

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 112 • January 2025



**NEW YEAR
NEW DREAMS
NEW HOUSE?**

*Make Your Move
with Mary!*

**WISHING YOU
A FANTASTIC 2025**



Mary DePaola
Broker Associate

**Personal,
Professional, Proven**

Coldwell Banker Realty
209 Central Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Cell: 908-963-8673 (Best #)

Office: 908-233-5555

Mary.depaola@cbrealty.com

2024 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Township of Scotch Plains hosted a holiday celebration on Sunday, December 8th at the Alan M. Augustine Village Green. The event was supported by the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association. There were performances, photos with Santa, face painting, vendors and more. The grand finale was the Christmas tree lighting.



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANCASTER, PA
PERMIT NO. 1325

ECRWSS



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Scotch Plains Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," "Comment," and "Share."

*****ECRWSSDDM*****
**POSTAL PATRON
SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076**



in times of need, we're here for our community

Nelson Espeland, Personal Financial Representative

908-233-6300

nelson@allstate.com

2284 South Avenue, Scotch Plains



Securities offered by Personal Financial Representatives through Allstate Financial Services, LLC (LSA Securities in LA and PA). Registered Broker-Dealer. Member FINRA, SIPC. Main Office: 151 North 8th Street, Suite 450, Lincoln, NE 68508. (877) 232-2142. Check the background of this firm on FINRA's BrokerCheck website <http://brokercheck.finra.org>. © 2023 Allstate Insurance Co.

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Scotch Plains Monthly is published by Renna Media. 9,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Scotch Plains, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

©2025 Contents of this newspaper cannot be reproduced without written consent from Renna Media LLC.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

ADVERTISING

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



Find us on online: rennamedia.com
[facebook.com/ Scotch Plains Monthly](https://facebook.com/ScotchPlainsMonthly)

OPEN-MIC REFERENDUM FORUM – JAN 16

Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents are invited to a in-person, open-mic community in the Terrill Middle School Auditorium, 1301 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains on January 16, 2025, at 7 p.m. to learn how the Jan. 28 vote would address the space constraints and pressing infrastructure needs in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, at a significantly lower cost than the last referendum. This is the 2nd of 2 forums offered, the other was held on Dec. 16, 2024.

Both events will allow community members to hear a presentation about the January 28 vote and then ask questions of the administrators and Board of Education members who helped form this referendum based on community feedback. The event will be open microphone, meaning residents will have the opportunity to ask questions publicly and hear the questions of others.

On Jan. 28, voters will consider a proposal that captures \$11.4 million in state aid to offset local costs and is based on community feedback. Voters will be asked to consider two independent questions:

Question 1 – Acquire La Grande School for space and HVAC upgrades - \$44.8 million (state aid covers \$11.4 million)

Free up nine classrooms across the elementary schools and ease space constraints with the purchase of La Grande School and

relocation of all pre-kindergarten classes to this building. The cost of minor renovations would be funded by the district's Capital Reserve, which is an account earmarked for capital improvements that do not fit within the regular operating budget.

No expansion, complete renovation, or redistricting.


Critical upgrades to HVAC, electrical, and fire alarm systems, as well as universal air conditioning across all schools.

Question 2 - Funding La Grande School into the future - \$1.1 million annually

Fund the annual costs for building and support staff for La Grande School including: administrator, nurse, secretaries, custodial staff, security officer, and buildings and grounds personnel.

If both questions pass, the owner of a home assessed at the average in Scotch Plains and Fanwood could expect to pay \$21-\$24 per month. The district would also stand to receive \$11.4 million in state aid, which is collected from all New Jersey taxpayers and only made available to districts that have voter approval of a referendum.

Residents who cannot attend the forums should read the FAQs section of spfk12.org/future and email questions to future@spfk12.org.



SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VOTE TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

A SCALED-BACK PLAN TO IMPROVE LEARNING SPACES FOR STUDENTS WITH \$11.4 MILLION IN STATE AID

QUESTION 1

\$10.5 million - Free up nine classrooms across the elementary schools and ease space constraints with the purchase of La Grande School and relocation of all pre-kindergarten classes to this building.

- Funds from the district's Capital Reserve would cover costs of minor renovations to La Grande School.
- Redistricting would no longer be part of our plan.

QUESTION 2

\$34.2 million - Critical upgrades to HVAC, electrical, and fire alarm systems, as well as universal air conditioning across all schools.

\$1.1 million - Fund the annual costs for building and student support staff for La Grande School.

***\$21-\$24 per month for the owner of a home assessed at Scotch Plains and Fanwood's average if both questions pass.**

CREATING SPACES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS.

Two Ways to Vote


IN-PERSON

Polls open Tuesday, January 28 from 2-8 pm at usual polling locations.

BY MAIL

Applications can be mailed to the Clerk's Office by January 21 OR requested in-person at the County Clerk's Office in Westfield up until 3 pm on January 27.

Ballots must be postmarked for return or left in a drop box by Tuesday, January 28.



EMAIL FUTURE@SPFK12.ORG OR VISIT SPFK12.ORG/FUTURE

Considering Relocation, Retirement or Second Home?

- You're Invited -

ideal-LIVING

REAL ESTATE SHOW

THE PREMIER RELOCATION EVENT

Exhibits, Seminars,
Discovery Travel & More.



