

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 109 • October 2024



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E 2ND STREET BLOCK PARTY & CAR SHOW

The E 2nd Street Block Party & Car Show, sponsored by the Scotch Plains Recreation Department, was held on Saturday, September 14th. Residents were invited to attend this free event which was organized to shine a spotlight on all of the wonderful businesses along East Second Street. There was live music from DJ Oakie, a balloon artist, giveaways, food samples, and more.



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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."



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FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND AT THE OSBORN CANNONBALL HOUSE

Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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In the center of the Township of Scotch Plains is a small yellow house with burgundy shutters, the c.1750 Osborn Cannonball House Museum. You might be surprised to learn that this little house has a big story to tell!

Almost right at its front door, this little house witnessed a skirmish of The Battle of the Short Hills, which took place on June 26, 1777. This battle may not be one of the most successful of Washington's battles, but it was pivotal in ensuring that the majority of Washington's troops were able to retreat back to the safety of the Watchung Mountains after being tricked by the British into coming down the mountain while the British feigned a retreat into Staten Island.

Legend tells us that It was during a skirmish of that Battle that the Osborn house was hit by an errant cannonball, thus getting its name from the local townspeople.

In the 18th century, the house was the home of the Osborn Family, who were among the first families of Scotch Plains. The father, Jonathan Osborn, was a tailor and an innkeeper. He was a respected elder who often held community meetings in his home. His oldest son, John Baldwin Osborn, was a Revolutionary War soldier and preacher. He married Mary Darby, whose father donated land to build both The Baptist Church on Park Avenue and one of the first schools in Scotch Plains. Mary, herself, is famous for helping the colonial troops who passed by her home by giving them many items

from her own home when she noticed they were in dire need of supplies. Jonathan's second son, Jonathan Hand Osborn, was also a Revolutionary War soldier. He had an illustrious career as a gravestone carver and was well-renowned. Many of his stones still stand in NJ cemeteries today and are admired for their artistry and design. Jonathan's third son, David Osborn, was the first town clerk of Westfield and the first postmaster of Scotch Plains. Jonathan's fourth son Henry Osborn also became a well-respected gravestone carver.

The Cannonball House is now a museum and the little house has many more stories to tell. Come visit to hear all about its amazing history. Costumed docents will be available to give tours of the museum. The museum will be open on Sunday, October 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. and for Four Centuries in a Weekend on Saturday, October 19, and Sunday, October 20 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. For Four Centuries in a Weekend, there will be a children's craft in our craft tent along with an early Halloween treat! Admission is always free.

As a special event for Four Centuries, the museum will feature a visually stunning display of bridal gowns through the decades from as early as 1860 through the 2010s. The Museum's impressive collection of antique bridal dresses is magnificent to behold and reflects the changing styles of women's fashion through the years. It is truly a unique and breathtaking display which should not be missed.

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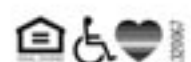
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SERVICE LEAGUE MAKES DONATION TO MOBILE MEALS

Fanwood Scotch Plains Service League, for more than five decades, has provided a helping hand to the community! The most recent receipt of their generosity was Mobile Meals of Westfield. The non-profit organization expressed their sincere appreciation for the donation!

Mobile Meals of Westfield provides affordable, hot, prepared and delivered meals to those individuals unable to shop or provide meals for themselves.

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THRIFT SHOP'S ANNUAL BOOT BONANZA

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is once again kicking off a great deal on boots at its non-profit Thrift Shop, 1741 East Second Street, Scotch Plains.

Tuesday, October 15, marks the start of the Thrift Shop's annual Boot Bonanza. Here, a wide assortment of both warm and fashion-minded boots for men, women and children will be showcased, with many items brand-new. The Shop's reasonably priced boots include such famous brand names as Hunter, Sorel, Timberline, Michael Kors and UGG, as well as Disney-branded footwear for kids. Outsmart the cold by keeping your feet warm and dry as we head into rainy, snowy weather! Be sure to shop early for the best selection.

