MAILED FREE TO EVERY HOME Scotch Plains NJ AND BUSINESS IN SCOTCH PLAINS WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 108 • September 2024

COMMUNITY THANKS VOLUNTEERS ON APPRECIATION NIGHT COLDWELL BANKER REALTY **THIS SEPTEMBER** The Scotch Plains community came together on Thursday, August 1st, Fall in love 🌮 2024 to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Night. Crowds gathered at the with your next home! Alan M. Augustine Village Green and beat the heat with ice cream, and live music performed by the Garden State Jazz Orchestra; on the last day of the township's Free Summer Concert Series. Volunteer Appreciation Night serves as an opportunity to recognize the individuals who share a commitment to public service in Scotch Plains. Volunteers range from town organizations such as the Scotch Plains Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Environmental Commission, Recreation, and more, all working to support the municipal government. Personal, Westfield West ECRWSS **INS, NJ 07076** Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Scotch Plains Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," "Comment," and "Share." Will your money last as long as it needs to? You've got a lot We can help make sure it does with solutions from respected companies such as Equitable, Lincoln Financial Group, Protective, and Prudential. Call us today. of living left.

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IMAGINE WHAT YOU WANT SPF TO LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE:

SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN-LEVRONE BREAKS WORLD **RECORD, WINS GOLD AT PARIS OLYMPICS**

sensation and Dunellen native Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone has made history once again, setting a new world record in the 400meter hurdles at the Paris Olympics.

In a stunning display of athletic prowess, McLaughlin-Levrone clinched the gold medal with a remarkable time of 50.37 seconds, surpassing her previous world record. With this

Former Union Catholic High School track victory, she has cemented her status as the first female hurdler ever to win consecutive Olympic gold medals.

> The race showcased McLaughlin-Levrone's exceptional speed and skill, reinforcing her dominance in the sport. Her groundbreaking achievement not only highlights her individual excellence but also sets a new benchmark for future competitors.



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VOTER APPROVAL ON SEPT. 17 MEANS:

Q1: LA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Purchase, renovation, and addition to 330 South Avenue in Fanwood to serve students in grades pre-K through 5
- A neighborhood schools' model to help ease overcrowding in SPF's other elementary and middle schools

Q2: AIR CONDITIONING & MORE

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QUESTION 1 MUST PASS FOR QUESTION 2 TO PASS.

LEARN:

If both questions pass, an owner of a home assessed at the average in Scotch Plains would pay an estimated \$47 per month and the owner of a home assessed at the average in Fanwood would pay n estimated \$40 per month in school debt taxes.

VOTE SEPT. 17 POLLS OPEN 2-8 PM

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QUESTIONS:





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THE SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Summit Area Old Guard

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

In September, we will have four speakers:

On Tuesday, September 3rd, Summit Old Guard member, Larry Cunningham, will discuss some of the cultural differences that he observed between the U.S. and Russian personnel during the construction of the De-Kastri Crude Oil Export Terminal Project near Sakhalin Island, including standards of living, and differing approaches to project development between a capitalist-based society and a communist/socialist-based one. This project was completed in 2006 and is one of the largest oil terminals in the world.

On Tuesday, September 10th, our speaker will be Jack Willard, Sr. VP - Marketing & Sales at the Battleship New Jersey Museum & Memorial. The USS New Jersey is the most decorated battleship in U.S. Navy history. It earned distinction from 1938 until 1991 during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and conflicts in the Middle East. It has steamed more miles, fought in more battles, and fired more shells in combat than any other battleship in history. We will learn more about the "Mighty Mo's" amazing history.

On September 17th, Steve Balboni will highlight the road taken to define his career in Major League Baseball, starting with his childhood in NH and his love of baseball from a very young age — the road from being a nineyear old not making the little league team — to being drafted by the NY Yankees. He will cover his experiences playing for the Yankees and the KC Royals, including some of the highlights of

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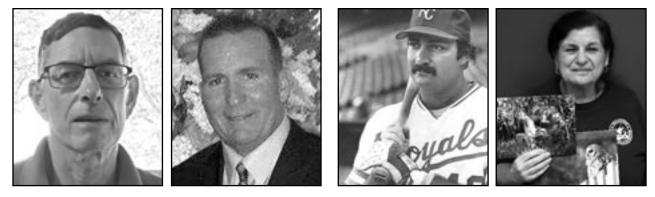
► Gutters

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his career and some of the people who helped him along the way. He will talk about the ups and downs of his career and how it eventually led him to coaching and then scouting.

