

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield



**FREE**  
Endorsed by  
NPBA

North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at [ThePrideofNorthPlainfield.com](http://ThePrideofNorthPlainfield.com)

**ISSUE 10 • MARCH 2013**

**JOHANNA'S CREATIONS  
WILL HOST AN  
OPEN HOUSE  
& RECEPTION**

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 13, 2013,  
10 AM TO 2 PM  
AND  
SUNDAY,  
APRIL 14, 2012  
2:00 PM TO 4 PM**

**THE VERMEULE  
MANSION  
614 Greenbrook Rd,  
North Plainfield, NJ.**

## NPBA MEETING ENERGIZES BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The North Plainfield Business Association held its first networking event on March 5, 2013 at The Top Shelf Tavern on Somerset Street. Approximately 45 people attended representing a variety of North Plainfield businesses, old and new, big and small. The common interest in all who attended was to support the mission of the business association to promote the economic, professional and civic welfare of the borough.

Businesses have rallied behind the NPBA in its renewed efforts to energize the community. NPBA President Peter Eddy stated "Network events like this offer a great opportunity for businesses to network with one another and grow their business at the same time stimulating the business community as a whole."

Eddy shared the group's plans with the crowd including an alliance with the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, stating "This relationship has doubled the exposure for both groups." The NPBA uses the concept there are strength in numbers and as a group the community can achieve their goals. Eddy applies the old quote "A rising tide lifts all

boats" to the groups efforts. He commends all those who have joined the Group and invited anyone interested in joining the effort to email him at [Eddy@peplastics@gmail.com](mailto:Eddy@peplastics@gmail.com) or call 908-757-1909.



(above, l-r) North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giodano Jr., Jill Ryan, Michael Maniguet of Eden Energy Associates, Realtor Jack Pedersen president of Tri-County, Johanna's Salvemini owner of Joanna's Creations, NPBA President Peter Eddy of P&E Plastic Fabrication, Gerry and Gary Levenduski owners of Top Shelf in front of Len Lange.



(above, l-r) Kevin Doyle of Sign-A-Rama, Colin Mapp of Primerica, and Laureano Bolanos.



(above, l-r) Elizabeth Santiago of Bank of America and Linda Persichio of Valley National Bank.



(above, l-r) Van Dickerson of Dickerson Landscaping, Karen and Bob Caffery of Caffery Tree Service.



(above, l-r) DJs Sunnil, Joel and Leah of DJ Joe International, Sound and Lighting.



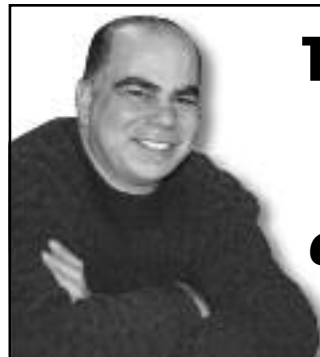
(above, l-r) Duffy Pastore of Somerset Plumbing and Mike Dellipolli of Mar-Lin Garbage Service.



(above, l-r) Terri Gilliard-Lane of Keller Williams Elite Realty and real estate consultant Celadawn Reid.

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On-line at  
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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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Health Department.....	769-2907
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### HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Library .....	755-7909
Public Schools .....	769-6000
Recreation .....	756-0247

*Phone numbers utilize the 908 exchange.*



## Message from the President EXCELLENT EVENT AT TOP SHELF

I would like to thank Gary and Gerry Levenduski for hosting the NPBA March networking event. There were 45 people in attendance. Some NPBA members, others that became members and members of the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce. There were old, well-established businesses and some that are just getting started. We discussed the plans for how NPBA can help businesses, how businesses can help themselves and each other.

I was asked to attend the Planning Board meeting to discuss what can be done to improve the downtown business district. These recommendations were for the master plan and designed by Art Bernard, P.P. and Richard Scalia, Project Manager for Somerset Street and Watchung Avenue. We talked about replacing trash bins and keeping the side walks clean. Also, installing planters located by the cross walks that will help beautify the area. Making the cross walks more visible was also suggested. The need to establish more parking areas was brought up and the desire to create a central location to bring people downtown for nighttime entertainment.