JANUARY 25-26
Sat 10am-4pm • Sun 11am-3pm
BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT
700 COMMONS WAY, BRIDGEWATER, NJ

Come Find Your Ideal Place at the Show!

**VIEW DOZENS OF COMMUNITIES FROM NC, FL, SC, VA, GA, DE, PA, TN,
PLUS MEXICO, GREECE, PANAMA, AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

- Compare the best new places to vacation, retire or relocate - in one convenient location.
- Discover areas that afford high quality of life yet very low taxes.
- Get answers to your questions by meeting personally with relocation experts & home builders.

Attend Workshops & Presentations Designed to Help You Find Your Ideal Place

- How to Choose Your Ideal Place (Workshop/Relo Guide)
- International Destinations
- New Home – Envision Yours
- Strategies for Investing & Reducing Taxes
- Selling Your Home in Today's Market



SHOW PASS
ADMIT TWO

ideal-LIVING
REAL ESTATE SHOW

**THE PREMIER
RELOCATION EVENT**
SATURDAY, 10AM - 4PM & SUNDAY, 11AM - 3PM

JANUARY 25-26, 2025
BRIDGEWATER MARRIOTT
700 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ

Visit: ideal-living.com/RM
CALL FOR INFO: 800-736-0321



RSVP and receive a FREE Relocation Guide at the Show.

SCOTCH PLAINS SENIOR HOLIDAY PARTY

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, Scotch Plains seniors celebrated the holiday season at the Shady Rest County club. available afterwards. Also, there was music to really get everyone more into the holiday spirit! What a fun event for the seniors of Scotch Plains!

The event included a delicious lunch, and coffee and dessert were



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Scotch Plains Monthly page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

CUSTOM MATTRESSES MADE TO ORDER!
Any Size • Natural • Double Sided • Affordable Mattresses

A Family Business Since 1902.
ORANGE MATTRESS
— CUSTOM BEDDING —
800-761-1100
mycustombedding.com

• Mattresses • Mattress Toppers
• Box Springs • Pillows
• Round Beds • Hybrid Mattresses
• Adjustable Beds • Custom Sheets

Call Today or Visit Our Showroom in Clark, NJ.
1049 Raritan Road

Will beat any competitor price for same or similar product.

Al's Carpentry Home Improvements **25 Years in Business**

Bathrooms - Basements - Decks - Tile
Additions- Doors/Windows - Molding - Drywall
Kitchens - Roofing - Siding - Plumbing - Electrical
Int. & Ext. Painting - Household Cleanouts

Call: 908.451.2230
alscarpentry11@aol.com

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER
Electrical Lic. # 14616 & Plumbing w #8660



Call Today for a Free Estimate! ☎ 855.624.6655



Masonry



Roofing & Siding




Windows & Doors



Interior Remodeling



Decks & Porches

AS SEEN ON
**GEORGE
TO THE
RESCUE**




*Magnolia*TM
HOME REMODELING GROUP

ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS
MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES

Payment Plans

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

0% Plans Available!

Estimated monthly payments.
Rates & payments based on credit approval.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS ALSO AVAILABLE

Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

NJDCA 13VH07755300



MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com

DONATIONS NEEDED PANCAKE BREAKFAST GIFT BASKETS

Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary

The Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary is gearing up to host another amazing Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 23, 2025. To help make this annual get-together even more fun and exciting, donations are being collected for gift baskets that will be auctioned off during the event.

Only new items will be accepted, and no shoes, clothing or stuffed animals are needed. Please consider donating items for inclusion in the following themed basket prizes:

Baking – Wellness - Gardening - Sports - Pets - Health - Children - Scrapbooking - Coffee/Tea - Comic Books - Arts and Crafts - Italian Dinner - Games – Vacation – Holiday Items and Crazy Socks. Baskets and ribbon would also be very much appreciated.

We also encourage donors to put together their own gift baskets using the various themes above. This would be a great project for a family, a scout troop or other groups that would like to contribute to this worthy fundraiser.

The Auxiliary will be collecting donations on the following dates at the Rescue Squad building at 1916 Bartle Avenue Starting January 18 through February 15, 2025 on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7-9 p.m., and Saturdays from 10-1 p.m.

The Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary meets once a month, and its grass roots function is to assist the Squad in many capacities – from attending town functions such as street fairs, concerts and holiday events in order to connect with the community and promote Squad interests to holding fundraisers and performing outreach to squad and fellow auxiliary members.

If interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary, come by the Squad building one evening to pick up an application, or email SPRSAuxiliary@scotchplainsrescuesquad.com.

Thank you for your support!

AN UNUSUAL GOOSE REHABBED AND RELEASED

The Raptor Trust

The Brant goose, with its compact size and striking black-and-white plumage, is a remarkable bird. Adapted to drink saltwater, these geese embark on long migratory journeys from their Arctic breeding grounds to coastal winter

habitats. Look for them in estuaries, mudflats, and saltmarshes, where they thrive throughout the winter months.

Recently, The Raptor Trust treated a Brant goose (Admit #21-4190) found in Long Valley with wounds from a predator attack. After intensive care, including suturing lacerations, treating an eye injury and parasites, this resilient bird was successfully released at Sandy Hook on November 2nd.

ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information about upcoming events, to make a donation, and volunteer opportunities visit info@theraptortrust.org. To report an injured wild bird call 908-647-2353.



(above) We're thrilled to see this Brant goose take to the skies (or water) once more! It was a charming patient.

Photo by The Raptor Trust

1-800-TEAM-LAW®

INJURED?

TELL US YOUR STORY. THE CONSULTATION IS FREE.

TOBIN • KESSLER • GREENSTEIN • CARUSO • WIENER • KONRAY

ONE OF NEW JERSEY'S TOP-RATED LAW FIRMS

\$10
MILLION
Medical Malpractice

\$18
MILLION
Construction Site Accident

\$1.9
MILLION
Car Accident



- Personal Injury
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Workers' Compensation

136 Central Avenue
Clark, New Jersey
1-800-TEAM-LAW
+12 Office Locations

www.teamlaw.com

Blow Out Clearance Sale 50 – 70% OFF

La Marque Furs

908.322.1414

LaMarqueFurs.com

1721 E 2nd Street
Scotch Plains

MY HANDYMAN & PAINTER



QUALITY HOME IMPROVEMENTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

- Deck Repairs & Staining
- Sheetrock, Install & Repair
- Painting, Electric & Plumbing
- Windows, Siding & Roofing
- Basement Waterproofing

732-331-9572

*General
Handyman
Services*

www.MyHandymanAndPainter.com

View our Google Reviews.



Licensed & Insured
License #13VH11554200



*Duke says
"Adopt,
Don't
Shop."

Pet friendly
- We support
animal rescues*

FREE ESTIMATES!

IT'S THE SEASON FOR INDOOR REMODELLING

KITCHEN UPDATING

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS



SHEETROCK, PAINTING & HOME REPAIRS



MY HANDYMAN & PAINTER LLC. 100 WALNUT AVE, SUITE 210. CLARK NJ 07066

VIDEO MAGNIFIER TO AID WITH READING

Scotch Plains Public Library

The Scotch Plains Public Library has received a high-definition desktop video magnifier for use within the library. The device is simple to use, allowing for adjustment of brightness, color, and magnification of books, photos, documents, and other items. Anyone interested in using the magnifier should ask at the Adult Services desk for a demonstration.

Local resident Veronique Cordier and her family graciously donated the magnifier in memory of her mother, Anne Marie Nabi, in the hope that it would be a benefit to seniors in our community. Mrs. Nabi was an avid reader, and the first female student to attend Union College full-time and never lost her devotion to education.

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

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools is excited to recognize 16 exceptional teachers and educational services professionals nominated for the 2024-25 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program.

Each year, New Jersey school districts nominate their educators for the prestigious Governor's Educator of the Year Award through the New Jersey Department of Education. The program seeks to recognize educators "who have gone above and beyond in their service to New Jersey's students" and to create a culture that recognizes excellence and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators.

"On behalf of the district and Board of Education, I want to say 'congratulations' to the 16 teachers and educational services professionals who were recognized through the Governor's Educator of the Year program," said Superintendent Joan Mast, Ed.D. "Their hard work and dedication to student success is appreciated by all of us in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools."

THE GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS ARE:

TEACHERS:

Alexandra Graham, Brunner Special Ed. Teacher
 Jessica Mandy, Coles 2nd Grade Teacher
 Paige Kovacs, Evergreen Special Ed. Teacher
 Kristen Zmuda, McGinn Special Ed. Teacher
 Marina Beirne, School One 1st Grade Teacher
 Katelyn Washuta, Nettingham Special Ed. Teacher
 Ellen Christiano, Terrill Math Teacher
 Lorissa Clark, SPFHS Spanish & ESL Teacher

SERVICE PROFESSIONALS:

Rosemarie Pearce, Brunner Classroom Aide
 Deborah Mehl, Coles Support Specialist
 Patricia Compierchio, Evergreen Classroom Aide
 Katherine Dreyer, McGinn Classroom Aide
 Jerri Tanella, McGinn Classroom Aide
 Carol Ekstrand, School One Classroom Aide
 Lori Sciachitano, Nettingham Classroom Aide
 Denise Palozzola, SPFHS Guidance Counselor

NISCHWITZ
Feed & Fuel
 EST. 1895
 Feed. Pet. Lawn. Garden. Salt. Fuel.

BACKYARD CHICKENS
FEED & SUPPLIES
 Feed. Treats.
 Scratch. Oyster Shells.
 Supplements. Coops.
 Feeders/Waterers. Bedding.

FOR ALL YOUR WINTER NEEDS
 Heating Oil. Kerosene. Propane.
 Diesel Fuel. Wood Pellets.
 Salt. Sand. Calcium.
 Pet-Friendly Ice Melt.

