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THREE FAMILIES MADE OFFICIAL ON NAT'L ADOPTION DAY

CASA of Union County

The frosty morning of Nov. 19 may have been any other Friday for many, but for three Union County foster youth in Rahway, Roselle and Roselle Park, all under age three, their lives changed forever, as Union County Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio granted each the consistency and stability deserved by all children, finalizing their adoptions and ending their time in the child welfare system. Each family had their own CASA volunteer working the case.

The annual event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and courts nationwide often celebrate National Adoption Day the business day before, or even open on Saturday, to hold adoption hearings. Here in Union County, all hearings were performed via Zoom due to Covid-19, and Judge DiFabrizio made official what each child likely already felt: they were finally home.

Despite the virtual component, those involved ensured the excitement was palpable. Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School. All cheered for the family, where each took their first official photo together, and the children spent time with the superheroes and school mascot.

Families received a hot breakfast donated by Urban Griddle in Elizabeth; a flower bouquet provided by Jane Phillips who, until her recent retirement, headed the Adoption Day Committee for the judiciary;



and a gift basket from CASA of Union County made possible by collections of board and card games, puzzles and movie night fixings from the Kenilworth school and Summit's Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child. The latter collection was spearheaded by Desiree Mitchell, daughter of CASA volunteer Hope Mitchell, and included fleece blankets made with classmates. In addition, each child and all siblings received their own superhero dress-up costume and books hand selected by the Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Each family received a WalMart gift card funded by the Union County Bar Association. Costumes for CASA's interns were loaned by generous members of the Facebook Buy Nothing Group in Cranford and Garwood.

Today, more than 120,000 youth nationwide need a permanent home, with an average wait in foster care of four years. Each year, 23,000 youth age out of the system without a family or safety net in place. For details on CASA of Union County's mission, the need for volunteer advocates and how to become one, contact Lucia at lfield@casaoofunioncounty.org or log on to casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above) Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School.

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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Then send us your news!

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GRIEF FACILITATOR VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Imagine, A Center For Coping With Loss

Recent studies have found that more than 140,000 children nationwide lost a primary caregiver due to COVID-19, driving a 15% increase in orphaned children. However, these numbers don't include children who lost a parent or primary caregiver due to other causes. The need for grief support programs for children has never been greater.

Imagine offers free peer support groups for children ages 3–18 who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or close family member. Groups are also available for young adults ages 18–30, as well as for the parents and guardians of the children in the program. Groups for Spanish speaking bereaved adults are also available. Currently, all groups are being held virtually, though we hope to transition some groups to in-person as soon as it feels safe to do so.

Imagine's support groups are only possible because of our amazing team of volunteers who facilitate the groups. Imagine currently has families waiting to join our support groups. We're unable to offer them support at this time because we don't have enough volunteers to begin another Night of Support. We need your help!

Imagine's volunteer facilitators come from all walks of life and no special background is required other than a willingness to listen, a heart



inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in grief without trying to fix, solve, or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. Bilingual (Spanish speaking) volunteers are needed as well. Volunteers serve as companions and loving listeners for those who are grieving and help create a space where participants can share tears and embrace the joys of life.

We are hoping to fill our upcoming training with lots of wonderful new volunteers! We're planning to offer a virtual facilitator training that will meet Friday, February 25th from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, February 26–27 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day and Monday, February 28th from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Participants are required to attend the entire training from Friday to Monday. If you're interested in participating in the training, please contact Imagine Program Manager, Giovanna Peacock, at giovanna@imagine-nj.org. If you have questions regarding the training, you can call us at 908-264-3100. Please help us ensure that no grieving child is required to wait for the support they need.

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PROJECT GRADUATION COMMITTEE THANKS COMMUNITY & DONORS

The Governor Livingston High School Project Graduation Committee wishes to thank the following businesses for their generous donation to the help make Project Graduation 2021 a great success.

Their generosity allows the Project Graduation committee to continue what we believe to be one of the finest traditions at Governor Livingston High School. Project Graduation is a gift from a caring community keeping our seniors safe as they celebrate their graduation safely at an alcohol-free event on the night of their graduation. Thank you for your generous support!

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- TCM Groups

Support is also received from the Watts Foundation, First Group bus company, and Municipal Alliances of Berkeley Heights and Mountainside. The Alliances receive funding from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the Union County Department of Human Services, Division of Planning.

