# Scotch Plains NJ What's happening monthly

Published by Renna Media Issue 14 • November 2016

## CEREMONY IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

11:00 am

VETERANS MONUMENT
Park Avenue and
Front Street

Sponsored by American Legion Post 209 and VFW Post 10122.

ALL ARE WELCOME (908) 322-9845

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OSTAL PATRON COTCH PLAINS, NJ 070

## **NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS ANNUAL MEET AND GREET**

By: Edir Coronado

With work, family, and the everyday hassle of dealing with the intricacies of life, it is hard to imagine making new friends past your college years. Social media and daily interaction at one's workplace might create the illusion of friends, but it might be rare for those Facebook friends to actually get together for a night out. These social life complications are magnified when you arrive in an unfamiliar town. A person might have daily interactions with several people throughout the week, but rarely do they find themselves with the opportunity to hold a meaningful conversation that might lead to a genuine friendship.

Since the 1950's The Scotch Plains- Fanwood Newcomers and Neighbors organization, a non-profit social club, have been bringing people together and creating bonds among fellow citizens. On October 19th the Newcomers and Neighbors held their annual Fall Meet and Greet event at the Darby Road Restaurant. At first glance an outside observer might conclude that attendees







were longtime friends, but some guests were newcomers, like Callie Campbell, who just moved to the area 2 months prior. Her story is a unique one, Callie was originally from the area, but has been away for 10 years, including 2 years in Hong Kong. The experience of living out of the country can be rewarding, but disorienting when moving back. Callie, who is expecting a child, was excited to attend her first event with the Newcomers and Neighbors group, just two months living in her new neighborhood.

Kelly Gilson is from Weehawken, her and her husband are first time homeowners. Gilson joined the group before she moved to Fanwood and just two months in town, she has already attended 5 events. She started off by going to the book club events.

Natalie Duncan has a similar situation; she recently moved to the area in May and bought a new home. The Fall Meet and Greet event, was her first function, but "not my last," said Duncan. She moved from the nearby town of Cranford.

The Fall Meet and Greet was a success. Throughout the year the organization hosts several events centered on a variety interests. Whether it is sports, book club, or a night out, the Scotch Plains – Fanwood Newcomers and Neighbors organization has something for everyone.

Meeting new people isn't the group's only activities; the organization is also involved in community service projects. They host book and blood drives, support veterans and military service members through "Holiday Mail for Heroes", and other projects like "Project NIght Night," where the club provides essential items to Raphael's Life house in Elizabeth, a transitional living residence for homeless pregnant women and new moms ages 18-23. For more information about the club please visit www.spfnewcomers.com.

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## Scotch Plains ы

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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 editor@rennamedia.com

Scotch Plains Monthly is online at www.rennamedia.com like us on facebook.com/ Scotch Plains Monthly



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

## **ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT! CELEBRATION HELD ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 2016.**

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Scotch Plains Monthly page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share"









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## **SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP NOV/DEC EVENTS**

Throughout November the Thrift Shop has cookware and table settings to make your Thanksgiving Dinner a memorable event. Please mark your calendar for the following:

Thrift Shop is closed for Thanksqiving Tuesday, November 22-25

Thrift Shop holds its "Black Saturday" Sales Saturday, November 26 - 10 am - 1:00 pm

**Thrift Shop Christmas Boutique.** 

Tuesday, December 6-23 New, never used gift items.

**Closed Christmas Week** 

Saturday, December 24-31 Reopening

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League is located at 1741 East 2nd St. in Scotch Plains. It is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has served our communities since 1974. Since its founding, the League has donated over \$1.2 million for local causes.

Anyone interested in learning more about the League or League membership is invited to call 908-322-5420, website visit our www.scotchplainsthriftshop.weebly.com speak to any of our volunteers at the shop.

Check out our Facebook page "Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League" and give us a "Like."

Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10-2:30 and Saturday 10-1. Gently-used donations are always welcome during open hours.

Free parking on the street and in the rear of the building (enter parking lot via Willow Ave.).

RSELI PRO CONSTRUCTION

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

noon - 5 pm

THE ALAN **AUGUSTINE GREEN SANTA ARRIVES** 

at 3:00 p.m TREE LIGHTING

at 5 p.m.