The store also boasts a variety of Halloween costumes for children, adults and pets, along with related holiday accessories. Find spook-tacular costumes in all sizes for trick-or-treating and ghostly parties. And, while you are in the holiday mood, pick up some autumn-themed bric-a-brac and décor to turn your home into a haunted mansion or a colorful fall festival.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is a local, volunteer organization, with all store proceeds outside of the shop's operating expenses provided to local non-profit organizations or used for student scholarships. In each of the past two years, \$60,000 in grants and scholarships were awarded. All items for sale are provided by generous donors who supply the store with good-

quality merchandise they no longer need. Clothing in all sizes, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games, books, and more are constantly replenished, so shoppers can always find something "new to them!"

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. To learn more about the Service League, volunteer opportunities and types of donations accepted call the store during Thrift Shop business hours: 908-322-5420. You can also visit the Scotch Plains Thrift Shop website scotchplains thriftshop.weebly.com or search and follow the "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" on Facebook.



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50TH ANNUAL ITALIAN FESTIVAL BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORDS

Submitted by Angelo Ucciferri

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO, in collaboration with St. Bartholomew Church and St. Bartholomew Academy, celebrated its milestone 50th annual Italian Festival during Labor Day weekend, from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. Blessed with beautiful summer weather, the event attracted a large crowd from Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and nearby communities. Since its start in 1974, the festival has become a beloved local tradition, offering a wide variety of food, amusements, and games. This year, live music on the main stage featured performances by Wolf Creek, Jersey Four, The Broadcasters, and Jimmy and the Parrots. In

keeping with Italian heritage, Mike Aromando and the Metropolitan Italian Strolling Band filled the festival grounds with traditional Italian tunes.

Beyond the festivities, the event serves as a major fundraiser for UNICO and St. Bartholomew Church and Academy, with proceeds supporting their service projects, including local scholarships and community initiatives. A key highlight every year is the eagerly awaited Super 50/50 raffle.

“Our 50th Annual St. Bartholomew / UNICO Italian Festival was definitely one for the books with a record breaking 50/50 of \$76,920!” said Festival Chair Jane Bowman. “We have an incredible committee and are so thankful to everyone in our community who comes out to support the event each and every year. We truly couldn't have a successful event without our volunteers. For so many like myself, the ‘feast’ is tradition, one that we are proud to carry on for

our community. My grandparents were a part of the original group who orchestrated the event in its beginning years and I am proud to be the third generation in my family keeping this going. Here's to the next 50 years!”

UNICO, along with St. Bartholomew Church and Academy, extends its heartfelt gratitude to all festival attendees, vendors, volunteers, and service providers, including local law enforcement and emergency services, for their invaluable contributions in making this community event a tremendous success and an unforgettable experience for all.

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the USA, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter is celebrating its 50th year. To learn more about becoming a member or for additional information on UNICO events, visit their official website at www.unicospf.org or email spfunico@gmail.com.



Mountainside's Restaurant Week is back for the second year! It will run from **OCTOBER 14TH THROUGH THE 20TH**. There will be ten establishments offering plenty of opportunities to take advantage of.

Choose from breakfast at the Mountainside Deli, a mouthwatering sandwich from Mazzella's or a romantic dinner at the Spanish Tavern.

There will be something for everyone.

Most of the restaurants offer outdoor dining or if you prefer to eat in the comfort of your own home, all of the restaurants offer take out.

Visit the Restaurant Week website mountainsiderestaurantweek.com for more information, including a full list of participating establishments.

Participating Establishments:

- Bovella's • Chrone's • Echo Tap • Famous Dave's
- Mazzella's • Mosaico • Mountainside Deli
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CYNTHIA LAPIDUS HONORED AS ANGEL IN ADOPTION

Submitted by Sheila Riccardi

Senator Cory Booker celebrated Cynthia Lapidus from Scotch Plains, NJ as a 2024 Angels in Adoption® Honoree for her outstanding advocacy for adoption issues. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which coordinates the Angels in Adoption® Program, honored Cynthia on September 11, 2024, at their annual celebration. Cynthia is an employee of the New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH), a program of Children's Aid and Family Services.



(above) Gloria Nunez, Legislative Aide for Senator Cory Booker and Cynthia Lapidus who was honored as an Angel in Adoption.