Finally, on September 24th, we will learn about the turtles, frogs, and snakes found at the

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Our speaker will be Randi Emmer, a member of the Friends of the Great Swamp. Randi will give us an account of the types of amphibians that reside in the Great Swamp, which also was the first national wildlife refuge in the United States.



(above, l-r) Larry Cunningham, Jack Willard, Steve Balboni, and Randi Emmer



Attention Men & Women Over 40 HOW TO LOSE 10-30 LBS. IN 6 WEEKS... AND KEEP IT OFF!

Give a little Berkeley Heights Personal Training Gym 6 weeks to help you feel stronger, leaner, healthier and filled with energy!

"I NEVER LIKED GOING TO THE GYM... BUT NOW I'M HOOKED!"



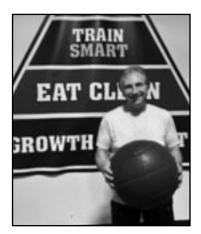
TRISH - I never liked going to the gym...until I joined Gabriele Fitness! The very knowledgeable and professional trainers make sure that every person receives personalized attention and feedback in class. I never expected to achieve such great results and it's all due to Gabriele Fitness. But now I'm hooked! They are the best!

"LIFE CHANGING FOR ME."



DENNIS - Life changing for me. Great and entertaining trainers. Can't say enough positive things about GFP. Even now, in 2024, the experience at GFP continues to get better. The trainers do a great job helping each and everyone achieve their goals and consistently improve. The gym members support each other. I look forward to every session.

"I WAS WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP UP"



STEVE - My results were both amazing and motivating! It's such a welcoming space. I was worried about not being able to keep up. But that's never been an issue at all. I've never felt rushed even if my pace was slower than those around me. I really love this aspect of the experience. I'm so glad to be part of this community.

"I AM STRONGER THAN I HAVE BEEN IN 30 YEARS."



DEBBIE - Been working out at Gabriele for a few years and absolutely LOVE the training. Coaches are extremely knowledgeable and correct any form issues and continuously challenge us. If I experience any pain, they will alter exercise to keep me safe. I am stronger than I have been in 30 years. They are fun, motivating and have built a great community at GFP.

GET BACK TO A FITNESS ROUTINE STARTING SEPT. 23RD! (ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE)

Here is what you get in this Challenge:

- **Personal Training:** 20 small group personal training sessions so you can work out with a coach to guide you every step of the way, which means you're essentially guaranteed to feel fit, strong and healthy.
- **Extreme Accountability:** Get helicopter-like attention from your GFP Coaches so you can never fall off track, which means you'll finally get the energy and health you've been missing.
- **Personalized and Simple Nutrition Help:** Our coaches are going to sit down with you to map out everything so you know exactly what to eat and when to eat it, which means you'll start making progress immediately.
- **Unlimited Cardio Sessions:** You'll get Unlimited Access to our 'Fat Blast" Sessions that will help get your body buzzing and your blood flowing to help shed those calories and fat!
- Free Nutrition Guide: We are going to give you a ton of references and guides including recipes and guidelines to help you along the way which means you'll get lean and love your food at the same time!

ABOUT GABRIELE FITNESS: Gabriele Fitness is a personal training gym that helps people lose weight, gain energy, and live a more active life without the use of fad diets or workouts that beat up their body. They've helped thousands of men and women in the Berkeley Heights Area to transform their health and life for the past 17 years. As leaders in the fitness industry they present their methods to trainers and gyms around the world.



OVER \$229,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DISTRIBUTED

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation has continued to fulfill its mission of helping local students achieve their goals of a higher education by distributing over \$229,000 in scholarship aid to 126 deserving students at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Throughout the year, members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community generously contributed to the Foundation's "Dollars for Students Campaign," which distributed \$22,500



to various high school and college students who are residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood and have demonstrated both impressive academic achievement and financial need.

