

# Scotch Plains NJ

## WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 76 • January 2022



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### A FUN & FESTIVE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by Sheila Leonard

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, Scotch Plains held a holiday celebration for the townspeople and anyone wanting to dive into the festive spirit of the holidays. This great celebration was generously sponsored by the SP Business and Professional Association and took place at Alan M. Augustine Village Green, located at 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

The whole event was from 2–5 p.m. with many fun attractions for all ages to enjoy, such as, horse-drawn carriage rides, hot chocolate, face painting, temporary tattoos, a petting zoo, a photo booth, and a canned food drive. There was even a clown making balloon animals for all the children of anything they wanted! Also, the Scotch Plains Parks & Recreation Department had multiple gingerbread houses set up on display from various builders.

One of the biggest events of the celebration were photos with Santa that began at 3 p.m. and all the children were so excited as soon as he got off the firetruck to greet them. The other huge event for all to gaze upon was the Christmas tree lighting that took place at 5 p.m. The holiday celebration in Scotch Plains was a fun, festive event with tons of great attractions for everyone to have an amazing time!



Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on Scotch Plains Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to “Like,” “Tag,” and “Share.”

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# Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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## LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS

### Scotch Plains Police Department

Please LOCK your car doors and do not leave anything of value in it, we are experiencing a rash of thefts from cars and thefts from packages from porch areas in town! The majority of the incidents are happening in the early morning hours, between 1 – 5 a.m., and the theft of the packages are happening at all times of the day. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please contact us immediately! Call 9-1-1 if it is an emergency or (908) 322-7100 ext. 0 if it is a non-emergency.



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## SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD UNICO

At its November general meeting, Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO swore in three new board members and welcomed 2 new members.

For more information about Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO, please visit [unicospf.org](http://unicospf.org), or contact [spfunico@gmail.com](mailto:spfunico@gmail.com).

