

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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UNICO AND SCHOOLS HELP ST. BART'S, IHM FOOD PANTRIES

Submitted by Matt Marino

During the weekend of April 25, Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO coordinated a food drive with students from two area high schools that, upon completion, supplied much needed food items to the food pantries at the churches of St. Bartholomew the Apostle (St. Bart's) and Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM).

UNICO member Joe Schiavo managed the food drive's logistics, from soliciting food donations to collaborating with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Italian Club and the Union Catholic High School Italian Honor Society students. Schiavo and the schools' Italian organizations collected the food over several days and then brought the food to St. Bart's and IHM on April 25 and April 26, respectively. Representatives from both food pantries helped the volunteers sort the food and restock the shelves in preparation of bagging the food and delivering it to the families.

With so many more families experiencing food insecurity due to rising costs, food pantries have found their shelves emptying more quickly than ever before. Both parishes expressed their gratitude for SP-F UNICO's and the students'

hard work to make the food drive a success. IHM Pastor Father Michael Ward and Food Pantry Director Mary Kate Schiller were extremely grateful for all the donations they received from the community. St. Bart's Food Pantry Director Patricia Vignola added, "The generous donation of non-perishable food this past Saturday helped to restock our shelves and will allow us to provide many local families with the items they need."

ABOUT SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD UNICO

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO was chartered in 1973. Our chapter has raised and donated thousands of dollars annually to support scholarship programs, organizations, and individuals in the New Jersey area. Since 1974, we have co-sponsored the St. Barts/UNICO Italian Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors over Labor Day weekend. Our local chapter also has been recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" and has earned its place in our community for service to others and charitable contributions since its inception. For more information on Scotch-Plains Fanwood UNICO, visit unicospf.org or email spfunico@gmail.com.

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(above) Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO recently coordinated a food drive with students from two area high schools to benefit local food pantries.

Courtesy Photo



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Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE - JUNE 13TH

June is a month known for strawberries, blooming roses, warm weather, sunny skies and Flag Day. June also includes the Summer Solstice, when the day and night are equal in length. Oh, and there's Father's Day! Hear that mom? Simply Longer days and more fun.

At the SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE, on Saturday, June 13th, the Roadhouse Posse has again rounded up the unusual suspects and will present for your witness and ultimate verdict a "note-orious" group of musicians who are the gang known as

"WANTED IN APRIL"

Remember them from last year? We wanted them again! It was no easy task. Gathering disparate (Desparate?) musicians together is like trying to herd cats. Ever try herding cats??

A year after their last trial at the Roadhouse, where they were let go under their own cognizance; their individual musical shenanigans since have brought them to notorious scrutiny, and we had to round them up again.

The Roadhouse Posse has done it! These cats can really run, but a promise of food brought them to us.

On June 13th, at 8PM, the WANTED gang will be tried again.

This time they have no defense.

All they will have are their reputations and

performance abilities to bring to you, the jury, who will decide their fate as to whether or not they are acceptable to musical society or should be strictly kept under lock and key at the Salem Roadhouse Café, never to be unleashed upon unsuspecting audiences again, unless under supervision.



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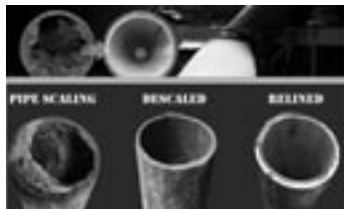
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SHE WAS A 48-YEAR-OLD MOM FROM BERKELEY HEIGHTS... TERRIFIED TO WEAR A LITTLE BLACK DRESS AT HER DAUGHTER'S WEDDING - UNTIL THIS HAPPENED

When guests gathered for a recent summer wedding in town, expectations were clear: a beautiful bride, proud parents, heartfelt speeches, and a lively dance floor.

What no one expected was that one of the most talked-about moments of the night would involve the bride's mother.

As Helen, 48, walked down the aisle in a fitted dress with a tastefully exposed back, heads turned. Conversations paused. By the time the reception was underway, it was clear this mother of the bride had made an impression few would forget.

It wasn't just that she looked great. She looked strong. Defined. Confident. Guests kept asking the same question throughout the night:

What does she do to look like that?

That question is how this story begins.

FROM TIRED, SOFT AND WEAK TO STRONG, LEAN AND CONFIDENT

A few years ago, Helen was not the woman people were buzzing about at a wedding. "I was tired all the time," Helen said. "My back hurt, my knees hurt, and I just felt older than I was."

I was in my late 40s, yes — but I felt like that was my whole identity."

