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## COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AND BENEFITS

Just as Scotch Plains derives benefits from the state, such as funds for schools and for local welfare, so also does it gain from its Union County affiliations.

Among these advantages are the use of county parks, courts, roads, vocational schools, hospitals, etc.

County-at-large elections choose nine freeholders to run the county.\* The town pays taxes to the county, the amount being based on county needs with regards to Scotch Plains total assessed valuation.

Although there is no hospital in Scotch Plains, Muhlenberg Hospital in adjoining Plainfield, and Overlook Hospital in nearby Summit, offer modern and complete facilities.

Most of the clinic services available at these hospitals are maintained by public subscription, municipal contributions and county support.

There are also other clinics in the vicinity, such as the Bonnie Burn Sanatorium in New Providence Township, for tuberculosis; Children's County Home in Mountainside, an infantile paralysis clinic; Maternal Health Center in Plainfield; a mental hygiene clinic, also in Plainfield, and others.

\*Incidentally, New Jersey's 21 counties are the only ones among the nation's 3050 which are governed by Boards of Chosen Freeholders. The word freeholder, a land owner, stems from early England.

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