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GOAL MET FOR TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE AND GIVING TUESDAY

ERA Boniakowski Real Estate participated in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program and #GivingTuesday this past fall.

As a kick-off to our Toys for Tots Drive, they participated in Giving Tuesday which is often stylized as #GivingTuesday for the purposes of hashtag activism. It is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It is touted as a "global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world."

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

ERA Boniakowski Real Estate announced that they filled up over 3 huge bins of toys that were dropped off at the U.S. Marine Corps location in South Plainfield. Joseph Boniakowski said, "It's our way of giving back to the community, especially to less fortunate children at this special time of the year! I'm also very proud of our agents and employees who participated in supporting this program. It is such a great feeling when we join together for a special cause."

ERA Boniakowski Real Estate is located at 929 N. Washington Avenue, Green Brook, NJ, 732-968-0700, and serves the entire Central New Jersey area west to the Delaware River with residential and commercial real estate.



(above) Staff at ERA Boniakowski Real Estate participated in Toys for Tots and #Giving Tuesday this year, collecting toys for community children for the holidays.

Courtesy photo



*****ECRWSSDDM*****

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Green Brook Gazette NJ

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DAR DAY OF SERVICE BENEFITS VETS AND PETS

Members of Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) observed the annual DAR Day of Service with projects for hospitalized veterans and for homeless pets.

For decades, the chapter has collected donations of clothing, books, games and other items to be distributed as holiday gifts for the hospitalized veterans at Lyons V.A. Medical Center. In addition, the chapter continued a more recent tradition of collecting pet food, cleaning supplies and gift cards for the Plainfield Area Humane Society Shelter in Plainfield.

“Providing gifts for veterans sends the

message that we thank them for their service and that they are not forgotten,” said Chapter Regent Ashley Salsano. “A few years ago, we began another tradition by supporting the local animal shelter. Many of our members are pet owners and wanted to help.”

The DAR is a nonprofit service organization open to women 18 and over who can trace their descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter, based in Green Brook, serves areas of Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. New members are welcome. Contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or visit DAR.org.



(above) DAR chapter officers Marti Kalko and Susan Dobrinsky deliver donations of pet supplies to the Plainfield Area Humane Society Shelter.



(above) Attendees sign cards for veterans at the 2021 4-H Holiday Craft Festival.

Courtesy photos

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FEBRUARY 19 AT 3 PM

The Brook Orchestra, led by conductor Thomas Vacca, brings masterpieces from the 20th century to the present in this amazing concert on the historic Brook Theater stage. The Brook Orchestra has been in residence at the Brook Arts Center since 2016 with Vacca taking over the Music Director position in 2019. Since his arrival, the size of the orchestra has grown to over 70+ seventy members becoming a highly regarded regional orchestra - bringing beloved staples of the symphonic repertoire to Somerset County and beyond.

MARCH 12 AT 3 PM

An Afternoon with the Duprees" and special guests Tommy C "The Voice of Tribute" and Comedian Gina DiMaggio. The tradition and sound that made the Duprees a well-loved and successful group have echoed through time for more than 50 years. The Duprees still thrills audiences with their smooth harmonies and romantic sound as they revitalize their top hits for new generations. Tommy Petillo, Phil Granito, and Jimmy Spinelli continue to show their dedication and passion for the music that started on a Jersey City street corner and grew to something both classic and timeless.

MARCH 11 AT 8 PM

Celebrate St. Patty's day a wee bit early with The Irish Cabaret starring internationally acclaimed singer Andy Cooney and the Guinness Irish Band along with the finest in Irish entertainment showcasing the best of Ireland's music, song, comedy, and dance! With special guests Comedian Mick Thomas, Celtic Folk Singer Ciara Fox, and The Emerald Fire Irish Dancers, Cooney is one of the greatest singing sensations on the Irish Music scene today. Christened Irish America's Favorite Son by The New York Times, it is a title he richly deserves.



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Mick Thomas
Comedian

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THE 2022 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HISTORY AWARDS

The Somerset County Historic Preservation and History awards are intended to honor individuals and organizations that promote and preserve Somerset County's rich history. This year's winners were recently recognized at a ceremony at the Environmental Education Center at Lord Stirling Park in Basking Ridge.

Winners of the 2022 Historic Preservation and History Awards:

Young Historian: Jason Elliott Ng of Watchung for leading 26 volunteers in designing and updating the World War I and II exhibit, as well as planning and incorporating a display dedicated to local veteran and World War II hero Henry Long, in the Texier House Museum. He also received of a \$500 scholarship from the Friends of Somerset County Cultural & Heritage, Inc.