Horse and carriage rides, visit and take photos with Santa, petting zoo, hot chocolate and donuts and more!



## **NETWORKING NIGHT**

Thursday, November 17th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

### **ENCHANTMENTS**

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**RSVP** by Nov 14th

Lisa Mohn

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### HORS D'OEUVRES

### Individually Priced

Clams casino or oregenato	1.00 ea.
Mozzarella En Carroza	1.00 es.
Jumbo lumb crabcakes (mini)	2.00 ea.
Coctail franks	0.50 ea.
Stuff Mushroom with crabmeat	2.00 ea.
Stuff Mushroom with sausage	2.00 ea.
Jumbo Shrimp cocktail	2.50 ea.
Vegetable springs roll	1.50 ea.
Fried Shrimp	2.50 ea.
Chicken tender	1.00 ea.
Mozzarella sticks	1.00 ca.

### APPETIZERS

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)
Fried Calamari w/marinara	40.00	55.00
Mussels marinara	20.00	30.00
Zuppa di clams	25.00	40.00
Seafood salad	75.00	95.00
Broccoli rabe & sausage	40.00	65.00
Buffalo wings	7.95 per	dozen

	Small (8-10 people)	Medium (15-20 people)	Large (25-35 people)
Cold Antipasto	35.00	50.00	75.00
Fresh Mozzarella & Tomato	30.00	40.00	60.00
Roasted Peppers & Mozzarella	30.00	40.00	60.00
Fresh Tomato Bruschetta	15.00	25.00	35.00
Seasonal grilled Vegetable	20.00	30.00	45.00
Assorted imported Cheese	35.00	50.00	80.00
Seasonal fresh fruit	25.00	35.00	45.00
Vegetable Crudite	20.00	30.00	40.00

### SALADS

	Small (8-10 people)	Medium (12-15 people)	Large (18-20 people)
Ciao Bello	25.00	35.00	40.00
Italian	15.00	25.00	30.00
Roasted Beet	30.00	35.00	45.00
Caesar	20.00	30.00	40.00
Fennel	30.00	40.00	50.00
Benny's Salad	30.00	40.00	50.00
Aragala	25.00	30.00	40.00
		Descriptions	

Cian Bello - reganic baby greens, fresh strawberries, walmur, goat cheese, side

of caspborry vinaigrette House - mixed green with cucumber tornatoes olives red onions side of

Roasted Beet - cocumber, tomatoes, red & golden beets, red onion, gorgomola

cheese side of balsamic viralgreno

Caesar - crispy romaine hearts crutous & parmigano reggiano side of caccer dressing

Pennel - shirtly diced fennel & haby arrigula, massed pscan, sundried

cranberries, goar cheese side of figs vinaignette Benny's Salad - icrberg remains, grape terrators, avocado, red onion, com. black

beam, cucumber side of red wine vinaigrette & parmigano reggiano

Arugula — Organic baby arugula, pignoli nurs, raisim, tomatoes, avocado, swee com and gorgonuda cheese in a habamic viruigrette

### SANDWICH PLATTERS

### Fresh Baked Foccacio

(served round platters)

Small-12 pieces	Medium-24 pieces	Large-32pieces
(4-6 people)	(8-10 people)	(14-16 people)
\$25.00	\$45.00	\$65.00

- Grillod chicken with masted peppers & fresh mozzarella
- · Oven roasted turkey with lettuce, tomatoes & onions
- Chicken cutlet or grilled lettuce, romatoes & honey mustard
- Chicken parm eggplant, parm roasted peppers, grilled eggplant & fresh mozzarella
- Prosciutio roasted peppers & mozzarella

### Wrap It Up: Choice From

Small-16 pieces (4-6 people) \$25.00	Medium-32 pieces (8-10 people) \$45.00	Large-48pieces (14-16 pcople) \$65,00

- Grilled chicken ceasur
- · Grilled vegetable with fresh mozzarella
- Sirloin steak with sautéed onions peppers mushrooms & mazzarella
- · Chunky white tuna salad
- Grilled chicken sautéed spinach, onions, mushroom & fresh mozzarella.
- Sliced turkey with lettuce tomatoes & onions
- · Grilled chicken broccoli rabe musted peppers and fresh mozzarella
- · Barbeque chicken lettuce tomatoes Bacon & Monterey jack cheese