Courtesy photo

Cynthia was recognized for being a passionate leader in adoption personally and professionally. After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Elizabethtown College, Cynthia launched her career in adoption. She worked with several agencies in New Jersey before joining the New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH), a program of Children's Aid and Family Services. Her role as the Warm Line and Training Specialist allows her to share her extensive knowledge of adoption information and resources with empathy to all who contact the program. Additionally, Cynthia teaches numerous adoption-focused parenting workshops through NJ ARCH.

Cynthia's passion for adoption extends into her family life. After giving birth to two children, she and her husband adopted their youngest child from South Korea in 2004.

"Cindy lives our mission every day and has helped hundreds of children find loving families throughout her 30-year career. She has changed the trajectory of their lives forever," says Shavonda E. Sumter, President and CEO of Children's Aid and Family Services. "All of us at the agency are delighted that she was selected for this well-deserved honor."

ABOUT ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

The Angels in Adoption® Program is CCAI's signature public awareness event and provides an annual opportunity for all members of the U.S. Congress to learn of and recognize the great work

of their constituents who have enriched the lives of vulnerable children and families in the United States and abroad. This year, 57 Angels from 34 states are being honored through the 26th Annual Angels in Adoption® Program.

Read the full list of honorees at ccainstitute.org/programs/view/angels-in-adoption-honorees

CCAI is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about children and youth in the United States and around the world in need of permanent, safe, and nurturing families. Founded in 2001 by the Co-Chairs of the Adoption Caucus – the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, which is the largest bipartisan, bicameral caucus in the U.S. Congress – CCAI works with the caucus to eliminate policy barriers that hinder children from realizing their basic right of a family and more effectively raise congressional and public awareness on permanency as it related to adoption, foster care, and child welfare.

ABOUT CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

Children's Aid and Family Services is a leading nonprofit human services organization serving northern New Jersey. The agency is fully accredited and has served the community for 125 years. Its mission is to strengthen families and empower individuals – children and adults alike – to reach their fullest potential. For more information on Children's Aid and Family Services, call 201-261-2800 or visit cafsnj.org.

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2024 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

Submitted by Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

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(above) Scotch Plains Rescue Squad recently purchased a new, state-of-the-art ambulance.

services in the past know all too well how valuable and necessary the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is to the township.

Please mail in your donation today to the address below or donate online at securepayment.link/scotchplainsrescuesquad/.

The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is also always looking for new members. We need people who are willing to dedicate some time to helping their neighbors. If interested in volunteering, stop by our building to pick up an application, or complete an application at scotchplainsrescuesquad.com. All training is

provided and free of charge.

Thank you for your continued interest, support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Officers and Members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

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*Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 201-504-6125. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply Endorsement.



(above) The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad members are all volunteers and provide their emergency response services for free to the community.

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A celebration of Italian Heritage in Scotch Plains.



The Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter of UNICO cordially invites the community to their annual Columbus Day Italian Heritage Ceremony. The event will take place on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Alan M. Augustine Park, adjacent to the Scotch Plains municipal building at 430 Park Avenue. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors. Refreshments and light fare will be served following the event.

has deeply enriched the community. The event will feature speeches from distinguished guests, including local government officials, representatives from religious and service organizations, and local and national UNICO members.

UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the USA, and the SPF chapter is celebrating its 50th year. To learn more about becoming a UNICO member or obtain additional information on UNICO events, please visit their official website at unicospf.org or email them at spfunico@gmail.com.

UNICO's Columbus Day Italian Heritage Ceremony is an annual tradition that pays tribute to the Italian-American history and culture that

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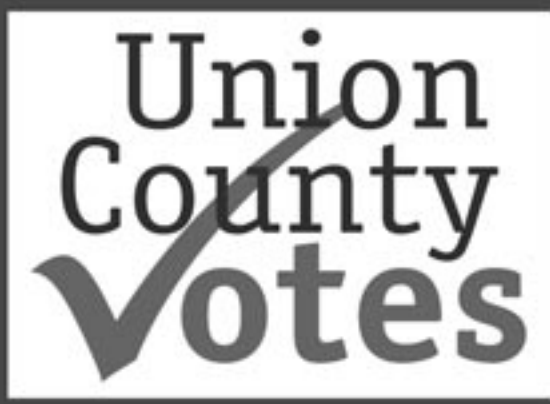
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FRAZEE HOUSE FALL ACTIVITIES AND PUMPKIN PATCH

Fanwood/Scotch Plains Rotary Club

The Rotary Frazee House committee will host activities at the Frazee house during weekends in October. The site will be decorated for Halloween and pumpkin patch sales will occur throughout the month of October. During the weekends of October 12th, 19th and 26th, there will be activities for children including a pumpkin toss, a Big Bake sale and many photo opportunities.

Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes! All proceeds will go toward completing the renovation of the historic Frazee house. "We continue to make progress on the Frazee renovation. This year we will complete the construction of the bathroom cottage adjacent to the house and it will include two bathrooms and a utility area where the meters for the gas, electric and water will be located. An ADA accessible ramp will allow access to the bathrooms and to the house. The two rooms in

the West wing of the house have also been renovated, including power, data ports, heat and air conditioning." said Andy Calamaras, President of the Frazee House Board. The October activities are a great opportunity for the community to visit the site and see for themselves.

Additionally, the Frazee House will participate in Union County's annual "Four Centuries in a Weekend," on October 19 and 20. Representatives will be at the Frazee site between 12 – 5 p.m. on both days with brochures, bookmarks, and an internal tour of the renovated areas of the house. History buffs can note that the

Frazee House is one of the stops on the Battle of Short Hills Historic Trail as well as being renowned for the legendary confrontation between General Cornwallis and Aunt Betty Frazee.

The Great Pumpkin Patch, is ongoing from October 1st through 31st. There will be hundreds of pumpkins in various sizes and colors, and they'll be sold every day from 11am to dusk. More information about the Frazee House and a complete schedule of events can be found at www.frazeehouse.org. More information about the Frazee House and a complete schedule of events can be found at frazeehouse.org.

AUTHOR PRESENTATION - OCTOBER 23

Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood

Just before Halloween the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood is thrilled to present New Jersey's second most notorious crime as its program at its October 23rd meeting. The story of John List killing his family is past spooky. It is scary. And it happened around Halloween.

JD Solomon, the presenter, is a Westfield resident and retired journalist who gives presentations about historical true crime at senior centers and community organizations in Union County. He is the author of two historical novels.

His first, *The Tinen Killings*, is a thriller about aging Civil War veterans in Philadelphia in 1898. His second, *Home News*, is a thriller about bootlegging set in his home town of Bay Shore, NY, in 1928.

This frightening and enlightening program is free and open to all. It occurs on Wednesday, October 23rd beginning at 7:30 p.m. It is held in the historic Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, 820 Jerusalem Road (at the Corner of Plainfield Avenue) in Scotch Plains. Fellowship and refreshments follow the meeting.



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FANNY WOOD DAY ATTRACTS THOUSANDS TO DOWNTOWN

Borough of Fanwood

Fanny Wood Day was held under sunny skies Sunday with temperatures in the 70s, attracting thousands to Downtown Fanwood. The event featured over 200 vendors including 20 food trucks, kids' activities, a petting zoo and live music throughout the day.

The opening ceremony included the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Boys Scouts Troop 33 Color Guard, Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of God Bless America. Borough Council members Anthony Carter, Jeff Banks and Trish Walsh were

on hand along with Bruce Zakarin of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, now in his 16th year as the event's organizer.

The event, held along South and Martine Avenues, included a County Stage where bands played throughout the day, and a kids stage for children's acts. Members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad, Fire and Police Departments were also on hand to give tours of their vehicles. A children's Play Land featuring rides was located at South Avenue Train Station Lot.

WrestlePro returned for a second straight year

and attracted large crowds as wrestlers held a Meet and Greet and four winners of the Fanny Wood Day Raffle received autographed photos of each of the featured wrestlers. Three wrestling matches were featured to the delight of the crowd, especially children, as wrestlers went airborne and crashed down their opponents or the wrestling ring floor.

A scavenger hunt, water balloon toss, bubble gum blowing contest and spaghetti and meatball eating contest were also featured.

Fanny Wood Day sponsors included Unity Bank, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Dental Care, Lightbridge Academy, Carano Square, Provident Bank, and Fabio's Bistro.



(above) Singing of God Bless America during the opening ceremony.