"The dedication of our community and donors to supporting our mission is so inspiring," said Michelle Wyrwa, Foundation President. "The annual awards night is one of my favorite nights of the year and I am so impressed by the graduating seniors and college students who receive awards."

BOOK SALE

Friends of the Fanwood Public Library

Get your donations ready! Donations will be accepted from Sept. 20-23 at the Forest Road Park building. The sale starts with "Friends Night" on Thursday, Sept. 26, when Friends members get first choice of thousands of adult and children's books, CDs, DVDs and more. The sale will be open to all on Sept. 27, 28 and 29, with Sunday the 29th being "Bag Day," when shoppers can fill up a bag for one low price. If you're not yet a Friends member, you can sign up online a fanwoodlibrary.org/join-the-friends/join or join at the door on Sept. 26. The book sale is the Friends' biggest annual fundraiser, with proceeds used to support popular library events. If you have any questions, please email the Friends at FMLBooksales@gmail.com.

For a full list of recipients,

please visit our website at:

SPFScholarshipFoundation.org/Recipients

Congratulations to these outstanding scholars and our deepest thanks to all of our partners who have stood by us for over a half a century.

For further information, please visit our website SPFScholarshipFoundation.org

or contact the Foundation's president, Michelle Wyrwa at

spfscholarshipfoundation@gmail.com.

FANWOOD RECREATION FALL PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for a variety of Fall programs for kids, including Mad Science's STEM Odyssey, Fashion Design, Hip Hop Dance, Junior Tennis Lessons, Foundation Basketball, Soccer Squirts, Senior Soccer Squirts, Squirts Multi Sports, Parent & Me T-Ball Squirts, T-Ball Squirts, Parent & Me Soccer, NFL Football Camp, Parent & Me Multi Sports, SAT Boot Camp and more!

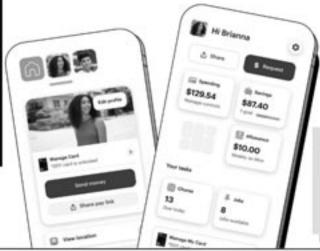
For adults, Fanwood Recreation offers Pickleball Lessons and Women's Chorus.

For Seniors, Fanwood Recreation offers Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga and Aerobics.

For more information about all these programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.



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NJIO ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP AND EXCITING 2024-2025 SEASON



(abobe) Vincent Novellino



The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Vincent (Vinnie) Novellino as Concertmaster and Emily Kane as Orchestral Operations Manager. In addition to these key leadership appointments, NJIO is excited to unveil its dynamic 2024-2025 concert season, featuring four free public concerts.

Vincent Novellino has been a dedicated member of the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) since 1997, starting as a freelance performer and officially joining as Principal Second Violinist and Coach in 2005. He holds degrees from Rutgers University and New Jersey City University and is the president of the Encore Orchestra of New Jersey. He will assume the position of Concertmaster under NJIO's Artistic Director, Warren Cohen.

Emily Kane joins the NJIO team as the inaugural Orchestral Operations Manager. Previously a member of NJIO as a teen. Her



musical journeys have taken her all over the world, including Carnegie Hall, the Schola Cantorum in Paris, and three NFL stadiums. She holds a degree in applied mathematics and honors clarinet performance from the University of Notre Dame.

The NJIO 2024-2025 season promises a diverse and exciting lineup, featuring several collaborations and soloists. The year kicks off with a showcase of young talent as the cowinners of the NJIO Young Artist Concerto Competition take center stage on November 10th at the historic Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, performing Tchaikovsky and Dvorak masterpieces. The festive spirit of the holidays fills the air on December 8th with a family-friendly concert followed by an instrument petting zoo at Summit High School.

On February 23rd 2025, the NJIO Symphony delves into the world of ballet with Ronaldo Hahn's "Le Fete Chez Therese". The season culminates on April 27th with a performance of Schubert's Symphony No. 7.

