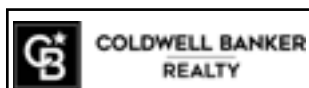


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Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 120 • September 2025



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18TH CENTURY GRAFFITI FOUND IN OSBORN HOUSE

Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood

While removing a damaged ceiling of a room at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, an unexpected 18th century surprise was revealed: 18th century graffiti!

The discovery was made by one of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood's Board members, Jess Mongold, who has been a Historical Society member since 2017. Jess had the good sense to look up at the now exposed 18th century hand-hewn beams, which had been hidden possibly for hundreds of years, and notice a slightly-faded signature. On closer inspection, she realized the signature said "David Osborn" and the date '78 (1778) was written in the style of 18th century penmanship. The signature appears to have been made in a chalk-like material.

David Osborn, who would have been 17 in 1778, and his 12 siblings grew up in the house which was built by their father Jonathan Osborn. At one point in the house's history, David was the owner of the house as well.

But this is more than the graffiti of a random 18th century teenager in an arbitrary 18th century house. David's family was well-respected and very active with the planning of the early Scotch Plains town, and many community meetings were held at the home. David Osborn, too, was a significant figure in the history of Scotch Plains. He was the first Town Clerk of Westfield (of which Scotch Plains was a part in the 18th century) and the first postmaster of Scotch Plains. He was also instrumental in the founding of the first library in the area.

In order to authenticate the signature, Jess got in touch with The Westfield Historical Society Archives department, who were very helpful in the process. They happened to have in their archives close to 20 documents with the signature of David Osborn. It turns out David had to sign an Oath of Office each year as Town Clerk so there were many examples of his handwriting.

The Historical Society then had to find a handwriting expert to verify that the signature on the beam was genuine and matched the



*(above) Written in the style of 18th century penmanship
"David Osborn" and the date '78 (1778).*

Courtesy photo

documents signed by David. When they found a firm with the name of "Osborn Associates" they felt it was more than a coincidence. (Not a known relative of the 18th century Osborns, but who knows?) That's how they found Kelsey L. Osborn, a 5th generation associate of Osborn Associates, her uncle's firm in Middlesex, NJ. Since 1910, Osborn Associates has been in the field of forensic document examination, and they are handwriting and signature identification experts.

Although Kelsey acknowledged that comparing the signature on paper to one on an old wooden beam is not the ideal situation for comparison, after much painstaking study, she concluded that the signature has "indications, with evidence, to suggest that it is genuine."

When it came time to close up the ceiling, the signature was hidden, again, for who knows how long this time; however, thanks to photographer Michael Berry of Berry Photo in Atlantic Highlands, NJ, who took many professional photos of the beam, the museum will have proof that the signature exists. The museum will also have another interesting anecdote to share with visitors about a 17-year-old who, like many teenagers today, was a little mischievous some 247 years ago.

The Osborn Cannonball House at 1840 Front Street in Scotch Plains, which is operated by The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, is always looking for volunteers and is open for tours the first Sunday of each month (except Jan. & Feb) and by appointment at (908) 322-6700, Ext. 230 or Info@HistoricalSocietySPFNJ.org.