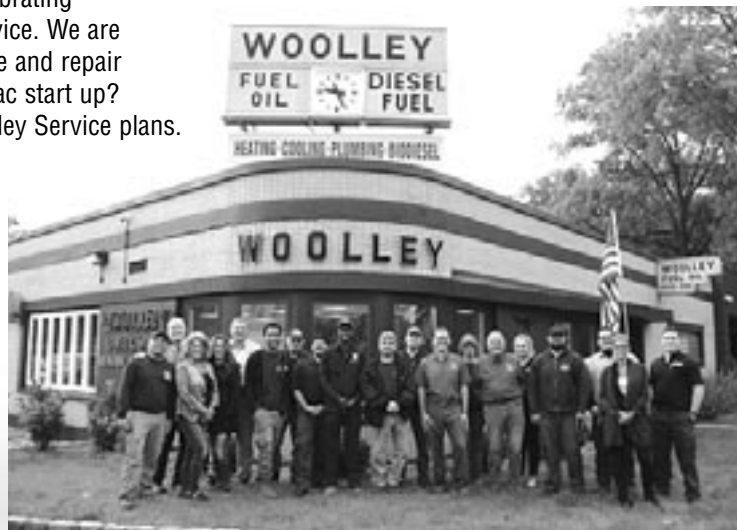


(above) A Petting Zoo was a new feature.

Photos by Paul J. Peyton

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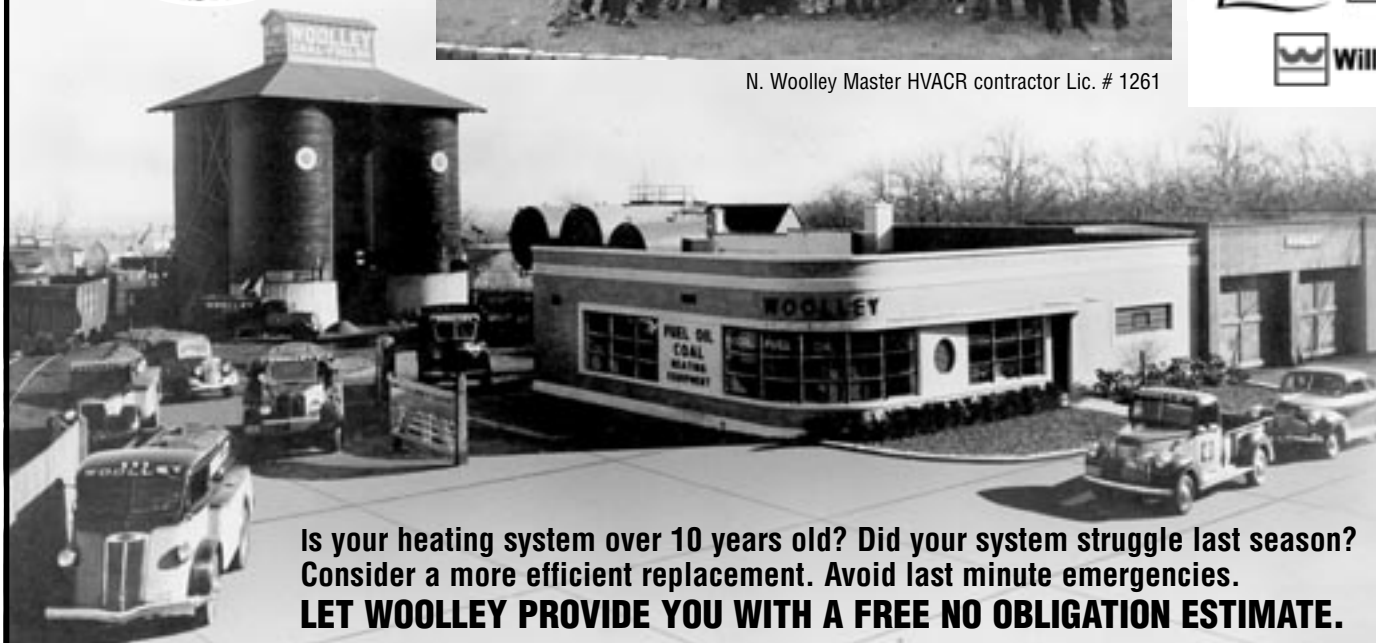
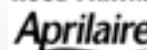
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CHILL MAMAS DANCERS TO PERFORM OCT 21

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains is hosting the Chill Mamas Dance Group on October 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Mira Vie, 295 South Avenue in Fanwood. The event is free and open to the public. The Chill Mamas are a nonprofit group that performs native Chinese dances and seeks to empower communities through the power of dance. The group aims to foster creativity, inclusivity, and cultural appreciation.

