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TEENS FOR TEENS HONOR COALITION TO HOUSE HOMELESS

By Elizabeth Baglien

On March 27th, the 12th annual Teens for Teens Gala was held at the Stone House in Warren. Each year, the group of local teenagers chooses a different charity to support through this important fundraiser. The group of 17 teenagers included Fanwood residents Declan Corrigan, Elizabeth Baglien and Alexandra Baglien. This year's gala honored the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, is a nonprofit organization based in Elizabeth, NJ and has provided a safety net for the past 44 years by assisting over 2,500 individuals annually. Not only do they provide emergency shelter and homelessness prevention, but they also advocate for policy changes at all levels of government to ensure access to safe and affordable housing. The Teens for Teens members have even had the privilege of volunteering to work with the Elizabeth coalition, observing the firsthand impact of their work.

Co-President Elizabeth Baglien said, "Teens for Teens is an amazing organization that gives students in high school a chance to make a big impact and help others. I have been involved in Teens for Teens for three years and it has helped me learn more about the issues we face in New Jersey. Being

able to address these problems is so rewarding and has taught me about working for change."

The gala featured a silent auction, raffle baskets, performances from local teens and a presentation from Dan McGuire, CEO of the Elizabeth Coalition. Dan said "We're incredibly fortunate and grateful that they selected us as a partner and beneficiary this year. Aside from the generosity of the organization and their families and friends who came out to support the gala, what really stood out for me was how engaged the teenagers were at every step in the process: outreach, engagement/volunteering with our Bernice's Place after school program for homeless youth, and the gala planning and execution. I want to thank all the members of Teens for Teens for having a big impact on our nonprofit organization!" As we celebrate the success of this year's gala, we are able to see the true impact of the community-driven action. Through the generosity of our guests and donors, as well as the work of our student organizers, this year's event raised over \$25,000.

To learn more about the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and how you can support their mission, visit theelizabethcoalition.org.

Courtesy photo



(above, l-t) Teens for Teens members: Cora Waldron, Grant Parker, Josie Heim, Nate Khichi, Lexi Baglien, John Newall, Cayleigh Kaiser, Shane Costalos, Elizabeth Baglien, Declan Corrigan, Maia Chayapruks, Drew Costalos, Preston Nitche, Matthew Grillon, Maeve Mooney, Emma Grillon and Frances Studer.

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MAY IS FOR MOTHER'S DAY THRIFT SHOP SALES

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League

Looking for a great gift at a small price for all of the special women in your life? Moms, grandmothers, aunts, and other female family members and friends will be sure to enjoy one of the floral arrangements, candy-filled mugs, spring decorations or other accessories available for Mother's Day gifts at the Fanwood-Scotch



(above) The Thrift Shop's annual Vera Bradley Bonanza event starts May 6.

Plains Service League Thrift Shop.

Mother's Day also marks the Thrift Shop's annual Vera Bradley Bonanza event. This is the time of year to snag a bright, uniquely patterned, signature-style Vera Bradley handbag. A wide range of newly-displayed Vera Bradley bags and accessories in all shapes and sizes will be available for purchase starting Tuesday, May 6. There's an excellent chance that you will find a great Mother's Day gift for a special woman in your life—or a welcome addition to your own spring wardrobe.

The all-volunteer Thrift Shop stocks either new or gently-used merchandise donated by members of our community. It's a great way to avoid waste and prolong the useful life of items that no longer serve the needs of their original owners. All sale proceeds outside of store operating expenses are donated to local, non-profit organizations and/or used for student scholarships. That's a win for the environment, for de-cluttered closets, for savvy shoppers and for recipients of grants and college funding.

The Thrift Shop is located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, with operating hours Tuesday-Friday 10 AM to 2:30 PM and Saturday, 10 AM to 1 PM. To learn more about the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, volunteer opportunities and types of donations accepted and sold at the Thrift Shop, please call the shop at (908) 322-5420 during regular business hours.



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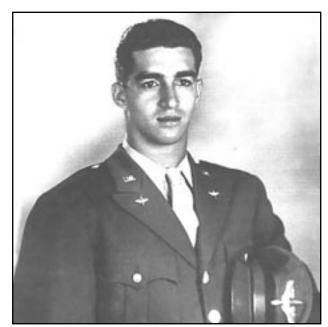
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GREGORY RUFFA NAMED GRAND MARSHAL FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



(above) Gregory Ruffa, Grand Marshal 2025 Memorial Day Parade

Gregory Ruffa, a soon-to-be 100-year-old Scotch Plains resident and WWII veteran, has been named Grand Marshal for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 26, observances will begin with a memorial service at 8:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 209 at 237 Park Avenue at Sunset Place in Scotch Plains.