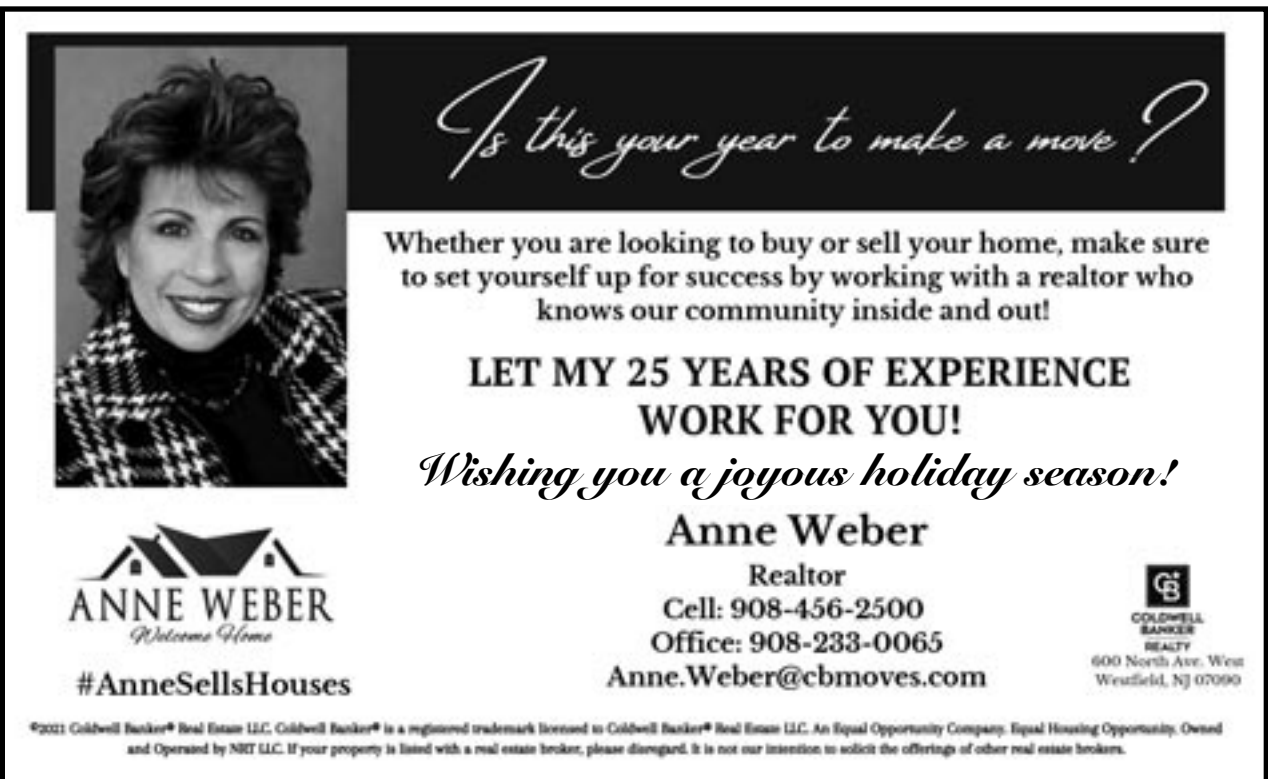


(above, l-r): Board members Matt Marino, Jeff Blanck, and President Geri Samuel



(above) New board members Tony Isolda and Robert Sorge were sworn in by President Geri Samuel.

Photos by SPF UNICO



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# THE TINY TIM FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains 2022-2023 scholarship application forms can be obtained from the SPFH Counseling Office, at <http://www.spfk12.org> or at [fspcollegeclub.org](http://fspcollegeclub.org).

This will be the 86th year that female students seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree have been helped by the College Club's fundraising efforts. To date, the F-SP College Club has awarded approximately \$720,000 in scholarships to approximately 562 young women.

Application materials must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2022 to be considered.

The Scholarship Committee will be ready to begin reviewing applications the first week of March and the selection of scholarship recipients will be finalized in mid-April.

In the words of one of the College Club's scholarship recipients:

"From the bottom of my heart I thank the College Club for investing in my education. It means the world to me that I have a team of female supporters who saw something in me and spent their precious time and energy to raise the scholarship money that will allow me to further my education and pursue my dreams. I hope that one day I can return the favor and share the same generosity with future candidates."

*Submitted by Bernadette Hoyer*

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit corporation that provides financial assistance to help families pay for the medical needs of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. The organization has been providing financial assistance to local families since 1983.

The Fund is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees, which consists of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community. There are no administrative costs.

Traditionally, the Tiny Tim Carol Night held annually in December has been the organization's sole fundraiser. This year due to current COVID concerns, in an effort to keep carolers and residents safe, the Tiny Tim Fund is requesting financial support through publicity and a letter distribution campaign.

Donations from civic and service clubs, as well as from local citizens will enable the Tiny Tim Fund to continue supporting children in our community. The trustees are confident that members of the community who have generously supported the Fund in the past, will make it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to provide assistance for current cases as well as be able to accept referrals of new requests for assistance during the coming year. This campaign will be the organization's only fundraiser and will continue throughout the month of January.

Checks made out to The Tiny Tim Fund can be mailed to: The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181 Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Tiny Tim Board at [TINYTIMSPF@gmail.com](mailto:TINYTIMSPF@gmail.com) or follow The Tiny Tim Fund on Facebook @TinyTimFund.


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## POLICE SUPPORT HIP-HOP DANCE EXPERIENCE

Fanwood and Scotch Plains police recently took part in the Junior Hip Hop Experience Parent Performance held at Forest Road Park, part of a dance class by local instructor Maria Daniels.

Ms. Daniels is founder and artistic director of the iDance Ministry and has been featured on national media. She conducts hip hop classes for the Scotch Plains Recreation Department. Fanwood Police Director Mike Bramhall and

Scotch Plains Police Chief Ted Conley were on hand, along with several officers from both departments and Fanwood Councilwoman Trisha Walsh.