DEER AND WILDLIFE FEED.
 Serving the local community for over 120 years!

www.nischwitzfeedandfuel.com
 223 Front Street, So. Plainfield
908-756-0947
 Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm, Sat. 8am - 4pm

WILD BIRD SEED SALE!
10% OFF
 SEED. SUET. HOUSES. FEEDERS.
 Now through January 31, 2025


Puppies brought to
 your next **Event.**
 Really, Really Fun
 Totally Interactive!!
 Great for ages 1½ to adults
 call **718-930-1914**
 to book your next puppy party
www.PUPPYPARTY.com
info@puppyparty.com


SAM'S LANDSCAPING
 COMPLETE PROPERTY CARE
YOUR LOCAL HARDSCAPE & LANDSCAPE EXPERTS
LEAF REMOVAL/PROPERTY CLEANUP
 ENJOY OUR OFF-SEASON HARDSCAPING SERVICES SUCH AS PAVERS AND PATIOS!
 FREE ESTIMATES
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL OF OUR SERVICES
SAMS LANDSCAPING.COM
 CUSTOMER SERVICE - OUR BUSINESS: LANDSCAPING - OUR SPECIALTY!


 TEXT OR CALL
 908-441-7302

SAANVI SURESH'S RESEARCH FEATURED AT MIT CONFERENCE

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

Saanvi Suresh, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, recently presented research at the MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference on a pothole detection and autonomous repair system. In addition, a research paper she contributed to was published by The Governor's School of Engineering & Technology at Rutgers University.

"Saanvi is already contributing to the fields she is interested in and thinking of unique ways to solve problems," said SPFHS Principal Dr. Warren Hynes. "We are proud of her for doing such meaningful work for the greater good."

Saanvi, who is also captain of the Raiders Robotics team, was selected to attend the Governor's School last summer as part of the state's program to support high-achieving high school students who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects. As part of the four-week program, she and a team of other high school students from around the state researched ways to locate and fill potholes, created a small-scale prototype of the concept, and presented their findings. The group designed a system to be installed on a city street sweeper – with the front end detecting the potholes and the back end filling the potholes.

"The idea was that in cities of the future, a city sweeper could go over the pothole and detect and

fill it using instant asphalt that hardens as more and more vehicles drive over it," Saanvi explained.

In August, she and the team submitted their research and were accepted under the Humanity track to present at the MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference, held in October in Boston. The experience was one that Saanvi said she'll never forget.

Saanvi is interested in majoring in computer engineering in college. She said the research opened her eyes to the possibilities for the future and allowed her to explore the real-world applications of the field.

"I want to be able to invent something and create something that helps a lot of people," she said. "Something like this pothole repair technology can help so many people, especially as they're commuting to and from work."

Saanvi said that the teachers and staff at SPFHS have been supportive of her goals. Raiders Robotic Coach Matthew Ducker Duffy, Biology Teacher Lauren DeNicola, and Supervisor of Science, Engineering, and Gifted & Talented Guida Faria have all helped her explore the field of engineering and computer science. Faria nominated her for the Governor's School and was instrumental in the process. While at SPFHS, Saanvi has also taken part in computer programming courses and AP Computer Science classes offered by SPFHS.



(above) Saanvi Suresh's research on pothole detection and autonomous repair system earns recognition. Courtesy photo

TWO FAMILY BUSINESSES ARE BACK TOGETHER.

WOOLLEY WELCOMES BACK C.T. WILLIAMS & SON PLUMBING

We are a family-owned company celebrating 100 years of honest, high quality service. We are a full-service installation, maintenance and repair company. Need a fuel delivery? We offer automatic fuel delivery, budgets and service plans.



N. Woolley Master HVACR contractor Lic. # 1261
Todd Williams NJ Master plumber Lic #10534



Stay warm with Woolley. Contact us for all your HVAC, FUEL AND PLUMBING needs.

908-760-0583
woolleyfuel.com



WOOLLEY'S PROUD PARTNERS **BIOHEAT** **WEIL-McLAIN**
Williamson **Aprilaire** **LUXAIRE** **Rheem**

Score big savings on heating and cooling costs for years to come by replacing your old, outdated equipment.

0% INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS
NEW HEATING & A/C SYSTEM

*Subject to credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. Ask the vendor for details. Credit is extended by Synchrony Bank. ©2024 Synchrony. All rights reserved. May Not Be Combined With Other Offers. Expires: 1/31/2025.

Is your heating system over 10 years old? Did your system struggle last season? Consider a more efficient replacement. Avoid last minute emergencies. **LET WOOLLEY PROVIDE YOU WITH A FREE NO OBLIGATION ESTIMATE.**

BENEFIT FOR FIBROLAMELLAR CANCER FOUNDATION

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter of UNICO, a dedicated Italian-American service organization, proudly sponsored the 9th annual Pig Gig fundraiser—an unforgettable afternoon of live music and a pig roast benefiting the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation. Held on November 10, 2024, the event brought together local residents, businesses, musicians, and supporters to raise awareness of this rare liver cancer that primarily affects adolescents and young adults.

Each year, Pig Gig is hosted by Scotch Plains resident and professional musician Glenn Alexander in honor of his late nephew, Jay Alexander, who tragically lost his battle with Fibrolamellar cancer at the age of 20—just 32 days after his tumor was discovered. Glenn’s heartfelt dedication to raising awareness for this rare form of cancer, which occurs in individuals with no prior history of liver disease, has made Pig Gig a beloved annual tradition. People travel from near and far for this event!

This year’s event featured an incredible lineup of musical performances, including Glenn and his daughter Oria of Glenn & Oria, The Lonesome Pines, Joe D’Urso, Anthony Tamburro & Louis Bevere, and Glenn Alexander & Shadowland with special guest Richie “LaBamba” Rosenberg. The afternoon was filled with lively performances, delicious food and beverages, and an outpouring of support from all those in attendance.

“Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO is proud to sponsor this incredible event. It’s always a

fantastic day, with great food, drinks, and talented musicians. But the most meaningful part is knowing we’re raising funds that could help save a young person’s life—that’s what makes it all worth it. Here’s to Jay! On behalf of the Pig Gig 9 committee, I want to thank all the sponsors, attendees, and supporters who made this year’s

fundraiser such a success.” said Daniela Sellinger, VP of SP-F UNICO.

To learn more about: The Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation or to make a donation, visit fibrofoundation.org. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter of UNICO and their community efforts, visit unicospf.org.



(above, l-r) Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO members, Jackie Stasenko, Luciana Rodak, Daniela Sellinger, Pam Davita with Glenn Alexander (center).

Photo by Phyllis McQuillan

NEW UNICO MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO swore in 4 new members during its November general membership meeting. UNICO is the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. The organization's objectives are to promote the image of Italian Americans, serve the

community, and contribute to charitable, cultural, and educational organizations and projects.

To learn more, or to become a member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO Chapter, please visit our website unicospf.org, or email spfunico@gmail.com.



(above, l-r) Geri Samuel welcomes new members Angela Kobliska, Catherina Agosta, Pamela DiVita, Romel D'Munda.

Courtesy photo

L&K Sedan & Taxi Service
 ALL • METRO • AIRPORTS • PIERS • NYC • THEATERS
908-276-4444
 Toll Free **877-276-8294 (Taxi)**
KenilworthTaxi.com
Message/text: 908-296-4914
 Scotch Plains to Newark Airport starting at \$50
Open 24 Hours 7 Days a Week

908-889-6584
CAFFREY
TREE & LANDSCAPE
 Trimming for the winter season
 Call For FREE Estimate
QUALITY FIREWOOD
 2600 Rt. 22 E
 Scotch Plains
725 Jerusalem Rd • Scotch Plains
www.CaffreyTree.com

ZACHARY RITTNER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE ARCTIC ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains
 "A Teacher's Reflections on the Arctic Adventure of a Lifetime," presented by Mr. Zachary Rittner, is free and open to the public January 20th at 7:30 p.m. at Mira Vie, 295 South Avenue Fanwood. Come and bring guests to this fascinating, and timely, event presented by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains.

Mr. Rittner has an impressive background: he received his B.S. in Biology from Union College, Schenectady, NY, his M.A. in teaching at Montclair State University, and an M.S. in Land Resources and Environmental Science from Montana State University. He is a National Geographic Certified Educator, a Chris Morgan Wildlife Ambassador, a Gideon Hawley Teacher of the Year in 2020 and 2023, a New Jersey Exemplary Educator, a Seasonal Naturalist Certified Educator, and was recently featured for his bird walks at Trailside Museum.


In 2023 TV host Chris Morgan invited Mr. Rittner to join him in an Arctic polar bear expedition to Svalbard, Norway. His presentation will share his experiences there. Of his arctic experience he says, "Just knowing that there are still wild places left on Earth was very moving and humbling. It was a reminder of just how special a place Earth is and the

responsibility we each have to acknowledge and protect that intrinsic value."



(above) Zachary Rittner

REYNOLDS PLUMBING



(908) 276-5367
 (201) 666-0003
 358 North Avenue East
 Cranford, NJ
www.reynolds-plumbing.net
 Lou DiFabio Lic. #4237 Dan DiFabio Lic. #11749
Residential / Commercial / Industrial

arthur's
FULLY CLIMATE CONTROLLED
SELF STORAGE



50% OFF YOUR FIRST 3 MONTH'S RENT*

FIRST YEAR RATE GUARANTEED!

732.752.6677
 223-B Route 22 E, Green Brook, NJ
accessselfstorage.com

*Offer expires December 31, 2024. Subject to availability. Only one per new customer. Taxes and fees may apply.

REPAIR AND REMODEL SERVICES




- Windows
- Doors
- Flooring
- Drywall
- Masonry
- Aging In Place Certified
- Interior and Exterior Carpentry
- Friendly/Helpful Office Staff

On Time. Done right. Guaranteed.

2,500+ Positive Online Reviews

Fully Insured

License number: 13VH09897400

908-251-9441
Mrhandyman.com

10% OFF LABOR

On labor only, materials not included. Cannot be combined with other offers. Exp. 1/31/25.

TWO SUPER BOWL TROPHIES BROUGHT HOME TO SP-F

Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL

Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL football teams won two Super Bowl trophies when the New Jersey Suburban Youth Football League (NJSYFL) held its championship games for the American Division on Sunday, November 17, and the National Division on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

In the American Division Super Bowl games that were played at Lombardi Field in Old Bridge, the Scotch Plains Fanwood Raider 5th grade team defeated Westfield, 20-6, in the D level final and then the Raider 6th grade squad followed with a 26-6 victory over Bridgewater-Raritan in the C level title game.

However, Scotch Plains Fanwood's bid for the

hat trick was thwarted when the Raider 7th graders fell to Old Bridge, 14-12, in the B level championship game.

Among the eight overall Super Bowl winners in the NJSYFL playoff games this past weekend—four in American and four in National—Scotch Plains Fanwood and Summit were tied for the most championships with two apiece. Summit won its two Super Bowl titles (A and B levels) in the National Division title games on November 16 at A.L. Johnson High School in Clark.

