



**Mayor  
Onderko's  
Corner**  
Richard M. Onderko  
Mayor, Borough of  
Manville

Looking back on 2020, we introduced three new ordinances and clarified an existing residential parking ordinance. First, in July, the new rental inspection ordinance went into effect to allow for inspections of homes that are rentals in town. Numerous violations have been found to date where residents were sleeping in basements or attics without proper egress. Every rental home inspected so far has been found to have at least one violation. Most surrounding towns have similar type ordinances in place to ensure tenants have safe living conditions.

The second ordinance of importance was a residential sump pump inspection ordinance that prohibits sump pumps from being discharged into the sanitary sewer system. Inflow and infiltration into the system has cost the Borough significant overcharges recently paid to the Raritan Valley Sewage Authority. 2018 and 2019 were abnormally wet years with record rainfall amounts recorded in 2018. Please voluntarily disconnect your sump pump from the sanitary sewer since we are charged by the gallons that flow to the authority. Clean ground water should not be discharged into the system on purpose.

An existing ordinance was recently updated for residential parking restrictions on lots in town. The ordinance now clearly prohibits parking of registered vehicles anywhere on your property other than the driveway. Front lawn parking is only allowed during times of snow emergencies for 24 hours. You can still have only 1 unregistered vehicle in your back yard not visible from the street. This ordinance prohibits residential lots from becoming a junk yard of vehicles

The third ordinance recently introduced is a new ordinance that forms an Economic Development Committee on our Council. This committee will be focused on helping our small business community with better communication on pandemic relief aid and hearing their small business concerns. Our Main Street at some point in 2021 will be under construction to improve pedestrian crossings and to slow traffic down coming into town. This new committee will be formed and meet

## Five Manville Girl Scouts Achieve Bronze Award

by Tina Breen, Co Leader Troop 60133

Manville should be very proud of 5 special Girl Scouts. We are excited to announce that Riley Breen, Luciana Gallo, Meaghan Rabin, Yashvi Ghelani, and Maheen Yasir have achieved their Girl Scouts Bronze Award. This is the highest award a Junior Scout can achieve, and the 3rd highest award in all of Girl Scouts.

To earn this award, the scouts had to work together to come up with a community service project that is sustainable and will have a positive impact on the community for

years to come. They chose to infuse positive messaging into ABIS and Roosevelt schools with the intent of increasing students self-esteem. They designed and presented ABIS with banners to hang throughout the school, and they made bookmarks to distribute to the Roosevelt students. These Girl Scouts learned how to manage themselves through consensus, how to budget, fundraise, create presentations for the BOE and school Principals, execute the project and then amplify the message through post-project marketing initiatives. Not to be ignored, they had to pivot during COVID to change the scope of their project to be compliant with the CDC guidelines and to stay safe and healthy. They handled this with grace. This is the true "Girl Lead" experience that Girl Scouts focuses on as we develop lifelong leadership skills in these young women. Leaders of Troop 60133: Tina Breen, Jessica Gallo, Shannon Rabin.



L-R: Yashvi Ghelani, Maheen Yasir, Riley Breen, Luciana Gallo, Meaghan Rabin



Mayor Onderko gave the honor to light our community Christmas tree to the Derrick family. Stephani is the location coordinator for Wreaths Across America for Sacred Heart, SS Peter and Paul, and Holy Ghost Cemeteries. For the past three years, Stephani has worked to get a wreath for every veteran's grave.

regularly throughout next year. It is basically a replacement for the defunct Chamber of Commerce that has not met since 2016. Several business owners have expressed interest in serving on the committee.

As we enter a New Year, I want to express my thanks to all our volunteers in town who serve our community on the various boards, committees, fire department and rescue squad during 2020. It certainly was a year we will never forget due to the virus. I am proud to say we have some of the best volunteers in Somerset County.

Happy New Year to all and be well!  
Mayor Richard M. Onderko



Eric D. Alicea

## Meet the Manville Branch's New Library Assistant

Eric D. Alicea, BA; has been a part of the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) since 2017, starting off as library technician at the North Plainfield branch and is now a library assistant at the Manville branch. He has a passion for serving the community and connecting them with resources that they can use to grow, succeed, and connect with one another.