Photo by Borough of Fanwood



## TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS

*Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League*

It's time to put away the presents and pack up the holiday décor, making room for new items by sorting through the old. That makes this a perfect time to clean out closets and weed out underused possessions, from clothing to household goods to Christmas decorations.

Whether it is a sweater that no longer fits or a new gift that just doesn't fit your style, unneeded items in good condition could be treasured by another person. Bring those goods to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop! The store offers a large collection of clothing for both sexes of all ages, along with shoes, jewelry, bric-a-brac, linens, household items, toys, games, books, DVDs and décor for every season.

All store goods are generously donated by members of the general public and all store

proceeds outside of operating expenses are provided to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. Service League members would like to thank all of the donors who generously provide the store with merchandise, as well as all the shoppers who regularly visit and purchase there. You are keeping the shop in business and "helping us help others," allowing the Service League to serve the community for 48 years—and counting.

After a short closing during the Christmas holidays, the Thrift Shop re-opens on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. To learn more about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League and types of donations accepted please call the store at 908-322-5420 during Thrift Shop business hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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# IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE FOR A KID TO LEARN HOW TO RUN FASTER?

Retired San Francisco 49ers QB Joe Montana, is arguably one of the greatest NFL players that has ever played football...when his son started playing football it would have made sense for him to help his son learn how to play Quarterback.

But that's not how it went. Joe Montana had to hire a quarterback coach to help his son be a better football player. Here's possibly the greatest NFL QB of all time, needing to hire someone else to help his son. It was not that Joe Montana was not equipped for the job...it was that his son needed a second voice to help him get to the next level.

Many parents who have much less knowledge, experience, and skills than Joe Montana are in the same boat in regards to helping their kids get stronger, faster, and more confident.

Most parents we've come across want their kids to eat healthier, be more active, and have a stronger mindset. But many have told us they need help.

Even with the constant reminders of telling their kids to eat more vegetables, get outside instead of watching TV, practice their sport more, get to bed earlier...they find that sometimes the message falls on deaf ears...and some backup would be helpful toward their vision of helping their kid be the best they can be.

Parents have told us that having us(the Grit Athlete Performance Coaches) as a second voice to help reinforce the habits they want for their kids...is changing the game.

Further...Our Grit Athlete Founder has over 20 years experience with training athletes himself...and certainly knows a LOT more about getting stronger and faster than the average parent...But has all 3 of his children(9, 8 and 6) enrolled in Grit year round...because he knows the power of that second voice.

And after they come through our program, parents tell how it's turbocharging their parenting. Here are some real-life examples that have been reported...

Before, parents struggled with getting kids to eat vegetables...now their kids are asking for more.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to get enough sleep...now their kids are getting to bed earlier on their own.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to watch less TV or play video games...now they are limiting these activities because they've learned they don't really help them become better athletes.

Before, parents struggled with helping their kids have more confidence...now their kids are doing things out of their comfort zone more often which is helping them believe in themselves which further improves self-esteem.

Before, parents had no clue how to help their kid get faster...now they are faster because they've learned that speed is a skill, and a few simple tweaks can make a kid faster immediately.

Before, parents could not get their kids to make their beds...now their kid makes their

bed each morning on their own because they learned that making their bed in the morning helps them have a better day.

Before, parents struggled with getting their kids to do even one good push-up...now they catch them in their room practicing on their own.

Before, parents wanted their kids to have more determination and grit when training new things...now they are staying calm under pressure and seeking out challenges instead of avoiding them.

Many times it's not about telling your kid to eat more vegetables or stop watching TV...but rather finding the right environment for them to be more successful.