Historic Preservation Leadership: Daniel W. Lincoln of Bernardsville was recognized for over 30 years in the field of historic preservation, aiding in the restoration of numerous sites, including the Brick Academy, Dunster-Squibb Property and Moses Craig Lime Kilns. He has also contributed to grant writing, programming, and serving as president of the Historical Society of the Somerset Hills. He is currently serving as

the president of Friends of Historic Bernardsville.

History Education: The Jacobus Vanderveer House in Bedminster for the Pluckemin Cantonment Model, a scale replica and valuable, visual teaching aid which features the buildings and underlying landforms of the Pluckemin Cantonment as well as models of individual soldiers.

History Public Awareness: Raritan Historic and Cultural Committee for 17 vinyl-wrapped town benches that showcase the history and culture of Raritan. Imagery on the benches range from historic buildings, such as the Raritan Hotel, to the John Basilone Welcome Home parade of 1943. The benches serve to teach and inspire visitors to learn more about Raritan.

History Publication: Cindy Williams Newsome of Bridgewater was recognized for her book, "Chasing Baseball for Life and other Adventures: Dedicated to Nearo Williams Jr." The book covers the life of Nearo Williams, an African American baseball player who was raised in the Hobbstown region of Bridgewater and played for the Somerville Raiders, while also paying homage to several local Little League, Pony League, and semi-pro baseball coaches and

managers of the 1950s to 1970s. The book also covers Nearo Williams' post-baseball life, including his work as a community organizer for the Somerset Community Action Program, and how his chosen sport influenced him.

History Publication: Linda L. Wass of Bridgewater was recognized for her work, "Flashback," a single page digital broadside imitating local newspapers of the past containing historical information from local library collections and archives, and excerpts from newspapers of the past 150 years.

Special Recognition Award: Dr. Alan H. Cooper, of Hackettstown, was given Special Recognition for his work and dedication to the Lord Stirling Manor archeological project.

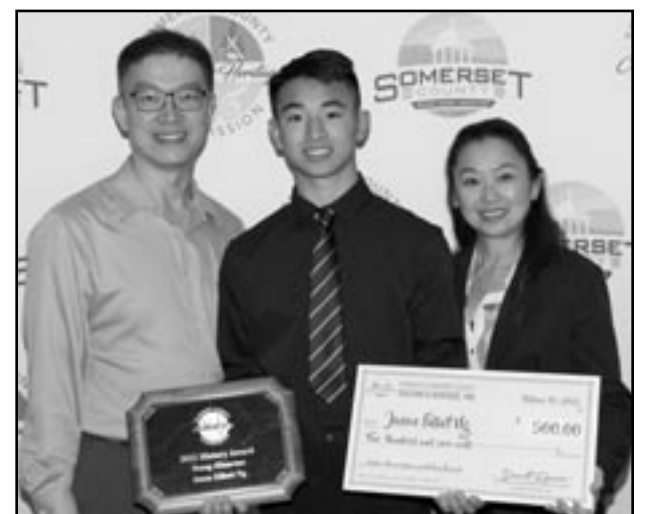
Special Recognition Award: Jessie Havens of Belle Mead for over 50 years work and dedication to the history of Somerset County, including a weekly column titled "Hindsight" for the Somerset Messenger-Gazette which ran for 25 years, co-founding Heritage Trail Association, scholarly research of the Hall-Mills murder trial, inspiring two symposia on Middlebrook, and numerous publications on the history of Somerville and Somerset County.

Dr. Richard Veit, the keynote speaker, delivered a presentation highlighting the archaeology of Lord Stirling Manor.

The Historic Preservation and History Awards are sponsored by the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners, Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission and Friends of Somerset County Cultural & Heritage, Inc. The program is administered by an awards committee, comprised of individuals appointed by the County's Cultural & Heritage Commission, and is comprised of Cultural & Heritage Commission board members and Advisory Committee members.

For more information, contact the Cultural & Heritage Commission at 908-231-7021 or email CulturalHeritage@co.somerset.nj.us.

Courtesy photo



(above) Young Historian Award: Jason Elliott Ng of Watchung was honored for leading 26 volunteers in designing and updating the World War I and II exhibit, as well as planning and incorporating a display dedicated to local veteran and World War II hero Henry Long, in the Texier House Museum. He also received of a \$500 scholarship from the Friends of Somerset County Cultural & Heritage, Inc.

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The nation's oldest and largest patriotic youth organization, C.A.R. offers membership to girls and boys from birth to age 22 who can prove lineal descent from a man or woman who supported the cause of American independence.

Local C.A.R. groups, known as societies, are sponsored by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) or Sons of the American Revolution. Here in central New Jersey, Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR in Green Brook sponsors the Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R. Members may participate in state and national activities that focus on patriotism, service, and education about our American heritage.

