

Published by Renna Media

Issue 11 • January 2023

GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place your ad in this space and be in every mailbox in town!





(above) The Two's class photo

Courtesy photo

WITH THIS COUPON Exp. 1/31/23

6

JCC of Central New Jersey

Two Union County agencies came together on "Giving Tuesday" to assist the Jewish Family Service of Central NJ (JFSCNJ) Charlotte Shak Food Pantry with a food collection of several thousand cans and boxes of food, and other essential products. The JFSCNJ Board, staff and constituents served, were overwhelmed by the generosity of donations received with the "Pack the Truck" initiative spearheaded by the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Scotch Plain's "Giving Tuesday" event.

Students and community members dropped off their donations of packaged food and toiletries into a truck parked in the JCC's parking lot the entire day. The truck then made its way to the JFSCNJ Halpern Building in Elizabeth, were the middle school students from the Jewish Educational

Center in Elizabeth, sorted thousands of cans and boxes of food that were donated by the monumental Giving Tuesday event, the next day.

Our sincere thanks to the leadership, students, and members of our sister agencies, the JCC of Scotch Plains and the Jewish Educational Center, for their generosity and hard work on behalf of the community. Our community children have certainly learned the Mitzvah of "Giving" on Giving Tuesday.

Visit jfscentralnj.org/donate, to make a donation to the JFSCNJ Charlotte Shak Food Pantry, or any one of our programs.

Contact Danielle McLeer, dmcleer@jfscentralnj.org, if you would like to learn about volunteer activities at JFSCNJ.



17 W. WESTFIELD AVE. **\$5 OFF ROSELLE PARK, NJ** JÓIN OUR LOYALTY PROGRAM 908-241-8764 Earn \$10 credit after spending \$100. No time limit. FREE EXPRESSO, GLASSES AND ICE. CACIQUECIGARSSHOP.COM **GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE PARTIES • EVENTS • FUND RAISERS**

LET OUR CIGAR ROLLER ENTERTAIN AND CAPTIVATE YOUR GUESTS AT YOUR BBQ, PARTY, OR CHARITY FUND RAISER. CONTACT SHARI 908-403-7383

PAT TH, **OSTAL**



Renna Media LLC, Publishers

202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 Elmora Hills Monthly is published by Renna Media. 5,400 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to businesses and residents in and around the Elmora Hills section of Elizabeth, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

©2022 Contents of this newspaper cannot be reproduced without written consent from Renna Media LLC.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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 (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

ADVERTISING Joe Renna: 908-447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com



Find us on online: rennamedia.com facebook.com/ Elmora Hills Monthly

SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE IS HUGE SUCCESS

Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 have been participating in the nationwide Scouting for Food drive in a big way since the program first began in 1988. Early in November, Scouts distributed flyers to 3,000 homes throughout the Elmora neighborhood, asking for food donations for those in need.

On November 19, teams of Scouts, leaders, parents and friends rounded up the donations and brought them to the parking lot at St. Genevieve's Church. There, thousands of canned and dry goods were sorted, repacked and weighed. Over 160 boxes were filled with food and distributed to five different food pantries or social service organizations.

This year's drive yielded the second highest amount of food ever! Over 5,400 pounds of food, including 43 turkeys, were collected and distributed. Cash donations of more than \$700 will be distributed to needy families as grocery gift cards.

With so many of our neighbors still out of work or underemployed, this food will help a lot of people. Thank you to everyone who contributed; your generosity is most appreciated!

The Scouting program at St. Genevieve's Church teaches character, citizenship and physical fitness to the youth of Elizabeth and surrounding towns. Cub Scouting provides activities and training for boys and girls in Kindergarten through fifth grades. Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at 908-451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Scouts, leaders, parents, and friends help to sort and pack food at Boy Scout Troop 23's annual Scouting for Food drive.



Same Great Technology But Even Better Rates

Get the digital banking tools you'd expect from a big bank, while enjoying great rates & local service.