Right in your backyard, there's a team of great coaches waiting to be second voices for your kids...so that all the things you're teaching as parents will be reinforced. But most importantly, the results you're after for your kids will actually become a reality. The Grit Athlete winter Sports Performance session starts on January 3rd in Berkeley Heights NJ, visit [www.gritathletes.com](http://www.gritathletes.com) to fill out an application for your child.

*Grit Athlete Performance is a Sports Performance Training Company located in Berkeley Heights that helps kids ages 6-18 get strong, fast, and confident so they can have a bigger and better future. They have just released the dates for their winter program that starts on January 3rd. Visit [www.gritathletes.com](http://www.gritathletes.com) to register for their winter session...or see below for more details...*

## SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR KIDS AGES 6-18 STARTS JANUARY 3rd (9 SPACES REMAINING)

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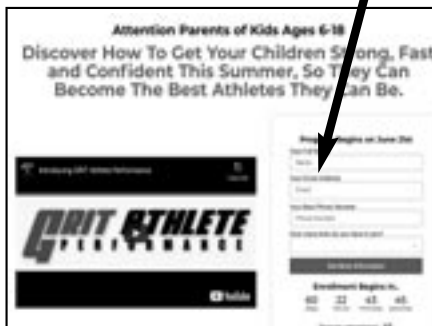
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### STEP 3

Coach Mike will call you and set you up



**Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.**



## Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18

# UPDATE: THE GRIT ATHLETE PERFORMANCE WINTER PROGRAM HAS ONLY 9 SPACES REMAINING

Give us 12 weeks with your kids and we'll have them stronger, faster, and more confident...guaranteed.

### Here's what parents can expect to happen:

- **They will get stronger** which means when they show up to their sport they'll be able to perform better than ever.
- **They will run faster and jump higher** so they can show up to their next season and people will start asking what the heck have they been doing.
- They'll become **more coordinated and improve agility** which means they'll pick up new skills their coaches teach them faster.
- **Your children will start to eat better** because we'll be educating them daily on what's good and what they should avoid ...don't be surprised if they start asking you to buy more vegetables.
- **Confidence will skyrocket.** When kids get stronger, faster and more fit...their confidence will rise...so will their self-esteem which means their performance in every aspect of life will get better.
- **Their mindset will improve.** We're going equip your child with very specific mindset skills that'll help them learn how to transform how they think about mistakes and failures.

## HAPPY PARENTS TALKING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR KIDS...

- “When my son started Grit he was quiet, shy, and had some difficulty with movements...Now he is confident in himself, has become more vocal, and is mastering the exercise he struggled with in the past.”  
- Jen O'Brien, Grit Athlete Parent
- “My son is more disciplined and confident in himself”  
- Steve Hughes, Grit Athlete Parent
- “I have watched my children become more confident and vocal.”  
- Christine Stramandinoli, Grit Athlete Parent
- “His confidence has shot up in the last few months...and has carried forward to the way he approaches other activities like sports and schoolwork. My son is now making his bed daily and exercising every day.”  
- Catherine Solfaro, Grit Athlete Parent

## STARTS JANUARY 3rd (Only 9 Spaces Remaining)

**STEP 1**  
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**Warning: The Winter session is the most popular session of the year and always sells out before it starts. We strongly encourage you to scan the QR code today and enter your information to make sure your child doesn't get locked out of the winter session.**

# 10TH ANNUAL SEASONS OF HOPE

*Imagine, a Center for Coping with Loss*

Close to 400 guests were registered for Imagine's 10th Annual Seasons of Hope event that was held virtually last year on November 10, 2021, which raised money as well as hope for the more than 130,000 children who are bereaved every year in New Jersey. Since its founding in 2011, Imagine has served over 1000 families in its peer grief support groups, provided education and training to thousands of adults and youth on grief, loss, and how to support those who grieve, as well as, provided on-site support in schools, workplaces, and agencies to hundreds of employees and students after traumatic loss. Guests heard from two families who attend Imagine support groups, Imagine's Founder, Mary Robinson, and its new Executive Director,



(above) Imagine participant and Rahway Police Officer, Darius Singletary, served as the Seasons of Hope event's MC sharing his own story of loss and the impact of Imagine on his life, while guiding guests through the 45-minute program.

