

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM KICKS OFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

All-Day Festival Will Feature Musical Acts, Food Trucks, Local Vendors, Autism Workshops, Raffles, Inflatables and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Opening Day Ceremony

To commemorate Autism Awareness Month, and raise awareness of and funds for autism research, the Town of Fanwood will be hosting its first annual Rockin' For Autism Music Festival on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from 10:00am to 5:00pm at LaGrande Park. The all-day festival will feature a variety of local musical acts, food trucks, local vendors, autism workshops and clinics, raffles and inflatables, and will coincide with the Scotch Plains Fanwood Youth Baseball Association Opening Day Ceremony.

All proceeds will be donated to Autism NJ, the largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

The festival is the brainchild of 14-year-old Fanwood resident Mallory Banks, who since 2011 has raised more than \$10,000 for Autism NJ in honor of her brother Ethan (16) and all those affected by autism spectrum disorder. Miss. Banks, an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador, ranks among the top kids in New Jersey who raised money for Autism Awareness Month.

"For the past few years, I've had a lot of success in raising funds for autism awareness by hosting bake sales and raffles. This year I wanted to do something bigger and better, and get more of the community involved," said Mallory, who conceived of the festival while recovering from spinal surgery last year. "The Rockin' For Autism music festival is like a dream come true, and I am so excited that our mayor and so many local bands and businesses have committed to helping me raise funds for autism awareness."

In 2015, Mallory approached Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr during the town's annual Fannywood Day celebration and pitched her idea for hosting a music festival in La Grande Park. Since then, Mayor Mahr has been working closely with Mallory; her parents, Jeff and Gina Banks; and local government agencies to help facilitate the event. In 2014, the Fanwood Borough Council honored then 12-year-old Mallory for raising \$3,500 for autism awareness, and proclaimed June 17 to be Mallory Banks Day.

"Mallory Banks is an extraordinary girl, whose passion for raising awareness for autism is truly inspirational and sets an example for others to follow. I am honored to be able to support her efforts and applaud her deep commitment to community advocacy," said Mayor Mahr. "With Everything that the Rockin' For Autism has to offer, I am confident that the annual festival will exceed expectations in terms of raising awareness

and funds, and will have a long-lasting, positive benefit for Fanwood as well."

Among the many musical acts scheduled perform include Goodworks, Three-Piece Nugget, Broadcaster, Leave the Gun, Strung at Heart, The Jeff Birns Band and Eric Harrison's Crash Course. The event will be MC'd by Main Source DJs.

Many local businesses and organizations have also pledged to support the festival, including: Nick's Pizza & Deli, Fanwood Bagels & Deli and Frank's Auto Repair in Fanwood; GrillStone, Rich Tric Photography, Temple Sholom and The JCC of Central NJ in Scotch Plains; The MAX Challenge and Cesar Kai Academy in Cranford; Cindy Smith Dance Studio in Garwood; Main Source DJs in Woodbridge; and New Jersey American Water in Voorhees.

The festival will also coincide with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Association's annual opening day ceremony. Fanwood Mayor Coleen Mahr will throw the ceremonial first pitch to commence the 2016 SPFYBA baseball season. In addition, the Wolves Basketball Academy will also run clinics on the basketball courts, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Soccer Association will organize impromptu games during the event.

The event will also feature a variety of autism clinics, including workshops by Jammin' Jenn, which has been using music therapy to connect with special needs children and adults since 2009. Autism New Jersey and Children's Specialized Hospital will also partake in spreading awareness.

ABOUT ROCKIN' FOR AUTISM

Rockin' For Autism is an annual music festival dedicated to raising awareness and funds for AutismNJ. Founded in 2016, the festival is the brainchild of 14-year-old Fanwood resident Mallory Banks, who since 2011 has raised more than \$10,000 for Autism NJ in honor of her brother Ethan (16) and all those affected by autism spectrum disorder. Miss. Banks, an Autism Awareness Junior Ambassador, ranks among the top kids in New Jersey who raised money for Autism Awareness Month. To volunteer, sponsor or exhibit at the event, please contact Jeff Banks at 973-464-5477.