Kickstart Savings

4.07% APY² on the first \$10,000³

Plus other great opportunities to grow your savings and earn more on your everyday checking account

Atlantic Federal

Get started at AtlFedCU.com, call us at 908-245-1750 or visit us at our branches in Union and West Orange.

Federally Insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.

1) Based on the DepositAccounts.com national average for savings accounts as of December 12, 2022. 2) APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates current as of December 12, 2022. Rates are subject to change without notice. Fees could reduce earnings on the account. 3) Kickstart Savings is a blended rate tiered account with dividends paid on portions of your balance falling within designated tiers: \$0.00 - \$2,500.00: 4.07% APY; \$2,500.01 - \$5,000.00: 4.07% APY; \$5,000.01 - \$7,500.00: 4.07% APY; \$7,500.01 - \$10,000.00: 4.07% APY; \$10,000.01 and above: 4.07% - 0.05% APY. \$100 minimum balance to open. There is a \$100 minimum daily balance requirement to avoid a \$10 monthly maintenance fee. Limit of one Kickstart Savings account per tax identification number.

BOY SCOUTS MAKE APPLE CIDER

Submitted by Daniel Bernier

As they do every year on the third weekend of October, the members of Boy Scout Troop 23 helped the Union County Parks Department staff the Four Centuries in a Weekend program at the Deserted Village of Feltville. Over 1,700 visitors came to the Deserted Village from throughout New Jersey, as well as from New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas and Sweden.

The Scouts helped staff an archaeological activity for children, old-fashioned children's games, and a campfire with marshmallow toasting. As they have been doing for almost 40 years, Troop 23 ground apples and pressed them into apple cider which visitors could sample. But this year, the Scouts pressed a record-breaking 20 bushels of apples!

Clark, NJ 07066

able to take a hayride through the woods and fields of the Watchung Reservation. By spending the weekend at the Deserted Village, and staffing the event, the Scouts qualified for the Historic Trail Award.

Boy Scout Troop 23 meets on Wednesday nights at the hall under St. Genevieve's Church, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth. New members are welcome at any time, all year round. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.

(right) Boy Scout Ben Banic helps a visitor grind apples into apple cider at the annual Four Centuries in a Weekend program at the Deserted Village of Feltville.



Se Habla Español - Fala-Se Portuguese

OTHER OFFICES INCLUDE UNION CITY, JERSEY CITY, EDISON, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEWARK, AND ORANGE

NOFEE



Photo by Paul Schryba



(above) Boy Scout Ben Banic helps a visitor grind apples into apple cider at the annual Four Centuries in a Weekend program at the Deserted Village of Feltville.



BUTTERFLY RELEASE REFLECTS ON GRIEF AND LOSS

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss gathered in the Tribute Meadow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield held on Saturday, October 22. It's a lovely spot near the weeping willows, pond, and fountains. They came together for a Butterfly Release Ceremony arranged by Imagine staff member, Kristin Imbimbo and Sharon Rossman and Rick Ralph of Fairview Cemetery. The ceremony included poetry, music and

reflections on grief and loss followed by the Over 30 Imagine participants and staff release of the butterflies. As it was a cool night, many of the butterflies chose to stay close to the warmth of the children and adults releasing them sitting on hands, shoulders and jackets as they warmed themselves before flying off. It was an intimate ceremony of remembrance and Imagine and Fairview plan to partner again in the spring to provide another opportunity for families to participate.

Imagine offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and are offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



(above) Members of Imagine and Fairview Cemetery came together for a Butterfly Release Ceremony.

Courtesy photo



FIND PASSION AND PURPOSE THIS WINTER

The Gateway Family YMCA

Find your passion and purpose at The Gateway Family YMCA this Winter. At the Y, you'll find more than just a place to work out. With opportunities to connect with new people, develop new skills, explore new interests and support your community, you'll discover new passions and gain a greater sense of purpose. The Gateway Family YMCA is inviting the community to visit the Y and learn more with an Open House from January 11-13 and a YMCA Membership Special through January 15.