Ruffa is a talented artist, having run his own advertising agency for nearly 75 years. His most notable creation is the instantly recognizable PSE&G logo.

He is also the author of The Art of Wood Type (2008), which is about the "evolution of typography, from the development of the letterform to the manufacture of wood type."



(above) Gregory Ruffa (center) with the mayors of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Courtesy photo



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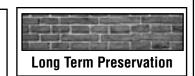
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MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Submitted by Joe McCourt

Memorial Day pays tribute to those American military personnel of all wars who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in service to their country. These fallen heroes will be honored with several events in Scotch Plains and Fanwood on Memorial Day.

On Monday, May 26, observances will begin with a memorial service at 8:00 a.m. at American Legion Post 209 at 237 Park Avenue at Sunset Place in Scotch Plains.

At 9:00 a.m. there will be a memorial service and presentation of wreaths at the Fanwood Memorial Library at 5 Forest Road. A memorial tribute and laying of wreaths will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the War Memorial at Park Avenue and Front Street in downtown Scotch Plains.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade will follow this ceremony. The theme for this year's parade is "In Memory of Many, In Honor of All." Gregory Ruffa, U.S. Army Air Forces veteran of World War II, will serve as the Parade Grand Marshal. The parade will recognize the service, commitment and sacrifice of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have defended our nation and continue to protect our country.

Starting at 10:45 a.m. at the gazebo in downtown Scotch Plains, the parade will proceed along Park Avenue, move down Martine Avenue into the center of Fanwood and end at La Grande Park in Fanwood.

The parade is an exciting event, especially for the younger spectators and participants. However, let us not forget the meaning of Memorial Day and the solemnity of the occasion. On this special day, take some time to remember those men and women who died in service to America to preserve the freedoms which we enjoy today.

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TJ RASBERRY RECEIVES UNSUNG HEROES AWARD

Scotch Plains Public Schools

Tyiane (TJ) Rasberry, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, was recently honored by the Union County School Boards Association with the Unsung Heroes Award.

This prestigious award recognizes a senior from each high school in Union County who is making outstanding contributions to their schools and community. Rasberry was recognized at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 12 at Kean University.

Transferring into SPFHS during his sophomore year, Rasberry immediately fit right into the culture.

"From the moment he joined our high school, he became a positive force," said SPFHS Principal Dr. Warren Hynes. "Thanks to his infectious laugh and relentless optimism, everyone knew TJ in no time."

SPFHS quickly became his home. Staff stopped TJ's counselor in the hallway to share stories of his kindness and good nature, a custodian praised him for being one of the few students who voluntarily helped clean after lunch. and several teachers noticed that he sought out the lone students in a classroom. He gave highfives and hugs as if it were his job.

Rasberry has persevered in both school and life, never letting hardships stop him, Hynes said.

"In school, he has achieved academic success through diligence and strong self-advocacy," Hynes said. "He has thrived outside the classroom, as a starting running back on our football team and as an active member of our Black Student Union. His passion for business has been apparent in his principles of marketing class."

Rasberry's hard work has paid off, and he'll be attending college in the fall.

"Scotch Plains will be a little dimmer without him next year, but we are incredibly proud of him and wish him success in his future," Hynes said. "Congratulations TJ on receiving the Unsung Heroes Award!"





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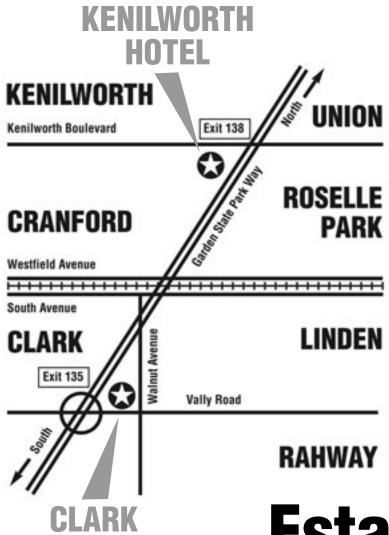
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PATRICK'S DOWNTOWN RACE TO SUMMER 5K

Registration is now open for the 8th annual Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer 5K, which will be held on June 17, 2025.