Mallory Banks

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email Lori Theiss at lori@rennamedia.com

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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP) CADET PROGRAM

CAP was founded in 1941. It is a volunteer civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force ("non combatant volunteers"). CAP is a national benevolent nonprofit organization with over 60,000 members, including over 26,000 cadets and nearly 35,000 adult members.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) offers a "Cadet Program" for the youth of Scotch Plains and adjacent towns. The program is open to teenagers from 12 to 18 years old. The Cadet Program promotes the use of aerospace themes to help educators excite and motivate their students to excel in science, math, technology, language arts, social studies, and other traditional subjects. In addition, cadets receive Aerospace Education, Flight Orientations, STEM education, and more.

CAP promotes strong character in its cadets, which is reflected in the CAP Core Values: Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect. Cadets learn how to lead through formal classroom instruction and hands-on experience where they apply leadership principles to real-world challenges within the cadet corps.

Through a graduated curriculum, cadets first learn to follow, then to lead small groups, and ultimately experience command and executive-level leadership, earning grade and honors along the way. Topics include how to think critically, communicate effectively, make decisions, motivate, and manage conflict. Self-discipline

and teamwork are emphasized. Physical Activities are also part of the Cadet Program in order to encourage a healthy life style.

CAP has summer programs for cadets that they can attend in different parts of the nation and outside of the USA. Furthermore, CAP provides scholarships, career exploration activities, and opportunities to fly.

Military Commitment: Although the Air Force provides most of CAP's funding, cadets are not obligated to join the military. However, 10% of the cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy get their start in CAP.

CAP still actively performs search and rescue missions within the United States (a program tailored to adults and older cadets). After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Civil Air Patrol aircraft provided the first aerial pictures of the World Trade Center site, "Ground Zero," and also flew transport missions bringing donated blood to New York City. CAP members responded by the thousands to help out in the aftermath of hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005, both on the air and on the ground – helping with search missions, disaster relief and aerial survey flights.

For info call Mary Romany at 732-424-6484

Email: mary.romany@njwg.cap.gov

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11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Scotch Plains NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to 1-888-243-5861 and enter 3006. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of All Towne Realty Realtor . Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014

On February 21, 2016 over 60 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA students attended the 55th State Career Development Conference in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Students competed over two days in various business events. Events bring competitors together to test how well they can perform in their areas of Marketing, Hospitality and Tourism, Finance and Business Management and Administration.

The following students received recognition at the Conference.

- Maggie DiVirgilio
 - 2nd Place in Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling
- Max Mazursky
 - 3rd Place in Marketing Management Series
- Peter Yarem
 - 3rd Place in Quick Serve Restaurant Management
- Angie Saleh and Maggie DiVirgilio
 - 1st Place in Public Relations Project
- Matt Fox and Max Ross
 - 3rd Place in Learn and Earn Project
- Niva Patel - 1st Place in Start-up Business Plan
- Noah Bernstein
 - 2nd Place in Business Finance Series
- Max Mazursky and David Walker

- 2nd Place in Creative Marketing Project
- Darya Ganzha and Rachel Gudowitz
 - 2nd Place in International Business Plan
- Ari Rosenzweig
 - 2nd Place in Principles of Finance

Finalists include: Robbie Viglione in Quick Service Restaurant, Karl Wirth, Eliza Kuperschmid and Darya Ghanza in Full Service Restaurant, Isha Kamdar in Hotel and Lodging, Ava Steele in Sports Promotion Plan, Caitlin Bourke in Marketing Management, Maddie Sassoon in Apparel and Accessories Merchandising, Peter Warren in Retail Merchandising, Jessica Riperti in Business Innovation Plan, Molly Pritchett in Principles of Hospitality, Samantha Broders in Professional Selling, Madison Banker in Hospitality Professional Selling, Katherine Seeney and Kate Musso in Marketing Communications, Avery Greenberg in Principles of Marketing, Ewan Jones and Ryan Cleary in Principles of Finance.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood DECA chapter was also recognized for raising over \$650 for Operation Shoebox. Twenty-four students will be representing SPFHS and the state of New Jersey at the International Career Development conference in Nashville, Tennessee in April.