The NPBA will team up with the Economic Development Committee to reach out to companies that would be interested in moving into vacancies along Rte 22.

I'm also inviting all civic groups, churches, scouting troops, senior citizens, sporting leagues and anyone else that wants to put an article in The Pride to do so. The newspaper is designed to promote community service programs while giving businesses an inexpensive advertising venue.

The NPBA is working hard to improve North Plainfield. I'd like to thank all those who have joined the group and support the effort.

*Peter Eddy*  
 President

Contact NPBA c/o P&E Plastic Fabrication Co., 24 Craig Place, North Plainfield, NJ 07060  
 Eddy@peplastics@gmail.com or call 908-757-1909

*The NPBA's mission is to promote the economic, professional and civic welfare of North Plainfield. It will provide an opportunity for all types of local businesses to band together and promote commerce in our town. The Business Association will work closely with North Plainfield's government (and with trade organizations throughout Somerset County and NJ) to ensure our local business interests are protected. There is strength in numbers: member businesses will take advantage of shared marketing costs, as well as a rich community of neighbors to help them network and get their brand out in the market.*

## NEW MEMBERS NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

### Farmers Insurance Group

Michael Nelson  
 908-912-6522  
 mnelson@farmersagent.com

### Gourmet Goodies

Rachel Gwyn  
 908-279-5065  
 chocolatecoffewench@yahoo.com

### Joshua's Closet

Sandi Helck  
 908-756-8356  
 arhelck@verizon.net

## PUBLIC INVITED TO WATCH FILM FEATURING NORTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

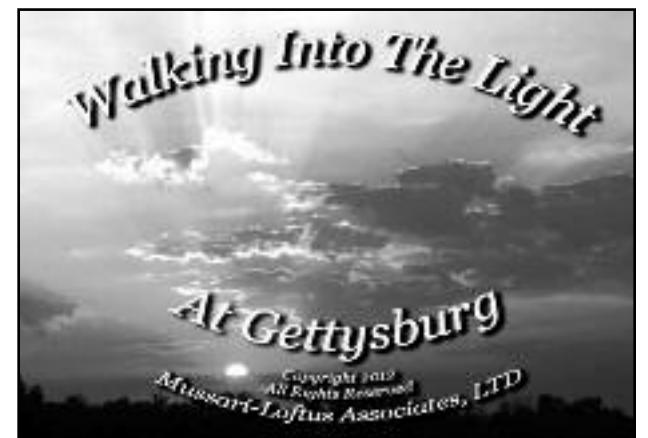
The documentary film "Walking Into the Light at Gettysburg" features ten North Plainfield High School students. It was filmed over a three day period in April 2012 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought during the first three days of July in 1863. The film records the student's impressions on what happened there 150 years ago and how it relates to them today.

Tom Mazur, Supervisor of Fine, Practical and Performing Arts for the high school says "The documentary is in 'cinema verite' style, having no script. The student's ability to get the 'big picture' and eloquently relate to what happened at Gettysburg will stir pride in anyone who sees this documentary."

The citizens of Gettysburg gave the students and the producer, Dr. Anthony Mussari, a standing ovation at the conclusion of the film which they viewed on January 19, 2013 at the Visitors Center.

As Dr. Mussari has often said, "If anyone wants to see America's tomorrow today...go to North Plainfield, New Jersey." Mazur added "This film presents exactly this sentiment, and the picture of the future is bright.



April 13, 2013 at 6:30 PM  
 NPBS Auditorium  
 FREE  
 Information call:  
 (908) 769-6000 Ext. 3102

# SENIORS KEEP ACTIVE IN NORTH PLAINFIELD!

Submitted by, Audrey Sanko

North Plainfield Seniors, 55 years and older, are invited to join our Senior's Club. Recently, we have begun to open our membership to seniors in nearby communities. Our meetings are held at 10:30 AM on Tuesdays at the Vermeule Community Center located at 614 Greenbrook Road. After a short business meeting, there are a variety of planned programs. We have speakers who present helpful and informative senior topics. Throughout the year, we have many talented entertainers who share their talent with us.