To donate to GL Project Graduation 2022, please reach out to Jeanie Ruban, Project Graduation 2022 Coordinator, at J.Ruban@verizon.net

ART AND MUSIC TAKE CENTER STAGE AT GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL

A beautiful exhibit of artwork was displayed during the Governor Livingston High School orchestra and choir performances held in December. Fine arts students of Ms. Michelle Harpster created work that reflected themes for the evening's main event. The pieces allude to the

music of The Beatles, a medley of which was performed by the GLHS choir. In addition, work was created to accompany the GLHS orchestra's use of music from the 2004 Japanese animated fantasy film 'Howl's Moving Castle'.

Photos by Berkeley Heights Public Schools



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MOBILE MEALS GIVES THANKS ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS

“On behalf of our clients, thank you!” declared Ruth Maloney, President of Mobile Meals of Westfield, in accepting donations from the Sheet Metal Workers’ Union No. 22, \$350 Shop Rite food card; and the Optimist Club of Westfield gift of \$50 food cards in support of Mobile Meals’ clients.

Each year, Optimist Club of Westfield distributes food baskets to families and individuals in need. The program spans 31 years. Because of Covid, this year food cards

were donated in place of the food baskets. In presenting the donation, Darielle Walsh of Optimist Club of Westfield said, “We are always looking for deserving families and individuals who can benefit from our food program.”

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides prepared meals for those individuals unable to provide meals for themselves. Mobile Meals serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and

Westfield.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, food services or those wishing to donate can visit the Mobile Meals website at mobilemealsofwestfield.org or call 908-233-6146.



(above, l-r) Row 1: Gene Jannotti, Mike Walsh, Mary Ellen O’Boyle, Darielle Walsh (all of Optimist Club); Ruth Maloney, Josephine Walsh, Cherie Parker (of Mobile Meals). Row 2: Jayson Astel, Ray Kostyack Tony LaPorta (of Optimist Club). For more information about Optimist Club of Westfield, visit westfieldnj.com/optimist/index.htm.



(above) Sheet Metal Workers’ Union No. 22 presented Mobile Meals of Westfield a \$350 Shop Rite food card donation on November 10. Representing the union was and Business Representative, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Jason Rooney. Accepting the donation was Mobile Meals Operations Manager Josephine Walsh.

Photos by Mobile Meals of Westfield

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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 spring Sports Performance session starts on March 21st in Berkeley Heights NJ, visit 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 spring program that starts on March 21. Visit www.gritathletes.com to register for their spring session...or see below for more details...

SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOR KIDS AGES 6-18 STARTS MARCH 21ST

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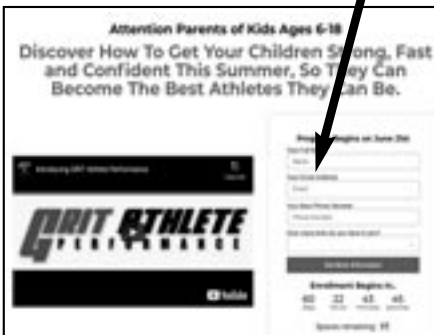
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STEP 3

Coach Mike will call you and set you up



Warning: The spring 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 spring session.

Attention Parents of Kids Ages 6-18
**Give us 12 weeks with your kids
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The GRIT Athlete Performance spring Program

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...**

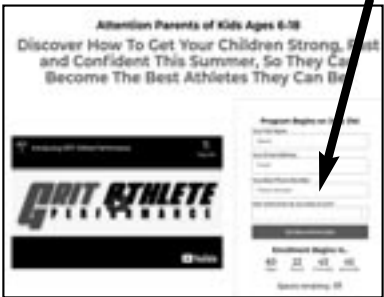
- “When my son started Grit he was quiet, shy, and had some difficulty with movements...Now he is confident in himself, has become more vocal, and is mastering the exercise he struggled with in the past.”
- Jen O'Brien, Grit Athlete Parent
- “My son is more disciplined and confident in himself”
- Steve 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 MARCH 21ST

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JACK SANDHOLM EARNS EAGLE SCOUT RANK



Mountainside BSA Troop 177 is pleased to announce that Jack Sandholm has officially earned his Eagle rank with Bronze, Gold and Silver Palm ranks.

In addition to earning 38 merit badges, Jack camped for 63 nights, hiked 84 miles (at least) and performed 113 hours of community service. He earned the World Conservation award and the National Outdoor Award Camping Gold award.

Jack served as a Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

His Eagle Project was the design and construction of two picnic tables for the Mountainside Elks.