Lindsay Schambach, who is also a former participant at Imagine with her son, Cameron. After sharing her story of the loss of her young husband Mike to colon cancer, leaving behind his 4-week-old daughter Chloe and four-year-old son Cameron, Lindsay shared "I promise I will never stop working towards the day when every family has the support they need and deserve and where no child ever has to grieve alone."

In her remarks, Imagine Founder, Mary Robinson, reminded the guests they could help change lives with their support by ensuring children coping with loss that they could grow up emotionally healthy and also be able to lead meaningful as well as productive lives, instead of losing years of their lives to unaddressed grief as statistics show.

Imagine is deeply grateful to everyone who supported the event — both sponsors and donors — and would especially like to thank its Gold Sponsor Sanofi; Silver Sponsors — Atlantic Health System, Northfield Bank, and PSEG; Bronze Sponsors — Bradley Funeral Homes, Ernst & Young, Memorial Funeral Home, Prudential, and Wiss; Advocate Sponsors — American Global, David Weinman, DMD, Powerflow Yoga, Provident Bank, Rossi Funeral Home, and Westfield Pediatric Dental Group LLC. "Thanks to our sponsors because all money raised at the event went directly to support Imagine programs," said Shane Nelson, Imagine Board of Trustees Member, and Diversity & Inclusion Business Director at Sanofi.

Also, thanks are due to the many volunteers that contributed their time and energy to making the event a success, as well as to the Imagine's Board of Trustees, the Imagine staff, and to the event's in-kind sponsor, Grammables, and video production company, Riverside Digital Productions of West Orange.

To make a donation to Imagine, visit [imagineinj.org/donate](http://imagineinj.org/donate) or to get more involved, please join us for one of our monthly experiential and transformational virtual tours of our mission and centers by visiting [imagineinj.org/tour](http://imagineinj.org/tour). Finally, Imagine needs volunteers! To become a volunteer, contact Val at [val@imagineinj.org](mailto:val@imagineinj.org). For grief support, contact us directly at 908-264-3100.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, provides year-round grief support for children ages 3-18, young adults, and their parents/guardians using a peer-support group model. Trained adult volunteers as well as professionals provide children and teens with support and the coping tools needed to process grief resulting from loss due to death. Imagine is based in Mountainside and Newark, but also provides education and training in NJ communities and on-site support in schools and workplaces after a death has occurred. Groups have been meeting virtually on weeknights. Imagine plans to offer both in-person and virtual groups beginning in January, 2022. For more information, contact Imagine at 908-264-3100, or [info@imagineinj.org](mailto:info@imagineinj.org).

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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 osteoarthritis, 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 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 and no surgery!

## ENGINE 1681 JOINS SCOTCH PLAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Engine 1681 It is the latest addition to the Scotch Plains Fire Department. It is a pumper tanker vehicle that has a built-in water tank with a 1,000-gallon range and replaces a truck that was more than 25 years old. The Scotch Plains Fire Department now has three engines, one truck, and one rescue vehicle in the fleet.



Photo by Scotch Plains Township

## MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

On Sunday, November 28th, Scotch Plains hosted the annual menorah lighting ceremony on the Alan Augustine Village Green as local residents came out to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah.

Follow Scotch Plains Township on Facebook.



(above) Rabbi Avrohom Blesofsky of The Chabad of Union County presided over the menorah lighting and Mayor Josh Losardo lit the first candle.



(above) The event also included an ice-carving demonstration of the menorah.

Photos by Scotch Plains Township

### 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 fluoroscopy 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.

Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS

### Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain."  
- Patricia G.

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

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch."  
- Question L.