Like many adults in their 40's 50s and 60s, Helen assumed aches, pains, and declining energy were simply the cost of aging. Exercise felt intimidating and confusing. Big gyms felt impersonal. Working out on her own felt unsafe.

"I didn't know what I should be doing, and I was afraid of hurting myself, so I just did nothing," she said.

A friend introduced her to a local personal training gym in Berkeley Heights, and she started with a free trial.

"I was so scared. I didn't walk in thinking I'd change my body," Helen said. "I was just hoping I could finally find a program that was right for me and do something for my health consistently."

THE UNKNOWN WORKOUT PLAN THAT CHANGED THE GAME

What Helen found was not a room full of treadmills and mirrors, but a personalized fitness program led by highly knowledgeable personal trainers who specialize in working with adults ages 40–60.

Helen didn't need anything extreme — she needed the right program and the right support.



(above) Helen flexing at one of their infamous 6 AM workouts at Gabriele Fitness

She started with two days per week. As her energy improved and her pain decreased, she gradually built up to three days per week. Each workout was done in a small-group setting, allowing for personalized coaching without the pressure or cost of one-on-one training.

"The accountability mattered," Helen said. "If I didn't show up, someone noticed. And if something hurt, they adjusted things immediately."

REDEFINING WHAT SOMEONE IN THEIR 40s CAN LOOK AND FEEL LIKE

Over time, the changes added up. Helen lost body fat. She gained muscle. More importantly, she gained confidence.

"I stopped thinking about what I couldn't do... and started thinking about what was next."

Years later, Helen is still a member and has even become a Grandma! She lifts weights people half her age shy away from. She moves pain-free. She keeps up with her grandchildren - and sometimes outpaces them.

So when her daughter's wedding approached, Helen didn't think twice about wearing the dress she loved.

"I didn't choose it to show off," she laughed. "I chose it because I felt good in my own skin."

The reaction at the wedding told the rest of the story.



(above) Helen turning every head as the mother of the bride

A LOCAL SECRET GETS PUBLIC

As word spread, one question kept coming up again and again:

What is the secret workout plan that's making her look that good?

The answer was simple: Gabriele Fitness — a small community personal training gym right in Berkeley Heights.

Helen's transformation didn't come from crash diets or marathon workouts. It came from consistency, expert coaching, and a supportive environment designed for real people — not fitness models.

FEELING BETTER AT 48 THAN SHE DID AT 28

Helen's story may have started with wedding buzz, but it's really about something deeper: what's possible when people stop accepting decline as inevitable.

"I wish I had started sooner because I feel better at 48 than I did at 28," Helen said. "But I'm grateful I started when I did."

A personal and confidential message from Helen to anyone on the fence about getting started.

"Ladies, having a personal trainer changed my life. Without a trainer, I never would have come close to looking and feeling this good. I tried so many times on my own and failed. I know it's hard to get started — I was scared myself. But if you find an amazing gym like I did (Gabriele Fitness), it changes everything.

The funny thing is, on the front door of the gym there's a sign that reads, 'You just did the hard part. We'll take it from here.' And I truly believe that if you find a place you trust, that genuinely cares about you, and you show up consistently, you'll get into the best shape of your life.

For me, being in great shape has made my entire life so much better. I'm happier, stronger, full of energy... and my workouts are the reason."

For those who see themselves in Helen — those who feel older, weak, tired, stressed, struggling to burn fat, and are secretly starting to believe their best years are behind them — Read This:

Gabriele Fitness has opened 13 spots for local residents to experience their personal training program...FREE for 14 days. The offer expires on June 6th and is available to only 13 people. To get the full details on the free program and see if any spots are still available, scan below...



Scan the code or go to refer.gabrielefitness.com/helen or Call us at (908) 293-9666

P.S. Many people reading this article will be inspired by Helen... yet still feel hesitant to try the program. With anything new, there's always uncertainty — especially with something like a new fitness routine. But if you're not working out right now, or you've been inconsistent (like most people) you've read the exact article you needed to read today because...

Gabriele Fitness has helped thousands of people in this community over the past 18 years. For some, the program has had a life-changing effect, and many members have stayed for nearly two decades.

A large number of them are now in the best shape of their lives (...and 2 decades older) — but they all started in the same place as anyone reading this and considering starting their fitness journey.

If you're still hesitant, visit our website gabrielefitness.com/results for an ocean of success stories from people just like you... who've transformed their lives... and in some cases, the lives of everyone in their family. This is powerful stuff.

WHY GABRIELE FITNESS FOCUSES ONLY ON ADULTS OVER 40

Adults over 40 face a perfect storm of demands that make fitness more critical — and more challenging — than ever before. They're in the prime of their careers, often in leadership roles where the pressure is relentless and the hours are long.