OPERAS ON FILM ANNOUNCES 11TH SEASON LINEUP

Mountainside Rescue Squad

The Mountainside Rescue Squad presents Operas on Film, now in its 11th season. The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson. It is free to attend. Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

"ANDREA CHENIER" starring Franco Corelli, 110 mins, 1973

Friday, October 11TH

"FEDORA" starring Placido Domingo, 110 mins, 1997

Friday, November 8TH

"IL CORSARO" starring Zvetan Michailov, 110 mins, 2005

Friday, December 13TH

FANWOOD RECREATION OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for these Fanwood Recreation Fall programs, beginning in October, for children: Youth Hip Hop Experience Dance Class, SAT Boot Camp, Middle School Book Club, Elementary Drawing, Little Yogi Academy, USA NFL Football Mini-Camp.

Registration is now open for these Fanwood Recreation Fall programs, beginning in October, for adults: Women in Harmony, Every Now and Then Yoga and Meditation, Pickleball for

Beginners.

Registration is now open for these Fall Fanwood Recreation Fall programs for Seniors: Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga. Zumba will be offered via Zoom and Yoga will be offered via Zoom and in-person. Each program will run for approximately 12 weeks and cost only \$20 for the entire program.

For more information and to register, please visit fanwoodrecreation.org.

THRIFT SHOP OPENS FOR FALL SEASON

The Thrift Shop of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church has opened for the fall season. Customers will find fall decorative items, Halloween costumes and lots of clothing items. Sweatshirts and hoodies will be available beginning in October. Specials for October include men's T-shirts for \$1.00 and ladies' dresses for \$3.00.

The shop is located behind the church, with the

entrance on MacDermott Place. Shop hours are on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds from the shop are donated to local service and volunteer organizations. Donations of new and gently used clothing, shoes, linens, small appliances, books and decorative items are accepted during shop hours.

Please stop by for a visit and see what's new.

FALL ARRIVES AT THE HOPE CHEST

The Hope Chest, located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield, has been busy preparing for the fall season. The shelves have been filled with autumn themed home décor, pottery, candles, dishware, glasses and linens. Summer fashions have been replaced with beautiful fall clothing for men and women. Sandals and straw bags are being removed to make space for boots and fall bags. Warmer coats, jackets and hats are available. As always, the Hope Chest has its usual wide selection of books and CDs along with earrings, necklaces, bracelets and accessories. It's always easy to find a treasure at a reasonable price.

The store is open Monday through Saturday and donations of new or gently used items are

accepted Tuesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. til 3:30 p.m.

The Hope Chest is managed by the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary and is staffed entirely by volunteers. All of the profits from sales in the store go to support the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Scotch Plains. Through funds raised at the Hope Chest and through various other programs the Auxiliary is able to provide over \$100,000 to aid in charity care at the Center.

The Auxiliary is always happy to welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining can call 908-233-9973, stop into the Hope Chest, or contact the Center at 908-889-7780.



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OCTOBER LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

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Wednesdays at 12pm

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Balance Awareness with Yasmin Ofek

Fridays at 10am

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No class on October 11.

Hypertension Clinic

Friday, October 4, 10am to Noon

In the Adult Room with a public health nurse from Union County. Walk-ins welcome.

Ladies of Motown concert with Rhonda Denét

Saturday, October 5 at 2pm

Bring Your Own Book

Monday, October 7 at 10am

An informal discussion of what participants have recently read and enjoyed.

Registration is required.

Special screening of Flyways: the Incredible Journey of Shorebirds

Monday, October 7 at 7pm

Registration is recommended.

Birding for Biodiversity

Thursday, October 10 at 7pm

Learn how important October Big Day is for bird species survival and how you can participate. Registration is requested.