Alicea has a bachelor's degree in English Literature, with a Minor in Psychology, from Rutgers University. His favorite reads at the moment are "Mexican Gothic" by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, "The Starless Sea" by Erin Morgenstern, and "The Book of What Remains" by Benjamin Alire Sáenz.

To connect with Alicea email ealicea@sclbnj.org or call the Manville branch at 908-458-8425.

From the desk of  
Chief, Tom Herbst



## COVID & The Holidays

As COVID-19 continues to put a strain on the daily grind of our lives, Americans persist with an effort to comply with the sometimes difficult Executive Orders from the Governor. We all continue to strive for some sort of normalcy. Whatever way you get by during these stressful times, we are all to be commended for getting through it together. I have written before about the stress of this pandemic and how trying it can be for various reasons, whether it's demanding on school related issues for your children, the stress of either having reduced hours at work or possibly even losing your job or the worst case scenario of losing a loved one.

The holidays are officially upon us. This generally means a few things. For one, it's the time we spend with family. We will spend more money than we have (most of us), some of us will over indulge at the dinner table, but this is always a good thing, it's the holidays and your with family. Well, 2020's curve balls keep coming. The Black Friday lines didn't really exist, the holiday party at work was cancelled and Grandma and Grandpa might not be joining you for dinner on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, thank you COVID-19.

So, what to do. In a word...live. We need to enjoy the holiday season as best as we can. It doesn't mean be careless, wear the mask, wash your hands and keep an extra eye on the elderly...but live. The relatives might not be able to join you...maybe it's time for the

zoom call at the kitchen table. The tradition of shopping with a few friends and going out for lunch or dinner can still happen, with a little more planning and one of your favorite masks. If you have kids, the strive for normalcy must be strong, down playing what relative isn't their and emphasizing what we all do have and are how thankful we are for it. Stress is normal during the holidays, it may actually be higher in 2020...but only if you let it. Stay busy, keep occupied and remain positive. Remember how strong we all are mentally, if you accept that COVID-19 has or will ruin your holiday then it will. Instill in all the people you know how we all must fight to live and strive for that sense of normalcy.

Enjoy your families, have a great holiday and stay healthy and safe.

## Tax Update

### Senior Freeze Update

Per the NJ Division of Taxation Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) website the Governor's budget fully funds the 2019 Senior Freeze program. Payments are expected to be paid to eligible taxpayers beginning on October 15, 2020.

You may check the status of your NJ Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) by dialing 1-800-882-6597. Please have the social security number that was listed first on your Senior Freeze application and the zip code of your principal residence for the year of the application you filed.

### Sewer Bill Update

Sewer bills are calculated in 2 parts - the flat fee of \$55.00 per unit per quarter and also the usage fee of \$4.03 per 1000 gallons of water

*TAX continued on page 11*

## Manville Recreation News

From the desk of Ronald  
Cefalone, Recreation Director

## Enjoy Our Parks This Winter

As COVID-19 will certainly remain part of our lives this winter season, could lessons from our research help local governments and researchers come up with novel ideas to help people spend more time outdoors during these cold months, both slowing transmission rates and supporting our mental health and well-being?

This winter, people might particularly need to feel calm. Public officials could encourage residents to head to the nearest green space for a dose of stress relief. Local authorities could invite neighbors to experience awe and reconnect with nature by going to their nearest park. Along with reminders to wear masks and socially distance, public messages could invite us to a nearby green space for a much-needed respite.

Manville Borough parks have been providing critically needed breathing room for our residents all summer and fall, and have the potential to continue doing so this winter. Our research shows that people still enjoy these spaces during colder months, and receive essential wellbeing benefits from them.

The prospect of a COVID winter is daunting, but our research shows that green spaces can help. Public officials should encourage winter park use to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to help us all feel a little calmer.