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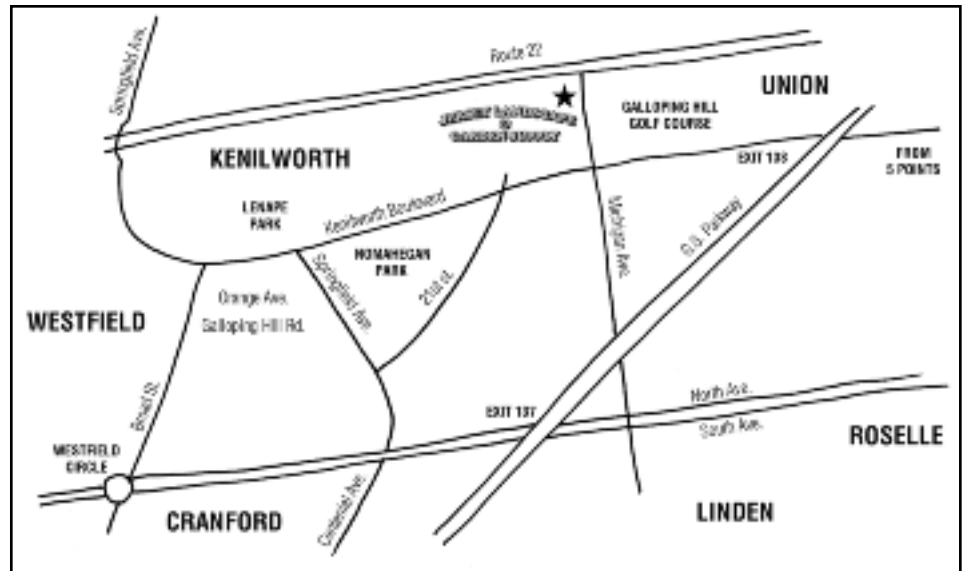
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JEWES AND BASEBALL WITH RON KAPLAN SUNDAY, APRIL 17 AT 7:00PM

April is the beginning of baseball season. It's also a great time to learn some history of Jews and baseball. Baseball is a uniquely American sport. It served both as entertainment and part of immigrants' assimilation in America. Ron Kaplan, Sports and Features Editor of the New Jersey Jewish News is presenting a discussion on the history of Jews and baseball.

Ron Kaplan is an award-winning journalist for the New Jersey Jewish News, where he's been on staff since 2004. He is currently the sports and

features editor and also handles the world news and commentary departments.

He blogs at "Kaplan's Korner on Jews and Sports," which was named by the New Jersey Press Association as the best blog of 2014. He also blogs about baseball literature and pop culture at Ron Kaplan's Baseball Bookshelf where he has interviewed dozens of authors, artists, filmmakers, and musicians regarding their work about the national pastime.

In 2013, Kaplan published 501 Baseball Books Fans Must Read before They Die and his new book The Jewish Olympics: The History of the Maccabiah Games, was released by Skyhorse Publishing in July, 2015. He is currently at work on a book about Hank Greenberg.

Admission is free thanks to a grant from the Ruth Rutenberg fund at Temple Sholom.

Please keep this fund in mind when considering future charitable giving. Light refreshments will be served.

ABOUT TEMPLE SHOLOM

Founded in 1913, Temple Sholom is a Reform Jewish congregation led by Rabbi Joel N. Abraham and Cantor Darcie Sharlein. The temple and its religious school are home to about 250 families from the greater Scotch Plains-Fanwood area. Temple Sholom is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. Temple Sholom is located at 1925 Lake Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

For more information about the Temple or joining the congregation, please call 908-889-4900, e-mail sholom@sholomnj.org or visit <http://www.sholomnj.org/>

THE EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION OF SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD 4TH ANNUAL MUSICFEST SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2016

On Sunday, April 24 at 5 to 8 p.m. the SPF Educational Enrichment Foundation will host its fourth annual Musicfest at the Crossroads Music Club and Restaurant in Garwood. The evening will feature musical performances by SPF students, parents and teachers to benefit a worthy cause. Performers in all styles of music are welcome.

Student performers must be in seventh grade or older. All students, teachers and parents interested in performing, whether as a soloist or as a group, should send an email to eefmusicfest2016@gmail.com with your name, grade, contact information, and a sample performance on audio or video if available.