They're raising children or supporting aging parents — sometimes both at the same time. Their stress levels are high, their metabolism is slowing down, and their bodies don't recover like they used to.

Yet this is precisely when they need their health and energy most — to perform at work, to be present for their families, to enjoy the success they've worked so hard to build, and to avoid the chronic diseases that affected their parents' generation.

The cruel irony is that when fitness matters most, it's also when finding time for it feels nearly impossible.

That's why adults over 40 don't need another generic gym membership. They need expert guidance designed specifically for their unique challenges, their busy schedules, and their refusal to accept that their best years are behind them.

To get the full details about the Free Personal Training Program and to see if any of the 13 spots are still available scan below...



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Sieminski Theater
Basking Ridge



(908) 232-9400 | www.NJFestivalOrchestra.org

The New Jersey Festival Orchestra closes its season with *One Thousand and One Nights*, an evening inspired by the legendary Arabian tales that gave rise to Rimsky-Korsakov's beloved orchestral masterpiece *Scheherazade*. Presented in collaboration with the Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC), the program blends storytelling, international artistry, and symphonic color in performances on Saturday, May 30 at 7:00 pm at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield and Sunday, May 31 at 2:30 pm at the Sieminski Theater in Basking Ridge.

At the center of the program is *Scheherazade*, Rimsky-Korsakov's vivid musical interpretation of the timeless stories told by Scheherazade night after night to save her life. Sweeping melodies, shimmering orchestration, and dramatic contrasts immerse audiences in a world of myth and imagination, bringing the spirit of the legendary tales vividly to life.

"It is music that represents the rolling sea, the drama of adventure, and the allure of exotic romance," says NJFO Music Director David Wroe, describing the work as "an irresistible musical combination" that transports listeners into the world of *One Thousand and One Nights*.

The evening also features internationally




acclaimed Slovak guitarist Karol Samuelčík performing Joaquín Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*. Presented through NJFO's collaboration with the Slovak-American Cultural Center, Samuelčík brings warmth and virtuosity to Rodrigo's celebrated work inspired by 17th-century Spanish music and dance traditions.

"The Slovak-American Cultural Center is thrilled to partner—again—with the NJFO to introduce world-renowned guitarist Karol Samuelčík to American audiences," writes S-ACC Board Member and longtime NJFO supporter Tanya Pulver. "Performing Joaquín Rodrigo's celebrated *Fantasia para un gentilhombre*, Samuelčík promises to enchant listeners, pairing the concerto's historic elegance with his signature vibrant energy and technical brilliance."

"What I love about the piece is its elegance, colour, and contrast," Samuelčík says. "The guitar creates a dialogue with the orchestra."

Together, these works create an evening shaped by imagination and storytelling, where music becomes the narrator and the orchestra brings centuries-old legends to life.

Tickets are available at www.njfestivalorchestra.org/concerts or by calling (908) 232-9400. Discounts are available to highschool and college students.

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CLASS OF 2026 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



(above, l-r) Isabella Mirinda, Valedictorian and Gabriella Suriani, Salutatorian

Courtesy Photo

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is thrilled to announce the valedictorian and salutatorian of the Class of 2026. Our valedictorian is Isabella Mirinda, while our salutatorian is Gabriella Suriani. Both students have attained remarkable academic success while also taking active roles in our school community.

Isabella (Bella), who has not yet committed to the college of her choice, earned a weighted GPA above 4.78. Her favorite courses included AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Psychology, and AP Biology. Bella plans to major in engineering, and her experience with AP Chemistry has her leaning toward chemical engineering at this time.

Bella also has been very active in our music department, singing alto in three choirs (Virtuoso Voices, Select Choir and Concert Choir), and playing clarinet in the concert band and marching band (where she was a section leader). She also has served as secretary of the French Club and as a Girl Scout ambassador.

Bella participates diligently in class to help process and absorb the learning material. She said that being an active learner has helped her greatly in high school.

“I’ve found it important to not just do what the course is asking of me but to also push myself to find out what more I can do if I set my mind to it,” she said. “Schools and educators are giving you the tools to explore, but having the drive to do it yourself means so much more and opens a

lot more opportunities. This makes you more likely to succeed and want to succeed.”

Gabriella (Gabby), who has committed to Wake Forest University, earned a weighted GPA above 4.71. Her favorite courses included AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Statistics, AP Biology, and AP U.S. Government and Politics. Gabby will be a biochemistry and molecular biology major on the pre-med track, and may also explore the field of public health.