And, there is always Bingo! Bingo is scheduled for Tuesdays after our meetings and on Thursdays from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

The Seniors are involved with our local food bank and often hold special events for this cause. Recently we held a homemade cookie sale which netted \$200.00. Members delivered the food items purchased with profits the sale to the North Plainfield Food Bank on March 22nd.

The monthly trip to Atlantic City, the second Wednesday of each month is always a fun day. Throughout the year, local day trips are planned.

Our Senior Paper, "News and Views" is



(left, l-r) Rose Baer and Eleanor Kaufman packing cookies for the cookie sale to benefit the North Plainfield Food Bank.

published quarterly. If you have not see it, copies are available in the Library, Borough Hall, Post Office, and local business establishments. For those who have internet access, you can view our paper online at [www.northplainfield.org](http://www.northplainfield.org).

Come visit us on Tuesday morning and consider becoming a member of the North Plainfield Seniors!

## SENIOR BUS SCHEDULE

The North Plainfield Senior Citizen Bus is available to all North Plainfield Seniors.

To arrange to ride the bus and for more information, please call 908-753-0707.

The following is the bus schedule:

**Monday:** Shop Rite

**Tuesday:** North Plainfield Senior Citizens Club

**Wednesday:** Stop and Shop & Wal Mart

**Friday:** Sears and Somerset Farms

The bus starts picking up passengers at about 9:00 A.M.

Please call at least 24 hours before you need the bus.

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## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH RECOGNIZED BY ROTARY

Service to others is the hallmark of Rotary International and the thousands of Rotary clubs and 1.3 million Rotarians throughout the world. It is a mantra that every Rotarian bears through the motto "Service Above Self." Not limited to Rotarians, the motto is also reflected in the activities of local Interact clubs, such as the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School, that are the youth subsidiary of Rotary.

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield recognized three members of the North Plainfield Interact Club at its weekly meeting recently. Khamayah McClain, Krupa Patel, and Amy Placios were presented with the Student of the Month Award for December, January and February. Each of the students were honored for their academics and for their service to the Interact Club and to the community.

Each of the students received a framed certificate that read, in part, "In recognition of your commitment to attain high academic achievement through activities that develop good citizenship at North Plainfield High School." The students were accompanied by Jerard Stephenson, principal at the high school, and Alexandra Pereira, Interact Club adviser and Spanish language teacher at the North Plainfield Middle School.

The Rotary Club  
meets every Wednesday  
12:15pm  
at *Giovanna's Restaurant*  
in Plainfield.

Anyone interested in serving the community is welcome to attend a luncheon meeting as guest of the Club to learn more about their service opportunities.

More information is available from the Club's website at [www.RotaryPNP.org](http://www.RotaryPNP.org) or by phone at 908-822-1441.

## OPERATION "15-45" PARK AND WALK PROGRAM

Submitted by North Plainfield Police Department

Chief William G. Parenti announced Operation "15-45" Park and Walk Program.

"This initiative will have Police Officers walking a beat in North Plainfield. The program is aimed at improving our visibility and accessibility and increasing public confidence in community-based policing."

Chief Parenti explained an officer shall walk fifteen minutes and ride 45 minutes per hour. The operation, which was launched again this year on March 15, 2013, has put an officer on the beat during the hours of 4:00pm and 10:00pm each day.

While on foot patrol, the officers deal with incidents they encounter, gather intelligence, visit businesses, provide crime reduction advice, liaise with community groups and members such as Neighborhood Watch, collect and update business contact information and identify any potential problems.

Chief Parenti said "We are aware that the people of North Plainfield want us to be visible and accessible. I firmly believe a conspicuous patrol operation communicates a sense of protection to our citizens and acts as a deterrent to criminal or mischievous activity."

