

WARREN MONTHLY_{NJ}

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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ISSUE 106 • OCTOBER 2021

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CUB SCOUTS DIGGING OUT A PIECE OF HISTORY

Submitted by Christian Bellmann

About a dozen Cub Scouts and siblings from Pack 182 in Warren participated in a Fossil Hunt organized by Scout leaders Michele Araujo and Cindy Noh on August 21, 2021. Scouts met at the Big Brook Fossil Area in Colts Neck, NJ to sift through gravel in the hopes of discovering a piece of history.

Prior to the hunt, leaders gave a brief overview of the history of our area and instructed the scouts and siblings on safe gathering techniques. Then, dressed in waders, water shoes and rain boots, the scouts set forth on their adventure. Walking slowly along the creek beds and carefully scanning the gravel areas they picked their sifting locations. Using a variety of sifting pans, the scouts were successful in finding ray and shark teeth as well as squid pen fossils and many, many curious objects. With the help of their leaders, scouts worked to identify their treasures before deciding which ones to take and which to leave for the next treasure hunters.

This event closed out a summer full of outdoor opportunities scouts leaders provided for scouts ages Kindergarten - 5th grade to continue to foster an appreciation for the outdoors while engaging in learning-rich adventures.

Boys can enroll in Pack 182 Warren Cub Scouts at any time during the year, with many joining simultaneously to the start of a new school year. Scouts from surrounding towns are welcome. To learn more about Scouting please contact membership@warrenpack182.org.



(above) Webelo Scout Constantin Bellmann shows off a squid pen.



(above) Scouts and siblings sift through the creek.



(above) Scout Lucas Araujo helps classmate and friend Cassie Bellmann pick the perfect sifting location.



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Warren Monthly is published by Renna Media. 6,200 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and home in Warren, NJ and the balance 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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Email: joerenna@rennamedia.com

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

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

*Organizations
who are interested
in submitting content
can email
editor@rennamedia.com.
or call 908-418-5586*

PROGRAMS TO SERVE THOSE IMPACTED BY HURRICANE IDA

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity

In response to the damage done from Hurricane Ida, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) is bringing people together to build homes, community and hope.

The pilot of the "A Brush with Kindness" program was in July of this year and involved a large group of volunteers who gardened, cleaned, and provided small repairs for low to moderate income homeowners. RVHFH is seeking volunteers who are interested in providing relief to those suffering from hurricane damage, and who are physically able to perform home clean-ups and small repairs. For information on how to volunteer, please visit rvhabitat.org/individual-volunteer/.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by Hurricane Ida and would like assistance with clearing items out of the home, sanitizing, shop vacuuming, brush cleanup and other small repairs, you can find the application at rvhabitat.org/hurricane-ida-relief. To return completed applications, please:

Scan or take a photo of a completed

application and email it to

homeownerservices@rvhabitat.org.

Mail completed applications to

P.O. Box 330, Pluckemin, NJ 07978.

Drop completed applications off in person to the Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore, at 110 North Main Street, Manville, NJ 08835.

The Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore is also offering an option for shoppers to purchase ReStore gift cards for families in need. Gift cards will be distributed to these families to purchase furniture, household items and home repair items. Families and homeowners in need may also stop by the ReStore in person, where they will be offered donated home repair and relief items for free, such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels, and cleaning and laundry supplies.

RARITAN VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity (RVHFH) puts God's love into action and brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Our vision is a time when everyone in Hunterdon and Somerset counties has a decent place to live. Since 1991, RV Habitat has been building strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable home ownership opportunities for hard-working, local families. To support these projects by making a donation, please visit rvhabitat.org/give or mail a donation to Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 6275 Bridgewater, NJ 08807. For individuals (ages 16+) and groups who would like to volunteer on the Montgomery Township build site, visit rvhabitat.org/volunteer.

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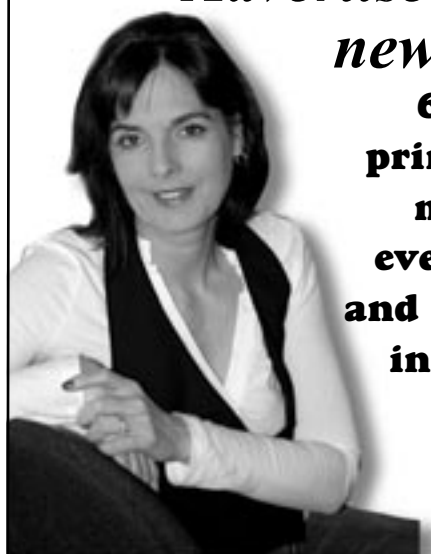
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VOLUNTEERS LEND A HELPING HAND TO FOOD PANTRY

Warren Township

When Tropical Storm Ida tore through Somerset County, it left serious devastation to the Feeding Hands Food Pantry. Two of their distribution centers, including one in Raritan, took in several feet of water destroying everything inside.