October Big Day

Saturday, October 12, 9:30am to Noon

Guided bird walks at Trailside Nature & Science Center. Registration is requested.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, October 15 at 1pm

will discuss *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesday, October 16 at 7pm

Evening Book Club

Thursday, October 17 at 7pm

Will discuss *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.

Quote-along screening of The Princess Bride

Saturday, October 19 at 2pm

Friends of the Library Paint Night Fundraiser

Thursday, October 24 at 6:15pm

Space is limited; registration is required.

Drawing with Sandra

Monday, October 28 at 10am

Registration is required.

Jamie Novak: 12 Things Professional Organizers Would Toss

Monday, October 28 at 7pm

Registration is required.

RAI COMPLETES WEST POINT BASIC TRAINING

Cadet Sohem Jayant Rai, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manjul Rai of Fanwood, N.J., completed Cadet Basic Training at the U.S. Military Academy.

Rai entered West Point on July 1 and has successfully completed six weeks of CBT. CBT is one of the most challenging events a cadet will encounter over the course of their four years at the academy.

The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological, and chemical training.

Rai began classes August 19. The West Point curriculum offers 36 majors balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and

social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.

Rai graduated from Union County Acad Info Tech. He plans to graduate from West Point in 2028 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering and continues today as the world's premier leader-development institution, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant--to build, educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets to be commissioned leaders of character committed to the Army Values and ready for a lifetime of service to the Army and Nation. For more information, go to westpoint.edu.

BIRDING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY IN OCT

Special Screening of Flyways:

The Incredible Journey of Shorebirds

Monday, October 7 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Flyways, a PBS nature documentary tells the story of the world's most incredible athletes – shorebirds, who fly up to nine days non-stop without food or water!

Flyways invites you to follow a conservation movement of bird-loving experts and citizen scientists as they mobilize to the challenge of understanding and saving shorebirds.

Registration is recommended

Birding for Biodiversity:

Get Ready for October Big Day

Thursday, October 10 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Join us on Thursday, October 10 at the Library for a presentation by SPFHs teacher Zach Rittner, who will introduce us to a variety of free, helpful apps you can download to help you identify birds and report your findings and prepare you for the Big Day bird count! October Big Day (Saturday, October 12) is the perfect opportunity to contribute to citizen science, enjoy nature, and connect with a global community of bird lovers—whether you're a seasoned birder or just starting out. You can make a difference in protecting bird biodiversity! Please register for the workshop.

October Big Day at

Trailside Nature & Science Center

Saturday, October 12; 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Trailside staff will lead guided bird walks at 9:30am. There will be additional bird-centered activities for all ages during the morning! Registration is encouraged so we can know how many participants to expect.

For more information or to register, go to scotlib.org, email library@scotlib.org or call (908) 322-5007 x 204. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

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ADULT FACILITATOR TRAINING PLANNED FOR OCTOBER

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

The staff at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, are so pleased to welcome 15 new youth facilitators who participated in their 2-day youth facilitator training program in August. These high school age volunteers will help create safe spaces for Imagine's young participants who are grieving the loss of someone close to them.

During their training, the new volunteers learned about Alan Wolfelt's companioning model followed in Imagine's groups, where facilitators walk beside participants on their grief journey. The new youth facilitators also learned about how children may use play to help them process their experiences and understand their feelings.

Imagine's Mountainside Clinical Program Supervisor, Abigail Preece, LPC shared this about the new group of youth facilitators: "Youth facilitators are such an asset and benefit our children and our overall program. Their energy, connection with the kids and dedication is invaluable. This new group of facilitators is

enthusiastic and skilled, and we are excited to welcome them to the Imagine community!"

The demand for Imagine's programs has been consistently increasing, leading to the addition of new groups and Nights of Support for their upcoming program year. In order to meet the growing need for peer support groups for children, youth, young adults and their parents and caregivers, Imagine is looking for additional adult facilitators as well. A 3-day training for adult facilitators is planned for October 12-14 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day.