"We all need a place to go where we feel supported and where we belong. The Y is that place for many. A place where adults can find life balance; children can reach their full potential; seniors can be active and find community; and families can connect and strengthen relationships," stated Melynda A. Disla, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "Our supportive community of staff and members will inspire you

to find your inner strength and expand your our best selves, we need to take care of our health in spirit, mind and body." our best selves, and our goal is to provide that

To help more people benefit from the Y, The Gateway Family YMCA is hosting a membership special through January 15, providing No Joiner Fee for all new members who join using the code NY23 at tgfymca.org/join-the-Y or in person at the Y. Flexible membership opportunities are available, including short-term memberships, virtual memberships, and a free community membership for all to belong to the Y. In addition, The Gateway Family YMCA will be opening their doors to the community January 11-13 for a YMCA Open House at four locations in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union. For more information, visit tgfymca.org/events

At the Y, individuals and families have the opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing and connect with the community, all while participating in their favorite program or activities at the Y, or virtually from home. "To be



The Galleries at Kean University present Sayaka Ganz RECLAIMED CREATIONS, an amazing art exhibition featuring sculptures of animals in motion, utilizing reclaimed plastic objects, rich in color and energy.

> On view January 18 - March 23, 2023 Open to the public

Liberty Hall Academic Center Gallery 1003 Morris Ave #2 | Union, New Jersey galleries@kean.edu | 908-737-5302 galleries.kean.edu our best selves, we need to take care of our wholes selves, and our goal is to provide that seamless opportunity to make healthy living easy for all, whether they travel to the Y or join their favorite class from home," stated Rodger D. Koerber, Chief Operating Officer. "Here, neighbors from all backgrounds and walks of life can discover common ground, broaden their perspectives and support one another. At the Y, there are no strangers, only friends you haven't yet met."

The Gateway Family YMCA is a non-profit charitable organization serving Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County since 1900. As a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other, the Y focuses on empowering young people, improving health and well-being and inspiring action in and across communities. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y ensures that all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive. Through the Annual Support Campaign, Membership For All Financial Assistance is available to those who qualify.

The Gateway Family YMCA offers a variety of programs to help achieve greater health and well-being, nurture youth and inspire individuals to give back to better their community. Winter 2023 program registration is available online at www.tgfymca.org for programs including swimming lessons, youth sports, active older adult fitness, dance, gymnastics, virtual WISE adult services and chronic disease selfmanagement programs. Through the 7th Grade Initiative, youth are supported with a complimentary membership, leadership opportunities and special events.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or the Wellness Center Branch and WISE Center Branch 908-349-9622 for more information.



SANTA'S HELPERS

Over the last four years, a small group of Santa's elves has helped fill Christmas stockings for Family Promise of Union County. The organization serves low income families and families experiencing homelessness.

Students and staff at the Academy for Performing Arts at the Magnet School in Scotch Plains participated this year also. Kaitlyn Landaverde, a Junior from Clark, organized the drive at the high school.

Patricia Novy of Clark, who started the project four years ago, shared the fact that the group filled 36 stockings the first year, 67 stockings last year and 91 Christmas Stockings for children ages 4 to 12 this year.

"The need is greater than ever," Novy said. "In speaking with Family Promise, the children often receive donated gifts, but stockings are not considered. Our little group of friends, family and former colleagues help fill that void."

We are inspired each year by this quote from a nine-year-old boy, "When you give something; someone else gets."



(above) Patricia Novy with Christmas stockings waiting for delivery to Family Promise of Union County.

GIVING THANKS FOR A LIFE WELL LIVED

Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Mikaela Santos came into our lives in the summer of 2022. In July, we received an email from Karen Gilmour, a yoga instructor with Alluem Yoga in Cranford, telling us about a young student with a desire to give back to the community, especially homeless children. She wanted to collect backpacks full of all the necessary school supplies to start the year off right. Mikaela, together with her instructor Karen, her sister Vivienne, her mother Yesica, her Aunt Natalie, and her good friend, Marielle, started a giving tree with the backpack needs of nearly 50 children in our housing programs.