## PUT IT DOWN

Chief William Parenti announced that North Plainfield Police has partnered with Somerset County Prosecutor Geoffrey D. Soriano's "Put It Down" distracted driving campaign.

The program will began April 1, 2013 with the theme don't be a fool and text and drive. Last year the program was more about education. This year's focus will be to bring the motoring public into compliance. Chief Parenti said "To achieve that goal police officers are issuing summons to all those caught on a texting or on a cell phone without a hands free device."

## UPCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS

Please check our website and Facebook for updates pertaining to all of our events.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call the recreation office at 908-756-0247

### APRIL 6TH IS OPENING DATE FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

The season will kick off with a parade for all registered players and coaches at 10am. The parade will start at the Community Center and end at West End School.

There will be activities for everyone following the parade. Games will be played later in the day for grades 3 and up.

### APRIL 26TH SIGN UP FOR ANNUAL TRACK AND FIELD DAY

The Track and Field day is a novice event and will be held on Saturday May 4th from 9am to 12pm at Columbia Park in Dunellen. Rain date is May 5th.

### SATURDAY APRIL 27TH 42ND ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

The event will start at 8:30 am and end at 11:30 am. This is a free event and registration is that morning. All residents 14 and under are invited to participate.

## IN MEMORY OF WATCHUNG MAYOR GERALD "JERRY" MOBUS

Mayor Michael Giordano, Jr., the North Plainfield Borough Council, North Plainfield Borough Employees, and the entire North Plainfield Community express their condolences to our friends and neighbors in the Borough of Watchung on the sudden passing of Mayor Jerry Mobus on March 17. Mayor Mobus was a gentleman and public servant in the best sense of the word, and worked tirelessly for those he served. He will be missed greatly by both communities.

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Dr. Boris Raginsky



Dr. Leonid Schreer



Dr. Christine Nashed



Dr. Marc Strulowitz

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION PARTICIPATED IN READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Representatives of the North Plainfield Education Foundation were caught on camera reading to the students at East End School. Robert Goellner read to the Second Grade and Mary Forbes read to the Fourth Grade. Mr. Goellner said that the Foundation is very happy to participate in this event each year.

The Education Foundation was incorporated in 1995 and has been awarding Mini Grants to

teachers every year since its founding. It has also been active in other noticeable ways such as donating a state of the art sound system to the new athletic field and sponsoring the musicians for last year's High School Musical.

Read Across America, now in its 16th year, is a year-round program focusing on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources.



(above, left and right) Bob Goellner reads the "Mouse and the Mole" to the second graders, and Borough Councilwoman Mary Forbes reading at East End School.

## FIREFIIGHTERS READ ACROSS AMERICA

Submitted by William F. Eaton,  
Fire Chief/Director, NP Fire Dept.


One of the highlights this past month for the North Plainfield Fire Department was our participation in the "Read Across America Day". We were able to proudly participate, along with other Borough agencies and departments, in the NEA's Read Across America Day at our local schools. We took part in this annual nationwide reading program to assist our local children in celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. Our fire officers, firefighters and EMTs were honored to have been invited to read to the kids and be part of this important event.



(above) Firefighter Abbruzzese reads Dr. Seuss.

(above) EMT Evans.

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## NORTH PLAINFIELD CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY RIGHTS NEXT MEETING

Guest Speaker: John Paff

Topic: Open Public Records

**APRIL 4, 2013**

7 pm

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**Vernuele Community Center**

614 Green Brook Road & Clinton Ave.

North Plainfield, NJ

## PAFF TO SPEAK AT NPCCR MEETING



John Paff

March 10-16 was Sunshine Week, that time of year we reflect on the importance of government transparency and how critical it is to our democracy. Much of the conversation during Sunshine Week focuses on open

government transparency.

In the spirit of Sunshine week the North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) is hosting guest speaker John Paff, at their April 4th meeting at Vernuele Community Center, located at 614 Green Brook Road & Clinton Ave., North Plainfield, NJ, at 7pm.