Sadly, the Feeding Hands Food Pantry threw out roughly 25 tons of food—at least \$100,000 worth, and lost all 12 of their refrigeration units along with a delivery truck. In the past year, Feeding Hands has helped approximately 650 families by distributing more than \$1,000,000 worth of food.

On Sunday afternoon, September 12, thanks to the coordination of Fire Chief Mark Russo, a dedicated group of volunteers met at Mount Bethel Volunteer Fire Company to clean a truck filled with muddy items that were salvaged from the floodwaters. All of the items were thoroughly cleaned, sanitized allowing Feeding Hands to reopen to assist their families in need.

The Warren Township Committee would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Warren Township Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator, Jane Asch, Fire Chief Mark Russo, and the following volunteers: Priscilla Emmanuel, Samantha Emmanuel, Jack McCullen, Jerrold Zeitels, Susan Hatfield, Tony Asch, Andy Asch, Dave Santoro, Leslie Santoro, Chloe Tu, Yee Jao, Christopher Stewart, Chloe Chua, and John Zoephel.

Even through their own hardship, Feeding Hands has still been able to distribute food to their guests on their regular service days.

If you would like to help Feeding Hands replace their refrigeration units and other necessary equipment, please go to feedinghandspantry.org to make a donation. Every dollar donated equates to \$6 of groceries for families in need.

The Warren Township OEM and Police Department are collecting \$25 gift certificates for ShopRite, Walgreens, and Target. Please drop off gift cards to the Warren Township Police Department.



(above) The Warren Township Committee would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Warren Township Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator, Jane Asch, Fire Chief Mark Russo, and the following volunteers: Priscilla Emmanuel, Samantha Emmanuel, Jack McCullen, Jerrold Zeitels, Susan Hatfield, Tony Asch, Andy Asch, Dave Santoro, Leslie Santoro, Chloe Tu, Yee Jao, Christopher Stewart, Chloe Chua, and John Zoephel.



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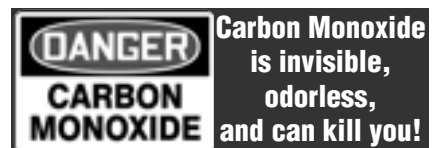
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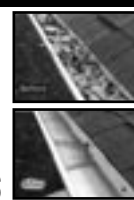
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JANET COLMAN OF WARREN SWORN IN AS ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

CASA of Union County

The latest class of community members to step up and train as advocates for Union County foster youth have taken their oath before a Union County Superior Court Judge and are now ready to be matched to their case as the newest volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County. Janet Colman of Warren is among them.

The nonprofit, which began in Union County in 2005, recruits, trains, supports, and supervises volunteers to serve local child-victims removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, and living in foster care. It is the only nonprofit serving as extra eyes and ears for Union County judges hearing youth cases.

“The reason why I became a CASA volunteer was somewhat selfish,” said Colman. My ‘day

job’ hadn’t felt fulfilling on a personal level and I wanted to put my skillset – working with children – to better use. I cannot wait to finally get started and hope to make a difference in a child’s life,” she added.

Superior Court Judge James Hely presided over the swearing-in ceremony via Zoom; once matched to their youth or sibling set, advocates will begin putting their 30 hours of training into practice. Colman was joined by fellow classmates Komal Nankani of Summit, Karime Herrera and James Walker Jr. of Elizabeth, Mike Caporaso of Lebanon, Regina O’Connor of Fanwood, and Veronica Gardner of Union.

Volunteers need no special prior background or experience to serve as advocates; each undergoes a thorough training process and is supported by CASA staff. Successful advocates bring with them varied life experiences and professional backgrounds. No matter the age of the youth to whom they are assigned, advocates’ commitment to being a consistent presence –

many foster youth experience a revolving door of professionals in addition to the separation from family members – and ensuring needs are identified and recommendations are made to the judge and stakeholders, the trajectory of a child’s life can be changed for the better.

Upon being court-ordered to a case, the CASA volunteer has access to the youth, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers in order to identify and report to the judge any concerns and needs in order to protect best interests.

The organization remains committed to serving every Union County youth in foster care; to do that, more community volunteers are needed to step up and train as an advocate for a local child-victim who could range from birth to age 21.