Visit the link to register:

runsignup.com/PatricksRacetoSummer5k

We are a little over three months away from one of the biggest events in the heart of downtown Scotch Plains. Be sure to register now for \$30 before the price increases on June 9 to \$35. Check in will begin at 6:00 p.m. on June 17, with the Family Fun Run at 7:00 p.m. and the 5K starting at 7:30 p.m.

The race will use the same 5K course as previous years, starting and finishing across from the Fire House on Senger Place, and conclude with an after party with music and BBQ.

The Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer 5K was started in 2015 by a local group of runners who wanted to see a great event to promote downtown Scotch Plains. This group of runners partnered with another group of local residents who previously put on the Patrick J. Allocca Memorial 5K.

The Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer 5K raises money to support charitable recipients and causes and donated over \$25,000 through funds raised from last year's race to various groups and

individuals including Camp Clover, a summer that are part of the Mayor's Wellness Challenge. bereavement camp for children, Play for P.I.N.K, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, the Scotch Plains Fire Department, Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Pantry, Jam Kancer in the Kan Foundation, SPF Scholarship Foundation, local families in need, and more.

The race is also supported by the Township of Scotch Plains and is one of the qualifying races

For ponsorship information Please email patricksdowntownracetosummer5k@gmail.com . The Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer 5K is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Please also "Like" the Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer 5K Facebook page for the latest updates.















(above) The Patrick's Downtown Race to Summer 5K raises money to support charitable recipients and causes and donated to various groups and individuals including Camp Clover, a summer bereavement camp for children, Play for P.I.N.K, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, the Scotch Plains Fire Department, Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Pantry, Jam Kancer in the Kan Foundation, SPF Scholarship Foundation, local families in need, and more.



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GIRLS SCOUT WEEK, WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED

Borough of Fanwood

Girls Scouts Week and Women's History Month were recently celebrated during a meeting of the Borough Council.

Members of Girl Scout Cadettes Troop 40969, Juniors Troop 40187, and Brownies Troop 40246 led the Mayor and Council in the Pledge of Allegiance with Scouts reading the history of the Girl Scouts, which dates back to March 12, 1912, when the first Girl Scout meeting took place.

Proclamations were presented for Girl Scouts Week, March 9-13, and Women's History Month, celebrated during the month of March.

Joan Skubish, co-president of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club, said the organization is starting its 93rd year.

"It's really a tribute to the women who started this that we are still in existence over this period of time," Skubish said.

HEADACHE AND MIGRAINE ESSENTIALS: WORKSHOP – MAY 21

Join us via the Scotch Plains Public Library on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for an engaging and informative virtual program on common types of headache disorders, with a special focus on migraines. This program is designed to educate and support individuals and care partners living with headache or migraine.

This online 60-minute event will feature:

An introductory overview covering the basics of primary/secondary headache, and common contributing factors/triggers, and symptoms of migraine.

A look at what to expect in a headache evaluation, including identifying potential "Red Flags" that may indicate a more serious condition.

An overview of available treatment options and strategies for acute and preventive care to help manage migraine attacks effectively.

Q&A to address participants' questions (note: speaker cannot provide personal medical advice)

The event partner for this program is the National Headache Foundation, which has been focused on elevating the awareness of headache and migraine as legitimate neurologic diseases for over fifty years. Their mission is to create a future where everyone in the world with headache can thrive in optimal, functional and connected lives. To learn more about their work, visit headaches.org.

You must register to receive the link for the event. For more information email library@scotchplainslibrary.org or call (908) 322-5007 x 204.



Trish Isack, scholarship chairperson of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains College Club, said the Club's scholarship is in its 89th year. The fund provides financial assistance to young women

who are pursuing a college education. Since 1936 over \$810,000 in scholarship money has been awarded to 595 female students. A total of \$31,000 was awarded last year to 13 recipients.



(above) Brownie, Junior, and Cadette Girl Scouts lead Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Borough Council in the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the Tuesday, March 19th regular Council meeting as part of the celebration of Girls Scout Week.