Gabby was heavily involved in the SPFHS Model United Nations program. She served as an officer of the Model UN’s World Health Organization, managing 50 delegates and helping plan a conference of 1,500 people. Gabby also will serve as a delegate this summer for the Model UN’s Conference on National Affairs. She also has served as co-coordinator of the SPFHS Raider Peer Tutoring program, treasurer of the Senior Support Club, and member of the SPFHS girls swim team. Gabby also serves as a mental health advocate through the Prevent Suicide New Jersey planning committee, and as a swim teacher and coach at the JCC.

“The biggest thing about my high school experience has been community,” Gabby said. “I enjoy showing up. I genuinely like the content and the classes. When you genuinely enjoy what you’re doing and you surround yourself with a community you love, it makes it really easy to show up and succeed.”





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PEYTON ROSE COMPLETES EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Borough of Fanwood

Peyton Rose, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, completed his Eagle Scout Project on December 6, 2025 with the help of his friends, family, Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 33 in Fanwood, and support from the Fanwood Environmental Commission. His project consisted of planting 12 Atlantic White Cedar Saplings in the Fanwood Nature Center and building tree guards to protect them from animals and encouraging their growth.

Peyton met with the Environmental Commission and offered to help with any projects or problems they might be encountering. The Commission had been nurturing Atlantic White Cedar saplings to prepare them for planting in the Nature Center.

After much planning and coordination with the Commission, Peyton gathered materials from Home Depot, Wayfair, and Tractor Supply, and set up work sessions to plant the saplings and build and install the tree guards.

Atlantic White Cedar Saplings can grow from 40 to 75 feet tall, and provide many benefits to the Nature Center including providing shelter for animals, stabilizing stream banks, as well as preventing flooding by helping to control water levels in the areas surrounding the trees.

“The Fanwood Environmental Commission has taught me that animals will eat anything, even

saplings, and even as the trees grow, they can still be harmed by animals such as deer rubbing their antlers against the trees,” Peyton said, “which is why it is even more important these tree guards keep any dangers to these saplings out and give these trees their best chance to fully grow.”

“I want to thank the Fanwood Environmental Commission for their support, my family for being there to help in every move of this project as well as my friends and fellow Boy Scouts, who were there in the dirt and mud planting saplings and building tree guards,” Peyton said.



(above) For his Eagle Scout Project, Peyton Rose (2nd from left) planted 12 Atlantic White Cedar Saplings with tree guards in the Fanwood Nature Center with the help of his friends, family, and Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 33 in Fanwood.

Courtesy Photo

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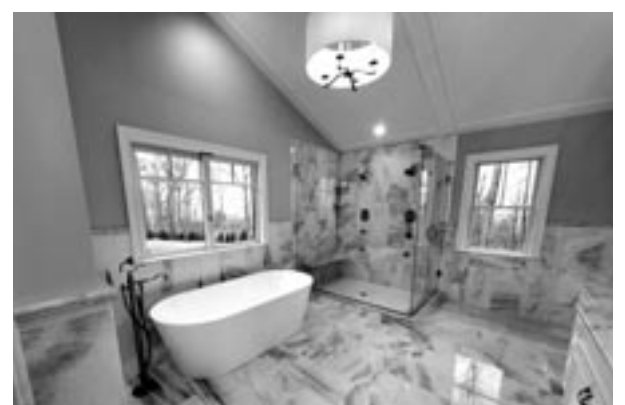
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C.A.R. PROJECT SUPPORTS EQUINE THERAPY FOR VETS



(above) The Man o' War Project has helped to develop a standardized protocol for delivering equine-assisted therapy to treat PTSD.

Courtesy photos

Submitted by Holly Dunbar

The Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) is the nation's oldest and largest nonpolitical patriotic youth organization. A new C.A.R. state project that will aid veterans has been announced. The goal of "Operation Horse" is to raise \$2,000 during the next year to fund equine-assisted therapy for two N.J. veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The therapy is offered through the Man o' War Project of Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

The mission of the Man o' War Project is two-fold. Equine-assisted therapy is used to treat veterans with PTSD while medical staff evaluate the program to develop best practices for administering equine-assisted therapy. This research can have far-reaching benefits for treating veterans and all who suffer with PTSD.

C.A.R. membership is open to girls and boys from birth through age 21 who are descended from a person who aided the cause of independence during the American Revolution.

New Jersey has nine C.A.R. groups known as societies. Activities offered on an age-appropriate basis help members learn about American history, government, community service and more. Members also gain valuable leadership experience conducting meetings and serving as delegates at state and national conferences.