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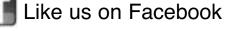








5.00/piece



### Gift Certificates Available

CHICKEN

	Small (3-10 people)	Medium (12-15 people)	Large (18-20 people)
(weet)	40.00	50.00	65.00
	300000000000000000000000000000000000000	50.00	60.00
	35.00	50.00	60.00
	40.00	50.00	60.00
00/piece	Saltambuc	a alla romana	5.00/piece
0/piece	Francase		5.00/piece
0/piece	Marsala		5.00/piece
	00/piece 10/piece	(3-10 people) 5weet) 40.00 35.00 35.00 40.00 00/piece Saltambuc 10/piece Francase	(8-10 people) (12-15 people) Sweet) 40.00 50.00 35.00 50.00 35.00 50.00 40.00 50.00 00/piece Saltambuca alla romana Francase

### Descriptions

Milanese

Murphy (hot or sweet) - modallions with onions, peppers, poratoes & mushmoms

5.00/piece Parmigiano

Oreganato - medallions souted in lemon , butter white wine topped seasoned bread crumbs

Cacciatore - medallions sautéed with mushrooms & onions in a light basil marinara sauce

Scarpaniello - medallions with sliced sausage, fresh resemeny in a wine demiglaze

M Saltambuca alla romana – topped with prosciutto & mozzarella over spinach in a marsula demielace

Francese – breast lightly battered sauté in a lemon butter sauce

Marsala - breast sautéed with exotic mushroom in a marsala wine demiglane Parmigiana - Lightly breaded with mozzarella & meat souce Gao Bello - lightly bassered chicken breast layered with ricotta , eggplant ,

romanies . mozzarella in a marinara souce Rollatine - breast stuffed with prosciutto messzarella & wrapped with bacon

in a mushroom marsala demiglace Balsamico - breast chopped tomatoes , white wine balsamic demiglaze

Milanese - panko crusted chicken breast curlet with arugula,

chopped summoes, fresh muzzarella, in a light balsamic vinaigrene

### SEA FOOD

(Market Price) Chilean Sea Bass • Halibut Swordfish Tilapia • Flounder • Salmon • Shrimp

Ways Prepared:

Napolitano - fresh basil chopped tomatoes and sliced garlic white wine holsamic same Oreganatto – ropped with scasoned bread crumbs in a lemon white wine butter state Livernese - samed with onions, capers, olives and garlic in a light maximum muce Herb crusted - seared spirach and sun dried common dritteled a balcomic reduction

Francase - lightly battered stated in a letton white wire state

Mare Chiaro - white wine garlic chen sauce with touch of marinara

Cajun or Blackened - served over saunted broccoli rabe and charry pappers.

### SLIDERS PLATTERS

	Colored Colored Colored	2004 W 1845 W 1855 W
Small-10 pieces	Medium-18 pieces	Large 24pieces
(4-6 people)	(8-10-people)	(14-16 people)
\$25.00	\$45.00	\$65.00

- · Angus Beef slider served on potato rolls
- Angus Beef slider with cheese served on potato rolls
- · Mearball Parm slider served on potato rolls
- . Chicken Parm slider served on potato rolls

Ravioli Marinara

Manicotti

### PASTA Small Medium Large (8-20 people) (12-15 people) (18-20 people) Baked Ziti 25.00 40.00 50.00 Ziti Sicilian Eggplant or Sausage 35.00 45.00 55.00 Cavatelli Broccoli 35.00 45.00 55.00 Baked Lasagna 30.00 50.00 N/A Penne Marinara 20.00 30.00 45.00 Penne Meat Sauce 25.00 35.00 50.00 Homemade Fusilli 45.00 55.00 65.00 Penne Vodka (w prosciutto) 35.00 45.00 55.00 Penne Primavera 40.00 50.00 60.00 Shell & Shrimp Marinera 45.00 55.00 70.00 Penne Broccoli Rabe & Sasage 10.00 50.00 60.00 Penne Broccoli Rabe & Shrimp 45.00 55.00 70.00 Penne Whole Wheat Cizo Bello 35.00 45.00 55.00

### FAVORITES

2.00 ea.

2.00 ez.