Contact Lucia lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org for details on upcoming information sessions, how to join a training class, and all the ways you can Change a Child’s Story.

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Nov 19-21 RENT, The Musical
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Dec 12 Brook Orchestra



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(above, l-r) Mike Caporaso of Lebanon; Janet Colman of Warren; Karime Herrera of Elizabeth; James Walker Jr. of Elizabeth; Regina O'Connor of Fanwood; Komal Nankani of Summit; and Veronica Gardner of Union.



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Please register for OktoberSingFest by email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. More information can be found at hickorytreechorus.org.





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CALLING ALL TWEENS AND TEENS TO EXPERIENCE TEENTOBER

SCLSNJ

Did you know that approximately 14 million middle and high school students are on their own after school? In Somerset County, where individuals aged 18 years or younger makeup almost 22 percent of the population, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) provides inclusive spaces for students to discover new experiences; form connections with their community; and explore opportunities through programs, resources, materials, and services.

In order to continue to enrich the lives of tweens and teens in the community, SCLSNJ will participate in TeenTober, a month-long commemoration organized by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) that “aims to celebrate teens and promote year-round teen services and literacies,” throughout October.

During TeenTober the Library System will offer a series of virtual and in-branch programs that focus on creative expression, traditional and digital literacy, workforce development, and peer-to-peer engagement.

According to YALSA, libraries “have a strong track record of providing a variety of key services that meet the unique needs of teens.” In fact, data has shown that approximately 97 percent of public libraries have a designated section for teen materials.

In addition to programming, available digital resources include Brainfuse HelpNow, which offers free one-on-one online tutoring, a writing lab, and more; and LearningExpress Library, which provides interactive tutorials, practice tests, e-books, and other tools for academic skill-building and test preparation.

For more information about teen offerings at your Library: [SCLSNJ.org/research-learn/teens](https://sclsnj.org/research-learn/teens). For more information about TeenTober: ala.org/yalsa/teentober.

EXPLORE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FROM HOME:

Virtual Mystery Challenge (grades 4 and up)
October 2, 2-2:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5160475.

Comics Step-by-Step With Gale Galligan (grades 4-12)

October 4, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5007878.

True or False - Interactive Digital Literacy Game (grades 6-12)

October 5, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5144005.

Alvin Ailey Hip Hop Workshop (grades 9-12)

October 6, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981175.

LEAD - Leadership Exploration and Development Club (grades 6-9)

October 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5151845.

Garden State Teen Book Awards Book Talk (grades 6-12)

October 11, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5171713.

Murder Mystery Story Progression (grades 6-12)

October 12, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5144009.

Meet the Author - Nic Stone (grades 8-12)

October 13, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981176.

Manga Cares - Mizu/Water (grades 6-12)

October 13, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5002457.

Persuasive Scholarship Writing (grades 9-12)

October 14, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5111834.

Library Loot Share (grades 6-12)

October 15, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5059021.

Designing Discords (grades 6-12)

October 19, 4-5 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5111890.

Digital Photography Workshop (grades 6-12)

October 21, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981181.

Teen Paint Night (grades 6-12)

October 21, 6-7:30 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5081000

Song Jeopardy (grades 6-12)

October 26, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5144018.

Meet Alex Boniello and Michael Lee Brown of “Dear Evan Hansen” (grades 6-12)

October 28, 5-6 p.m.

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4981183

Connect with your peers and Library staff through in-branch programs:

Teen Board Game Night (grades 7-12)

October 5, 6-7:30 p.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379

South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287670.

Teen Leadership Committee (grades 6-12)

October 5, 6-7 p.m.

at the Watchung branch, located at 12 Stirling

Road in Watchung; Register now:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5288697.

Teen Book Chat (grades 8-12)

October 8, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

at the Manville branch, located at 100 South

10th Avenue in Manville; Register now:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5288986.

Teen Trivia Night (grades 7-12)

October 12, 6-7 p.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379

South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287677.

Game Time (grades 4-12)

October 13, 3:30-5 p.m.

at the North Plainfield branch, located at 6

Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5285402.

Tween D and D Afternoon (ages 10-16)

October 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

October 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

at the Somerville branch located at 35 West

Avenue in Somerville; Register now:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5291501; and Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5291502.

Teen Leadership Committee (grades 7-12)

October 14, 6-7 p.m.

at the Warren Township branch, located at 42

Mountain Boulevard in Warren Township;

Register now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5283610.

Friday Feature Film - “Pokémon Detective Pikachu” (grades 4-12)

October 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

at the North Plainfield branch, located at 6

Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5286425.

Teen Leadership Committee (grades 7-12)

October 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379

South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287519.