Pis-Cat-A-Qua Society C.A.R., hosted by the Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Green Brook, is seeking new members. For more information,

contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or visit nscar.org.

DAV CELEBRATING 94 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VETERANS

DAV (Disabled American Veterans), located in Somerville, NJ, is proud to announce its 94th anniversary of unwavering support to the local veteran community and their families. For nearly a century, the dedicated members of Chapter 16 have been a steadfast resource, helping veterans navigate the complexities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system and access the benefits they have earned through their service. Chapter 16 provides crucial assistance in several key areas, including:

- Navigating the Veterans Administration: Offering guidance and support in understanding the often-intricate processes of the VA.
- Obtaining Medical Care: Help veterans access the healthcare services they need and are entitled to.
- Filing Disability Claims: Provide expert assistance in preparing and submitting disability claims to the VA.
- Awareness of New VA Programs: Keeping veterans informed about the latest VA initiatives, including specialized and community care options.

"For 94 years, DAV Chapter 16 has stood as a



(left) DAV Chapter 16 encourages all local veterans and their families to reach out for assistance. Scan the QR code to review how we are "veterans helping veterans." You can also enter nj.dav/16.org.

beacon of support for the men and women who have bravely served our nation," said Gerard P. Walsh Chapter Commander. "We are deeply committed to ensuring that our veterans and their families receive the information and assistance they need to access the vital resources provided by the VA. Our longevity speaks to the enduring need for this support and the dedication of our members." Since WWI."

The chapter's commitment extends beyond just providing information. Members offer a sense of camaraderie and understanding, connecting veterans with others who have shared similar experiences. This peer-to-peer support is

invaluable in helping veterans transition to civilian life and address the unique challenges they may face. Chapter Meeting Information: "Meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 12, 232 Union Ave. (Rt28,) Somerville, NJ 08876. Lunch is usually served after the meeting.

ABOUT DAV (DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS):

DAV is a non-profit organization that empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It provides a wide range of services to veterans of all generations and their families, advocating for their rights and helping them access healthcare, education, employment, and other benefits they have earned.

ABOUT DAV CHAPTER 16 SOMERVILLE NJ:

Located in Somerville, New Jersey (08876), DAV Chapter 16 has been serving the local veteran community for 94 years. The chapter provides guidance and support to veterans and their families in navigating the VA system and accessing essential benefits.

Contact: Gerard P. Walsh, Commander at 908.756.6220 or by email at njdavchapter016@gmail.com.

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TARA ROY CHOUDHURY COMPETES IN BIOLYMPIAD

Union County Vocational Technical High
 The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) has announced the names of high school students who will compete in the USA Biolympiad (USABO) National Finals at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from June 21 to July 2, 2026.

Among them will be Berkeley Heights resident Tara S. Roy Choudhury, a student at Union County Vocational Technical High Schools' Academy for Allied Health Sciences in Scotch Plains. She is New Jersey's only representative in the prestigious USABO competition.

As the premier biology competition for high school students in the United States, USABO enriches the life science education of nearly 12,000 talented students annually. It provides the motivation, curricular resources, and skills training to take them beyond their classroom experience to the level of international competitiveness. After two rounds of challenging online exams, 20 finalists are invited to a residential training program where they learn advanced biological concepts and exacting lab skills at the USABO National Finals at Harvard.

Last year, at the 2025 National Finals, Hengzhou Li, Eric Liu, Cloris Shi and Kian Dhawan earned the right to join the USA Biolympiad Team to represent our country at the 2025 International Biology Olympiad (IBO) in The Philippines, where they received three gold medals and one silver. Since CEE began administering the USABO, every member of the USA Biolympiad Team has continued to medal at the IBO.

"These students are some of the highest achieving biology students in the USA," said Joann DiGennaro, president and co-founder of CEE. "Our USA Biolympiad program encourages excellence in biology education and challenges students and their teachers to reach the gold standard in science."

The finalists will participate for ten days in high-level biology instruction inclusive of laboratory training and conceptual understanding followed by two days of testing. Four students will earn the honor of representing the U.S. at the



(above) Tara S. Roy Choudhury

Courtesy Photo

37th International Biology Olympiad, a worldwide competition involving student teams from over 80 countries. It will take place July 12-19 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

"This is an incredible journey these students take, and it demonstrates the passion these students have for biological sciences," said Kathy Frame, director of the USA Biolympiad. "For high school USABO Finalists to experience this level of excellence is an exceptional opportunity."