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## HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IS A WIN FOR EVERYONE

### Community Access Unlimited

Ronald Vigliano has proven himself as a valuable employee with nearly 22 years of experience working at ShopRite. He prepares orders, delivers them to customers, and processes returns at the bustling store.

Tonya Hopson enjoys her job at Target and has worked at the store for 18 years, stocking and organizing in different departments and preparing drinks at Starbucks.

Vigliano and Hopson are two of thousands of people with developmental disabilities who have unique skills and a desire to work in the United States. Yet across all age groups, people with disabilities are much less likely to be employed than people with no disabilities.

The 2018 American Community Survey found that only 36% of people with disabilities were employed, compared to 77% of the total population. Further, according to a 2019 Census Bureau report, workers with disabilities earn only two-thirds as much as the average worker without a disability. Workers with disabilities have also been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, making this a critical time for inclusive hiring practices in American economic recovery.

“If they have the ability to do the work, they should be allowed to have a job,” Vigliano said. “Why not?”

Vigliano’s boss, Store Manager Frank Juba, said the store welcomes employees with different abilities and works to accommodate them.

“We’re flexible, and a gentleman like Ron is fully capable,” Juba said. “We find a position that suits their abilities.”

Vigliano and Hopson receive job coaching support from Community Access Unlimited (CAU). Every week, Deirdre McCray visits them at work to provide supervision and assistance with any work-related tasks that they need, such as, learning how to use a register or taking a training test. People with disabilities that are seeking assistance in their job search, job readiness training, or businesses looking to hire people with disabilities in New Jersey, can contact CAU. CAU is an Elizabeth-based nonprofit that seeks to integrate individuals into the community through comprehensive ways.

“The people I work with know their jobs,” McCray said. She added that she helps members stay on task and follow any business procedures and rules, as well as may pitch in physically depending on the member’s needs.

The extensive benefits of hiring people with different abilities are becoming well-documented. A 2018 study by Accenture, in partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities as well as Disability:IN, reports that businesses that actively seek to employ people with disabilities outperform businesses that do not. Their revenues were 28% higher, net income was two times more, and profit margins were 30% higher. Additionally, workers with disabilities have high employee retention rates, high reliability, and a positive effect on employee motivation.

Vigliano and Hopson said that working is an important part of their lives. They feel productive during the day, get out of the house, and most importantly, earn an income that helps pay their bills and other expenses.

“I like to be out of the house and the activity — I like to be working,” Vigliano said.

Hopson said she loves the people she works with and appreciates that the store hires people with different abilities.

“There’s someone at my job who is deaf, but she works great,” Hopson said. “They’re equal at my job and there’s no prejudice or anything.”

After paying bills, Hopson said her favorite way to spend her money is to take care of her dog, Lexie. For Vigliano, it’s important to have extra funds to buy his favorite foods.

“We work to find the right jobs for people with different abilities, and we want businesses to see the opportunity and benefits of hiring them,” said Sandra Lynch, Managing Assistant Executive

Director of Supported Employment and Vocational Programs.

### ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED:

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), who is celebrating 42 years in 2021, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voices to adults and the 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 growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at [caunj.org](http://caunj.org), or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ, 07202.



(above) Tonya Hopson at home with her dog Lexie



(above) Ronald Vigliano delivers an order at ShopRite

# WIRED RITE

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## FORMER BOY SCOUTS SUPPORT TOYS FOR TOTS

### Flintlocks BSA, Inc.

The Flintlocks enthusiastically support the Boy Scouts of America Patriot's Path Council Toys for Tots campaign every year. All of them have sons who were in the scouts, and many have grandchildren now participating. President John Koneski was the first one to donate toys this year. Further, while Dr. Michael Hart says that he likes

to buy toys which he thinks he would enjoy playing with himself, Bob Pysker's wife, however, likes to purchase a spread of different age group toys, including dolls for the girls, to ensure that all children in the various age groups get toys. Because of this, it is not a surprise that Frank is attracted to the Trouble game (just kidding). Also, since Chuck is shy, he hid behind

a basketball.