All of NJIO's concerts are free and open to the public.

NJIO is open to amateur musicians of all ages and experience levels. They currently have openings for string bass players, French horn players, violinists, and violists. No audition is required.

More information at: njio.org/registration



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ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY TO HELP HOMELESS VETS

The NJ Elks East Central District is proud to a sense of stability. announce the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day event on September 28, 2024 from noon to 6pm at the Stirling Elks Lodge at 1138 Valley Road in Stirling. This event aims to bring the community together for a day of food, fun, and entertainment for all ages to help support a crucial cause.

Included with entry, all attendees will enjoy a delicious pig roast, grilled burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, sausage & peppers, sandwiches, sides, desserts, water, soda, beer, wine, sangria, and more. Kids' activities will include DJ Mr. Socks, contests, games, a bounce house, magic performances, a fire truck, and more. Adults and teens can participate in a professionally run cornhole tournament, a golf pitching contest, volleyball, and bocce ball. Additionally, the event will feature a special rendition of the National Anthem, a NJ State Police helicopter, World War II vehicles, bagpipers, a dunk tank, 50/50s, a Silent Auction, and a paratrooper parachuting the American Flag into the event.

Admission is \$25 (donation) for adults. Children under 12 are free.

There are thousands of homeless veterans in New Jersey which is a tragic reality that the NJ Elks are determined to change. Over the past five years, the New Jersey Elks have successfully helped to move over 2,400 homeless veterans into homes, providing them with a fresh start and

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS

The Elks National Veterans Service Committee operates on a 100% volunteer basis, ensuring that all proceeds from this event will go directly towards improving the lives of our American heroes who have fallen on tough times. In addition, they are actively seeking sponsors and donors to support their efforts and their public relations committee will work hard to acknowledge them through several sponsorship packages.

Donations and advanced ticket purchases can be made at: http://donate.njelks-ecd.org or mailed to Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Checks should be made payable to: ECD Veterans Committee, with 'homeless vets' in the memo. (If a 501(c)(3)receipt is needed, please make checks payable to: NJSEA, with 'homeless vets' in the memo).

For sponsorship interest or more information about this event, please contact Apollo Hrehorovich at funday@njelks-ecd.org, call or text 732-540-0062, or visit http://funday.njelksecd.org.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit http://elks.org today.

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Come to the 7-part Zoom series, "Beta: The Search," hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish of Scotch Plains, NJ.

This series is free to all. It runs 7 consecutive Wednesday evenings on Zoom, from Wednesday October 2, 2024, until November 13, 2024, beginning at 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

You will gather with other seekers, watch a 30-minute video on life's big questions, and then engage in small group discussion. This series is for all seekers; young, old, single, married, faithful, atheist, and agnostic.

There is no cost to participate but spots are limited so please register early. Just bring yourself and a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and a commitment to attend. You will need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

To register go onto IHMparish.net, scan the QR code or call Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

at 908-889-2100

with any questions you may have.

Beta: The Search returns on Wednesday October 2, 2024. 7 Episode Series on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM on ZOOM from October 2 until November 13. Please sign-up at www.ihmparish.net/beta or call the office if you need help 908-889-2100

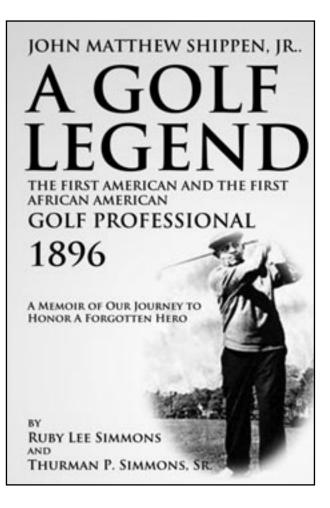






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BOOK HONORS A FORGOTTEN HERO