The EEF of SPF is a volunteer fundraising organization in our community that provides

grant opportunities for all educators in the SPF school district, supporting unique innovative educational experiences in our schools. We work to enrich the quality of education in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district by focusing on student achievement, student leadership, innovation in the classroom, and enhanced learning through technology and innovation.

In addition to our hallmark educator grant program, the EEF offers an annual Student Leadership Training Conference called the LTC 100, which provides leadership training to over 100 middle school students annually. The EEF also sponsored cohorts of students for the Students 2 Science program, as part of our mission to fund and initiate new innovative programs.

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MOUNT SAINT MARY'S EURO CHALLENGE TEAM ATTEND INSTITUTE AT RU

On February 24, twelve freshmen and sophomores from the Euro Challenge team at Mount Saint Mary Academy participated at the Euro Challenge Institute at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. The Euro Challenge is an academic competition for ninth and tenth graders to learn about the European Union and the euro. The students presented and received comments from three judges in preparation for the regional competition on March 14. The quality of the information they presented as well as their

presentation skills were evaluated. According to Kathleen Brennan, math chair at Mount Saint Mary Academy, the judges were especially

impressed by the level of knowledge the students demonstrated about their topic and the research they performed.



(above, l-r) (front row) Brigid Meisenbacher of Warren, Lauren Zastko of North Brunswick, Isabelle Rojas of Madison, Hanna Guarnuccio of Scotch Plains, and Colleen Cirrotti of Gilette; and (back row) Catherine Gerlitz of Plainfield, Madeline Newall of Westfield, Emrit Nijjar of Iselin, Grace Gordon of Annandale, Erica MacDonald of Westfield, Grace Schleck of Metuchen, and Gabriela Rivera of Clinton.

Photo by M. Daino

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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL TO HOLD BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, APRIL 10

The Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel will hold a Blood Drive on Sunday, April 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Plains synagogue.

Run by Community Blood Services of New Jersey, the drive is open to anyone in the community, 18 years or older, who is medically eligible to donate blood. No pre-registration is required. A continental breakfast will be served to all donors.

The Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel hosts a winter and spring blood drive annually.

Congregation Beth Israel is located at 18 Shalom Way (corner of Martine Ave.), Scotch Plains, NJ. For more information, contact the synagogue office at (908) 889-1830 or Walter Chinoy, Blood Drive Chair, at (908) 230-0062.

FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Fanwood Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the NY Blood Services Donor Center, 22279 South Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Donors age 16 or older are urgently needed. Set in motion a chain reaction of giving of a life force and love to humanity by taking an hour out of the day to donate.

Relax in a comfortable recliner, watch a little TV, and enjoy snacks and juice after donation.

Donors must satisfy weight criteria, be in generally good health, and have a valid photo I.D., 16-years-olds must furnish a signed parental consent from and persons age 76 and older must furnish medical clearance. No appointments needed.

PURIM GIFT BAGS GONE GREEN

On Sunday, March 13, volunteers from the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains prepared gift bags with groggers, treats and traditional hamentashen cookies to be delivered to the entire congregation before the Jewish holiday of Purim. In keeping with the synagogue's efforts to go green, this year's gift bags contained reusable water bottles imprinted

with Congregation Beth Israel's logo and stuffed with candy.

Congregation Beth Israel's Sisterhood also donated Purim gift bags and additional pounds of hamentashen to residents of AristaCare at Cedar Oaks, a nursing home in South Plainfield, and to students at the Hillel of The College of New Jersey.



(above, l-r) Chairs of Congregation Beth Israel's Purim outreach project - Robin Sabony; Debbie Abrams; Carrie Jaffe; Marcia Wiener, Sisterhood co-president; Ilyse O'Desky; and Diana Cooper, Sisterhood co-president.

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DPP PICKUP NOTICE

The Department of Public Property will begin pickups for leaves, limbs, brush and gumballs at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, April 18. Crews will only be picking up leaves, limbs, brush and gumballs. Stumps and other materials will NOT be collected. Branches must not exceed a maximum of 3 inches in diameter and a maximum of 3 feet in length. Branches and limbs should be separate from leaves, brush and gumballs.