Harriett Lothrop, a 19th century children's author from Concord, Mass., presented the idea for a children's organization to the DAR in 1895. Organized "for the training of young people in true patriotism and love of country," C.A.R. has promoted this vision to hundreds of thousands of members over the years. These boys and girls are the leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

New members are welcome. Contact Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com, or learn more online at NSCAR.org.





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NEW JERSEY'S OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL PLANNER OF 2022

Somerset County

Walter C. Lane, Director of Somerset County's Office of Planning, Policy, and Economic Development received the prestigious "Outstanding Professional Planner" award for 2022 from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association.

In awarding Mr. Lane the 2022 Budd Chavooshian Award for Outstanding Professional Planner, the Association selected him from among 2,100 professional planners in New Jersey for his leadership expertise and "unwavering belief in the value of county planning."

Describing Mr. Lane as a "champion and change-maker in Somerset County for over two decades," the association credited him with leading Somerset County to become "the first county in New Jersey to be designated as an 'Age Friendly County' by the American Association of Retired Persons and the World Health Organization, and most recently, developed a comprehensive Somerset County Preservation Plan, which is the first of its kind in New Jersey coordinating all aspects of preservation programs including open space, farmland and historic."

Somerset County's new Preservation Plan, adopted in 2022, has received awards from Preservation New Jersey and the New Jersey

Planning Officials Association. A short video provides highlights of the plan, which was officially announced last September at the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum in Montgomery Township.

"Walter Lane has been an incredible asset to Somerset County throughout his entire career," said County Commissioner Paul Drake, himself a professional planner and liaison to the Somerset County Planning Board. "His foresight has helped prepare us for a strong rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensures we remain a great place to live, work, and play."

During his tenure as President of the New Jersey County Planners Association in 2020, Mr. Lane initiated a task force during the height of the pandemic to develop a long-range recovery plan entitled "Creating a Healthier, Prosperous and More Equitable Future for All New Jersey's Residents."

In its announcement of the award, the planning association looked back on a decade of achievement. "Since 2014, Mr. Lane's efforts have successfully preserved nearly 1,000 acres of open space, preserved over 820 acres of farmland, and provided over \$7.8 million in funding for historic preservation projects," the association said.



(above) Walter Lane holding his planning award, surrounded by (l-r) Somerset County Commissioner Paul Drake and staff members Erika Phillips, Jessica Paolini, Tom Boccino, Angela Knowles, and Kaitlin Bundy.

Courtesy photo

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Bach & Forth - Discovery Orchestra

February 3 – 11 a.m.

In this 50-minute live presentation, The Discovery Orchestra staff member and violinist Michael Avagliano will explore how J.S. Bach creates a “conversation” of many voices out of a single instrument in his Sonata in G minor for Solo Violin. The presentation will include a live performance of the sonata.

Heads up! Seniors – Anna Busler-Brain Injury Alliance of NJ

February 6 – 11 a.m.

The purpose of this workshop is to increase independence and decrease falls, along with discussing driving and pedestrian safety tips.

The workshop is fun, and interactive and designed to educate seniors on ways to be safe at home and in the community.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells with Adrienne Graubard

February 10, 24 – 11 a.m.

Did you know that solving puzzles or challenging yourself with new mind-stretching activities like learning music can stimulate the brain and enhance your creative and critical thinking processes? Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brain-stumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using hand bells.

Thomas Paine: Forgotten Founding Father – Marisa Bozarth

February 15 – 11 a.m.

When we think of the Founding Fathers we often think of names like Jefferson, Adams,

Franklin, and Washington; the list goes on and on. We rarely think about Thomas Paine.

Paine's "Common Sense" inspired the idea of American independence and is one of the best-selling books of all time. Paine would go on to write several other pamphlets, some that would garner him fame and some that would leave him ostracized by the very people that praised him years earlier. This presentation will discuss Paine's early life, his many writings, his imprisonment in Europe, and why he should be remembered as a critical factor in our independence.

Stretch & Strength – Part 2

February 17 – 11 a.m.

Brandywine Living and Powerback Rehabilitation present Fun, Fit & Fabulous: Stretch and Strength. Join us for this interactive program taught by a licensed physical therapist to improve flexibility and mobility. A great way to age without injury is to stretch and strengthen the muscles so lace up those sneakers and let's get moving!

Fire Safety with the American Red Cross

February 27 – 11 a.m.

We should all know about being prepared in the event of a fire, at home, or elsewhere. How much do you know about making your home fire-resistant and you and your family safe?

Please join this program that will help you protect your family against fire. In addition, the Red Cross will install a free smoke alarm within your home. Please, be at ease knowing you have all the information.

LIBRARY PROVIDES ADAPTIVE KEYBOARD

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) Somerville branch has a new resource available for customers to use - for free - with or without an SCLSNJ library card. This device is an adaptive keyboard called a Maltron Keyboard.