The two Super Bowl trophies titles won by Scotch Plains Fanwood followed the three Super Bowl trophies captured by the Raiders last year on the National Division level. Scotch Plains Fanwood moved up to the larger division—

American - for this 2024 season.

The championship won by the 6th grade Raiders in Old Bridge was the second straight Super Bowl captured by coach Mike Podell and his players. This team won the D level 2023 National Division Super Bowl last November.

The Raider 5th graders who won its 2024 D level Super Bowl in Old Bridge are coached by Tim Green, a former High School star player.

"This a great day for Scotch Plains Fanwood football. The football program is continuing to soar here." said both Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL President Shawn Johnson, who is the head football coach at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School, and Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL Vice President Bruce Moran.



(above) SPF PAL 5th Grade Football Team with Super Bowl trophy



(above) SPF PAL 6th Grade Football Team with Super Bowl trophy

Photos by Bruce Moran

KONANTIQUES
WE BUY ANTIQUES
FREE HOUSE CALLS
908-578-7593

WE BUY: Sterling Silver, Antique Jewelry, Costume Jewelry, Coins, Art, Watches & Clocks, Porcelain, Modern Items (50's, 60's, 70's), Antique Toys, Asian Decorative Arts, Judaica, Lighting, Military Items
 Some Furniture, Hummel & Lladro Figurines

Over 20 years of Experience Located in Summit
 Free on-site consultation at your home or business
info@konantiques.com

• Chem Clean •

Furniture RESTORATION

FURNITURE STRIPPING, REPAIR & REFINISHING
 • Chairs Reglued • Upholstery Service • Fabric Sold
908-322-4433

Hours:
 Tues - Fri: 7:00 am - 4 pm
 Sat: 8:00 am - 12 noon
 www.ccfurniturerestoration.com
 520 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ

I BUY OLD MOTORCYCLES
All Types - Running or Not
 Call or Text Glenn
732-556-7636



Same Day Pick-up
We Pay Cash

BROWNIES VISIT TOWN HALL

Brownie Troop 40158, based out of Coles School at 16 Kevin Rd., got a taste of government life when they visited Town Hall in December. The troop met with Mayor Losardo, who educated them about what a mayor does and the importance of being involved in your community.

They also toured the Police Department with Officer DeFulco. The visit helped the girls earn their Democracy Badge. Scotch Plains was delighted to see the girls' interest in the town's government and wishes them the best of luck going forward!



Courtesy Photos

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:
volgistics.com/appform/2127944197

WE'LL BUY YOUR HOME FOR TOP DOLLAR & NEVER TEAR IT DOWN



We are the Gerckens Family, lifelong local residents. We love our towns' older homes and where others see "tear downs," we see "diamonds in the rough." We offer:

- Attractive Cash Deals
- No home prep, decluttering or repairs
- No open house or looky-loos
- Sell on your schedule - quick or slow
- Leave some things behind if you wish
- Save a bundle on commission

We are buying now and
we only buy one at a time, so...
Call or Text Our Rep Now!

Scott Gleason,
 Sales Associate, Coldwell Banker Realty

Direct 908-698-2630
Office 908-233-5555

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Financial goals aren't achieved overnight.

Personalized service means having a financial advisor who understands you and what you're trying to achieve, and helps to create a unique strategy based on your needs and circumstances.

Let's start building the future today.



Jose H Monroy Jr
 CFP®
 Financial Advisor
 2277 South Avenue
 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
 908-518-0788



MKD-8652E-A AECSPAD 2381108

RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPERS RATE SHEET

We Mail 200,000 Newspapers to Every Home & Business in 30 Towns!

