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## TOWNSHIP OF UNION NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2022

*Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on Spirit of Union page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."*

National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held at Police Headquarters on Tuesday, August 2nd.

The free event was sponsored by the Township of Union and the Union Police Department. It featured giveaways, demos, games, exhibits, food, music, and more. National Night Out culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

For more information visit [natw.org](http://natw.org).



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# Spirit of UNION

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Spirit of Union

## OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP WATERWAY CLEAN UP

The Township's Annual Operation Clean Sweep/Waterway Cleanup is back and will be held on Saturday, September 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Online pre-registration (visit [uniontownship.com](http://uniontownship.com)) is recommended for a quicker check-in process on the event day.

On event day, after signing up or checking in at the Department of Public Works, you'll obtain your "Operation Clean Sweep" t-shirt, then will

be dispatched to different areas/parks, identified by the Department to clean the Township of litter and debris. A picnic for all participants will be held following the cleanup at Rabkin Park beginning at noon.

All are welcome. All supplies will be provided, including rubber gloves and poke sticks, and volunteers are encouraged to wear boots. Face masks/coverings are required.



(above) Operation Clean Sweep/Waterway Clean up will be held Sat., Sept. 10th. Sign up at [uniontownship.com](http://uniontownship.com).

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## 3RD ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL BUZZ AND RIBBON CUTTING

### Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County

Buzz Boxx USA, in collaboration with The NJ National Guard and contributing community sponsors, will facilitate the ribbon cutting of the Buzz Boxx at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, 1050 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ, from



(above) Buzz Box will be holding a ribbon cutting for their opening at the Boys & Girls Clubs on Thursday, September 15 from 4-8 p.m.

4 p.m. - 8 p.m on Thursday, September 15.

This Buzz Boxx program will help young boys and girls in Union, NJ receive necessary haircuts and trims that help them look and feel better about themselves, as well as mentoring from the barbers and stylists just in time for the 2022-2023 School Year. Attendees are invited to come and enjoy the day with networking and entertainment starting at 4 p.m. This event is a family-inspired one.

Community members wishing to sponsor a haircut can visit [bgcuc.org/buzz-boxx](http://bgcuc.org/buzz-boxx) for more information. Our goal is to raise up to \$50,000 to help award haircuts for the 2022-2023 season to select youth members of the Boys & Girls Clubs Union County.

Buzz Boxx™, was created in 2016 by Amir Youssef to help at-risk youth with hair cuts and mentoring services. The Buzz Boxx Initiative is the first program of its kind to provide sponsored/prepaid haircuts and mentoring

services to boys and girls, ages 7-18, who have exemplified outstanding academic improvements and/or public service throughout their community.

"The most important benefit is how we all will feel knowing that a kid who may need a boost of self-esteem and also may need someone to talk to will have the chance and access to it all year round! What a blessing," said Youssef.

Buzz Boxx™ is an incentive-based reward system created to encourage youth to continue to strive for better. The Buzz Boxx™ Initiative seeks to reward youth with prepaid haircut vouchers to help them improve themselves and encourage them to "Do Better" in their community and/or schools. Vouchers are awarded to the youth and are redeemable at the BGCUC Buzz Boxx with select Buzz Boxx™ Affiliate Barbers and Stylists from Union County.

Visit [bgcuc.org/buzz-boxx](http://bgcuc.org/buzz-boxx) for more information.

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**Town Wide Garage Sale**

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## STRANGERS HELPING STRANGERS - THE NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) works with many different organizations to bring food, groceries, and clothes to veteran families in need. One organization they've worked with is Strangers Helping Strangers (SHS). They've provided over 100 meals for veterans and their families while pairing up with the NJVN over multiple projects. SHS itself distributes 20,000 pounds of food in Elmwood Park, NJ.


On Friday, August 12, 2022, Doc Schupp, Director of Veterans Outreach for NJVN, and

Dennis Duddie, American Legion Department Vice Commander, presented the Strangers Helping Strangers team with four awards, including a Hero Award for team President Chris Braitsch, a Certificate of Commendation, as well as the Community Service Award, recognizing their continuous support for Veterans and their families. Strangers Helping Strangers was also presented with the Certificate of Appreciation from The Department of NJ State VFW and an NJVN Community Service award.

When asked about the assistance that SHS has provided for the Veteran Community, Doc

Schupp said, "This team (SHS) has provided for our State's heroes time and time again, we are blessed to have them as partners."