The Flintlock volunteers who donated toys to the program are former scouts who also donate approximately 5,000 volunteer hours per year to the Boy Scout Council, which includes helping to do maintenance and build new structures throughout all of the scout camps. They meet at the Flintlocks building at Camp Winnebago, located at 102 Timberbrook Road, Rockaway, NJ, the first building on the right, every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests are always welcome.



(above) The happy group of Flintlock volunteers donating toys to the Toys for Tots program.



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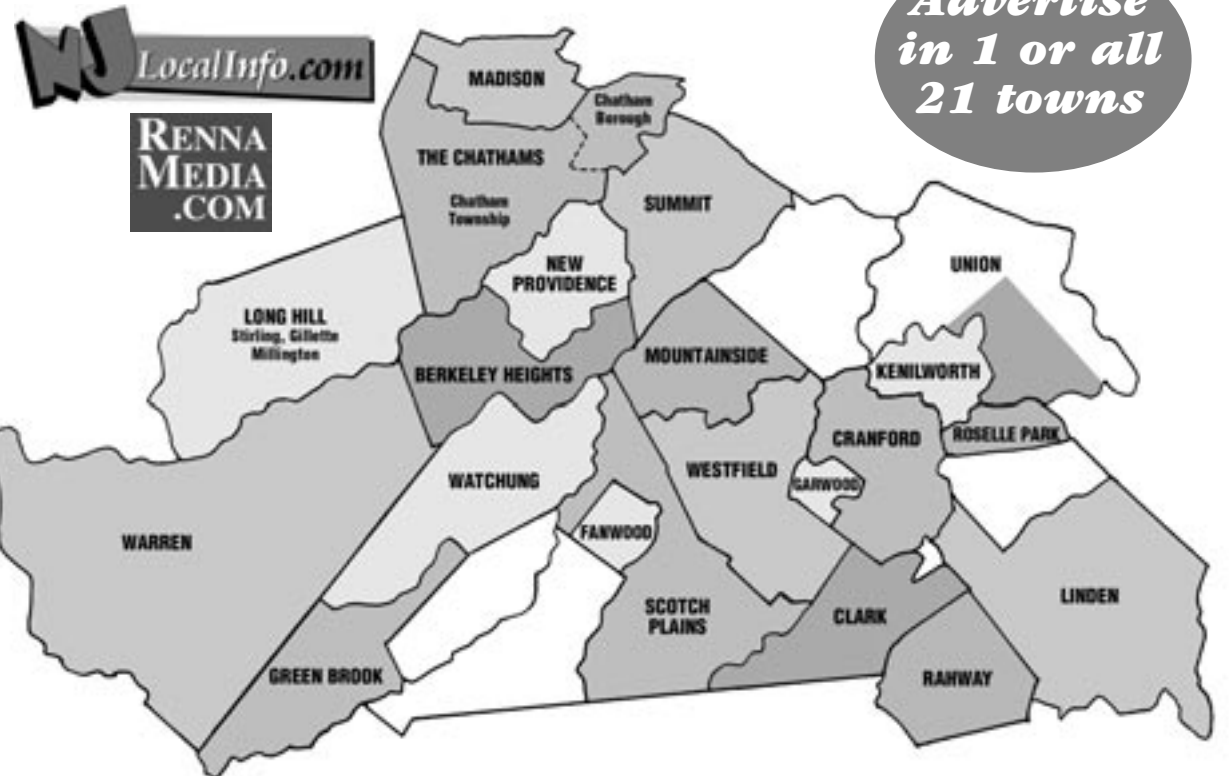
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## KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a "Welcome Back Tournament" to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play "over the board" again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 45 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including state champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, [kenilworthchessclub.org](http://kenilworthchessclub.org), is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.

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