Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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RESCUE SQUAD'S ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

Help Us Continue To Help You, Your Family, and Your Neighbors AT NO COST

The Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad has mailed its 2025 annual fund drive letter, emphasizing the importance of the service the organization has been providing to local residents for over 88 years. Unlike many other ambulance services, the squad is 100% volunteer. Not one of our over 90 members is paid; we work for pride, not pay, so we NEVER bill for our services.

When one of our ambulances arrives at an emergency, highly trained and certified emergency medical technicians (EMTs) provide an exceptional level of care and compassion. Throughout the year, family members and friends write to thank us for being there when they needed us the most.

The volunteer squad uses 100% of your tax-deductible* donation to fully stock our ambulances with the most innovative equipment. Last year, a new, state-of-the-art ambulance was purchased to continue the tradition of extraordinary service.

The organization also holds ongoing training and provides uniforms free to our members.

Please help us get the word out to your family, friends, and even your employers (who will often match contributions) that our fund drive is underway. Those of you who have needed our services in the past know all too well how valuable and necessary the Scotch Plains Volunteer Rescue Squad is to the township.

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR DONATION TODAY TO THE ADDRESS BELOW OR DONATE ONLINE AT swipesimple.com/links/lnk fb861c9a

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

Thank you for your continued interest, support, and generosity.

Contributing Author: Susan Baldani, a life member of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad.

Courtesy photos

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(above) The volunteer squad uses 100% of your tax-deductible donation to fully stock our ambulances with the most innovative equipment. Last year, a new, state-of-the-art ambulance was purchased to continue the tradition of extraordinary service.

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NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

Scotch Plains Township

Township's Vietnam Veterans Memorial in front of the Municipal Building on March 29 to mark National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Vietnam Veteran Joe McCourt led the ceremony alongside fellow local Veterans Ralph Checchio, Frank conflict.

Scotch Plains residents gathered at the Chupko, Bob LaCosta and Mike Spataro. The ceremony recognized the more than 2.7 million American men and women who bravely served in the Vietnam War and the more than 58,000 servicemen and women who lost their lives in the



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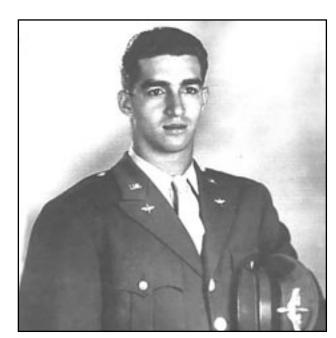
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GREGORY RUFFA NAMED GRAND MARSHAL FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



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

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS TO HONOR NATION'S WAR FATALITIES

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. 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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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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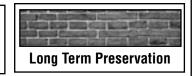
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HEADACHE AND MIGRAINE ESSENTIALS: WORKSHOP – MAY 21

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.



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SCOUTS EARN BADGE WITH HELP FROM SPFD

The Scotch Plains Fire Department recently welcomed Girl Scout Troop 40405 for an educational and exciting visit. The troop's mission is to earn their "Good Neighbor" badge by delving into fire safety and discovering the vital role of Scotch Plains' dedicated volunteer firefighters.

Firefighter Chris Manning guided the girls

through the South Side Firehouse on Raritan Road. They explored the fire trucks and learned about the specialized tools firefighters use in their life-saving work. Manning explained the purpose of each piece of equipment.

The Girl Scouts left the visit with a deeper appreciation for their local fire department and a hard-earned "Good Neighbor" badge.



(above) Scotch Plains Fire Department welcomed visiting Girl Scouts

Courtesy photo



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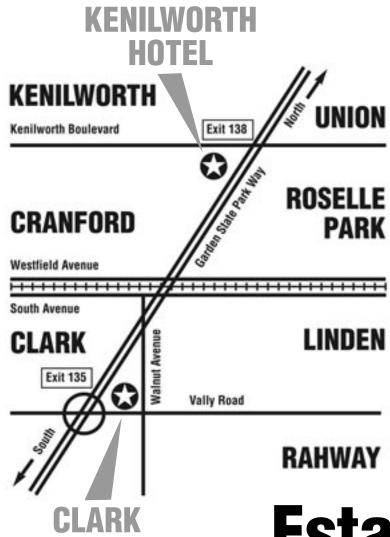
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TJ RASBERRY RECEIVES UNSUNG HEROES AWARD

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 high-fives 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!"

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR MAY 3RD

Join us for a morning of wellness, self-care, and community at the Mental Health Awareness Fair on May 3rd from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Alan M. Augustine Village Green (Rain date May 17th). This special event is brought to you by the Township of Scotch Plains in partnership with FSP Rotary, Resolve Community Counseling, and Lifestyle Studio to promote mental wellbeing and kindness. Let's break the stigma and encourage self-care!





