rabbit in downtown Westfield will distribute shoes that are in good condition to various charities and donate "loved" shoes with rubber soles to companies that upcycle the rubber into rubberized wood chips for playgrounds.



(above) Nathan and Ben help collect and count shoes.



(above) Recycled Superhero Projects on display at JA Coles School

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THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

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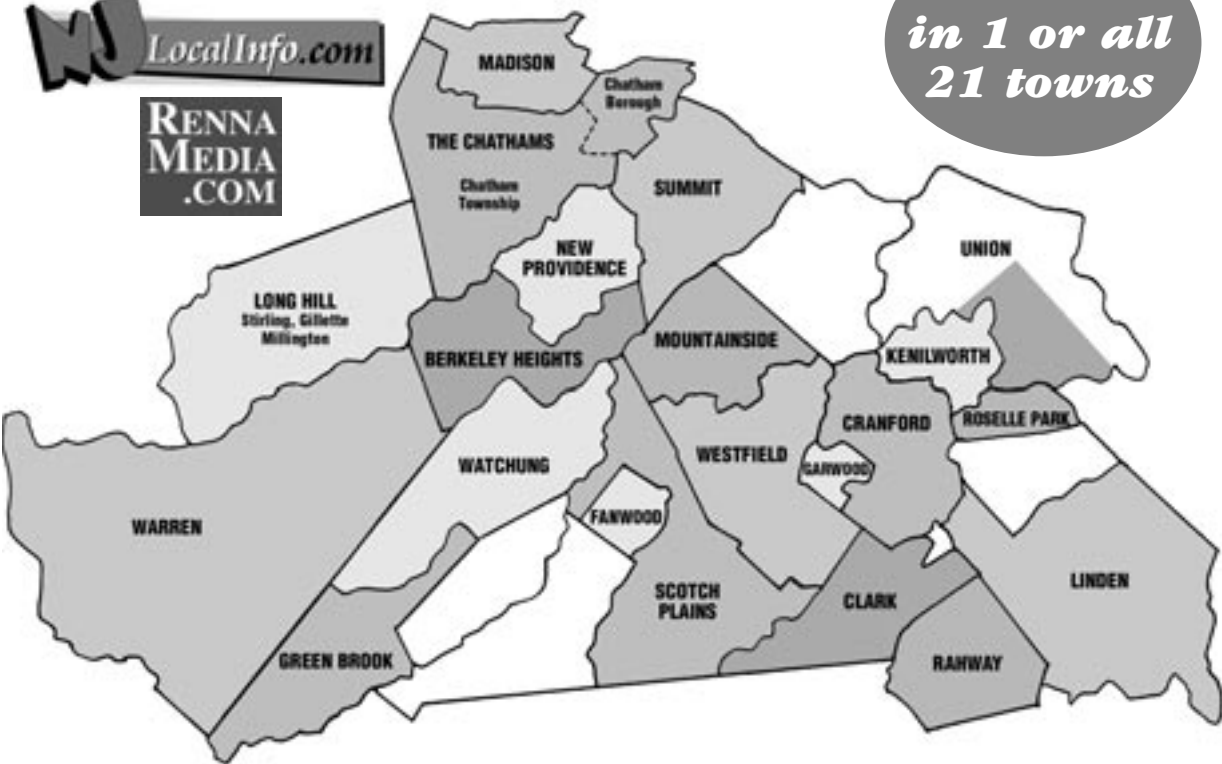
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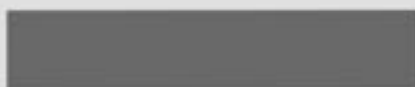
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