Strangers Helping Strangers was created during the COVID-19 crisis, and has continued to work with the New Jersey Veterans Network to provide for our veterans. They work closely to provide not only goods for those in need, but they also give hope in times of crisis. While SHS provides the food and groceries, the NJVN distributes them directly to the veterans homes. It's a wonderful system that has helped improve the lives of so many veterans and their families.



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(above) Doc Schupp, Director of Veterans Outreach for The New Jersey Veterans Network, and Dennis Duddie, American Legion Department Vice Commander, presented the Strangers Helping Strangers team with four awards.

# Having trouble with your VA claim? Is your claim being denied by the VA?

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Disabled American Veterans Chapter 40 in Union, NJ will be holding their meeting on  
**Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.,**  
at **The American Legion Hall 3**, Bond Drive Union, NJ  
(Located next to the Union Fire Department)

We are inviting all Veterans to attend our meeting as the Topic of the Day will be "How to file a VA claim and Win." We all know that our claims can go unnoticed for years, but with our help you can get them expedited and get you what you rightfully deserve. Many members of our chapter have been successful in using our method.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### Union Township Chamber of Commerce

Donors to the Union Township Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund gathered recently to meet the two Union High School graduates who received scholarships for 2022.

Named the "Union Township Chamber of Commerce Businesses Scholarship," the award was created to allow all Chamber member businesses to collectively contribute to the fund and thereby allow for bigger awards. This year, two scholarships of \$2,500 each were presented to Nichole Acheampong, who started attending Kean University to study Business Management, and Neva Silva, who began his studies at Union College and then at the Teterboro School of Aviation.

The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Anthony Giordano, a longtime Chamber member who served on the association's Board of Directors for more than a decade. Affectionately known as "Uncle Tony" by his friends and colleagues, he was a major force in the Chamber in the 1980s and 1990s and chaired the organization's Golf Outing for many years.

"We are so very grateful to the Chamber businesses who stepped up and contributed to this year's fund," said Executive Director James Masterson. "Our Chamber is an important and active part of the community – and this is one way in which we demonstrate our commitment to the Township of Union."

The Chamber businesses who supported this year's scholarship fund are: Chairman's Circle: Sheptock, Chelland and Grieves and Signaturz Sports Bar and Restaurant; President's Circle:

Coldstone Creamery, Monge Capital, Northfield Bank and Shake A Paw Center for Rescue and Adoption; Founder's Circle: All City Electrical, Anytime Fitness, Beacon Wealth, Bradshaw Creative Services, Insurance Associates Plus, Jag-ONE Physical Therapy, Rapid CPR and TAPintoUnion; Scholars Circle: CMIT Solutions and NJ Arts World; Student's Circle: Atlantic Federal Credit Union, BCB Bank, CED Solutions, Cynthia McGhee Insurance, Egglock

Nutrition, Friends of the Union Public Library, JKS Web Design and The Theater Project; Friends Circle: Donna Steinmetz, Ultimate Side Dish, Union Township Historical Society and Urban Glo Brand.

Information concerning the Scholarship and how to contribute to the fund may be had by calling the Chamber at 908-688-2777 or emailing Masterson at [executivedirector@unionchamber.com](mailto:executivedirector@unionchamber.com).



(above) Thanks to local business donors, the Union Township Chamber of Commerce Businesses Scholarship was awarded to two graduates, Nichole Acheampong and Neva Silva.

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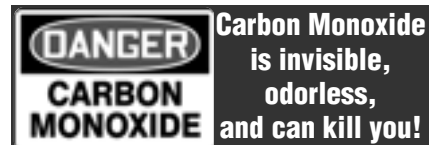
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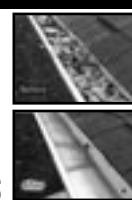
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## SAFETY, ENRICHMENT AND FUN AT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

### The Gateway Family YMCA

Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year Before and After School Programs offered by The Gateway Family YMCA in coordination with the Rahway, Elizabeth and Union Township public school districts. School age child care programs continue to be a place where children can remain active, extend their learning and continue to be engaged during their time out of school – a critical time for all school age children, especially as they continue to adjust to the many changes related to COVID-19.

“The Gateway Family YMCA has served the local community for more than 122 years, during which we have made it through many challenging times together,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “As an organization dedicated to youth development, we know how important it is that our children have a safe and enriching environment for learning, both in and out of school.”

“We are pleased to be able to provide these programs to the children in our community, allowing their invaluable social, emotional, physical and academic growth to continue long after the school day ends,” stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “Through a balanced approach to youth development, the curriculum offers activities, mentorship and academic support, nurturing the

potential of all participants throughout the school year.”