Photo by Paul Peyton

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for the following Fanwood Recreation programs for children:

Sports Camps: Skateboarding Camp, TGA Premier Junior Golf Camp, Junior Tennis Lessons, Squirts Multi Sports; Parent & Me Multi Sports Squirts, Parent & Me Soccer Squirts, Soccer Squirts, Squirts T-Ball, T-Ball–Parent Assisted, NFL Flag Football Camp, Multi Sports Camp, Golf Camp, Basketball Camp, Track & Field Camp

Science & Technology Camps: Eureka: The Inventors' Camp, Red Hot Robots Camp; Brixology: Engineering with LEGOs; Science on the Move: Engineers, Chemists, and Nature Explorers; Codes, Clues, and the Cosmos; Aeronautics Flight Lab; My Code Dragon's Python Coding Bootcamp

Skills Programs: Babysitting Certification, Junior First Responders

Creative Camps: Fashion Camp, PaintArt Workshop, CreateArt Workshop, Summer Art Workshop: Learn Anime/Manga Drawing

Academic Programs: Middle School Summer Book Club, SAT Boot Camp

Performing Arts Camps: Hip Hop Experience Summer Dance Camp, Musical Theater Camp Intensive

Plus... Summer Park Program, Tweens & Teens Travel Camp

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

NEW KRANZ NOVEL

A 10-year-old android girl with a knack for the hack is the protagonist for Tom Kranz's latest science fiction novel, Hack Rescue: Chasing a Cyber Killer.

The story revisits the hero of Tom's first two sci-fi novels, Rick Stein, who comes out of retirement to hunt down the terrorist hacker who has taken control of the Moon dome's atmosphere processor, waste disposal system and the server controlling the beloved android children who have become family to residents of both the Earth and Moon. The little girl, Peach, travels three thousand miles at Rick's side in search of the hacker in hopes of using the 2090 version of cyber-code to neutralize the threats. She forges a friendship with the rebel Gas Heads who combine forces with Rick's team to root out the hacker and stop the killing.

Hack Rescue is the third book in the Earth-Moon Rescue series that began with the five-star novel Time Travel Rescue: Escape from the 20th Century and followed by Moon Rescue: Escape from the Dome.

"I've been a science fiction fan since watching Lost in Space on TV as a kid," says Tom. "I was addicted to the original Star Trek series and still look for new takes on sci-fi in movies and streaming venues. It's harder to write science fiction than I thought because you have to walk a line between science and fantasy, but I think readers will enjoy it."

Hack Rescue is available on Amazon as an ebook, paperback and audiobook.

CDC THEATRE PRESENTS LEGALLY BLONDE

Harvard's beloved blonde takes the stage at CDC Theatre in Cranford by pink storm in this fun, upbeat story of self-discovery!

A fabulously fun, award-winning musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde, the musical, follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. With music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe & Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach, the show is based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture.

Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances - this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal! Elle Woods appears to have it all. Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend Warner dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle

quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

Edgar Hidalgo directs the cast which includes Melissa Calicchio as Elle, Zach Mazouat as Emmet, Rachel Love as Paulette, Larry Brustofski as Callahan and Gabe Weiss as Warner. They are joined by a talented cast of supporting actors and a fabulous ensemble! With Musical Director Kaeden Oh, Choreographer

Jaimie Bass, Stage Manager Dana Dispoto and Producer Elizabeth Howard on the production team, the show promises to be the crescendo of the 106th season at CDC Theatre. Performances on May 2-18, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 11 and 18 at 2 p.m. For the best selection and prices, tickets can be ordered by visiting cdctheatre.org. This production is made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. CDC THEATRE Presents **Heather Hach**

Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

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LEGALLY BLONDE is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also spolled by MTI, www.mtishows.com

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cdctheatre.org 908-276-7611

VICTORIAN CHINA PAINTING AT OSBORN CANNONBALL HOUSE

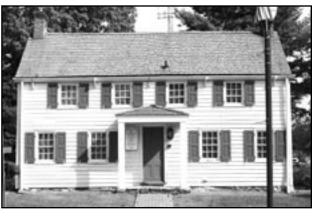
On Sunday, May 4, 2025, The Osborn Cannonball House Museum, located at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, will be open to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Costumed docents will be available to give tours of this c. 1750 house, which was home to one of Scotch Plains' earliest families. You can hear the amazing story of how the home got its name and how the Osborn family helped in the war for our country's freedom. The Osborn Cannonball House is furnished with both antique Colonial and Victorian decor.

From the museum's vast antique clothing collection, there will be on display a variety of late 19th and early 20th century traveling clothes.

In addition, we will have an exhibit on Victorian china painting. Did you know that during the late 19th and early 20th centuries women throughout America engaged in a fad that swept through our nation? You might be surprised to learn that the mania which took our nation by storm was "Victorian China Painting." Learn how this craze crossed all

economic barriers by providing American women with an appropriate and respectable way to express themselves. Additionally, discover how this fad created new job opportunities for poorer women who could earn wages by engaging in "a form of employment befitting their sex." We hope you will join us!