	Small (8-10 poople)	Large Thin (12-15 people)	Large Deep (18-20 people)
Sausage Peppers	40.00	50.00	60.00
Eggplant Parm	30.00	50.00	N/A
Eggplant Sorentino	25.00	40.00	N/A
Egeplant Rollatine	3.00 ca.		100000
Jumbo Meathalls with Sauce	2.00 ca		
Mini Meatball with Sauce	3.00 ca.		

	7 37 623	396.6	
Marsala	6.00 piece	Sorrentino	7.00 piece
Saltimbocca Alla	(00.1	Parmigiana	7.00 piece
Romana	6.00 piece	Milanese	2.00 alone
Francase	6.00 piece	Minancsc	7.00 piece

### Descriptions

Marsala - with contic mushrooms in a marsala densiglare

Salitimbocca alla romano - topped with prosciutto & rategarella over spirach in a manula wine demiglare

Francase - lightly battered soutéed in a lemon white butter tauce

Sorrentino - lightly battered with eggplant , shord norms , prosciums , mozsarella cheese and olives in a light pink vodka sauce

Parmigiana - lightly breaded with meccarella and ment used Milanese - parko crusted with angula chapped, chapped somusios,

fresh racozarella in a light habamic vinaigrette

### VEGETABLE & SIDE DISHES

(Sautéed or Steamed)	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)	
Spinach	20.00	40.00	
Broccoli	25.00	45.00	
Broccoli Rabe	35.00	60.00	
Fresh Vegetable	25.00	45.00	
Asparagus	30.00	50.00	
Reasted and notatoes	20.00	40.00	

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Meat sauce	5.00	9.00
Marinara sauce	4.00	7.00
Vodka sauce	5.00	9.00
Our Italian dressing	4.00	8,00
Caesar dressing	6.00	8.00

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# COLLEGE CLUB PRESENTS "THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF THE MUSCOGEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA."

On Monday November 21, 2016 7:30-8:30 pm The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes Mary DePaola to share the history, culture and traditions about her Native American tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) tribe of Oklahoma.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a federally recognized tribe. Mrs. DePaola will explain about her tribe being a sovereign nation and the governance involved.

As a resident of the Scotch Plains area for 20 years, she enjoys being an active member of the community. Married to longtime resident Edward DePaola, they enjoy raising their six children here. Prior to caring for their children, Mary earned her Bachelor of Engineering from Vanderbilt University and worked as a licensed professional structural engineer in New York at Severud Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. In

2012, she completed a four-year term on the Scotch Plains Town Council, serving as Deputy Mayor for a year and a half, and closed out her term with a six month stint as Mayor. Currently, she is a Realtor Sales Associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Westfield and serves on the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Board of Directors as President.

The College Club looks forward to hosting Mary DePaola on November 21, 2016. All are welcome to join and learn about her interesting life and experiences. The program is free and open to the public. It 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.

The College Club's mission is to support education of our youth and local community.

## VETERANS INVITED TO JOIN FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS ROTARY FOR LUNCH

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club is hosting a Veterans Day lunch at their meeting on Wednesday, November 9th at 12pm at the Stage House Restaurant in Scotch Plains. They'll honor Veterans in the club as well as Veterans in the local community. The Rotary Club is deeply grateful to all men and women who served the United States Armed Forces and will pay tribute

to those who served, those who continue to serve and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are invited to attend but must register in advance because space is limited.

To register for the event, Veterans can contact Julie Murphy at (800) 258-9249 or julie@franchisefalcon.com.





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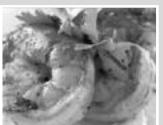
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### **MONDAY - THURSDAY**

Lunch 11am · 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:00pm
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Kids 7-10\$5.99	Kids 7-10\$6.99
Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99
2 & UnderFREE!	2 & UnderFREE!

### FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm	
Adult\$7.99	Adult\$11.59	
Kids 7-10\$5.99	Kids 7-10\$6.99	
Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99	
2 & UnderFREE!	2 & UnderFREE!	

### SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER 11am · 10pm

Adult	\$11.59
Kids 7-10	
Kids 3-6	
2 & Under	·

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Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other
offers or discounts. Expires 12/10/16.