Paff has been an advocate of government transparency for many years and has since 2003 served as the Chairman of the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project.

## COMMON INTERESTS With An Eye Toward Our Future



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Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs: 9:30-9, Fri and Sat: 9:30-5

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

No Registration unless indicated.

#### STORY & CRAFT (Ages 3-5)

Tuesdays at 10-10:30am: April 16, 23, and 30  
Have fun at Miss Nancy's Storytime! We will read fun stories and compete complete a great craft!

#### TODDLER TIME (Ages 18 months to 3 years)

Wednesdays at 10-10:30am: April 17 and 24.  
Sing songs and read a story with Miss Amy. We will also do an easy crafts suitable for little hands!

#### BAKING CLUB (Grades 3-5)

Tuesday, April 16th at 5:30-6:30 PM  
Learn baking techniques and make sweet treats at this after school cooking class. Registration begins April 2.

#### BRIAN RICHARDS MAGIC! (Family Program)

Thursday, April 18th at 3:30-4:30 PM  
Abracadabra, it's magic in the library! Join magician Brian Richards for fun and excitement as he performs amazing magic tricks, hilarious comedy, and brilliant storytelling. And be ready to participate - a good magic trick is nothing without volunteers from the audience!

Registration begins April 4.

#### MONSTER CRAFT (Grades K-5)

Thursday, April 25th at 3:30-4:30 PM  
Join us in creating monsters! These monsters will eat up all of your worries & fears! Registration begins April 11.

#### DIA: Diversity in Action (Family Programs)

Tuesday, April 30th

Craft Event at 4:00-5:00 PM.

Registration for the craft begins April 16.

Bi-Lingual Storytime at 7-7:30 PM.

Join us and celebrate "Día de los niños/Día de los libros" with bilingual events throughout the day. We will have stories, songs, and crafts! For more information about DIA, please visit:<http://dia.ala.org>

### TEEN PROGRAMS

All teen programs are for grades 6-12 and require registration.

#### Movie Afternoon

Wednesday, April 17 at 3:30

Rise of the Guardians

#### Pop Culture Trivia Contest

Wednesday, April 3 at 3:30

Do you know everything about movies, TV, music, and celebrities? Come and show your skills at our Trivia Contest. Registration begins March 20

#### Teen Cooking: Pizza Bagels

Wednesday, April 10 at 3:30

Come and learn to cook this fun afternoon school snack  
Registration begins March 27

#### Poetry Workshop

Wednesday, April 24 at 3:30

Are you interested in poetry? Come and learn how to craft your own poems with performance poet Chris Rockwell. Registration begins April 10

### ADULT PROGRAMS

All programs require registration.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET

Wednesday, April 3 @ 10:00-11:00am

Mondays, April 22nd @ 7:00-8:00pm

This class will cover the basics of the Internet, including browsers, search engines, and the general categories for websites. Space is very limited so please sign up for only one session.

#### DAY BOOK DISCUSSION

April 11th @ 1:00pm

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

#### NIGHT BOOK DISCUSSION

April 11th @ 7:00pm

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

#### SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND:

BARBARA HARLEY, AL LIND & KIM YARSON

Saturday, April 13 @ 2:00pm

A relaxing afternoon of original, acoustic music.

#### STRATEGIC COUPONING

Tuesday, April 16th @ 7-8:30pm

Come learn money saving tips & tricks to help you cut your grocery bill in half! Presented by Stephani Ringeisen . [www.GenerousSavings.com](http://www.GenerousSavings.com)

#### COLLAGE PAINTING

Saturday, April 20th @ 2:00 - 4:00pm

Collage is a type of painting that is fun and suitable for all ages. You will be using different materials (tissue paper, magazine images and shapes, colored construction paper and foil etc.) to do a step by step complete picture, either abstract or realistic.