A few weeks later at the beginning of the 2022 school year Mikaela passed away. Mikaela was just 11 years old. She lived most of her life in and out of hospitals because she had childhood cancer. So briefly did we know her yet how profoundly she affected us all. She left everyone she met with a sense of love and light. And it is her story we want to share with you today.

Just days after her death, her mother, sister, aunt, and friend delivered her backpack project to the Elizabeth Coalition. We were amazed at the love and care that went into creating each individual backpack. Mikaela willed her idea into being...she really made it happen!

What made Mikaela so special was her ability to transform her experiences of pain and illness into a project for others. Mikaela was asked what inclined her to helping others when she herself was going through so much. Mikaela answered, matter of fact-ly, "I might have cancer but I also have love, a home, and my family to support me. One thing does not have to do with the other."

Karen remembers Mikaela as someone who always showed up with love...to the studio...to her practice of yoga...to her friendships. "Every moment with Mikaela was a favorite one. I loved her little laugh and her sweet smile. Mikaela was a light in this world...and in my life."

Mikaela's mom, Yesica, recalls how knowing Mikaela made her a different person, "Mikaela was my first-born, she's the reason I became a mother and then when her sister, Vivienne, was born we were complete. Knowing Mikaela makes



(above) Mikaela Santos

me feel honored and proud to be her mother." Mikaela's precious spirit burns brightly in memory for those who loved her most but also for those lives she touched so briefly with her creativity, her giving, and her compassion.

The children who received a backpack wrote notes and drew pictures to thank Mikaela. Some notes make mention of an angel, which is how they choose to remember her and her supreme act of bravery in being a force for good in the world. To be so young and yet full of such a wise mind and kind heart, sharing her blessings with others, is a page from her remarkable story that we can all learn and grow from.

Thank you, Mikaela.

It is supporters like Mikaela that are so vital to our work. Donations and volunteers free us to offer premium case management to those who need it, allowing us to offer the care and focus on each client who comes through our door. Consistent, dedicated partnerships push our vision that one day, we will eliminate homelessness and equip each person with the support they need.

For volunteer opportunities to help our homeless brothers and sisters, and donate, visit theelizabethcoalition.org.



Courtesy photo

We need 30 Ugly Homes with Ugly Kitchens, Bathrooms, Siding, Window, etc., Inside or Outside that need fixing or Remodeling. We will Repair and Remodel them and shoot video for training film and future TV show on Home Remodeling Work.

Must Sign Release, for purpose of filming job! This must be a complete remodeling job, not just patch up work. This remodeling is to be specially priced, with compensation going back to the homeowner for a signed release.

Serious Inquiries Please!

CALL 833-375-1472 Ask for TV Project Department, for job evaluation and estimate of cost and compensations!

Tri-State Creations LLC - Lic. #s: NJ-13VH04728900, PA-39104

CHESS IN MILLBURN

- In-person and Online Chess Lessons
- Rated Chess Tournaments
- Search us on YouTube: Chess Party
- Spring Classes Registration Open!
- Visit our website for details and placement test!

917 923 3669

chessinmillburn@gmail.com

www.chessinmillburn.com CHESS IN MILLBURN

CHESS ACADEMY

IMAGINE HOSTS GALA IN HONOR OF TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday, November 2nd, over 300 community members gathered at the Palace at Somerset Park for Imagine's 10th Anniversary Gala, honoring Imagine's 10 years of supporting children and families who are grieving in New Jersey. Looking back on this incredible event, Imagine's Executive Director, Lindsay Schambach said: "I am so honored and humbled by the outpouring of love and light from all those who attended Imagine's 10th Anniversary Gala and the hundreds of others who have reached out before or since to share their support. Imagine has an incredible community of supporters that have helped to make it everything it is today, and everything it will become over the next decade for children and families all across our state."