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**The roles and responsibilities of a Humane Law Enforcement Officer (H.L.E.O.)**

Manville Borough has been under contract with the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter for a number of years being provided with shelter and Animal Control Officer responses for complaints within the Borough of Manville. When an initial complaint of neglect comes into the Somerset County Dispatch Center, a Manville Patrol Officer will be immediately dispatched to the area to begin an initial investigation. For investigations such as animal bites, dogs running at large, animals locked inside vehicles, dogs without proper shelter, food and/or water and anything else that may require additional resources an Animal Control Officer will be requested from the Shelter.

The Borough of Manville has two Humane Law Enforcement Officers, Detective Sergeant David Sheffrin and Detective William Sampson, who both completed extensive training provided by the NJ Police Training Commission to become certified H.L.E.O's.

With the winter months approaching, residents are reminded to monitor outdoor temperatures if leaving an animal outside for any period of time without access to food, water or shelter. Obviously there is no "catch all" answer to what constitutes animal cruelty, as several factors go into investigating a claim of abuse. If you suspect an animal is being mistreated do not hesitate to contact the Manville Police Department at 908-725-1900, so an officer can be dispatched.

*Thank you Wreaths Across America Sponsors!*



Thank you for all the wreath sponsorships.

Whether small or large, every donation of a wreath helped complete the mission to place a remembrance wreath on every veterans' grave on December 19th. Over 1400 of our Hometown Heroes are laid to rest at Scared Heart, SS Peter & Paul, and Holy Ghost Cemeteries.

**Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach**

**TAX continued from page 10**

consumed based upon the NJAM water billing. Remember that the Borough of Manville bills quarterly and that NJAM bills monthly.

If you think that your usage portion of your sewer bill is higher than usual, you must first check with NJAM water to see if they are estimating your usage or reading your usage. Sometimes the issue is that the Borough of Manville uses the date of the NJAM bill not the date of service. After you have corrected NJAM water consumption please send us a copy of the corrected bill.

**Making Bill Payments**

As always during this uncertain time there are a couple of ways to make payments without visiting our office.

You may make a tax or sewer payment using your credit card or checking account by visiting our website [www.manvillenj.org](http://www.manvillenj.org) go to blue box labeled PAY BILLS ONLINE and follow those directions.

You may place your check with your stub (tax or sewer) in the drop box to the left of

the front door at Borough Hall (include a self-address envelope for receipts to be returned.)

Finally, you may enter the building (mask is required as well as a maximum of 3 people in the lobby at one time) – we ask that, due to the coin shortage felt all over, if you bring cash please bring exact change or a check.

The November 2020, February 2021 and May 2021 property tax bills have been mailed. The February 2021 tax bills are due on or before Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Interest will begin on February 11, 2021. Interest will be calculated from February 1, 2021 to the date the payment is in the tax office at a rate of 8% on the first \$1500.00 and 18% on anything over \$1500.01.

*Manville Seniors' Digest*

The Manville Senior Citizens meet at noon on the second Thursday of each month at the VFW on Washington Avenue. Membership is open to anyone age 50 or older, residents and non-residents. Meetings have been canceled until further notice due to the virus.

Check out our past activities on Facebook @ManvilleSeniorCitizens. We hope to get back to our trips and meetings sometime in 2021.

The clubs Executive Board wishes all seniors a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. This year has been trying to everyone but we must continue to follow the Governor's directives and social distance, wash hands, use sanitizer and wear masks in order to control the virus spread.

Stay safe and hope to see everyone gather as a club again in 2021.



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## Virtually Meet New York Times Best-Selling Author Dan Gutman with SCLSNJ

Digitally connect with *New York Times* best-selling author Dan Gutman with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) on January 7 from 1-1:45 p.m., and experience an interactive story-writing exercise; ask questions; and explore a few of Gutman's rejection letters.



Dan Gutman

Gutman, whose book series *My Weird School* has sold over 29 million copies, has always had a passion for writing but was a reluctant reader. He often finds himself encouraging children to read.

"I hated to read when I was a kid," said Gutman. "I thought it was boring and hard to do. But, for some reason, writing always came naturally to me. So, I can really relate to those reluctant readers out there."

In addition to sharing humor, the author, with over 40 years of writing experience, believes that it is important to share his rejection letters with children so that they can understand the struggles that people go through before they become successful.