Imagine's volunteer facilitators come from all walks of life and no special background is required other than a willingness to listen, a heart inclined to serve, and the ability to be with children and adults in grief without trying to fix, solve or give advice. No prior experience is necessary.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must attend all 3 days of the facilitator training. Spanish speaking volunteers are needed

as well. Though Imagine asks facilitators to commit to one year facilitating their peer support groups, many stay on for many years. If you'd like to participate in Imagine's upcoming training and join this incredible team of volunteers, please visit Imagine's website at imagineenj.org and complete their interest form for the upcoming training. If you have questions regarding volunteering with Imagine, please reach out to val@imagineenj.org. The staff at Imagine hope to welcome you to their wonderful team of volunteers!

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and 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. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineenj.org.

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(above) Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss welcomed 15 new youth facilitators.

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LONG-TIME PUPPY RAISERS HONORED

The Seeing Eye

The Seeing Eye recently honored five long-time puppy raisers with induction to “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies. The non-profit also honored the Seeing Eye puppy raising club volunteers with two awards, the Outstanding Leader Award and the 20-year Leader Award. Finally, 34 exceptional college-bound puppy raisers were awarded college scholarships totaling \$64,000.

“Each year, The Seeing Eye’s Family Day is a celebration of all the hard work and dedication of our volunteer puppy raising families,” said Seeing Eye director of canine development Peggy Gibbon. “An army of volunteers provides each Seeing Eye puppy with a loving home environment, socialization, and basic training that prepares them to become Seeing Eye dogs for people who are blind.”

“We’re actively recruiting puppy raisers and puppy sitters for our upcoming litters that are planned for the coming months. If you’re interested in joining our community of dog lovers, now is a great time to reach out to us and learn what puppy raising is all about,” said Gibbon. “We need homes and families of all shapes and sizes for our puppies because fully trained Seeing Eye dogs are placed in similarly diverse families and living situations with people who are blind.”

A puppy raiser family is responsible for providing a loving and nurturing home environment for approximately one year. During

that time, the raiser is responsible for teaching basic obedience, house manners, bringing the puppy to Seeing Eye puppy club meetings and socialization trips in their area. The Seeing Eye puppy could be a German shepherd, Labrador retriever, golden retriever, or a Labrador/golden retriever cross.

Puppy raisers must live within New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware or New York (Rockland or Orange Counties) so they can attend regular puppy club meetings where they will receive help and coaching with their puppies. All veterinary expenses are covered by The Seeing Eye and a stipend is provided to help cover the cost of dog food. If a Seeing Eye puppy does not graduate from the program, the family who raised the puppy is offered the first option to adopt the puppy they raised. For more information visit seeingeye.org/raise.

Established in 1929, The Seeing Eye provides specially bred and trained dogs to guide people who are blind. Seeing Eye dog handlers experience greatly enhanced mobility and independence, allowing them to retain their active lifestyles. The Seeing Eye is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, bequests, and other planned gifts.

The Seeing Eye is a trademarked name and can only be used to describe the dogs bred and trained at the school’s facilities in Morristown, N.J. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit the website at SeeingEye.org, call 973-539-4425, or email info@seeingeye.org.

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BILINGUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP FOSTER YOUTH

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that runs Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties, proudly recognizes the extraordinary efforts of Advocacy Supervisors Tiffany Mendoza and Wendy Monterrosa. Amid a significant shortage of bilingual volunteers, each has embraced the role of primary advocate on five cases with Spanish-speaking children, biological parents or resource parents, showcasing their commitment to making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children.

Tiffany and Wendy have stepped up to bridge

this gap, in addition to their work supervising a team of volunteer advocates. Their efforts in taking on these additional 10 cases total, navigating complex situations where language barriers could impede access to essential services and support for children and their families, underscore the urgent need for bilingual community members to join CASA of Passaic and Union Counties as volunteer advocates.

The need for bilingual Spanish-English CASA volunteers is more pressing than ever. Child Focus is actively seeking community members fluent in both English and Spanish to join CASA of Passaic and Union Counties.

Volunteers will undergo comprehensive training to become effective advocates for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. This training equips volunteers with the skills needed to navigate court proceedings, build trust with children, and collaborate with caseworkers and attorneys.

For those interested in making a difference, the first step is to attend an information session in Union County: Wed., Oct. 9th or 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Colleen Fraser Building at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield; Wed., Oct. 16 at noon in the Elizabeth office at 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor.

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