An adaptive keyboard fits the shape of hands and the different lengths of fingers to reduce movement and tension, has tilted keys and pads to further reduce muscle tension, has straight vertical key columns to eliminate tens of thousands of finger and wrist twists in a day's work, and much more.

"We - as a branch, as a System - wanted to look at helping anyone that walks into the branch," said Rebecca Crawford, branch manager. "This keyboard is designed for anybody with mobility issues in their hands. This gives us the option to say, 'you know, we have this special adaptive keyboard that we can plug in, that you can use anytime you're here at the library.' We want to have something that you're comfortable with and something that you can use to make your digital traveling easier."

Continued Crawford, "We want to make the branch welcoming to everybody who walks in the door. And, we want to make sure that every person can use our equipment no matter what their physical abilities are."

The keyboard was purchased with funds that

the branch was awarded in 2022. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive, supported by AT&T, provides support to libraries of all sizes to conduct digital literacy training in their communities and help close the digital divide.

"We want to try to do everything we can to help someone in the best way that we can," said Rachel Bohach, adult services library assistant. "Once we received the magnifier donation, then we started thinking of all the things that could be possible and what we were missing."

The Maltron keyboard is available to all customers of the Somerville branch during open branch hours. The keyboard is easy-to-use, and both Crawford and Bohach urge customers to not hesitate to ask for the device.

"Please don't come in and say, 'we don't want to bother you'," said Crawford. "It is no bother. This is easy for us to set up. We want to set it up for you!"

For more information, call (908) 458-8445 or email somerville@scslnj.org. To discover all SCLSNJ has to offer, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube.

(right) Rachel Bohach, SCLSNJ adult services library assistant, uses the new Maltron adaptive keyboard to navigate SCLSNJ.org.

LIBRARY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

To join a virtual program by phone, dial 646-876-9923. After dialing, you will be prompted to enter a meeting ID, which is unique for every event. The meeting ID is the series of numbers at the end of the Zoom link posted for each event. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

Black Scientists We Should Know

February 1, 7-8:30 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6770636>.

The Most Fascinating, Obscure Figure in American History - Benjamin Lay, Abolitionist

February 6, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6765075>.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune -

The Link to our Past, Present, and Future

February 7, 7-8 p.m.;

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6889393>.

Bessie Coleman - Fly! Bessie, Fly!

Performed by Daisy Century from

American Historical Theater

February 8, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6916020>.

The Legacy of Harry and Harriette Moore

February 9, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6816281>.

Chocolate Lover's Desserts -

A Virtual Bake-Along

February 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6963073>.

Advanced Care Planning - Wills and

Healthcare Proxies Made Simple

February 15, 7-8 p.m.;

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/7147236>.

Motown - Music That Moved the World

February 16, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6836221>.

The Harlem Renaissance -

Courage, Grace and Vision

February 21, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6775462>.

Jesse Owens - A Life in American History

February 22, 7 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6911416>.

Overview of Atrial Fibrillation -

February is Heart Month

February 23, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/7086590>.

The Food and the Folks of the Great Migration

February 27, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/6830532>.

Self-Care Advocate -

7 Steps to Prevent Chronic Disease

February 28, 7-8 p.m.

<https://scslnj.libnet.info/event/7093964>.



WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

The Rutgers Women's Golf Association at Rutgers University Golf Course, Piscataway, is looking for new members. The league plays 18 holes Thursday mornings from April through October.

Anyone interested in joining should contact membership chair Mary Cosgrove at maryc20@msn.com or 908-507-4562.

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LIBRARY CONTINUES DONATION TRADITION

For the twenty-fourth year, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) staff members have collected and donated gifts for clients of Alternatives, Inc.

"It's the season of giving and it warms the heart knowing SCLSNJ staff members have, once again, fulfilled the wishes of so many deserving individuals at Alternatives, Inc.," said Jennifer McClear, co-chair of SCLSNJ's annual holiday wish list drive.

Alternatives, Inc. is a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting individuals with special needs to reach their highest level of independence and integration into the community by providing residential opportunities coupled with comprehensive support services. Learn more about Alternatives, Inc. at alternativesinc.org/somerset-county.

To learn more about the Library System, call 908-458-8400. To discover even more about SCLSNJ, visit SCLSNJ.org or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube.



(above, l-r) Pictured are SCLSNJ staffers and co-chairs of SCLSNJ's annual holiday wish list drive, Charlene Perkins and Jennifer McClear.

Photo by SCLSNJ

LITTLE DRAGONS KARATE ages 3-5

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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 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 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.imagenj.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@imagenj.org.



(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.

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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
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BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
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