"They see authors, athletes, and entertainers and assume they got famous right away," said Gutman. "By showing kids my rejection letters, I'm trying to convey the message that you can encounter obstacles in your life and overcome them. You shouldn't give up just because you get rejected."

"I discovered a little writing trick that

works for me, and I think it would work for anyone," he said. "When you write something, look at your first draft and read it out loud. While you're reading it, pretend that you are someone else. Your teacher. Your friend. Anyone. When you look at your writing through someone else's eyes, you can see the mistakes you made, and you can make your writing flow better."

The veteran author credits libraries for his career as a writer.

"I wouldn't be a writer today if not for libraries," said Gutman. "When I was a kid, I remember going to the library after school to do my homework there. When I started my career, the Internet didn't exist yet, and I did all my research at the library."

He continued, "I still go to the library with my laptop, especially in the winter months, and I do a lot of my writing there. It's just nice to be surrounded by books."

Register to meet Gutman with your Library today: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644882](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644882).

### Library System, Somerset County Youth Services Partner for Social Media Wellness Program With Author Ana Homayoun

According to an article from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) "90 percent of teens ages 13-17 have used social media" and teens average "almost nine hours a day, not including time for homework" online. On January 29 at noon,



Ana Homayoun

the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) will partner with Somerset County Youth Services for a virtual social media wellness program for tweens and teens with author and educator Ana Homayoun.

"Social media, especially at a time of isolation, allows all of us to collaborate and embrace healthy connections," said Linda M. Pocaro, director of youth services, Somerset County. "Youth Services and SCLSNJ are embracing this collaboration to set the stage for sharing the message of the value of positive social media."

During the program, students in grades 6-12 and their caregivers will have the opportunity to digitally meet with Homayoun, who will offer tips on how to practice social media wellness during this unique school year.

"Working with kids in today's digital world has never been so complex, and keeping up with the latest social media trends can seem like a never-ending challenge," said Homayoun. "In this pandemic school year, many teens and young adults have found online tools to be the critical lifeline for promoting and maintaining community. At the same time, our current learning environments also play host to many distractions, including social media."

The Library System has been dedicated to supporting students, caregivers, and educators navigate the educational shift towards virtual and hybrid learning, through the Sup-

*YOUTH continued on page 13*

# DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF MANVILLE'S NEWS!

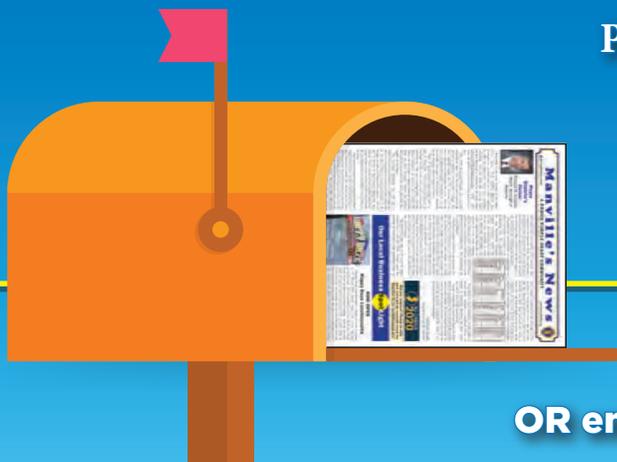
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# The Manville Public Library

100 South 10th Avenue, Manville, NJ 08835 | 908-722-9722 | SCLSNJ.org

All programs listed are virtual unless indicated otherwise. #BeSafeAtHome and explore these virtual programs and more with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ): [sclsnj.libnet.info/events](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/events).

**\*Please note the Library will be closed January 1 and 18, 2021.**

## **PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES**

### **Music, Bubble, and Comedy Show**

January 23, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Discover a show that engages children of all ages and developmental abilities with songs, comedy, bubbles, and music technology. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4649263](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4649263).

## **PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND TEENS**

### **Author Visit - Dan Gutman (grades 2-5)**

January 7, 1-1:45 p.m.

Connect with the best-selling children's author. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644882](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644882).

### **Books and Bingo (grades K-2)**

January 12, 5-5:30 p.m.