The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was founded in 1983 by the late Admiral H.G. Rickover and Joann P. DiGennaro, President of the Center. The Center's mission is to nurture high school and university scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and business, and to encourage collaboration between and among scientific and technological leaders in the global community

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ROBERT KEITH ESTRIN - DECEMBER 25, 1952 - OCTOBER 26, 2025

Longtime Scotch Plains resident Robert Keith Estrin, died October 26, 2025 in Nashville, Tennessee, just weeks before his 72nd Christmas birthday. Robert was born and raised in Scotch Plains, living there until 2011, moved to Bridgewater for two years, and in 2013 finally relocated to Nashville in order to be closer to his sister, Kari Estrin, his only surviving family member.

An outstanding graduate of SPFHS in 1970, Robert also distinguished himself at Kean College, graduating Summa cum laude (No. 1 in his class); then continued his learning earning two masters degrees (Political Science and Master of Letters Arts & Sciences) at Drew University and at NYU. A committed scholar, Robert went on to become a beloved teacher at both Solomon Schecter Day School and Bridgewater High School. Robert was also known as a respected and sought after paralegal at Budd Lerner Law Firm in the 90s. Robert left to care for his father in the final weeks of his life, Dr. Herman A. Estrin, who passed in 1999, and then continued to care for his mother, Pearl Simon Estrin, who passed 2007, in the house where Robert grew up.

After moving to Nashville, Robert again chose teaching, though at retirement age, joining the Metro Nashville school system as a substitute. In an underfunded Public School system that had mostly students of color, Robert was a favorite teacher, making school



work relevant, caring individually about students and encouraging them to want more. His dry sense of humor mixed with his take-no-nonsense approach went a long way to winning over skeptical students, along with his special way to make learning exciting. Propelled by a personal mission to empower all those to learn, to understand the value of a good education with effective study habits, and what that would bring to a young adult later in life, Robert was a frequently requested presence throughout the school system.

An aficionado of the arts, Robert was raised in a home where the Metropolitan Opera was faithfully broadcast each Saturday morning and

he could already identify arias by age 3, becoming a passionate, discerning and knowledgeable lover of not only Opera and Classical music, but of ballet, museum art, glasswork and as well was an avid collector of various pieces from The Art Deco period.

Outside of work, Robert was a private person, but those who came to know him became his friends and admirers; Robert always being eager to help out or lift up a friend or someone new he would meet, and remembered for his incredible intellect, fascinating conversation and gentle demeanor.

Beginning June 2, 2026, Robert's sister, Kari, plans to carry forward their shared commitment to honoring their father's legacy at NJIT by supporting and celebrating Dr. "Doc" Estrin's profound contributions to the interdisciplinary and literary life of NJIT students. Robert played a pivotal role in preserving and advancing his father's vision. In 2021, Robert personally researched more than 400 living New Jersey authors, continuing the foundational work his father began in creating the original New Jersey Literary Map.

An informal gathering will be held at B'Nai Abraham Memorial Park 2600 Us-22, Union, New Jersey, at 10:30 a.m., for those who wish to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Robert's life and legacy. Please contact kmm225@njit.edu for more information to contribute.

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This is when the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks steps up to help - turning empty rooms into a home.

Recently, members of the NJ State Elks East Central District, with lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Union, Cranford, and Rahway, have delivered four Veteran Welcome Home Kits, transforming bare apartments into comfortable living spaces. Each kit includes a full-sized bed, couch, end tables, coffee table, dining table and chairs, dresser, nightstands, microwave oven, toaster, coffee maker, lamps, towels, cleaning supplies, kitchenware, and more. Within two hours, the furniture is assembled, the kitchen cabinets are filled, and the apartment is fully set

up and ready for its new resident to move in.

Each Veteran Welcome Home Kit costs approximately \$1,800 and is purchased through fundraising events, donations, and grants from the Elks National Foundation. They are given to the veteran free of charge.

Nationwide, an estimated 40,000 veterans experience homelessness on any given night. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness by ensuring veterans have access to safe, stable housing.

Here in New Jersey, dozens of Veteran Welcome Home Kits have been delivered since the beginning of the year. And year round, Elks volunteers provide direct services to more than 1,000 veterans at VA facilities across the state and continue to connect with veterans and active military members in their local communities, offering assistance wherever it is needed.

Visit elks.org to learn more about the Elks, their charitable causes, and how to become a member.



(above) Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks - turning empty rooms into a home.

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CAMINO DE ST. JOSEPH WINDS ITS WAY TO ELIZABETH

St. Joseph Social Service Center proudly hosted its inaugural Camino de St. Joseph on Saturday, April 18, 2026, drawing over 160 participants from across Union County and beyond in a powerful show of unity, faith, and support for our neighbors.