On behalf of the uniformed leaders and troop committee members of BSA Troop 177, please join us in congratulating Jack for earning his Eagle rank. He is the 19th scout from the troop to earn the Eagle rank.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process. The Eagle Scout rank has been earned by over 2.5 million youth.

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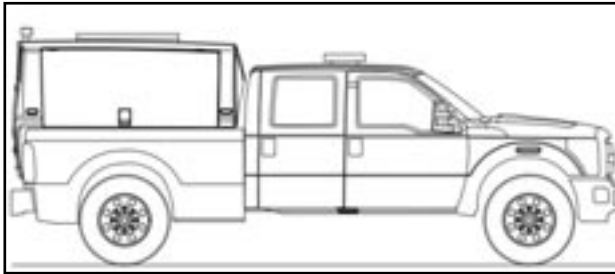
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(above) Mountainside Rescue Squad's new EMS Special Operation vehicle.

EMS Special Operation vehicle set to be in service late 2022. We still need your help. If you are able to donate to the squad or if you are interested in helping us fund other capital projects, please visit ems22.com/donate. If you are interested in joining us, please visit our website at ems22.com/join, email squad@ems22.com, or call 908-233-6338 if you have any questions. We thank you for all the support in 2021 and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022!"

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The Raptor Trust is also offering private guided tours, virtual school programs, and outdoor field trips and scout programs through the winter months.

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FEBRUARY 14 IS NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR DAY

NJ Sharing Network

February 14 is all about sharing some love in New Jersey - and not just because it's Valentine's Day! NJ Sharing Network and its many healthcare partners and volunteers throughout the state are working together to register as many organ and tissue donors as possible in celebration of National Organ Donor Day.

"National Organ Donor Day is about taking action and inspiring others to learn more about how they can save lives through organ and tissue donation," said Joseph S. Roth, president and chief executive officer of NJ Sharing Network. "One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and restore health to over 75 people. I am confident that everyone's efforts on National Organ Donor Day will go a long way toward bringing hope to those currently waiting for a transplant."

Currently, there are over 110,000 Americans – nearly 4,000 of whom live in New Jersey – waiting for a life-saving transplant. In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

However, the generosity of those in the Garden State is providing hope for the future. New Jersey's organ and tissue donor registrations continue to rise thanks to strong community education and outreach efforts as well as simplified ways to register as an organ and tissue donor are also helping to save more lives. It is easy for New Jerseyans to register in any of the following options:

Online at NJSharingNetwork.org; Through the iPhone Health App; In person at your local Motor Vehicle Agency

Observed every year on February 14, National Organ Donor Day is dedicated to spreading awareness and education about organ and tissue donation. It is also a day to recognize loved ones who have given the gift of life, have received a transplant, are currently waiting or did not receive an organ in time. National Organ Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn

Corporation and its United Auto Workers partner with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many non-profit health organizations.



(above) The late Linda J.S. Finnegan (Smith), 54, of Stirling, NJ, who passed away in 2016, donated both her lungs, both kidneys, her liver, and her other organs through NJ Sharing Network. She also donated her corneas through Eversight. Her gift of life changed the lives of at least 75 people. Linda taught Physical Education at St. Vincent de Paul School in Stirling and was proud to be ACE Gold Certified for Group Aerobic Instruction.

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We mail 135,000 newspapers to every home and business in 21 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

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Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