Ms. Schambach also expressed gratitude for the generous local businesses that sponsored the event including Compassion Sponsors– Wiss and The Palace at Somerset Park; Inspire Sponsors – Ernst and Young, Holland & Knight, Overlook

On Wednesday, November 2nd, over 300 Medical Center and PSE&G; Hope Sponsors – Connect One Bank and Northfield Bank; and Dream Sponsors – Bradley Funeral Homes.

Members of the Imagine community that were honored at the event included six individuals acknowledged for their visionary leadership, excellence in education and selfless service. The Dr. Gerald Glasser Award was presented to former Board Chairs Stuart Arnold, Keith Hertell and John M. Toriello for their visionary leadership. The Rabbi Earl Grollman Award for Excellence in Grief Education was presented to Constance Palmer, LCSW for her commitment to creating grief informed communities. The Mary L. Robinson Award for Ten years of Selfless Service was presented to Imagine volunteer facilitators, Lisa D'Amico and Joanne Lukowiak who have been facilitating support groups at Imagine since its inception.

Those attending had an opportunity to hear from families who participate in Imagine's free

<image>

(above, l-r) Lindsay Schambach, Imagine Executive Director; Diana Miller, Imagine Board Chair; Keith Hertell, John Toriello and Stuart Arnold, former Imagine Board Chairs and recipients of the Dr. Gerald Glasser Award for leadership; and Marjorie Ticknor, Daughter of Dr. Gerald Glasser, Imagine Visionary.



grief support groups to learn firsthand about their experience. Many of Imagine's participants expressed gratitude for a place to go where they can talk about their grief openly with others who have also experienced a loss. Children and adults alike shared that they feel less alone in their grief because of Imagine.

Imagine's staff and board members are so grateful for all those who came out to support Imagine at the Gala and invite others to join Imagine's wonderful community of donors and volunteers. To make a tax-deductible donation to support Imagine's free grief support group program, please visit our website at www.imaginenj.org.

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.



20% Off All Day, Every Day

JNC Kitchen Cabinets RTA All Wood Cabinets

> View our Cabinets online: jnckitchencabinets.com

Call to schedule an appointment: Simon (908) 476-1126 jnckitchencabinets@gmail.com

20% Off All Day, Bvery Day

ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY JANUARY PROGRAMS

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 • Phone: (908) 353-4820 • www.elizpl.org/

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:45 p.m. • Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. • Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. • Sunday: Closed The library will be closed on January 16, 2023

Zumba Gold

Tuesday, January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 at 9:00am

CALL 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walkins are welcome!

Mahjonng

Tuesday, January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 | Time: 1pm - 4pm

Everyone who loves Mahjongg is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. Remember to bring your own MahJongg tiles, and we'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game. Ages:

18 & up

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, January 4 at 4:00pm Kids will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read. Ages: 5-8



HOME MOVIES TRANSFERRED to digital files & DVD

- Video Tape Transfers
- DVD & Flash Drive Duplication
- Audio Cassette to CD
- Reel to Reel Audio to CD
- LP to CD
- High Speed Photo & Slide Scanning
- Foreign Conversions

Video Production & Editing Training • Sales • Documentary

VIDEO DATA SERVICES®

locally owned since 1984

www.vdsnj.com facebook.com/vdsnj email: ira@vdsnj.com 908-964-4004 406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083

Stitch & Chat

Thursday, January 5 at 10:00am Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Toddlers World

Thursday, January 6 at 11:00am An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Matinee Movie

Friday, December 2, 9, 16 & 30 at 1:00pm Come-out to Elmora Branch Library to watch Thor: Ragnarok on 12/2, How the Grinch Stole Christmas on 12/9, Dune (1984) on 12/16, and All Quiet on the Western Front on 12/30

Art Lessons

Saturday, January 7 & 21 at 2:30pm Learn to blend colors, sketch, and many more art skills! An excellent experience for children, teens, and adults! All levels of art skills

> are welcome! Crochet with Sol

Monday, January 9, and Tuesday, December 13 & 20 at 11:00am Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get

started, from fundamental stitches to understanding gauge.