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening community through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services for all. The Y doesn’t just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit [tgfymca.org](http://tgfymca.org) or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or the Wellness Center and WISE Center Branch at 908-349-9622.



**Welcoming Week**  
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(above) Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year Before and After School Programs offered by The Gateway Family YMCA.



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# SEPTEMBER KICKS OFF “SEWING SEASON”

Sewing’s resurgence during the height of the pandemic remains strong going into Fall 2022, with so many people buying sewing machines (or dusting off old ones), taking classes and stitching everything from face masks to easy home dec accents, clothing and accessories. Having the time to immerse (or re-immers) ourselves into fabric, needle and thread also gave us a much needed creative release.

Over the past two years in particular, more people have realized that sewing (along with other home-centered activities like cooking and gardening) is a valuable life skill with limitless benefits. Aside from the obvious creative benefits, sewing also relieves stress, aids in focus and decision-making and maintains/improves hand-eye coordination, among others. And the benefits apply to sewing

enthusiasts of all ages. You can discover countless ways to incorporate sewing into your lifestyle, making it work with your particular needs and interests.

And since September is designated as both National Sewing Month and African Fabric Month, this is the perfect time to kick off “Sewing Season” with culturally relevant projects! Cultured Expressions Sewing Studio at 1417 Main Street celebrates both occasions with special offers during Rahway’s ArtsFest on Saturday, Sept. 24. Learn about the studio’s private Sewing Machine 101 classes and custom group events, along with a growing menu of virtual classes. Already know how to sew and quilt? The studio also offers a wide variety of African textiles and embellishments, kits, and lots of inspiration.



(above) Lisa Shepard Stewart,  
CulturedExpressions.com

Photo by Limitless Visions

# RARELY SEEN

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY



SUPERCCELL STORM CLOUD

Photo by Marko Korosec, near Julesburg, Colorado

September 1 - November 23, 2022

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Exhibition by National Geographic Society



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\$20 Register Online - Space is Limited

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WED 4-8p  
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SAT 10-6p

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Ask for TV Project Department, for job evaluation and estimate of cost and compensations!

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## ROTARY CLUBS PROGRAMS

*Submitted by Kathy Arminio*

Members of the Union and Maplewood Rotary Clubs recently heard a presentation by Dr. Ed Boffa, Union High School Interact Club advisor. The Interact Club encourages students to place service above self. In the 2021-22 school year, the students collected 1,099 pairs of new socks which, in conjunction with the Union Rotary Club, were delivered to the YMCA for distribution to shelters in Elizabeth. The students also raised and donated \$750 to the Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation, ran a book drive and collected 185 books for underprivileged New Jersey children, and participated in the Color-a-Smile program.

The Rotary Club of Union appreciates all the good work accomplished by the students of the Union High School Interact Club under the advisement of Dr. Boffa.

The Rotary Club of Union meets at Suburban Golf Club, Morris Avenue usually on the first and third Thursdays of the month at noon. Rotary provides service to others, contributes to community, and world goodwill and charities, through fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. The motto is "Do good in the world. Service above self." As Covid is waning, we are residents or business owners in Union who are dedicated to helping our community as we continue to grow and thrive. Our activities include speakers who make us aware of needs in the town, state and world and involvement in charities and services.



*(above) Dr. Ed Boffa, Union High School Interact Club advisor, recently spoke with members of the Union and Maplewood Rotary Clubs.*

Courtesy photo

## LT. CARTER BRINGS HOME 5 MEDALS

On behalf of the Township of Union Police Department, we offer our sincerest congratulations to Lt. Carter! Lt. Carter traveled to Rotterdam, Netherlands to represent the Township of Union Police Department in the 2022 World Police & Fire Games. Lt. Carter was one of the 10,000 competitors from 70 different countries to participate in the World Police & Fire Games, and test his athletic abilities against some of the best first responders from around the globe. Not only did he compete, but Lt. Carter had tremendous success, bringing home 5 medals in an array of track and field events. His results were as follows:

- 400 Meters (silver) (56.08)
- 400 Meter Hurdles (silver) (1:05.05)
- 110 Meter Hurdles (bronze) (18.08)
- High Jump (bronze) (1.47m)
- Javelin (bronze) (39.35m)

Congratulations again Lt. Carter, and job well done! We salute you, and thank you for continuing to represent our department and community with confidence and strength.