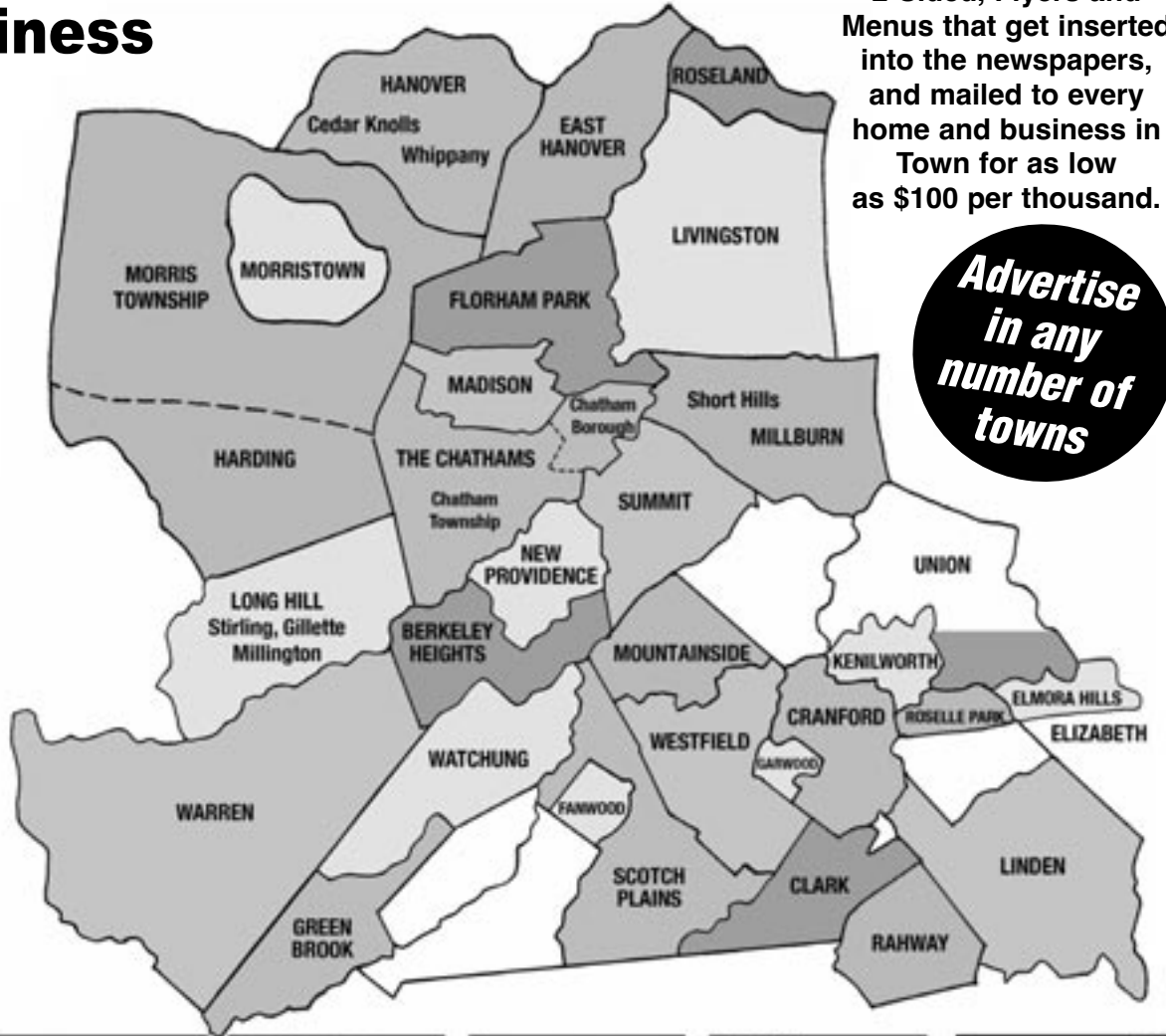
We print Full Color 2-Sided, Flyers and Menus that get inserted into the newspapers, and mailed to every home and business in Town for as low as \$100 per thousand.

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

Call today for FREE consult on marketing and business plans.

RENNA MEDIA.COM

Advertise in any number of towns



| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 5,000 Zip: 07922 | THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,600 Zip: 07928 | Clark Monthly Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07066 |
| CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016 | East Hanover View NJ Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07936 | Elmora Hills ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 <small>Section of Elizabeth, NJ</small> |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023 | Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 6,000 Zip: 07932 | Garwood Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027 | Green Brook Gazette NJ Qty: 3,300 Zip: 08812 | HANOVER TOWNSHIP PRESS NJ CEDAR KNOLLS WHIPPANY Qty: 6,100 Zips: 07927, 07981 | BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033 | NJ LIFE in LINDEN NJ Qty: 18,000 Zip: 07036 | Livingston Monthly NJ Qty: 12,100 Zip: 07039 |
| Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980 | MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940 | Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078 | MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES NJ Qty: 13,500 Zip: 07960, Harding 07976 | MORRISTOWN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 7,000 Zip: 07960 | MOUNTAINSIDE VIEW NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07092 | New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974 | OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ NJ Qty: 13,100 Zip: 07065 |
| Life in Roseland NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068 | ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY NJ Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204 | Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076 | Summit & Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901 | Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial) | WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059 | Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069 | Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090 |

| NEWSPAPER AD RATES | | 1 TOWN | 3 TOWNS | 6 TOWNS | 9 TOWNS | 12 TOWNS | 15 TOWNS | 18 TOWNS | 21 TOWNS | 24 TOWNS | 27 TOWNS | 30 TOWNS |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Units (wide x High) | Size | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Unit (Business card) | 3.25"x2"0 | 100 | 260 | 360 | 460 | 560 | 600 | 660 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 |
| 2 Units | 6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4" | 150 | 360 | 560 | 600 | 700 | 800 | 900 | 1000 | 1100 | 1200 | 1300 |
| 4 Units | 3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4" | 240 | 560 | 900 | 1000 | 1300 | 1600 | 1700 | 1800 | 1900 | 2000 | 2100 |
| 6 Units | 6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4" | 320 | 760 | 1200 | 1400 | 1600 | 1800 | 2000 | 2200 | 2400 | 2600 | 2800 |
| 9 HALF PAGE | 6.5"x9" or 10"x7" | 360 | 860 | 1300 | 1600 | 1900 | 2200 | 2400 | 2600 | 2800 | 3000 | 3200 |
| 12 Units | 6.5"x14" | 400 | 960 | 1400 | 1800 | 2100 | 2400 | 2700 | 3000 | 3300 | 3600 | 3900 |
| 18 FULL PAGE | 10"x14" | 500 | 1200 | 1800 | 2200 | 2500 | 2800 | 3000 | 3300 | 3600 | 3900 | 4300 |
| 2-PAGE SPREAD | (2) 10"x14" | 800 | | | | | | | | | | |
| BACK PAGE | 10"x14" | 600 | | | | | | | | | | |
| FRONT PAGE BANNER | 8.25"x2" | 360 | | | | | | | | | | |
| FRONT PAGE BOX | 1.5"x4.5" | 320 | | | | | | | | | | |

**PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE**

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

Back cover, Front Page Banner and Front Box reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

Rates effective November 1, 2024. Subject to change. See RennaMedia.com for most up to date pricing.