Adult Scrabble

Wednesday, January 11 at 1:30pm Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing scrabble with other like-

minded adults. **Coloring for Kids**

Saturday, January 14 at 10:00am Relax & color at the Elmora Branch for an hour!

Marinera & Tondero

Saturday, January 14 at 2:00pm Join us for a unique program involving Peruvian dances and a singing performer!

WANTED TO BUY COMIC BOOKS GOLD & SILVER COINS SPORTS CARDS & MEMORABILIA 1 ITEM OR AN ENTIRE ESTATE ASK FOR MIKE 908-303-3749



We Pay Cash - Same Day Pick-up

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, January 18 at 4:00pm Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Adult Spanish Book Club

Friday, January 20 at 2:00pm Join us for a monthly book discussion for adults in Spanish with Martha!

Sign Language Storytime

Saturday, January 21 at 11:00am A family storytime where everyone can learn sign language together. Stay for a quick activity to socialize after the program!

Bad Art!!

Monday, January 23 at 1:00pm Artists and non-artists are encouraged to come to Elmora and make the "worse" art one can make! No art is bad! Supplies and snacks are provided, so bring your creativity!

Coloring for Adults

Tuesday, January 24 at 11:00am Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

Junior's Book Club

Wednesday, January 25 at 4:00pm Tweens will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read. Ages: 9-12

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, January 29 at 1:00pm Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, crafts, and oh-so-much fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family.

All Age Lego Hour

Saturday, January 29 at 2:30pm It's Lego Hour at Elmora on Saturday @ 2:30. Come and build an enormous tower or make a race car; the imagination is limitless!



JANUARY IS A SOUPER TIME TO VISIT RAHWAY

Rahway is your winter destination in 2023! Looking for something to do to fight off those winter blues? Bundle up and take the train, rideshare, or drive to Rahway to experience all that the city has to offer. Rahway is home to a diverse small business community with unique retail shops and dining experiences. You can start your day in Rahway with a hot cup of coffee and some shopping, get the kids out of the house for lunch and some family game time at the arcade, and plan a date night with drinks and dinner at any one of our many delicious restaurants. No matter what cuisine you are craving, you will find it in Rahway! Watch a show at the Union County Performing Arts Center, view an exhibit at one of our art galleries, or listen to local musicians who can help you rock and sway your way through the winter months.

Looking to warm up this winter? Our annual

Soup Stroll, presented by our Special Improvement District (SID), will return every Saturday in January (Jan 7, 14, 21, 28) from 1-4 p.m. Mayor Raymond Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council encourage everyone to attend this free event as a great way to get together with friends, get out of the house, and sample some delicious soups while strolling through the City.

Restaurants will be stirring up their finest soups for you to try, so be sure to follow @Rahwayishappening on Facebook and Instagram or visit

RahwayisHappening.com/soupstroll

for participating eateries and more information. Snap a photo of you and your Soup Stroll Squad enjoying your samples and share it with @rahwayishappening on Instagram to enter our Soup Stroll Selfie contest for a chance to win a \$25 Gift Card to your favorite





participating restaurant.

After you're done sampling soups, grab a drink, watch the game, or sit down for a bite to eat at one of your favorite Rahway bars or restaurants. January is a Souper time to visit Rahway!

Visit Rahwayishappening.com for information on parking, lists of shops and restaurants and details about all of our upcoming events!

VIRTUAL INCUBATOR PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICANTS

Diverse businesses have historically encountered many obstacles to success, and these obstacles have become even more apparent in recent months. To help battle these injustices the Union County Economic Development Corp., UCEDC, a non-profit economic development company, has developed a Virtual Incubator Program (VIP). The VIP will allow 10 businesses with ownership from an underserved population the opportunity to sustain themselves through these trying economic times by offering education and access to capital.

Upon completion of this 8-week program, which includes virtual training sessions and both group and one-on-one counseling, participants will gain access to an exclusive loan program from UCEDC created specifically for VIP graduates.