Two Scotch Plains residents - Ruby and Thurman Simmons - have written a book about John Shippen, titled "1896: John Matthew Shippen, Jr." According to Amazon the book is a captivating journey chronicling the life and legacy of John Shippen, a trailblazing figure in golf history. This book delves into Shippen's remarkable journey from obscurity to recognition as the first African American and American to play in a USGA professional golf tournament. Beginning with Shippen's early talent recognition and association with the pioneering Shinnecock Golf and Country Club, Long Island, New York, the book delves into his achievements amidst societal prejudices. It explores efforts to honor Shippen, uncover his heritage, and establish a foundation providing scholarships and youth golf

From organizing programs. memorial tournaments to addressing historical inaccuracies, the book highlights Shippen's legacy, culminating in national recognition and opportunities for aspiring African American golfers. Through meticulous research and personal dedication, Simmons and Simmons bring to light a pivotal figure in golf history, inspiring readers with Shippen's enduring impact and contributions to the sport. Through engaging chapters, readers discover the Simmons' resilience, their efforts to honor his legacy, and the impact on future generations of golfers. The book celebrates a groundbreaking figure, offering a compelling blend of history, passion, and dedication in the world of golf.

PERFORMANCE SERIES FALL SEASON

The fall season of the Fanwood Performance Series opens on Sept. 14 with a double bill of singer-songwriters blending country, folk and contemporary styles.

Craig Bickhardt brings his guitar and the "eloquent, often bittersweet songs that have become his trademark" to Fanwood's historic Carriage House. Bickhardt's music reflects a life lived as a rock-band lead singer, a solo troubadour, a dedicated songwriter, a husband and father. Longtime series fans will remember his 2014 appearance on the same stage.

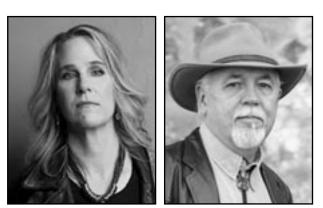
Lynne Hanson performs her "porch music with a little red dirt," which has earned her the nickname "Canada's own Queen of Americana." Her poetic lyrics are delivered in a bluesy croon that has drawn comparisons to Lucinda Williams and Gillian Welch. Hanson's 10th album, "Just a Poet," was released in May.

Showtime is 7 p.m. at the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center, a.k.a. the Carriage House, at 135 Watson Road, just west of Martine Avenue. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors – cash at the door. Reservations are strongly suggested, as seating is limited. Music fans are urged to RSVP by emailing fanwoodperformance@gmail.com.

Coming later this fall, Canadian folk artists Scott Cook and Pamela Mae will perform on Oct. 19, along with Marc Douglas Berardo from Rhode Island. The season will conclude Nov. 9 with performances by Danni Nichols, from the U.K. via Nashville, and New Jersey's own Matt Cook & The Heard.

More information and updates are available at the series website

fanwoodperformanceseries.org and on Facebook page FanwoodPerformanceSeries.



(above, -r) Lynne Hanson, Craig Bickhardt Courtesy photos

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BECOME A LITERACY NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Literacy New announces its September Tutor Training Program. The Tutor Training Program consists of 6 sessions starting on Tuesday, September 10 and will provide tutor trainees with the tools and strategies necessary for working with adult students in one of three categories: English as a Second Language (ESL), Job Readiness Skills or Basic Skills.

Five training sessions will be conducted online via Zoom. The five required sessions will take place on September 10, September 17, September 24, October 1 and October 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The 6th training session will be at the Elizabeth Public Library on Tuesday October 15 at 6 p.m.

After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students for 2 hours per week. After meeting your students, tutor trainees may be matched with a tutor mentor to guide them

Jersey-Union County through their first lesson plans. New tutor volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 50 hours of instruction with students.

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free Professional Development workshops on specific topics such as Digital Literacy, ESL Conversation, and Citizenship.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union County. You do not need to have any teaching experience, and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. There is a \$25 registration fee to cover the cost of books and materials. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director at bbagger@literacynj.org.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop at The Presbyterian Church in Fanwood will reopen for the Fall season on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Freshly stocked with many new and gently used items, the shop offers lots of bargains. Opening day sales include a large assortment of sleeveless ladies' tops and shorts, and men's walking shorts for \$1.00 each. We also have seasonal accessories to decorate your home.

merchandise. The shop is located in the building behind the church, with our entrance on Macdermott Place. Shop hours are Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All proceeds from the shop are given to local service and volunteer organizations. Donations are accepted during shop hours. Clean, new and gently used clothing, shoes, linens, small appliances in working condition, books and decorative items are accepted.