(above) Tyiane (TJ) Rasberry, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School who is know for his 'relentless optimism' was recently honored by the Union County School Boards Association with the Unsung Heroes Award.

Courtesy photo









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PATRICK'S DOWNTOWN RACE TO SUMMER 5K

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

Registration is now open for the 8th annual 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.















Courtesy photos

(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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'THE GENIUS OF JUDY' AUTHOR TALK – MAY 5

Scotch Plains Public Library

Author Rachelle Bergstein will visit the Scotch Plains Public Library on Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m. to discuss her book about author, and former Scotch Plains resident, Judy Blume. The Genius of Judy is an intimate and expansive look at Blume's life, work, and cultural impact, focusing on her most iconic - and controversial - young adult novels, from Are You There God, It's Me, Margaret to Blubber.

Bergstein is a lifestyle writer, bestselling author, and editor, focused on style, pop culture, and families. She is also the author of Women from the Ankle Down: The Story of Shoes and How They Define Us and Brilliance and Fire: A Biography of Diamonds.

Registration is recommended for this event. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For more information go to

scotchplainslibrary.org,

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

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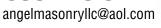
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Science & Technology Camps: Eureka: The Inventors' Camp, Red Hot Robots Camp; Brixology: Engineering with LEGOs; Science on the Move: Engineers, Chemists, and Nature Explorers; Codes, Clues, and the Cosmos; Aeronautics Flight Lab; My Code Dragon's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

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

NEW KRANZ NOVEL

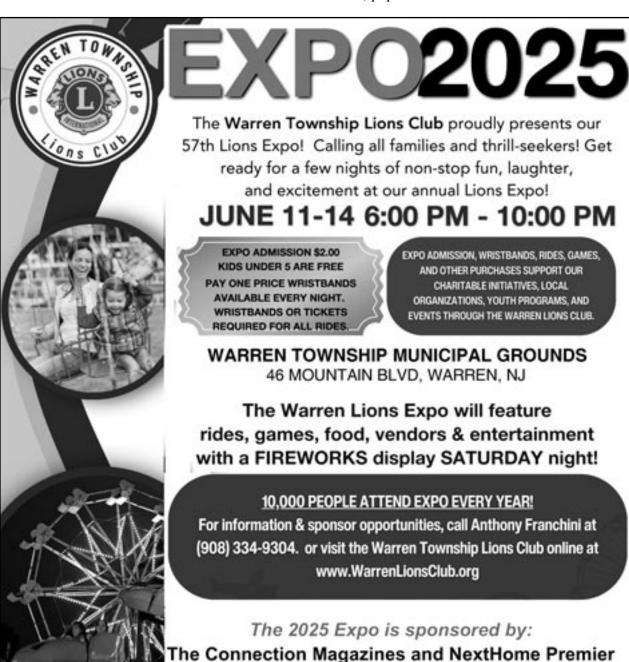
A 10-year-old android girl with a knack for the hack is the protagonist for Tom Kranz's latest science fiction novel, Hack Rescue: Chasing a Cyber Killer.

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.





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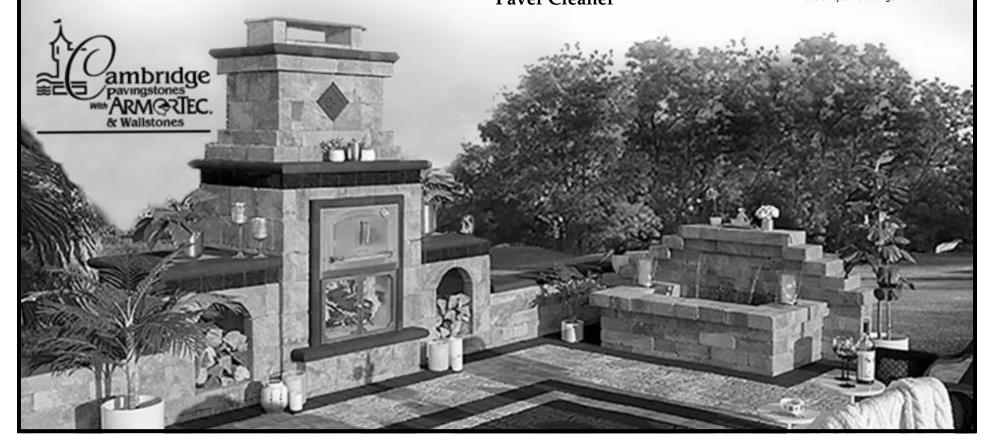
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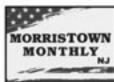
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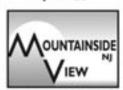
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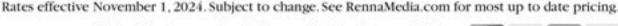
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CDC THEATRE PRESENTS LEGALLY BLONDE

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

Harvard's beloved blonde takes the stage at 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.

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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