Teen Movie Night (grades 7-12)

October 19, 6-7:45 p.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379

South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287662.

Game Design Workshop - Playing With Fear (grades 6-12)

October 22, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

at the Manville branch, located at 100 South

10th Avenue in Manville; Register now:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5288980.

Teen Craft Night - Halloween Origami (grades 7-12)

October 26, 6-7 p.m.

at the Hillsborough branch, located at 379

South Branch Road in Hillsborough; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5287673.

Ace of Cupcakes - Halloween Edition (grades 6-12)

October 27, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

at the North Plainfield branch, located at 6

Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield; Register

now: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5286467.

Teen Advisory Board (grades 7-12)

October 28, 5-6 p.m.

at the Somerville branch, located at 35 West

End Avenue in Somerville; Register now:

sclsnj.libnet.info/event/5286444.

ABOUT YALSA

YALSA stands for Young Adult Library Services Association. Our mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives. For more information: ala.org/yalsa.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

STAFF WELCOMED FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Warren Township Schools

Teachers and other Educational Services Professionals new to the Warren Township K-8 school district met for a two-day induction program on August 23 and 24. Many of the administrative team members along with Dr. Matthew Mingle, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Marc Franco, School Board President, were in attendance to greet the new group.

The Whole Child Approach, information technology, special education, team building, curriculum, and student-centered learning were among the many topics discussed with the new group of employees.

Mr. Scott Cook, Mt. Horeb School principal, and Mr. Jeffrey Heaney, Woodland School principal, coordinated the New Staff Induction Program which was established over 17 years ago and continues to have a positive impact on new employees.

"We are committed to the success of all of our staff members," says Mr. Cook. "This program goes a long way in ensuring that success."

Mingle welcomed back all district employees during his kick-off to the 2021-2022 school year opening ceremony. Mingle was happy to share evidence of academic success while reflecting upon the 2020-2021 school year. Mingle thanked the staff for their efforts during the previous school year. "Students cannot learn if they do not feel healthy and safe, and they will not learn unless they are engaged, supported, and challenged."

Mingle ended his opening remarks by reading a page from the book, *The Day the World Came to Town*, which is a story about Gander, Newfoundland, and the day that 38 jetliners

bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport after the US Airspace was closed on September 11, 2001. Mingle reminded the staff that they continue to be "The Rock" for their students and the community of Warren just like the citizens of Gander were for the thousands of individuals who needed their help. "We are, and clearly were, the rock last year. For our students, for each other, in some ways for the whole community," Mingle said.

Warren Township students began the new school year on Wednesday, September 1. The district welcomed all students back in person. "We will join together to welcome our students back to their educational homes - all together - for the first time since March 13, 2020," Mingle added. "Thank you for everything you have done and will do to maintain and expand upon the precedent that is a Warren Township Schools education."



(above) Dr. Matthew Mingle, Superintendent, and Board of Education President Mr. Marc Franco.



(above) New staff members Kimberly Bostory, Ahmad Price, Christie Zomer, and Matthew Gamage.



(above) Woodland School principal Jeffrey Heaney and Mt. Horeb School principal Scott Cook ran the New Staff Induction program



(above, l-r) Front row: Christie Zomer, Ahmad Price, Gianna Bonfiglio, Sarah Hughes, Emily Zengel, Eliana Glassman, Diane Moon, Adanna Cooper; 2nd row: Anne Isedeh, Courtney McIntosh, Seria Tucker, Reid Maglione, Jennifer Armao, Stephanie Dimakos, Ruth Serino, Achau Nguyen; 3rd row: Erick Velasquez, Jeffrey Heaney, Kimberly Bostory, Kelly Yeager, Alice Beals, Latrice Fairly, Claire Vivencio, Alanna Schwartz, Matthew Gamage, Scott Cook, and Liana Esposito.