Make Checks payable to Renna Media • Venmo • Zelle •

SPENCER MARTIN NAMED STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Historical Society of Scotch Plains & Fanwood

Spencer Martin, a junior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), has been recognized as the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood Student Volunteer of the Year. As the founder and co-president of the SPFHS History Club, Spencer has forged a vital connection between local students and the Historical Society since the Fall of 2023. Prior to his involvement, student volunteers were rare. There now exists a meaningful bridge between the SPFHS History Club and the Historical Society linking our towns past with its present.

Spencer has organized volunteers to help out at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum, one of Scotch Plains' Revolutionary War-era sites, by managing students who volunteer for two of the museum's biggest events. Alongside Historical Society members, students serve as docents giving tours of the museum and aid children with crafts and games. Visitors to the museum have

remarked how encouraging it is to see students involved in the preservation of their local history.

In addition to volunteering his time to the museum, in May of 2024, Spencer spearheaded a fundraiser on the museum's behalf. Over \$1,000 was raised to help support the preservation of the museum building. His passion and commitment to local history also earned him a seat on the Historical Society's Board of Directors, where he serves as its first student and youngest member.

Spencer's drive, dedication and leadership skills make him an ideal candidate for this award. His outstanding academic record and his involvement in other activities and community organizations outside of the Historical Society only highlight his achievements.

The collaboration between the SPFHS History Club and the Historical Society is an inspiring example of how different generations can come together to support a common cause. Both

organizations are optimistic that this partnership will remain strong. The Historical Society looks forward to continued work with Spencer and future History Club students who will follow in Spencer's footsteps. Together, we will keep history alive across all generations.



(above, l-r) Historical Society Members with the Volunteer of the Year: Darlene Palombo, George Pierson, Spencer Martin, Gloria Broderson, Cathy Thek & Jess Mongold.

Photo by David Bierman

FULL COLOR FLYERS / BROCHURES / MENUS

PRINTING & MAILING TO EVERY HOME & BUSINESS \$100 per thousand

Minimum of 10,000 Inserted in Renna Media Newspapers. PDF artwork supplied. Call for details and custom orders.



PRINTING

8 1/2" x 11" \$45 per thousand

Minimum cost is \$450. Tri-folding add \$15 per thousand. 8.5" x 11" / full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock

11" x 17" \$85 per thousand

Minimum cost is \$850. INCLUDES FOLDING Quarter-fold or Tri-fold, with coupon tab option. 11"x17" / full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock

INSERTING \$55 per thousand

Minimum cost is \$350. Tri-folding add \$15 per thousand.

POST CARD \$120 per thousand

8.5" x 5" / full color / 2 sided / 9 pt. coated stock

STAND-ALONE EDDM

Artwork / Printing / Mail Prep / Shipping / Postage All inclusive price: \$400 per thousand

ARTWORK \$300

Custom illustration, photography available.

Rates effective November 1, 2024. Subject to change. See RennaMedia.com for most up to date pricing.

RENNAMEDIA.COM

JOE RENNA 908-447-1295

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

FULL SERVICE WEBSITE, SEO, SOCIAL MEDIA, & ONLINE MARKETING.



- Video Tape Transfers • DVD & Flash Duplication
- High Speed Photo & Slide Scanning

VIDEO DATA SERVICES®

locally owned since 1984

www.vdsnj.com

facebook.com/vdsnj

email: vdsnjira@gmail.com

908-964-4004

406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083

DO YOU NEED A DUMPSTER?

Professional Delivery & Pickup Affordable

Call to Reserve One Today

We take (but not limited to)...

General Construction

Household Waste

Concrete & Asphalt

Logs & Stumps

Demolition Debris

Bulky Waste



NJ DEP# S27236

908-234-2382

Fast, Friendly, Reliable Service

**Marano & Sons Auto Sales:
Not only do we sell late model pre-owned vehicles,
but we will buy your car!**

Any car no matter how old. We will buyout your lease,
payoff your loan, pick it up at your house.

MARANO & SONS



AUTO SALES INC.

Keeping your car?

Did you know you can purchase an extended warranty for your vehicle?

- coverage up to 120,000 miles - even if you did not buy it from Marano & Sons.

Visit our website to value your car
MaranoSonsAuto.com



Buying & Selling Used Cars & Trucks Since 1955

**Two locations
In Garwood, NJ**

**507-13 South Avenue
150 South Avenue**

**908-789-1551
908-789-0555
Fax 908-789-1792**

LOOKING FOR A CAR, TRUCK OR SUV?

Visit our lots or shop at home. Search over 135 vehicles
by Make / Model/ Year/ Color / Body type / Engine specs / etc.



**Like us on
Facebook!!!**

Credit problems? Call us to get you approved!