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

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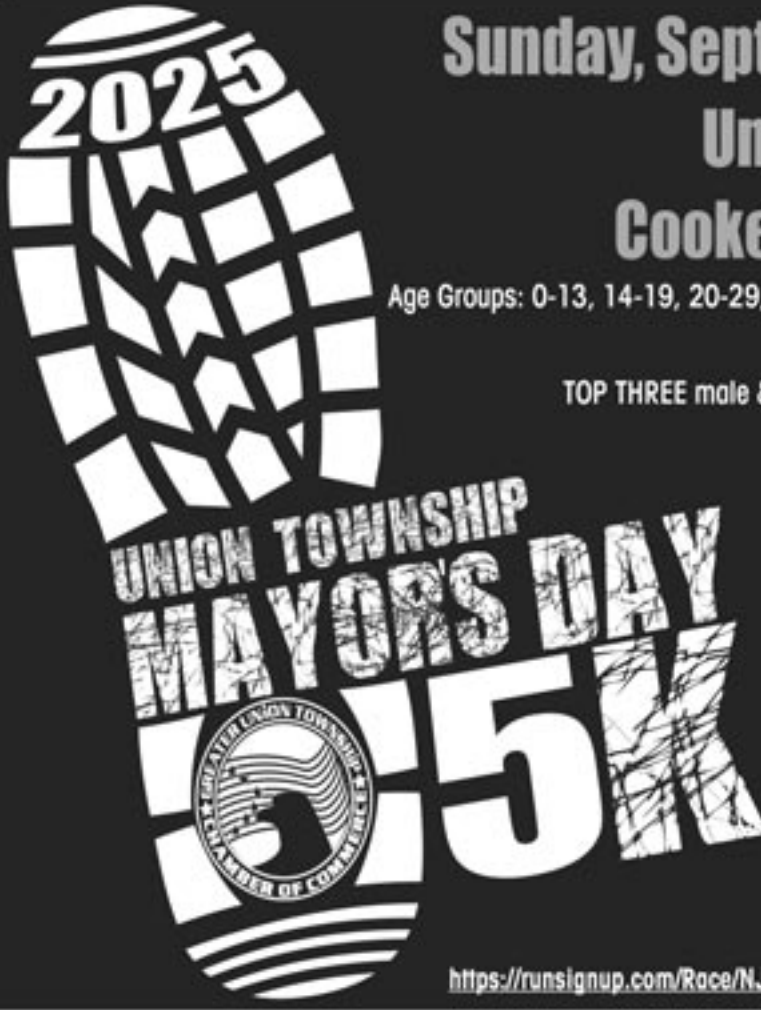
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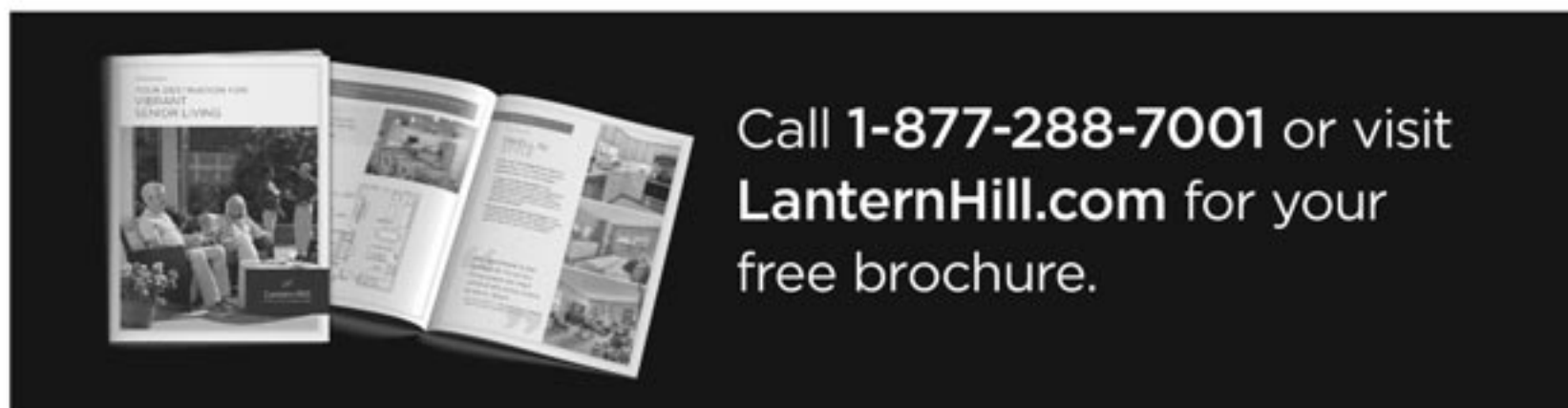
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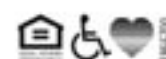
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THE GYPSY SPIRIT - NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Season-Opening Concert Features International Talent and Folk-Inspired Melodies

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra raises the curtain on its highly anticipated 2025–2026 season with *The Gypsy Spirit*, a vivid and exhilarating journey through folk traditions reimagined in symphonic splendor. Under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, this electrifying program will be performed on Saturday,



September 27 at 7:00 PM at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and Sunday, September 28 at 2:30 PM at the Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge.

Bringing together rich musical traditions of Eastern and Southern Europe, *The Gypsy Spirit* features works by Janáček, Bruch, and de Falla, performed by NJFO in collaboration with special guests Imperial Brass (Westfield performance only) and internationally acclaimed Armenian violinist Anush Nikoghosyan.