Important: Have material out to the curb no more than 7 days prior to pickup. Township ordinance prohibits putting vegetative waste at the curb unless a pickup is scheduled.

AARP APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the AARP Westfield Area Chapter 4137 will be held on Monday, April 4 beginning at 1:00 PM at the Scotch Hills Country Club, at the intersection of Plainfield Ave. and Jerusalem Rd. in Scotch Plains. Ms. Marilyn Schnaars, who is a resident of Maplewood and an active member of our Chapter, is happy to tell her story of her connection with the once famous Gruning Ice Cream enterprise. Marilyn is a niece of William Gruning, the founder of the once well-known Gruning ice cream and candy "parlors", which were first started in New York City on

West 125th Street. When he expanded into New Jersey, William Gruning opened his first store in Newark on Roosevelt Avenue, and eventually established 7 ice cream stores throughout the State. Marilyn, as a member of the Gruning family, will tell us her story.

The business meeting will follow our program and end with refreshments and fellowship. A reminder: please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to the Westfield Food Pantry as this is our main charitable undertaking. The need is always there.

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COLES CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

On March 2nd, Coles School celebrated Read Across America Day. Readers from across the district and throughout the community were invited to come to Coles School to read to classes.

Each class had 3 to 5 readers that included members of the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Police Departments, town librarians, members of the Board of Education, supervisors, retired teachers and even Target team members!

CHURCH SPONSORING BLOOD DRIVE

Fanwood Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the NY Blood Services Donor Center, 22279 South Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Donors age 16 or older are urgently needed. Set in motion a chain reaction of giving of a life force and love to humanity by taking an hour out of the day to donate.

Relax in a comfortable recliner, watch a little TV, and enjoy snacks and juice after donation.

Donors must satisfy weight criteria, be in generally good health, and have a valid photo I.D., 16-years-olds must furnish a signed parental consent from and persons age 76 and older must furnish medical clearance. No appointments needed.



(above) Fanwood Police Chief Trigo reading to a third grade class.

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COLLEGE CLUB PRESENTS “MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION” MONDAY APRIL 18, 7:30-8:30 PM

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes Dr. Diane Handlin, the Founder and Executive Director of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Center of NJ in Metuchen, NJ along with her husband Dr. Jim Handlin, Founding member and Educational consultant for the center. They will share their knowledge about this powerful method to reduce stress and improve overall health and well-being.

Published research has shown that meditation and relaxation training can be significant and effective adjuncts to the conventional medical treatment of many disorders as well as a powerful means of reducing stress and pain and heightening well-being. Come and learn about techniques to help us manage stress in our everyday life

The program is free and open to the public. The College Club’s mission is to support education of our youth and local community.

The program will be held at The Chelsea

located at 295 South Ave, Fanwood, NJ. Refreshments will begin at 7:30 pm with the program to start at 7:45pm.



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LA MARQUE FUR SALON

Recently, we had an opportunity to chat about fur with Chris Poullos of La Marque Fur Salon. Poullos, who is a 4th generation furrier told us a little about himself. He started in the fur business when he was 15, working summers as a storage and cleaning assistant for a prominent retail store in Long Island, NY. By the age of 21, he was leasing half a floor on 7th Ave in New York's fur district and employed 15 – 20 people manufacturing fur garments. "I sold to retail and department stores all over the country, all over the world. New York was the fur capital. It was an exciting time and an exciting business".

His transition to retail came years later. "I always had a wonderful relationship with the owners of La Marque. They always used the best quality merchandise and truly stressed customer service".

When the opportunity came, he took over the store. "It's so much fun working directly with customers. Creating fur, whether it's a new garment or restyling an older one, is truly an art. Poullos also gave us some tips about cold

storage and cleaning. "Sometimes I'm asked why one can't just leave their garments in a cool air conditioned house. The difference is in refrigeration vs air conditioning. Our storage vaults are refrigerated at 45 degrees, as well as humidity controlled. You wouldn't leave milk out in your air conditioned house, would you? The back of a fur is a suede. As furs age, they begin to dry out. Cold storage slows that aging process considerably.