QUALIFIED VIP CANDIDATES MUST:

- Business must have majority ownership by an under-served individual or group of individuals (Asian, Black, Hispanic, LGBTQ, Native American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Veteran)
- Business must be located and perform the majority of their operations in New Jersey
- Must be in business for 2 years (forced closure from pandemic does not count)
- Must have been operating profitably, or at break-even, prior to the pandemic
- Must be willing to participate fully in the program as outlined below (failure to fully participate will result in removal from the program)
- Must provide most recent personal tax return, and two years of business tax returns

The fifth session of the VIP will run from Wednesday, February 8 - Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The application deadline is Wednesday, January 11, 2023. If you or someone you know can benefit from this program, please apply on line: ucedc.com/ucedcs-virtual-incubator-program/

Marketing Toolbox

Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyperlocal to regional, for every budget and market size.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

We mail 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

FULL COLOR PRINTING

We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

DIRECT MAIL

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

ONLINE MARKETING

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

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

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

CALL JOE RENNA FOR A FREE CONSULTATION. 908-447-1295

RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPER RATE SHEET WE MAIL 160,000 NEWSPAPERS MONTHLY! Tina Renna 908-418-5586 • tinarenna@rennamedia.com Joe Renna 908-447-1295 • joerenna@rennamedia.com 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016



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

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

PER POST

Block of 20 for \$200

Single post is \$20

LocalInf<mark>o.co</mark>m

ONLINE ADS & PRESS RELEASES RIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE GET UNLIMITED CLICKS

An alternative to expensive pay-per-click programs FREE AD DESIGN AND COPYWRITING Advertising webpage includes many features including write-up, images, video, Google map, etc.

POSTS ARE SHARED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Posts shared on multiple Facebook pages and twitter. PAID SEARCH ENGINE PROMOTIONS

Posts are promoted by industry, key words and location.

TRACKABLE RESULTS

All ads include a live view counter.

Full Color Flyers and Menus Printed and Mailed to Every Home and Business in Town! FINTERS

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

FLYERS - \$45 PER THOUSAND

8.5" x 11" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock Tri-fold add \$10 per thousand. Minimum order \$450

LARGE MENUS - PRINTING - \$85 PER THOUSAND For quantities more than 50,000 cost is \$55 per thousand. 11"x17" / Full color /2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock. Min. order \$850 Includes folding (quarter fold or tri-fold, with or without coupons tab)

INSERTED AND MAILED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS \$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.) Minimum order \$400

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

STARTER WEBSITE: \$500

Basic static site that can be developed further

WEBSITE CREATION/UPDATE: \$2,400

Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design WEBSITE HOSTING: \$300 PER YEAR

Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates • SEO SERVICES: AVERAGE COST \$1,000 - \$2,000 PER MONTH

Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing Call for free a consultation if you need

help developing an online marketing plan.

WEBSITE AUDIT/ANALYSIS ND RECOMMENDATION PLA

 SEE WHAT IS WORKING AND NOT WORKING Know where your web traffic is coming from and why.

ELIMINATE / AVOID COSTLY SCHEMES

Evaluate the return you are getting from your online marketing costs. INCREASE ONLINE MARKETING RESULTS

Recommendations include ways to increase traffic to your website

NO OBLIGATION

This service is recommended even if you have an existing web management contract. Use it to tune up your marketing plan.

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 email: IoeRenna@RennaMedia.com





Call Walter at 201-478-7408 email: wwwinnj@gmail.com

STARTER

WEBSITE

\$500



Call for a consultation if you do not have a website or if need a new one. Call Walter at 201-478-7408 email: wwwinnj@gmail.com















ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES Payment Plans WINDOWS \$209 BASEMENTS \$395 KITCHENS \$389 BATHROOMS \$199 ROOFING \$249 DECKS/PATIOS \$189 SIDING \$289 PORCHES/STEPS \$185

SEEN ON

o% Plans Available! Estimated monthly payments. Rates & payments based on credit approval.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS ALSO AVAILABLE

Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

NJDCA 13VH07755300

MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com 🖾