The evening begins with Janáček's Sinfonietta, a bold and ceremonial tribute to Czech national pride, featuring dazzling brass fanfares performed with Imperial Brass. This rousing work will be heard only at the Westfield concert.

“Imperial Brass is very excited to be partnering with our Westfield neighbors, the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, in our first collaboration with this exceptional ensemble,” reports Imperial Brass. “[We] will be featured on Janáček's inspiring Sinfonietta, which opens with one of the great brass fanfares of the orchestral repertoire. Imperial Brass performs regularly at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield and throughout the state.” For more information, please visit imperialbrass.org.

Next, Anush Nikoghosyan brings warmth, fire, and virtuosity to Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, a romantic masterwork beloved for its soaring melodies and emotional power.

The concert concludes with de Falla's Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos. 1 & 2, an exuberant orchestral portrait bursting with Flamenco rhythm, Andalusian color, and theatrical flair.

“The music in *The Gypsy Spirit* is a perfect marriage between the popular and classical idioms,” said NJFO Music Director David Wroe. “I’m also excited to be working with Imperial Brass; collaborating with the community is an essential part of our mission.”

Concertgoers are invited to deepen their experience with a pre-concert lecture by Dr. Yifei Xu, NJFO's Operations Director and renowned pianist, at 6:00 PM in Westfield and 1:30 PM in Basking Ridge.

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THE SHARK IS BROKEN AT CDC THEATRE IN OCT

It has been fifty years since Jaws became a summer blockbuster and now you can dive back into the waters surrounding Amity Island with *The Shark Is Broken*, a behind the scenes comedy about the making of a classic.

Few films have cast a shadow as long or as deep over the cinematic landscape as *Jaws*. Released in 1975 and directed by a 27-year-old Steven Spielberg, the movie is widely hailed as the first true summer blockbuster. *Jaws* was adapted from Peter Benchley's 1974 novel of the

same name, which quickly became a bestseller. Producers Richard Zanuck and David Brown purchased the film rights before the book was even published, sensing its cinematic potential. They took a gamble by hiring Spielberg, who had previously directed only one theatrical film (*The Sugarland Express*), but whose TV thriller *Duel* had demonstrated a knack for tension and suspense.

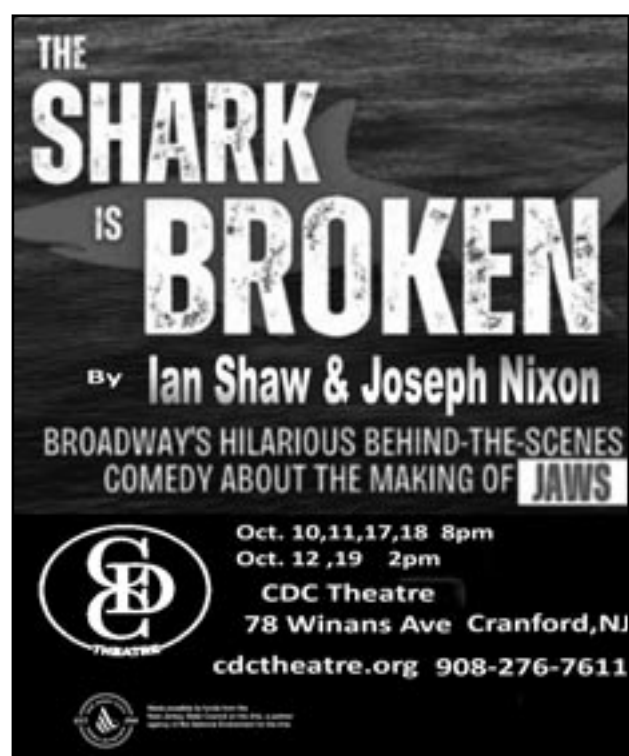
The blend of suspense, horror, and adventure in *Jaws* captivated audiences and transformed the way movies were made, marketed, and even watched. The film's story of a seaside community terrorized by a rogue great white shark is now etched into the DNA of pop culture—its iconic score, menacing antagonist, and unforgettable lines are recognized the world over. But the story behind the making of *Jaws* is nearly as legendary as the film itself and has gone down in film history as one of Hollywood's most harrowing shoots.