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Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NI



Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023

Long Hill

LEADER

MOUNDIN-

Qty: 3,500

Zips: 07933.

07946,07980



Qty: 6,000 Zip: 07932



Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027

Short Hills

MILLBURN

MONTHLY

Qty: 8,200

Zips: 07041,

07078



Oty: 3,300 Zip: 08812

MORRIS

TOWNSHIP

Qty: 13,500

Zip: 07960,

Harding 07976



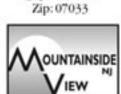
Zips: 07927, 07981

HANOVER

GREEN



Qty: 7,000 Zip: 07960



Qty: 3,500

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Qty: 13,100 Zip: 07065



Qty: 3,000

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Qty: 6,300

Zip: 07940

Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204



Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076



Oty: 9,600 Zip: 07901

OWNS

360

560

900

1200

1300

1400

1800

3

TOWNS

260

360

560

760

860

960

1200



Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)

TOWNS

460

600

1000

1400

1600

1800

2200

12

OWNS

560

700

1300

1600

1900

2100

2500



Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059

18

TOWNS

660

900

1700

2000

2400

2700

3000

15

TOWNS

600

800

1600

1800

2200

2400

2800



Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069

24

TOWNS

800

1100

1900

2400

2800

3300

3600

21

OWNS

1000

1800

2200

2600

3000

3300

700



Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

30

TOWNS

1000

1300

2100

2800

3200

3900

4300

27

OWNS

900

1200

2000

2600

3000

3600

3900

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		"x2"0 100	Ŋ
2 Uni	ts 6.5"x2" or 3.2	5"x4" 150	7
4 Uni	ts 3.25"x8" or 6.	5"x4" 240	1
6 Uni	ts 6.5"x6.25" or 1	0"x4" 320	7
9 HA	LF PAGE 6.5"x9" or 1	0"x7" 360	,
12 Uni	ts 6.5	x14" 400	,
18 FUI	L PAGE 10	x14" 500)
2-PAGE SPREAD (2) 10"x14"		x14" 800	П
BACK P	AGE 10'	x14" 600	7
FRONT	PAGE BANNER 8.2	5"x2" 360	П
FRONT	PAGE BOX 1.5"	x4.5" 320	,

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The West Fields Chapter of the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) recently held its quarterly meeting at the Westfield Recreation Room located in the town hall. After a short business meeting and awards presentation, Steven Santucci gave a lecture on Jockey Hollow encampments.

The Sons of the American Revolution is the largest male lineage organization in the United States and consists of 50 state-level societies with more than 590 local chapters, several international societies including Canada, France, Germany, Spain, and an International Society, and over 37,000 members.

For more information on joining the NJSSAR email chrissands44@aol.com.

(right) West Fields member James Sanford is Presented with the SAR 250th Bronze Medal.

Courtesy photo







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NEW JERSEY: POWERED BY SMALL BUSINESS

It would not be a stretch to say that the New Jersey economy is built on the backs of the small businesses that call the state their home. Nearly one million SMB enterprises are registered in the state as of 2024, a sector of the economy that now accounts for half of all employment in the state. Things are competitive, to say the least. So, how do you, as a business owner, stand out?

WHAT TO BOOST YOUR ONLINE VISIBILITY? **VISIT NJLOCALINFO.COM**

To answer that question, we need to first understand the shape of the problem facing many small business owners. There is one very critical thing putting many businesses at a massive disadvantage, not only when compared to other SMBs, but against larger competitors as well. That key ingredient? Digital marketing.

A recent Forbes report found that over half of all small business growth in 2025 comes from digital sources. Translation? Without a digital presence, you are leaving a huge chunk of your potential revenue on the table.

NJLOCALINFO TO THE RESCUE

help level the playing field, To NJLocalInfo.com has developed a two-fold visibility solution that will allow your business to quickly and sustainably build organic traffic in your local market. They accomplish this both by establishing high-quality backlinks to build site authority, and by promoting your business directly to customers through their own directory. PROVEN SYSTEM

Their content marketing services are based on their "Create, Repurpose, Distribute" system, which combines the talents of a team of human experts with leading automation technologies to facilitate broad-reach campaigns on a budget. The system relies on informative yet engaging content, which is then transformed into various formats using automation and distributed to hundreds of high-authority channels

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