Held on the 40th anniversary of the soup kitchen program, the event offered participants a meaningful opportunity to walk in solidarity while raising awareness of the Center's mission. St. Joseph Social Service Center brings people and communities together to serve our neighbors by providing food, health programs, and support services with love, dignity, and compassion.

The day began with a 9 a.m. Mass at the Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield, NJ, where participants gathered in reflection and fellowship before embarking on the journey. St. Helen's parishioners cooked and served the first soup kitchen meals on April 19, 1986. A meal has been served every Saturday since then.

Following Mass, attendees walked 3 miles to St. John the Apostle Church in Linden, where 4 generations of the Ruggieri family have coordinated the soup kitchen ministry.

After a brief rest, the group walked 3 miles to Warinanco Park in Roselle, and then 3 miles to St. Joseph's in Elizabeth. Additional participants joined at St. John's and Warinanco Park.

Volunteers from the many parishes that help with the soup kitchen and sandwich programs warmly welcomed the walkers and offered

snacks, water, rest and hospitality. The event concluded with a community lunch at St. Joseph's and a celebration of accomplishment and shared purpose among all who participated.

Police from Westfield, Clark, Linden, Roselle, Elizabeth, and the County of Union ensured the safety of participants along the route. Motorcycle and support police from the cities of Linden and Elizabeth provided a secure and well-coordinated escort throughout the day.

The success of the Camino de St. Joseph was made possible through the Camino planning committee. Chaired by Brendan Maher of Westfield, the committee included volunteers from many church partners, along with St. Joseph's staff. Volunteers from the following helped with planning and throughout the day: Holy Trinity and St. Helen's (Westfield), St. John's (Linden), Holy Spirit (Union), St. Agnes (Clark), Church of the Assumption (Roselle Park), St. Michael's (Cranford), Church of the Little Flower (Berkeley Heights), and Immaculate Conception (Elizabeth). County Commissioner Chairman Joseph Bodek joined the opening mass, and Commissioners Lourdes Leon and Joseph Bodek presented a resolution at the lunch.

"This event reflects the strength and compassion of our community," said Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director of St. Joseph's. "Together, we walked not only in faith, but in solidarity with those we serve every day. We are

grateful to all who prayed, walked, volunteered, and donated food and funds."

St. Joseph Social Service Center extends its deepest gratitude to all who participated and supported this inaugural Camino. If you would like to make a donation to the 40th anniversary appeal, please visit sjeliz.org/donate.

For more information about St. Joseph Social Service Center and future events, please contact Mary Phillips at mphillips@sjeliz.org or visit our website at sjeliz.org.

"Share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor" - (Isaiah 58)



(above) Walkers began the Camino from St. Helen's Church in Westfield.



(above) Walkers arriving at Warinanco Park in Elizabeth.