Please no textbooks, technical manuals, Please come by and check out our cookbooks or medical books, broken items, or items with missing parts. We can't sell them, and we have to dispose of them.

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BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM OPINION

Submitted by Simone Palermo

The Blue Envelope Program's purpose is to raise Union County's police departments' awareness of special needs (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, and anxiety) and how to best communicate with a special needs driver. One point of interest for me in this news article is how all police officers in Union County's twenty-one municipalities will go through a specialized training course on special needs, as well as learning the best methods in engaging with special needs drivers during a traffic stop. These specialized training courses will be vital in not only developing a deeper understanding of special needs, but also on how to best approach special needs drivers to minimize potential misunderstandings and escalations in conflict when pulled over. They will also better communication to special needs drivers that are non-verbal to provide a safer, unprejudiced community that can ensure trust in its police force.

According to one source within the Clark Township's Police Department, the process of getting a blue envelope is very easy, as the special needs driver can simply call their local police department, press the number for their helpdesk, and ask to receive a blue envelope either directly from the local police station or having it delivered to them in their mailbox. A copy of their driver's license and vehicle registration, insurance details, and (if necessary) emergency contact card are placed inside the envelope, which is then placed onto the dashboard of their vehicle so that officers do not make the driver even more nervous than normal under a traffic stop. However, it does concern me deeply how easily accessible these blue envelopes can be as there is a possibility of individuals not in the spectrum to abuse them for their own benefit.

According to the same source, there are other towns in Union County that have implemented the Blue Envelope Program in their police departments; said source however does not know

if it has currently spread throughout the entire of New Jersey. state of New Jersey. Regardless, my source said that the Clark Police Department has managed to hand out several of these blue envelopes to special needs drivers, which is a promising start for the program's progress. Upon further research, I have discovered on various websites - such as Crimewatch and the Montgomery County website - that it is being employed in police departments in California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut.

Overall, my opinion on the Blue Envelope Program is incredibly positive. I am advocating for the Blue Envelope Program for Union County's police departments and hope that it spreads beyond just Union County and the state

Having lived most of my life with Autism Spectrum Disorder - specifically Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) - I was personally intrigued when I came across the Clark Monthly's "Blue Envelopes for Drivers with Autism" newspaper article. As someone who has lived with autism for years, I feel as though I have a voice in this matter, and I would like to let it be heard.

If you or a loved one are a special needs driver looking for more information regarding the Blue Envelope Program, contact your local police department and ask them how you can get started with your blue envelope today.



The blue envelope brings together law enforcement and motorists with utism and other sensory disorders. It's a resealable and convenient place to keep all driver documents, and contains instruction for both the driver and the interacting officer in the event of a traffic stop.

The tool will help bridge gaps in communication and build empathy in our community.

GET YOURS NOW

by visiting your local police station in any one of Union County's 21 municipalities, Union County Sheriff's office, Union County Police Department, or Union County Prosecutor's office





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DESIGNER HANDBAG EVENT SHOWCASED – SEPT. 3

Thrift Shop Fall Re-Opening

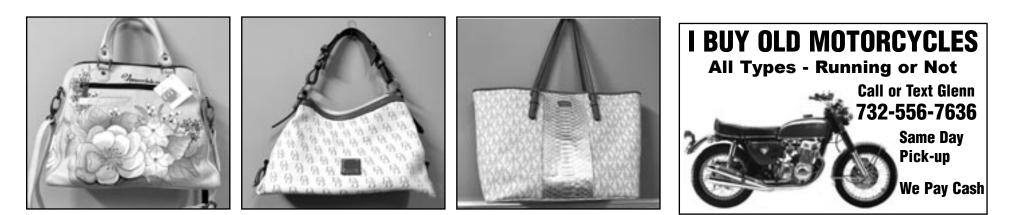
After a two-week end-of-summer closing, the non-profit Thrift Shop operated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League (FSPSL) re-opens on Tuesday, September 3, with the annual, always exceptional, designer handbag event.