Poullos also recommends cleaning your fur every other year. Our cleaning not only removes soil and pollutants from your fur, in addition to perfumes and oils that come from the face and neck, but we also have a moisture adding product that slows the natural drying process that will eventually dry out your fur. "I have customers with garments that have lasted over 25 years. An incredible statement when you consider we have become a disposable society. In addition, fur is completely biodegradable. Lightweight, not at all bulky, and amazingly warm and affordable. A fantastic addition to everyone's wardrobe!"

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The Needle Niters of Fanwood Presbyterian Church invite all to visit our display and demonstration on April 2nd at the Harvest Quilters show at Willow Gove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains from 8am to 4:30pm.

The monthly Needle Nite at Fanwood Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Friday, April 8th (note that this is the second Friday) at 7:30pm in Westminster Hall. Enter from Marian Avenue.

The quilters will work on this year's quilt pattern called "9Patchtastic". The knitters and those who crochet will work on the projects they make for charity.

All are welcome to come and see what is being done and to join the group.

If fabric, batting or yarn is needed, Needle Niters may e-mail their request to needlenite@fanwoodpc.org. The donated materials used end up in many forms usable by the charities that receive them. The Needle Nite Participants then take their newly learned skills for their use at home.

For further information about these projects or

directions to Fanwood Presbyterian Church please call the office at 908-889-8891 or e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org or check the web www.fanwoodpc.org. with your name, grade, contact information, and a sample performance on audio or video if available.

The EEF of SPF is a volunteer fundraising organization in our community that provides grant opportunities for all educators in the SPF school district, supporting unique innovative educational experiences in our schools. We work to enrich the quality of education in the Scotch Plains- Fanwood school district by focusing on student achievement, student leadership, innovation in the classroom, and enhanced learning through technology and innovation.

In addition to our hallmark educator grant program, the EEF offers an annual Student Leadership Training Conference called the LTC 100, which provides leadership training to over 100 middle school students annually. The EEF also sponsored cohorts of students for the Students 2 Science program, as part of our mission to fund and initiate new innovative programs.

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(above) Nancy Bassman, co-chair of Needle Nite shows one of the 9Patchtastic quilt patterns at the March meeting.

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The seminar is free and open to everyone, so please help us spread the word and feel free to bring your questions on April 26. Handouts and light refreshments will be provided.

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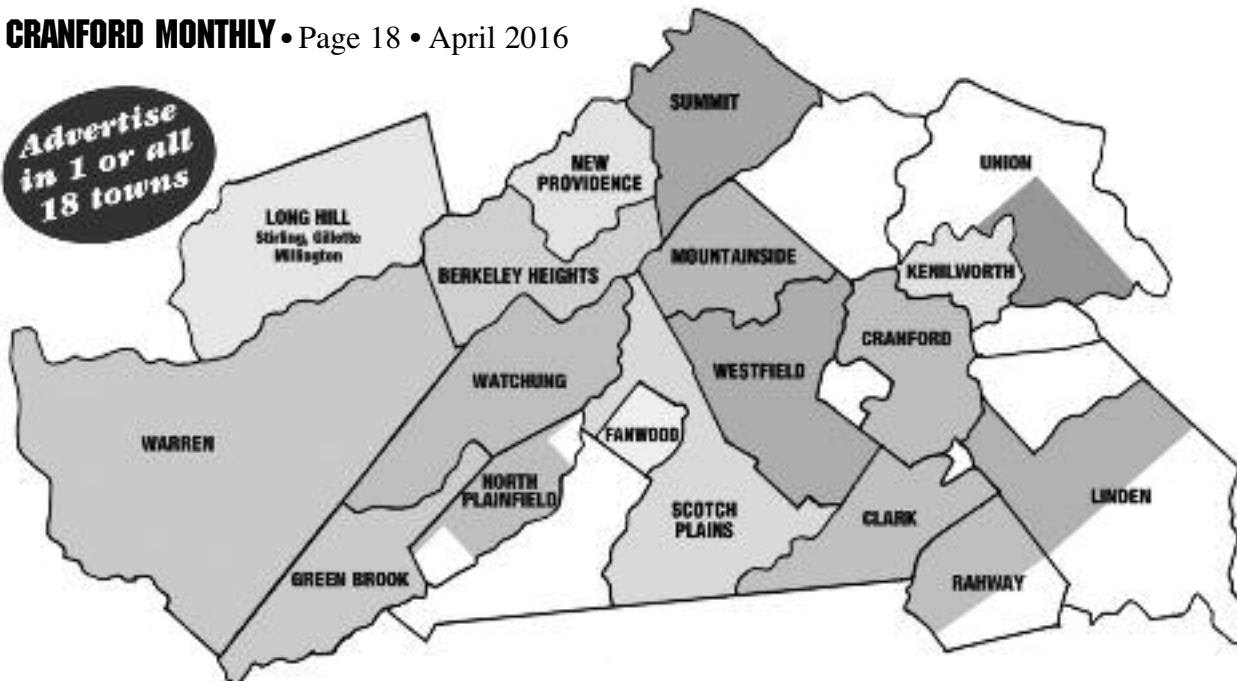
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SPRING ACADEMY WILL MOVE INTO TWO LOCATIONS IN APRIL