Courtesy Photos

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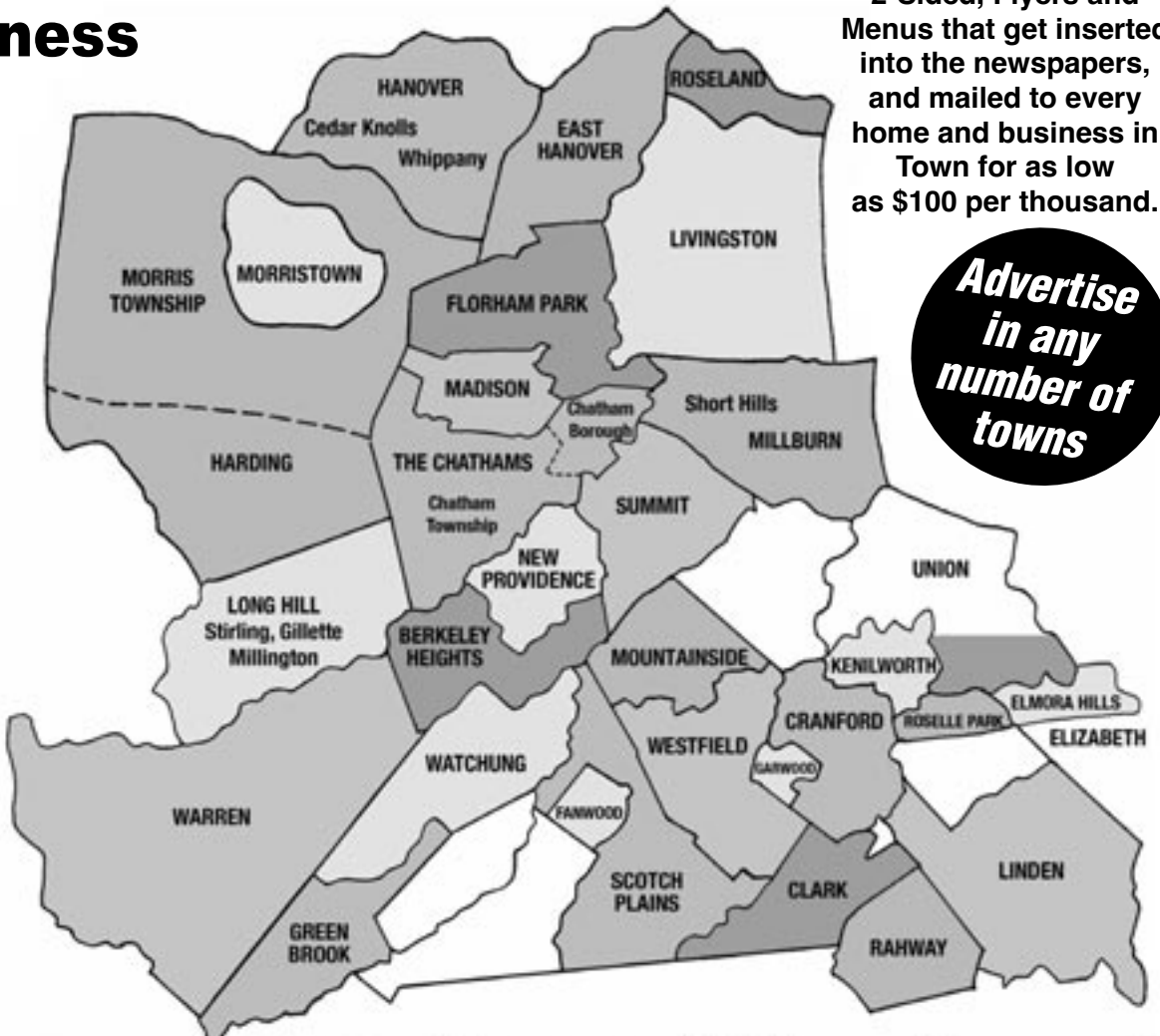
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12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
2-PAGE SPREAD	(2) 10"x14"	800										
BACK PAGE	10"x14"	600										
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25"x2"	360										
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.

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Minimum cost is \$450. Tri-folding add \$15 per thousand.

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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.

POST CARD \$120 per thousand

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

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JOE RENNA 908-447-1295

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- Gold Earrings
- Gold Rings
- Gold Bracelets
- Gold Pendants
- Gold Charms
- Gold Watches

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- Gold Eagles
- Proof Sets
- Kreugerrands
- Buffalos
- US Silver Coins Pre-64
- Morgan/Peace Dollars

BUYING ALL STERLING SILVER

- Silverware
- Trays
- 925 Jewelry
- All Sterling Silver

WATCHES

- Rolex
- Cartier
- Patek Philippe
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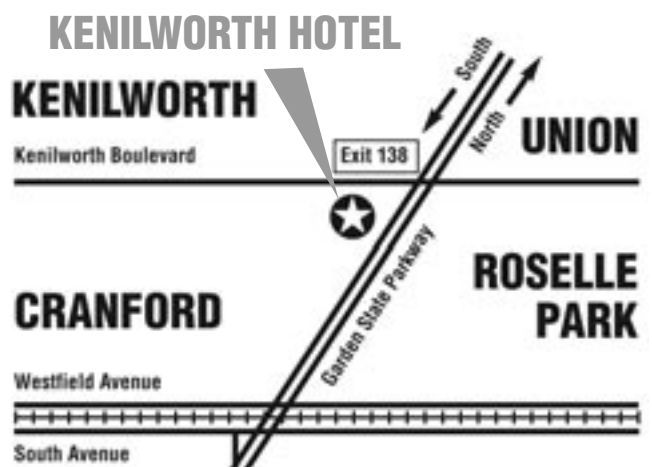
ADD 20% TOWARD YOUR SALE WITH THIS COUPON!

* Limit 1 Per Customer. Visit us at a show with this coupon for more details. This Coupon must be presented at the start of the transaction. Other restrictions may apply. All prices subject to market fluctuation. Offers Subject to Condition & Presentation. Please Bring All Appropriate Boxes & Paper Work.

WEST ORANGE COURTYARD
JUNE 1st to 5th
JUNE 15th to 19th
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West Orange, NJ



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JUNE 22nd to 26th
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Speak to the company's owner: Marshall Smoller: 609-781-6559