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## The Man with the Mic Helps the Men and Women with the Badges

In a fundraiser for the Scotch Plains Police Foundation, Scotch Plains native Mike Marino will perform stand-up at the Shackamaxon Country Club on Tuesday.

By [Zach Flanzman](#) | [Email the author](#) | July 23, 2010



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The Scotch Plains Police Foundation will hold its inaugural event, a comedy show featuring Mike Marino, on Tuesday, July 27 at the [Shackamaxon Country Club](#).

IN THIS ARTICLE

Marino, who was raised in Scotch Plains, has made a name for himself in the entertainment world. As an actor, he has landed roles on *As the World Turns*, *One Life to Live*, *Frasier*, and *Party of Five*. As a comedian, he has performed on the *Tonight Show* and at some of the nation's most famous comedy clubs, including the Laugh Factory in New York City, the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and the Comedy Store in Los Angeles. He was also [profiled in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Patch](#) in May.

On Tuesday, "New Jersey's Bad Boy of Comedy" will return to his hometown. He is helping raise money for the [Scotch Plains Police](#) Foundation, and providing laughs along the way.

Chief Brian Mahoney, with help from Sgt. Ted Conley and Lt. Det. Brian Donnelly, established the foundation one year ago. They created the organization as a means to fundraise and solicit donations for the police department.

"A lot of budgets across the state are being cut, and things are thin in this economy," Donnelly said. "If there's not enough money in the budget, we may go without a new car or a radar unit. This foundation will give us revenue without taxing anybody."

Conley noted that the revenue raised by the foundation could also help buy computers and new software. "I hope [the foundation] could raise enough money [to] offset the budget gaps," he said.

Many local fire departments and rescue squads also rely on foundations to raise revenue. But Donnelly said that the three emergency services – police, fire, and EMS – would not necessarily compete with each other for donations.

"We're not trying to take away from the fire department or the EMTs," he said. "People have called us and said, 'I love this town. I feel safe here. Is there a way I can make a donation?' Now there's simply an avenue for that."

Donnelly said that community support for the department's inaugural fundraiser has proved strong. "There's been a lot of tickets sold and there's been a lot of interest," he said. "A lot of our sponsors have put up ads, so we're hoping to have a lot of people there."



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**Shackamaxon Country Club**  
1607 Shackamaxon Dr, Scotch Plains, NJ



**Scotch Plains Police Department**  
430 Park Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ

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Some police foundations have become the subject of mild controversies. The NYPD's New York City Police Foundation, for example, was the subject of [a New York Times investigative piece](#) in April, which revealed that the department extended favors to those who donated large sums to the department.

Donnelly, however, assured that this would not occur with the Scotch Plains Police Foundation.

"Anytime you see this kind of stuff, we realize it can become a touchy subject," he said. "But we have trustees involved in [the foundation] that are not members of the police. This [foundation] is not run strictly by the police but also by people who work in the community.... There's your checks and balances."

While the foundation hopes to continue planning events in the future (Conley mentioned a possible golf outing or 5K race), Marino's comedy show is currently the largest event on its agenda. A cocktail hour will begin at 7:00 p.m. and Marino will take the stage at 8:00. Tickets, which can be purchased for \$65, include the show, hors d'oeuvres, and an open bar. For tickets, stop by the Scotch Plains Police Department on Park Avenue or call Jason Parker at (908) 490-0808.

For those who are interested in donating to the foundation but who cannot attend the show, checks can be mailed to the police department at 430 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. All donations are tax-deductible.

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