Featured are gently-used handbags generously donated throughout the year and purposely kept "off the shelf" until this occasion. Devotees of Coach, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Dooney & Bourke and other famous brands can choose from a great selection of handbags to round out their wardrobes. Wallets for men and women and a variety of evening bags will be part of the event. find store shelves re-stocked with fall merchandise, including cool-weather clothing and autumn-themed décor. Drop by the store early in the month for the best selection of handbags and to shop a wide selection of constantly replenished clothing, shoes, bric-abrac, linens, household goods, toys, games, and books. Children are always welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

The all-volunteer Service League is proud of its record of giving back to the community, as all store proceeds outside of operating expenses are plowed back to the community. Due to our donors and customer sales, \$60,000 in grants to

Upon the shop's reopening customers will also local organizations and student scholarships were made in 2024. A huge thank you to all community members who consistently donate goods they no longer need, providing those items with a second, useful life rather than landing in a landfill.

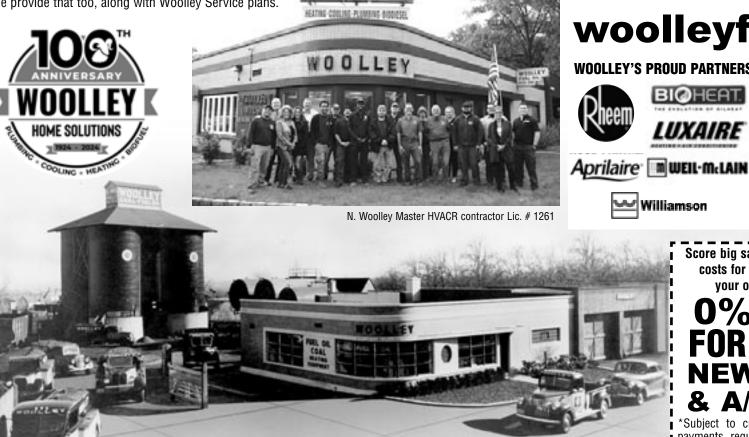
> The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains. Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., and Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Please call 908-322-5420 during business hours for more information about store donations and how to join our volunteer ranks. You can also find us at https://scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com/directi ons.html or follow us on Facebook.



(above) Look for high-end handbags at low-end prices offered during the annual Designer Handbag Event at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop.

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CENTER FOR HOPE AUXILIARY FUNDRAISING CONTINUES



(above) Auxiliary president, Dolores Paruta and Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care President Frank Brady.



Submitted by Dana Gillie

The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary hosted its annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser recently. During the event Dolores Paruta, president of the Auxiliary, presented Frank Brady, president of the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care with a check for \$75,000. Our Auxiliary raises funds to support the Charity Care Program at the Center providing financing for patients who are unable to pay for the services of the Center. Last year alone the Auxiliary was able to donate well over \$100,000. These funds are raised through events sponsored by the Auxiliary such as the Wine Tasting in the spring and our Baskets of Hope luncheon fundraiser in the fall. The Hope Chest thrift store, located on Prospect Street in Westfield, is manned fully by volunteers and is the auxiliary's major fundraiser.

The Auxiliary's next fundraiser will be the Baskets of Hope on October 6, 2024, at the Gran Centurions in Clark.

Please contact the Hope Chest, 908-233-9973, or the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, 908-889-7780, for further information regarding the event.

The Auxiliary is always happy to welcome new members and information on membership can be found at the above numbers or on the Center's website - cfhh.org.