Hear a story and play a round of bingo. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4594791](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4594791).

### **Doodle Drawings (grades K-3)**

January 14, 3-3:30 p.m.

Create a project that combines the elements of design. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4663675](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4663675).

### **Artes y Manualidades (Kids Crafts) (grado 2-4) (grades 2-4)**

January 16, 2-2:45 p.m.

Crea una manualidad simple inspirada por un cuento. (Create a simple story inspired craft.) Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662630](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662630).

### **Bilingual English/Spanish Storytime (ages 3-7 and caregivers)**

January 19, 5:30-6 p.m.

Explore stories and songs in a mix of English and Spanish. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4631532](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4631532).

### **Writing Workshop With Author Rachelle Burk (grades 2-5)**

January 20, 1-2 p.m.

Connect with the local children's book author. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644890](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644890).

### **Intro to Robotics - Dance Routine (grades 6-12)**

January 21, 5-6:30 p.m.

Program your virtual robot to dance to your favorite music. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674780](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674780).

[libnet.info/event/4674780](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674780).

### **Panchatantra Stories (families with children)**

January 26, 3-3:30 p.m.

Listen to a few of the oldest surviving fables from ancient India. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4660294](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4660294).

### **Meet the Author: Ana Homayoun - Social Media Wellness (grades 6-12 and caregivers)**

January 29, noon - 1 p.m.

The noted author and educator will share practical tips on how to promote social media wellness. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672496](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672496).

## **PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

### **Boost Your Home Wi-Fi: Presented by Mike Skara**

January 7, 7-8 p.m.

Learn techniques to boost your home connection. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4556904](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4556904).

### **NASA's Next Mars Mission - Perseverance The Mars 2020 Rover**

January 11, 7-8 p.m.

Learn about the mission that successfully launched on July 30, 2020 and will land on Mars on February 18, 2021. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4585549](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4585549).

### **Cutting the Cord - Exploring Cable Alternatives**

January 13, 2-3 p.m.

Explore cost-effective alternatives to cable, such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Roku, and Apple TV. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642662](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642662).

### **Meet the Author: Leslie Gilbert-Lurie - Accompanied by Her Mother Rita Lurie**

January 14, 7-8 p.m.

Discover the story of Holocaust survivor Rita Lurie. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4576562](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4576562).

### **The Grotesque 10 - Amazing Architectural Sculpture**

January 20, 7-8 p.m.

Discover photographs of the unique grotesques and gargoyles on academic buildings. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4582111](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4582111).

### **Trivia Night - 2020 Year in Review**

January 21, 6-7 p.m.

Put your knowledge of people, places, events, and pop culture that were relevant

in 2020. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4669205](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4669205).

### **Meet the Author - Will Hunt**

January 21, 7-8 p.m.

Connect with the author of "Underground: A Human History of the Worlds Beneath Our Feet." Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568797](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568797).

### **Online Job Searching**

January 22, 11 a.m. - noon

Discover nationwide, niche, and local employment websites, job related library databases, and other useful sites, and how to avoid scams. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4591316](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4591316).

### **Bound Brookers and South Bound Brookers - Brief Bios of Bygone Days**

January 25, 7-8 p.m.

Hear the stories and contributions of those who came before us and settled (if only for a while) in the little corner of Somerset County. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642091](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642091).

### **George Washington's Winter Encampments - And the Winning of American Independence**

January 26, 7-8 p.m.

Discover the story of Washington's winter encampments. Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4619795](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4619795).

## **YOUTH continued from page 12**

portive Assistance for Education (S.A.F.E.) Families initiative.

"Social Media is an integral part of the modern tween and teen social dynamic, especially given the current state of the world where face-to-face interactions are increasingly limited," said Jodi Silverman, young adult and adult librarian. "The barriers put in place to physically protect our young adults' health unfortunately places greater emphasis on a need to connect with their peers to support their social-emotional growth and mental health needs."

Connect with Homayoun and discover social media wellness with your Library and Somerset County Youth Services: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672496](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672496).

For more information about Somerset County's Youth Services department: [www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/youth-services](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/youth-services).