Filming took place on location on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, from May to October 1974. Spielberg insisted on shooting at sea to capture realism, but this choice brought logistical nightmares. The mechanical shark nicknamed "Bruce," malfunctioned so frequently that the crew had to work around it, often implying the shark's presence rather than showing it. This heightened the suspense and forced Spielberg to rely on sound, suggestion, and clever editing. Rough weather routinely delayed filming,

causing tempers to fray and the schedule to spiral out of control. Budget overruns caused the original \$4 million budget to balloon to almost \$9 million by the time filming ended. Despite, or because of, these challenges, Spielberg and his team persisted, capturing moments of genuine tension, humor, and camaraderie that give the film its enduring vitality.

Set adrift on the Atlantic in 1974, *The Shark Is Broken* plunges audiences into the hilarious and chaotic backstage world of the filming of *Jaws*. The play unfolds aboard the cramped, weather-beaten boat where the lead actors, theatre veteran Robert Shaw and young Hollywood hotshots Richard Dreyfuss and Roy Scheider, are entirely at the mercy of foul weather and their faulty mechanical co-star. As tempers simmer and egos collide, secrets are spilled and the boundaries between fiction and reality blur revealing the real drama lurking beneath the surface. With sharp wit and affectionate satire, *The Shark Is Broken* offers a rare glimpse into the stormy process behind Hollywood's original modern summer blockbuster.

The Shark Is Broken will be presented at CDC Theatre, 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, NJ on Fridays and Saturdays October 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday October 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets and additional information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.



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POLICE OFFICERS ADOPT LUCKY PUPPIES THEY RESCUED

Best Friends Animal Society

In December 2024, a trio of officers with the Clark Police Department in New Jersey responded to a call from a Good Samaritan about puppies that were abandoned in a five-gallon bucket. When they arrived on the scene, the officers discovered eight tiny puppies, only a couple of weeks old, huddled together for warmth in the freezing winter temperatures.

The puppies were immediately rushed to Associated Humane Society-Newark after hours by their Animal Care Officers (ACOs) for veterinarian evaluation and treatment. They were cold, starving, severely dehydrated, and infested

with fleas. “Deann Bowen, the Manager at AHS’s Tinton Falls location and a veteran vet tech with experience in neonatal care, was able to meet our ACO’s halfway up the Parkway and took them right into foster,” said Danielle Mania, Chief Operating Officer of AHS-Newark.

With the puppies safely in foster care, which included round-the-clock feedings until they were able to eat on their own, the team at AHS-Newark set about finding their family. They posted the story and photos on social media the next morning, took press interviews, and raised \$40,000 to provide for the puppies’ medical treatment and care.

“We did receive a few tips, but all were unsuccessful,” said Mania. Once they were old enough, the puppies were sent to foster in different foster homes.

The officers were instantly interested in adopting puppies from the litter. With each passing day, they could not stop thinking about the puppies’ wellbeing and regularly checked in on them. When they were all spayed/neutered and ready to adopt in March 2025, there was no need to list them all. Three of the puppies - now named Ozzy, Capri, and Zeus - had already found their loving homes with the three police officers that saved their lives on that cold winter day. Officer Ronny Taborda (adopted Capri), Detective Bruce McDonald (adopted Zeus), and Detective Paul

Sosnowski (adopted Ozzy). “The Clark PD has an adorable group chat to keep in touch with all of the adopters, and they frequently have play dates with each other,” said Mania. “This situation was really a testament as to how we work together as a team across the entire organization to save lives and find pets homes.”

This full circle moment highlights modern animal services practices, and the pet lifesaving work that police and animal control officers do in their communities. It is also a reminder of the importance of microchipping pets and having them wear up-to-date identification tags, so in the event they become lost, they can be quickly reunited with their owners. Data indicates that 52% of lost dogs and two out of every five cats are successfully returned when microchipped, which reduces the amount of time lost pets stay in shelters that often already have limited space.

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in America’s shelters, is partnering with AHS-Newark to help them achieve their pet lifesaving goals. Best Friends’ most recent data shows that New Jersey is on the verge of becoming a no-kill state with an 89% save rate. There are just ten shelters in the state that need to save less than 100 pets to achieve no-kill. For more information, visit bestfriends.org.



(above) Clark Police Officer Ronny Taborda (adopted Capri), Detective Bruce McDonald (adopted Zeus), and Detective Paul Sosnowski (adopted Ozzy).