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# GIRL SCOUT TROOP 40619 DONATES ADAPTIVE SWINGS

Adaptive Swings swings and seats are essential for children with sensory integration issues and other special needs. On August 1st the Township of Union held a ribbon cutting ceremony and officially thanked Girl Scout Troop 40619 for their fundraising efforts that resulted in a donation of adaptive swings now installed at Friberger Park.

Photos by Township of Union



(above) Township officials joined members of Girl Scout Troop 40619 at a ribbon cutting ceremony held at Friberger Park.

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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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Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

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<b>Florham Park</b> Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood</b> Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook</b> NJ Gazette Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE</b> <b>KENILWORTH</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in</b> <b>LINDEN</b> Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill</b> <b>LEADER</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
<b>MADISON</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAIN</b> <b>SIDE</b> VIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence</b> NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN</b> <b>Rahway, NJ</b> Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE</b> <b>PARK</b> MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains</b> NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills</b> <b>MILLBURN</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>Summit</b> NJ & Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of</b> <b>UNION</b> Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung</b> Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield</b> NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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

### NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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								

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

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## Meditation (Zoom)

Thursdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
at 11:30 a.m.

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual Meditation (Zoom) session. No experience necessary.

## Beginners Flow Yoga (Zoom)

Thursdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
at 6:00 p.m.

This class will lead you through the foundations of yoga postures, body awareness and alignment, relaxation of the mind, and connection with the breath.

## Union County Division of Aging - Drop in Information Table (Main Library)

Thursday, September 1  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Stop by the information table to have your questions answered by a representative from the Union County Department of Human Services.

## Drop-In Blood Pressure Monitoring (Main Library)

Tuesdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27  
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

A free community program by the YMCA.

## Drop-In Blood Pressure Monitoring (Vauxhall Branch)

Wednesdays, September 7, 21, 28  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

A free community program by the YMCA.

## Drop-In and Knit (Main Library)

Tuesday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Expert advice from Teresa at Beyond Yarn.

## Voter Registration (Main Library)

Tuesday, September 20

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

It's National Voter Registration Day and you can register to vote at the Library. You can also ask questions about voting.

## First Time Home Buyers Workshop Part One (Main Library)

Tuesday, September 20  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## Thinking of buying or selling a home? Learn to Identify and Manage Stress (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

In this workshop, Cara Maksimow, LCSW, will give you the tools to identify emotions, positively cope with life stressors, and develop practical habits to improve well-being.

## Off the Shelf Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.

New members are always welcome. This month's title is Transatlantic by Colum McCann.

## Bagels and Books (Main Library)

Wednesday, September 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Come for a nosh and stay for good company and everyone's favorite books

## Improvisation with Harry Patrick Christianson (Main Library)

Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Have you ever tried it? Guaranteed good times and lots of laughs. Register early!

For more information about all of our programs, please call 908-851-5450 or visit our website at [uplnj.org](http://uplnj.org). The Main Library is located at 1060 Stuyvesant Avenue, and the Vauxhall Branch is at 123 Hilton Avenue.

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## BUILDING OR UPDATING YOUR MARKETING PLAN

### Tune-up your marketing plan

If you are developing a new marketing plan or updating an existing one, this presentation will guide you through the process. The presentation uses real examples to illustrate successful techniques. Topics include:

- Starting with a solid business plan
- Developing a Marketing Plan based on goals and budget
- Identifying your target market
- Positioning your business in your industry
- Honing your message
- Crating an image
- Choosing an advertising vehicle
- Analyzing results

**DATE: Wednesday, September 14, 2022**

**TIME: 10:00 am**

**COST: FREE**

**REGISTER: <https://score.tfaforms.net/17?EventID=a105a000005qvnQ>**

Participants are encouraged to ask questions as they pertain to their own businesses.



**Joe Renna**  
Renna Media

Joe Renna has been in business since 1984 supplying businesses with a full array of marketing and advertising services. From developing business and marketing plans to multimedia production, over the years, his ad agency has worked with every size business. Since 2000 Renna Media has been publishing hyperlocal community newspapers.

Each month, over 160,000 newspapers are mailed to every home and business in 24 towns. He also offers full color printing and mailing services as well as an online presence that parallels his print publications. Through these publications, Renna Media has focused on the needs of the local business owner offering customized, affordable, advertising opportunities. Joe Renna also helps his advertisers with their marketing plans as a value-added service.

Mr. Renna's presentation will address the different aspects of building a marketing plan and tuning up existing ones. The audience will leave with the information to guide them in developing a plan that will get them the best return for their marketing budget. The presentation will encourage questions from the audience and will address specific challenges facing participating business owners.

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