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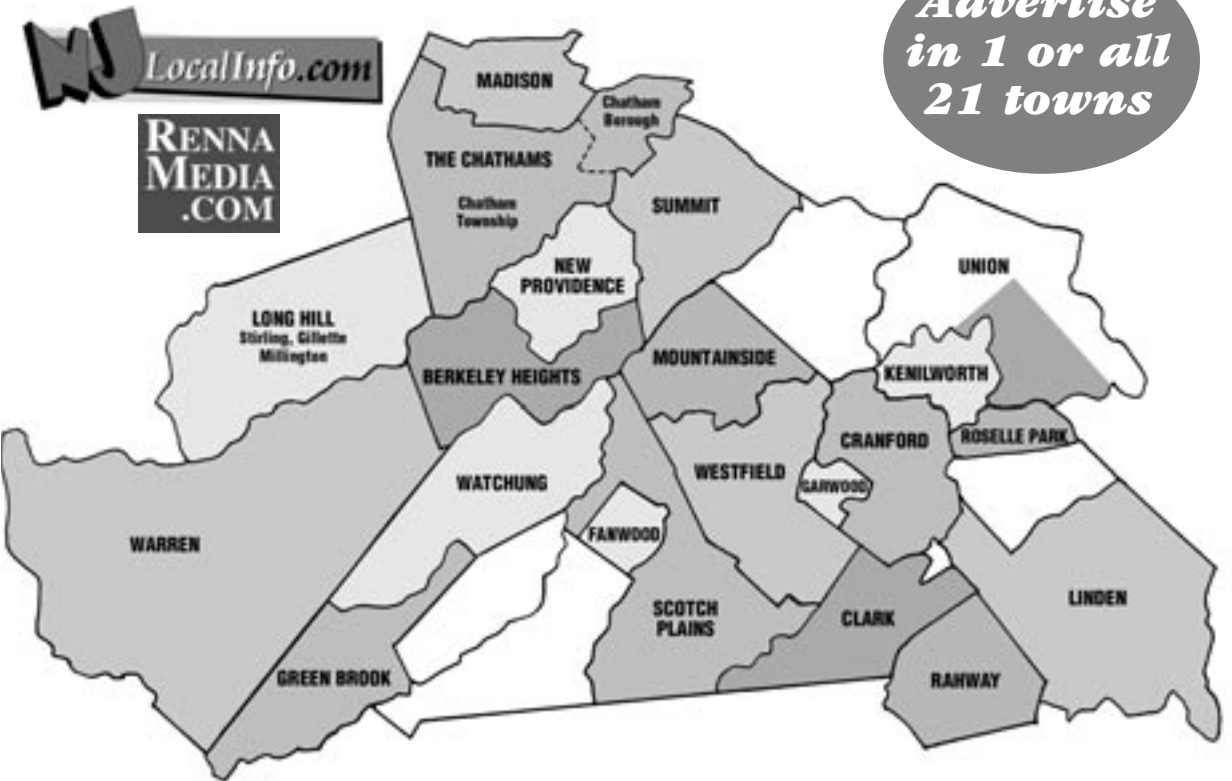
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Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07922	THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,400 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07928	Clark Monthly Qty: 6,700 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07066	CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07016	Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07023	Garwood Times NJ Qty: 2,200 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07027	Green Brook Gazette NJ Qty: 3,000 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 08812
KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07033	LIFE in LINDEN NJ Qty: 17,400 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,600 Mailed to every home and business in Gillette, Millington and Stirling. Zip: 07933, 07946, 07980	MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07940	MOUNTAIN SIDE VIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 4,900 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ Qty: 12,400 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07065
ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY NJ Qty: 5,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ Qty: 9,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07076	Summit 3 Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 5,500 5,000 mailed to homes and businesses. Zip: 07083	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Mailed to every home and business. Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Rates are per month. Artwork included in price. Newspapers are black on white.

Units	Size	RATE FOR ANY 1 NEWSPAPER	RATE FOR ANY 3 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 6 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 9 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 12 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 15 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ANY 18 NEWSPAPERS	RATE FOR ALL 21 NEWSPAPERS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500							
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320							
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240							

PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first come, first served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP – FEB. 15

Mountainside View • Page 11 • February 2022

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to cope with the effects of a loved one's mental illness?

NAMI Union County's Family Support Group is for family members and caregivers of persons with mental illness.

The group is led by NAMI-trained facilitators

and is a peer support group that allows participants to gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

Zoom sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7 – 8:30 p.m. To register, email Denise at: namiunioncounty@yahoo.com with your name, town, and phone number.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Submitted by Christopher D. Sands

The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) held its quarterly meeting on November 13th, 2021 at the Abraham Clark House, located at 101 West 9th Avenue, Roselle, NJ. Three new members were sworn in and a presentation on Freemasons in the Civil War was given. Since the new school year has started, the camp has begun planning how it will cover the awarding of the SUVCW ROTC/JROTC to the

approximately thirty schools in the area. The camp covers all of North Jersey above the Raritan River to the New York Border.

The SUVCW is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. The organization meets four times a year and the meetings in 2022 will be on March 5th, May 7th, September 10th, and November 5th, all starting at 1 p.m. For more information, visit suvchw.org.



(above) Camp Commander, Peter Lindsey, swears in Fredrick Dillman and Robert Caruso during the SUVCW Gen. Phil Kearny #20's November 13th meeting.

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FLYERS

\$35
PER 1,000

MENUS

\$50
PER 1,000

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Marvelous Mountainside

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Seller of 1147 Corrine Terrace, Mountainside



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