# THE JUNIOR MUSICAL CLUB WILL HOLD AUDITIONS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20



The Junior Musical Club, a club for students in 8th -12th grades from Westfield and nearby towns, welcomes applications from young instrumentalists and vocalists who have a personal commitment to performing music of any and all genres. For more information about the Club and how to apply, please email juniormusicalclub@gmail.com.

Teen-aged musicians may audition to join the club on Sunday, November 20, 2016, between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. Exact audition times will be set after the candidate submits an application. Auditions will take place at the home of Beverly Shea, Senior Advisor to the Club, 2121 Princeton Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Each candidate must perform two pieces in contrasting styles. Total playing time should be 5 to 8 minutes in length. Auditioners are encouraged to perform some portion of a piece from memory and must provide their own accompanist, if needed. To obtain an audition form and to request the name of a possible

accompanist, applicants may email Samantha Sprechman at juniormusicalclub@gmail.com.

The club meets once each month on a Sunday evening at the homes of various club members. Each meeting consists of discussions about future concerts or events, and club members perform some of their current repertoire for one another. The club holds two concerts each year at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, open to the public free of charge. On March 29, 2017, at 7:30 p.m., The Ensemble Concert presents all club members in duets and group performances; on June 1, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., the high school junior and senior members will perform solo pieces in the Upper Class Recital. Club members also perform at senior citizen centers and play chamber music, solos and duets during the Tour of Notable Homes for the New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Saturday, May 13, 2017.

For additional information contact Beverly Shea, 908-654-1036, Senior Advisor, The Musical Club of Westfield.

## **OUR PAIN IS YOUR GAIN**

Due to an unusually mild December last year our sales figures dipped for the 2015 – 16 fur season. This means we are taking a more aggressive start to our 2016 – 17 selling season. Our first sale will begin in October with a 40% markdown on all current inventory. As always, La Marque will continue to feature many one of a kind garments not available elsewhere. I'm also very excited to introduce our new accessory line. Scarves, flings, headbands, earmuffs and fur trimmed shearling gloves (\$40 - \$250!) in assorted colors that can be worn to enhance any garment in your wardrobe. We look forward to seeing you at the store!





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# THE GREATER WESTFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPCOMING EVENTS

### Panel Discussion: Making Business in NJ More Affordable

Monday, November 14, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm,

Shackamaxon Country Club, 100 Tillinghast Turn in Scotch Plains.

This will be an informative event for business professionals, small business owners, and nonprofit organizations. Panelists include Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, Speaker Vincent Prieto, advocacy leaders Tom Bracken (President and CEO of the NJ Chamber of Commerce) and Michele Siekerka (President and CEO of the NJ Business and Industry Association), and Ken Bagner of the Tax Department of Sobel & Co. Moderated by Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky. To register visit gwaccnj.com, or call 908-233-3021.

### **Breakfast Networking**

Tuesday, November 15, 8:00 - 9:30 am, Paragon Tap & Table, 77 Central Avenue in Clark.

Join us for coffee and breakfast and don't forget to bring your business cards. You will have the opportunity to introduce yourself to the group and meet local business professionals.

Nonmembers are welcome. Members: FREE but please RSVP. Nonmembers: \$5 in advance. Additional \$5 at the door. To register visit gwaccnj.com, or call 908-233-3021.

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Mobile Meals of Westfield does not have a financial need requirement. They serve residents in Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Clark and Cranford. For \$6.25 per day for a hot meal, including dessert and beverage, with an optional lunch for an additional \$2.35 per day, they deliver Monday through Friday. The tasty, nutritious meals are prepared daily by a professional cook and are packed and delivered by volunteers around noontime each day.

So much more than just a meal, Mobile Meals of Westfield provides a friendly smile and a daily check in for residents that might otherwise be alone all day.

A Scotch Plains resident recently thanked Mobile Meals of Westfield, "Our mother looked forward to the stimulation of your daily visits and enjoyed your meals and the special occasion gifts.

You cheered up her life and provided structure that was caring and helpful. Your service shared in the success of helping her to live productively till almost 100 years old."

If Mobile Meals of Westfield can help you or someone you know, please call Josephine Walsh, Director, at 908-233-6146.