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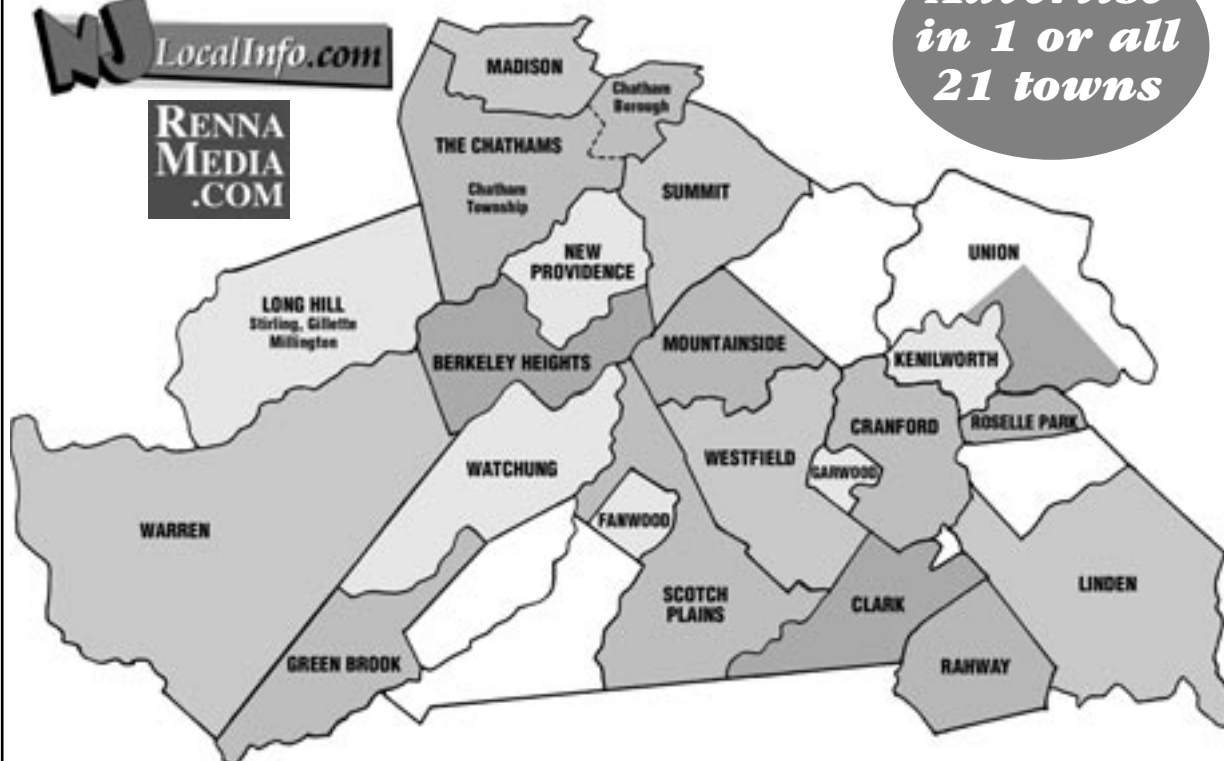
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THE MINI DUMP IS BACK

As a result of requests from township residents, the Warren Township Committee has approved the reopening of the Mini Dump. The Mini Dump will be open two Saturdays a month. Upcoming 2021 Mini Dump Dates:

- October 9 & October 23
- November 6 & November 20
- 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The following Covid-19 practices will be put into place for 2021:

No cash will be accepted--we will accept checks only made out to the Township of Warren. Please do not fill in dollar amounts until rate is determined by Township employee.

Follow directional signs. We will have a one way in and one way out route.

If you have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, recently tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, please do NOT visit the Mini Dump.

Please adhere to standard COVID-19 safety protocols, which suggests wearing a mask at all times if you are not fully vaccinated and staying socially distant (6 ft.) from anyone not in your family.

For additional Mini Dump information, please visit the Mini Dump page of the Township website warrennj.org.

COUNTY MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9-11

The Somerset County Board of County Commissioners held a ceremony on the Historic Courthouse Green in Somerville to honor the 20th anniversary of September 11.

To commemorate the occasion, the American flag was on display in front of the historic courthouse and on Somerville Fire Department fire engines lined up alongside the Memorial Clock Tower. Other symbols of the 20th anniversary included the Somerville Rescue Squad ambulance that worked at ground zero for several days after the attacks, and seven signature boards signed by residents in 2002 at the first Somerset County 9/11 ceremony.

In addition, two new signature boards were added in honor of the 20th anniversary that are available for people to sign.

Leading the Pledge of Allegiance was Former Chief Keith Silverman of Somerset Fire & Rescue Station 56 in Franklin Township. Silverman is also an instructor at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy. Also participating in the ceremony was the Somerset County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard and Somerset County Police Pipes & Drums, which performed "Amazing Grace" and the Armed Forces medley.

The Board of Commissioners took turns

reading the names of the 39 Somerset County residents killed in the attacks. Afterwards, the Sheriff's Honor Guard led the procession to the Memorial Clock Tower where Director Robinson and Deputy Director Sara Sooy placed a wreath at the base of the steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center.

The program was live-streamed to the county's Facebook page and can be viewed at [Facebook.com/somersetcountynj](https://www.facebook.com/somersetcountynj).



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