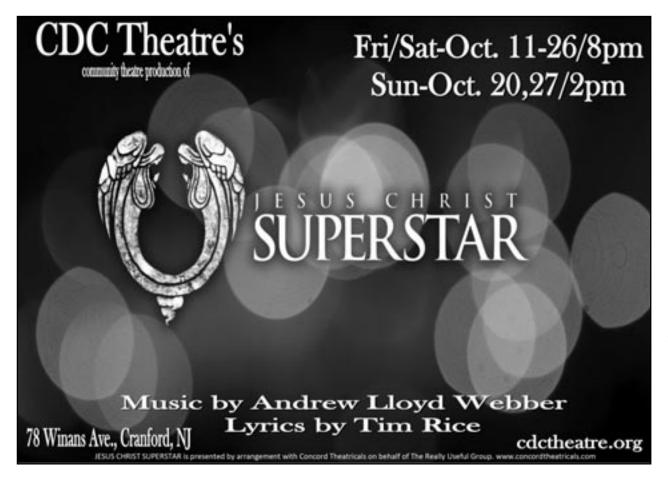


JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR COMING TO CRANFORD

The 106th season at CDC Theatre in Cranford will open with the seminal rock musical, Jesus Christ Superstar which will run from October 11 through the 27th.

The legendary score, which includes 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Gethsemane' and 'Superstar', began life as a groundbreaking rock double-album, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber who, at the ages of 25

and 21 respectively, were just embarking on what Iscariot, one of his twelve apostles. would become extraordinarily long and successful careers. Though originally conceived as a theatre piece, no one was interested in producing it on stage, so the pair created a concept album instead. Jesus Christ Superstar is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final week in the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of Judas



Released in 1970, the album's popularity rocketed with thousands of plays on FM radio. It became a #1 hit on the USA Billboard album charts 4 months after its release. It went on to be the biggest-selling album of 1971 beating the likes of such masterpieces as 'Sticky Fingers' by the Rolling Stones, 'Santana III' and John Lennon's 'Imagine'. Jesus Christ Superstar also received a 1972 Grammy nomination for Album of the Year, but lost to Carole King's Tapestry. On October 12th, 1971, Jesus Christ Superstar opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on Broadway with Tom O'Horgan, who had previously directed the original production of Hair, directing.

The cast is led by Jared Milian as Jesus, Blaze Levario as Judas, Melissa Calicchio as Mary, Corey Chichizola as Caiaphas, Shane Long as Herod, Robbie Stevens as Peter, Michael Fleischer as Pilate and Danielle Bouie as Simon. Joining them as Apostles, Priests and Ensemble will be Asher Cerreto, Arielle Dance, Alex Foreman, James Hahn, Ranai Jones, Gene Juanich, Kaite Kane, Alexandra Marcinak, Erica Vieira, Edgar Hidalgo, Joe Rodriguez, Michelle Sblendorio, Christina Cruz, Haley Deluna and Nikki Scavone.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting cdctheatre.org. Jesus Christ Superstar is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group - concordtheatricals.com.



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SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AT THE SCOTCH PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1927 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains • 908-322-5007 • www.scotlib.org Monday, September 2 - Library Closed

Last Day for Adult Summer Reading

Tuesday, September 3 Wednesday Movies Wednesdays at 12pm Enjoy a movie in our downstairs meeting room.

Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek

Fridays at 10am a gentle but effective approach to moving confidently throughout the lifespan. Registration is required for this virtual class.

Hypertension Clinic Friday, September 6, 10am to Noon in the Adult Room with a public health nurse from Union County. Walk-ins welcome.

The 1950's Experience concert with Kevin Grace

Saturday, September 7 at 2pm Bring Your Own Book Monday, September 9 at 10am Informal discussion of what participants have recently read and enjoyed.

Registration is required. Introduction to Crochet Tuesday, September 10 at 10am

Learn how to finish a project; registration is required.



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Origami

Thursday, September 12 at 7pm first of two sessions. Second session will take place on Thursday, September 26.

Houseplant Swap Saturday, September 14 at 2pm Bring up to two seedlings or cuttings and find a new plant friend to bring home. We'll

meet outside the Library. Friends of the Library Meeting Monday, September 16 at 7:15pm Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, September 17 at 1pm will discuss The Women by Kristin Hannah Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesday, September 18 at 7pm **Evening Book Club** Thursday, September 19 at 7pm

will discuss The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

Friends of the Library Puzzle Sale Monday, September 23 at 6pm Drawing with Sandra Monday, September 30 at 10am

registration is required.

More information about library news and events can be found at scotlib.org.

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