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## **TINY TIM NEEDS YOU**

By: Bernadette Hoyer, Tiny Tim Fund Board



The annual tiny Tim Fund Caroling Night is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th from 4:00PM to 8:00PM. Residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are needed to form groups to sing seasonal songs door to door and solicit donations for the Tiny Tim Fund. A group can consist of family members, friends, co-workers or any combination of participants. Caroling and collecting can be done in the neighborhood of the group leader's choice.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to help families pay for the medical needs of children from Fanwood and Scotch Plains. The organization has

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been providing financial assistance to local families since 1983.

The annual Tiny Tim Caroling Night is the organization's sole fundraising event. Many groups of adults and children are needed to make the evening a success. All donations collected are used for medical needs.

Anyone interested in doing a community service while having fun in the spirit of the season can form a group or volunteer to join an existing one. To register a group, reserve materials and/or to obtain further information please contact Barbara Anilo at 322-4472 or Mari McDevitt at 233-6513.





## ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00

Attorney David C. Bendush announced settlement of a lawsuit arising from a home explosion in Hunterdon County in September of 2014. The blast was caused by a contractor who was converting the home of his clients, from oil to natural gas. The clients were in the home with their infant daughter at the time of the explosion and fire. Davis Heating and Cooling was attempting without success to purge the new gas lines. Large amounts of natural gas were caused to accumulate inside the basement until the gas exploded, nearly levelling the structure and knocking the clients to the ground where they stood. Mr. Bendush litigated the liability issues aggressively, and attained the unusual result of summary judgment for plaintiff. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

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## **ADVOCATES NEEDED FOR LOCAL FOSTER YOUTH:** CASA OFFERS NEW FLEX-TRAININGS IN DEC, JAN

CASA of Union County is seeking Scotch Plains residents to step up and be the voice for one of the nearly 600 Union County youth, ages 0-21, currently in foster care through no fault of their own.

Traditionally, the required 30-hour training is held over six weeks, with volunteers meeting several evenings each week. However, two new training options are now available, in response to prospective volunteers seeking more scheduling flexibility. A December training — which begins Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 — allows those home during the day to complete all training within five days from 9 am to 4 pm at the CASA offices; the January training — which begins Thursday, Jan. 12 — continues the traditional six-week format, but incorporates online learning at the volunteer's convenience, and fewer in-person sessions. Lunch or light dinner is provided. At the conclusion of training, a Superior Court judge swears in the new child advocates at the Union County Courthouse.

Trained CASAs are court-empowered to speak to foster parents, teachers, doctors, lawyers, therapists and more. CASAs visit the youth regularly and incorporate findings into a report for the judge. They attend quarterly court hearings, working to ensure a youth's time in care is as short as possible and their best interests remain the priority. Although not required, there is an additional need for male advocates and advocates who speak Spanish. Just who is a typical child referred to CASA of Union County? Meet 12-year-old Marissa:

When my mother was pregnant with me, she drank alcohol and used cocaine, and I was born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Even though the state was working with my mom to help her get clean and be a better mom to me and my brother, she couldn't stay away from the drugs and alcohol. My older brother tried to take care of me, but he said it was too hard, and our house was so dirty and cluttered. A worker from the state came and took me, and put me into a foster home. That

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worker left and I have a new worker. When I met her, she said the plan was for me to go back with my mom as soon as she's better. I was so happy. But I just found out that now my mom is missing! I'm so worried and hope she's okay. Is she drinking again? Is she hurt? Every day I wonder what will happen to me and what's happened to her. I'm so scared. I don't see my brother anymore at all. My family is so broken and I feel all alone.

Scotch Plains residents are encouraged to contact Rachel at (908) 527-7044 or rwhite@casaofunioncounty.org to RSVP for an information session below, or for more details on claiming a seat in the December or January class.

Evening information sessions are: Thursdays, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15 at the County Clerk Building, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield; morning sessions are 10 a.m. Fridays, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16 at CASA's offices, 1143-45 East Jersey Street, Second Floor, Elizabeth.



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## The Plainfield Area Humane Society's Pictures with Santa

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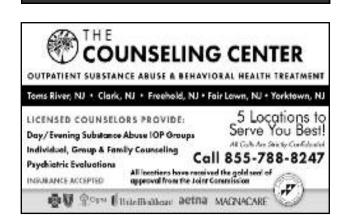
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