An established child care center and learning center, Spring Academy will be splitting its programs and moving from 211 Center Street in Garwood, to Willow Grove Church in Scotch Plains for Preschool to 1st Grade program, on April 1st; and its learning center for school age students will be moving to 110 Center Street in Garwood on a later date sometime in April. Among the programs it offers are the unique Preschool to 1st Grade program, which includes half day Montessori taught by qualified Montessori teachers in English, and half day

Chinese Mandarin immersion, taught by experienced authentic Chinese teachers. Their learning center programs include an After School program that offers school bus transportation, daily Chinese classes, daily Homework Help and various enrichment programs. In addition, the learning center also offers enrichment programs such as Karate, Dance, Art, Chess, English Reading/Writing workshops, middle school/high school subject Math teaching/tutoring, and Math Olympiad training.

“Our goal is to provide the best quality

education choices and convenience to working parents and local residents,” said co-founder Jill Ji.

This is a relocation of their second Montessori school which also offers a very successful After School program.

Ji and her husband, Bruce Huang, opened their first school (Little Spring Montessori Academy) six years ago in North Brunswick, and opened their second school (Spring Academy) three years ago in Garwood.

More than 250 students enrolled in its popular “Learning, Friends & Fun” summer day camp last year, in the 2 campuses.

“Our programs promote students’ ability to self-learn and time management,” Huang said.

This is what he calls the philosophy of “individualized education,” where each student is taught to unlock his or her inner potential and is encouraged to excel academically.

“We do this by making sure every pupil gets valuable one-on-one attention,” Ji explained.

Their very successful Montessori + Chinese Preschool program, for example – taught by loving and energetic Montessori teachers and experienced and patient Chinese teachers, breaks down students into smaller groups per their ability levels – ensures every child learns at their own pace and gets challenged and excited. Students not only could read/write naturally and do additions/subtractions even multiplications, but most importantly, they learn through hands on practices and thus have a solid understanding and foundation that enables them to excel and to have a thirst for knowledge. Take the Chinese Mandarin Immersion class for example: students who have no language environments at home are able to sing Chinese songs, recognize Chinese characters and speak the language, which often times amazes their parents... “Being able to learn a foreign language at a young age definitely provides stimulation to the brain and better prepares students to be a global citizen, especially the Chinese language – it just gives students a huge edge given the enormous potential and opportunities in China,” Huang said. “Spring Academy’s Chinese Immersion is unique,” Ji added, “because it is based on the Montessori Curriculum - all subjects such as Science, Geography, Music, and Math, are taught in Chinese- and Chinese language learning is one of the subjects.”

Spring Academy will hold an open house shortly after the move. Spaces are still available for the Preschool program, After School program, and Summer Camp programs, and registration will be held during the Open House.

The Preschool to 1st Grade program is available 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. on weekdays, after-school program is available 3-6 p.m. on weekdays, and enrichment programs are available on weekday nights after school, as well as Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment on Sundays.

For more information and Open House date and time, visit Lsmus.com or call 908-301-6168.

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