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SEPTEMBER AUDITION FOR NOVEMBER SHOW

Hickory Tree Chorus

The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus will hold auditions on September 17, 2025, at the Shrine of Saint Joseph in Stirling, New Jersey, for participation in their November 15th 2:00 PM show, “Thank You for the Music: A Celebration in Song”.

Auditions will take place from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Participants are asked to perform an a cappella song of their choice. Following the auditions, they are invited to stay for an additional hour to engage in vocal skill activities, observe chorus practices, and enjoy singing demonstrations.

The performance will be held at The Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Recognized for its beautiful design and exceptional acoustics, the 433-seat Concert Hall has been sought after by major artists for both recording and performance since its opening in 2005.

The Hickory Tree Chorus has consistently demonstrated its exceptional talent, winning first place in Division A at the Greater NY/NJ Sweet Adelines Region #15 competition in Albany, New York in both 2024 and 2025. Their top-scoring performance at the 2025 competition earned them a coveted spot in the Harmony Classic at the 78th Annual Sweet Adelines International Convention & Competition in October 2026, which will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Master Director Carolyn Schmidt, a member

of Hickory Tree Chorus since 1974 and musical director since 1994, has been instrumental in the chorus’s success. She is one of only five active Master Music Arrangers in Sweet Adelines International and arranges a significant portion of Hickory Tree’s unique repertoire. In addition to her role as director, she serves as a Sweet Adelines International Approved Music Category Judge.

Hickory Tree Chorus is dedicated to advancing

the musical art form of four-part a cappella harmony sung in the barbershop style. As a chapter of Sweet Adelines International Organization, it has been entertaining audiences in the New Jersey area since 1968. They believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Visit hickorytreechorus.org for more information or call 908-377-1399.



(above) Hickory Tree Chorus, a women's a cappella group, announces September Auditions for a November Show.

Courtesy photo

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

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JEN - I felt completely disconnected from the strong person I used to be. From the very first interaction, I could tell Gabriele Fitness was different. I'm not exaggerating when I say I owe my life to this gym and these people. My clothes fit again. I'm not scared to wear shorts anymore. I smile in photos. I know how to take care of myself. My blood work is amazing. I'm not hiding anymore. I'm happy again.

GET BACK TO A FITNESS ROUTINE STARTING OCT 6TH! (ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE)

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- **Personal Training:** 20 small group personal training sessions so you can work out with a coach to guide you every step of the way, which means you're essentially guaranteed to feel fit, strong and healthy.
- **Extreme Accountability:** Get helicopter-like attention from your GFP Coaches so you can never fall off track, which means you'll finally get the energy and health you've been missing.
- **Personalized and Simple Nutrition Help:** Our coaches are going to sit down with you to map out everything so you know exactly what to eat and when to eat it, which means you'll start making progress immediately.
- **Unlimited Cardio Sessions:** You'll get Unlimited Access to our 'Fat Blast' Sessions that will help get your body buzzing and your blood flowing to help shed those calories and fat!
- **Free Goal and Nutrition Seminar:** We will kick off the challenge with a seminar on setting proper goals as well as helping you create exactly what your nutrition should realistically look including what to eat to get lean, how much, and how to fit in foods you love along the way!

TO INQUIRE ABOUT COST & AVAILABILITY SCAN HERE!



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

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held on Tuesday, August 5th at the Municipal Complex. The free event was hosted by the Scotch Plains Police Department and featured giveaways, food, drinks, and entertainment. Members of the Police Department, along with community partners, were on hand to interact with the community. National Night Out culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August.

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

For more information visit natw.org.



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LT. REYNOLDS DEFENDING AMERICA UNDER THE SEA

Submitted by Megan Lemly, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Lt. James Reynolds, a native of Westfield, New Jersey, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to USS Scranton, homeported at Naval Base Point Loma. As a submariner, Reynolds is part of a small percentage of Navy personnel continuing a

125-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans' safety.

Reynolds graduated from Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City in 2013. Additionally, Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in cyber security, operations and leadership from the University of San Diego.

Reynolds joined the Navy eight years ago. Today, Reynolds serves as a weapons officer.

"I have two older siblings who served," Reynolds said. "I joined to follow the example they set of serving the country."

Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technologically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

USS Scranton (SSN 756) is the second U.S. Navy ship to be named for Scranton, Pennsylvania. Scranton is a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine. Los Angeles-class submarines have been the backbone of the submarine force for the last 40 years, with approximately 23 now in commission. They are equipped with 12 Vertical Launch System tubes for firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Strategic deterrence is the nation's ultimate

insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Reynolds serves aboard a platform capable of bringing the fight to enemies in defense of America and its allies.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Reynolds has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"My proudest accomplishment is serving as a weapons officer aboard USS Scranton," Reynolds said.

Reynolds serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving in the Navy means honoring this country and its Constitution to promote freedom and democracy around the world," Reynolds added.



(above) Lt. James Reynolds, from Westfield to defending America under the sea, one sailor's journey to USS Scranton

Courtesy Photo

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OPERAS ON FILM ANNOUNCES SEASON LINEUP

Mountainside Rescue Squad

Operas on Film, now in its 12th season is held at the Mountainside Rescue Squad.

The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson and Norma Huber, Jr. It is free to attend.

Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

Sept. 12th, SAMSON & DALILA

starring Placido Domingo,
San Francisco Opera 1981, 117 mins

October 10th, THE MERRY WIDOW

Seefestspiele Mörbisch, 2005,
comedy, 150 mins

November 14th, THAIS

starring Renee Fleming,
Metropolitan Opera 2008, 138 mins

December 12th, I LOMBARDI

starring Jose Carreras LaScala, 1984, 127 mins

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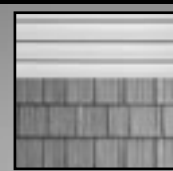
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JACK PEDERSEN GRADUATES WEST POINT

Scotch Plains resident and graduate of Scotch Plains Fanwood High School, Jack Pedersen, has graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Jack was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in American Politics with a minor concentration in Nuclear Engineering. Jack was commissioned into the United States Army in the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and will be assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Fort Drum, NY



(above) 2nd Lieutenant Jack Pedersen

Courtesy Photo

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 48th Annual Greek Festival, taking place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly anticipated event, the largest and longest-running Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 4th to September 7th, 2025, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and family-friendly entertainment.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Authentic Greek Cuisine:** Indulge in a feast of traditional Greek dishes including souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, loukoumades, and baklava, all freshly prepared on premises with the finest ingredients reminiscent of your Greek Yia-yia's cooking.
- **Live Music and Dance:** Experience the lively rhythms of Greece with live music and dance performances featuring traditional Greek folk music and dances such as syrtaki and kalamatiano.
- **Artisan Marketplace:** Browse through a bustling marketplace offering handmade jewelry, clothing, and imported goods from Greece.

EVENT DETAILS:

- **Dates:** September 4th to September 7th, 2025
- **Location:** St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083

(Free Parking in neighboring lots)

- **Admission:** \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities "We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair "This event is a celebration of our Greek heritage and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the warmth and hospitality of our culture."

ABOUT THE ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH:

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: @stdemetriosunion

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community! Join us at the 48th Annual Greek Festival in Union, NJ, for a weekend filled with delicious food, vibrant music, and family-friendly fun.

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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
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DINE & DISCOVER: 20 WAYS TO ENJOY RESTAURANT MONTH IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

September is a very special time for food, friends and family in Berkeley Heights: It's Restaurant Month, which runs from September 1 - 30, 2025. Now is the time to make your plans to take advantage of special offers from 20 establishments. Options range from fine dining to casual and quick-serve restaurants. This event attracts diners of all ages for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It's your chance to:

- Try new dishes and special meals at your favorite eateries
- Make family dinnertime easy and delicious on busy weekdays
- Venture out to new places (some new restaurants have opened this year!)
- Encourage fun get-togethers with friends or co-workers as the summer ends
- Urge teens to head downtown after school and enjoy something new

"Berkeley Heights boasts a vibrant dining scene that draws visitors from near and far," said Julie Lloyd of the Downtown Beautification Committee. "From special nights out to BYOB deals, there's something delicious for everyone. We're grateful to our local restaurants for making this ninth annual Restaurant Month easy, affordable, and enjoyable."

Find the information you need to ensure you get the most value and fun out of Restaurant Month at www.experiencebh.com, including menus and specials. Follow the fun on social media at @ExperienceBerkeleyHeights on Facebook and [experience_berkeley_heights](https://www.instagram.com/experience_berkeley_heights) on Instagram.

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