Taught by Doris Schwint. [www.schwint.com](http://www.schwint.com)

## CHILDREN'S ROOM IS GETTING A NEW LOOK

The Children's Room of the North Plainfield Memorial Library will be undergoing a partial renovation this spring. The Children's Room will be rearranged to create a new Pre-School area near the picture books. There will also be an expanded area for public internet computers and a new Circulation/Reference Desk will be installed. During the renovation the Children's Room will be closed to the public from March 16 to April 13 and will reopen on Monday, April 15. Patrons are encouraged to use one the other Somerset County Library System libraries' for Children's materials and programs during the four week closure.

The Somerset County Library System has branches in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, Rocky Hill, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Somerville, Warren Township and Watchung.

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## FIFTH GRADERS GET UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Somerset Intermediate School fifth graders from Mrs. Darvin and Mrs. Dixon's classes visited Rutgers University on Friday, March 1st. The students had an amazing day of learning and made remarkable real-world connections to the classroom lessons we promote each day – work hard, help one another, set goals, believe in yourself, and never give up on your dreams!

We arrived on campus at 9:30 a.m. and began our day at the Math and Science Learning Center on the Busch Campus. As we approached our destination, students were encouraged to observe buildings, undergraduate students moving between classes, college transportation, and the overall "bustling" atmosphere of the campus. The fifth graders were surprised to discover that our initial journey took us only through science department buildings; they found it hard to imagine that so many large and different buildings could encompass just one academic discipline!

Our time spent at the MSLC was divided between two lectures, focusing on Biology and Physics. Each of the professors, Dr. Patricia Barreto and Dr. Suzanne Brahmia, presented their lessons with an incredible sense of accessibility to the fifth graders. They included fascinating interactive demonstrations on DNA and air pressure, respectively, and provided opportunities for the students to test the theories discussed. Following the lectures, the fifth graders engaged with undergraduate and graduate students as they tested various physics models and participated in hands-on learning activities.

Later that morning we departed the MSLC to visit the "home" of our pen pals, the Rutgers Men's Basketball Team, at the Rutgers Athletic Center for a tour of the indoor arena. Ms. Randi Larson, Senior Athletic Academic Advisor and Ms. Caroline Rafferty, Athletic Communications Assistant for the Men's Basketball Team, arranged our tour, which proved to be an enormous thrill for the students. We visited the



women's locker room (while the players were getting ready to leave for a weekend road game), met Mr. Gene Wells, equipment manager, who gave us a tour of the vast stockroom and passed around a size 18 shoe for the students to examine. We walked courtside and watched our pen pals as they completed their own final practice before a weekend contest against Georgetown. Caroline escorted the fifth graders to the Media Room where players are interviewed following a home game and students had a chance to sit and "pretend" to answer questions.

Throughout the tour we learned more and more about the student-athlete experience – the demands and rewards of building intellectual acumen and physical strength amid a climate of teamwork and personal responsibility.

As we prepared to leave the RAC, Jeremy Davis, of the Sports Marketing Department, gave each student a Rutgers Basketball tee shirt and coupon for a free ticket to an upcoming home game! Students were overwhelmed by the generosity of the people we met at Rutgers who demonstrated a sincere desire to teach and inspire all of us.

The fifth graders were gracious in their appreciation and proudly represented North Plainfield. They came dressed in scarlet and respectfully and enthusiastically engaged with all members of the Rutgers community!

## JOHANNA'S CREATIONS HOSTS ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Johanna's Creations will host an Open House and Reception on Saturday, April 13, 2013, from 10 am to 2 pm and Sunday, April 14, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 4 pm in the Vermeule Mansion, 614 Greenbrook Rd, North Plainfield, NJ. Street parking and limited lot parking is available. Owned by Johanna Salvemini, the shop has been providing expert custom picture framing and large format printing services to artists, consumers and business owners alike for over 16 years.

Johanna's Creations is located in the Vermeule Mansion, also the home of the Fleetwood Museum of Art and Photographica. The museum will also be open for viewing during the Open House. For more information about the Open House and to RSVP contact Johanna Salvemini at 908-757-6976 or at jo@johannas.com.

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