

The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 17 • OCTOBER 2013

**TREE
LIGHTING
& SANTA'S
ARRIVAL**
Sunday
**DECEMBER
1ST**
4:00 PM
**VERMEULE
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

FOUR DAYS OF HONOR, VALOR FOR NORTH PLAINFIELD STUDENTS AT GETTYSBURG

A group of six students from North Plainfield High School will participate in the film "Four Days of Honor and Valor at Gettysburg," which will document their reflections on interviewing Medal of Honor recipients from this year's Medal of Honor Convention. On September 18th, the students spent four days in Gettysburg, Pa., with chaperon Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical, and performing arts at North Plainfield High School.

During the Gettysburg trip, the students toured the battlefields and interviewed Medal of Honor recipients. According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's website, the Medal of Honor first became an official military award in 1863 during the Civil War, when Congress passed legislation establishing the medal.

All six students are cadets in the NJ ROTC program, which stands for Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. The NJ ROTC program picked the six cadets, from a total of 120 cadets, for their special dedication to the program. "The six are exceptional students, and reflect the diversity of the school," Mazur said. "Their grade levels range from sophomore to senior."

Lt. Col. Eric Hansen, senior naval science instructor for the school's NJ ROTC unit, said the program emphasizes both academics and life skills. One of the most important things for NJ ROTC cadets is that they be successful students. Hansen said, "They are really held accountable for that. They have to have certain GPA averages in order to be promoted in the program, which has a similar rank structure of the U.S. Navy."

The NJ ROTC program teaches students citizenship, patriotism, and leadership. The program offers many opportunities to demonstrate leadership, such as having more experienced cadets teach younger cadets skills. Hansen also said the program teaches the cadets the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment. "We hope that by the time they graduate from high school, those core values and principles will become part of their lives."

Nancy Bahnasy, a 15-year-old sophomore cadet seaman, said she was enthused by the fact that she had the opportunity to speak with Medal of Honor recipients and is excited that the "Four Days of Valor and Honor at Gettysburg" film will document her experiences. "We actually spoke to Medal of Honor recipients on what they did to earn the medal and what their motivations were to do



(above, l-r) Kyle Pacla; Jared Ruiz; Elijah Sheridan; Nancy Bahnasy; Staff Sgt. Guinta; Adriana Miranda; Ruel Lindsay.

what they did," she said. "It was a great opportunity to speak to them during the trip. I loved hearing their stories of heroism and sacrifice."

Kyle Pacla, a 15-year-old junior and cadet master chief petty officer, said of the trip: "It's a huge honor, because I got to talk to Medal of Honor recipients."

Jared Ruiz, a 17-year old sophomore cadet seaman, said he loves the NJ ROTC program because it teaches him leadership skills he never thought he would learn. Ruiz also said he has learned other skills, such as how to communicate effectively with people, but developing leadership skills was what stood out the most. "Once the film is edited, it will be premiered at this high school," he said. "The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation would like to eventually have this screened throughout the country."

"I would like those, both inside and outside the North Plainfield community, to see what this school is all about, which is impressive young people who are polite, disciplined, and aware of what good citizenship is all about," Mazur said. "One of the ways I hope to accomplish this is through this film."

Dr. Anthony Mussari & Kathleen Loftus-Mussari, of Mussari-Loftus Associates, will be the film project's producers as part of the Face of America Project.

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The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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North Plainfield High School

Choral Music Department presents:

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2013

7 PM

NPHS CAFETERIA

\$10 per person

**Call or email to reserve your tickets by 11/18
769-6000 x 3122 or canuckchorus@gmail.com**

This event is designed for family, friends, community members and Patrons of the Arts to come out for an evening of food, musical entertainment and community spirit and pride. The evening, which will feature a three-course dinner followed by Cabaret-style music performances, will serve as a fundraiser for the Choral Music Department.

For many years, the Performing Arts Department at North Plainfield High School has been proud to showcase student performers at Winter and Spring concerts, Marching Band competitions, Spring Musicals and at various other events around the community.

Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased, in advance, by contacting Mrs. Amy Six, Choral Director at 908-769-6000 ext. 3122 or via email at canuckchorus@gmail.com. Please contact Mrs. Six for additional information.

JOSHUA'S CLOSET RAISES MONEY FOR CANCER!

On Tuesday, September 24th members of Joshua's Closet, a local non-profit organization that donates to cancer research, picked up over 50 bags of donated clothing from Chubb Insurance located in Warren, NJ. Chubb employee, Katie Stachler, coordinated the 2nd annual week long clothing drive. At the employee picnic money was raised via 50/50 raffle which totaled \$448.00 and the companies matching gift program totaled \$300.00. With the donated clothing, Joshua's Closet sells it to A&E Clothing Corporation who in turn pays \$0.20 per pound. The Chubb Insurance clothing drive, and other donated bags, resulted in 1,355 pounds, totaling \$271.00! All monies donated and from A&E Clothing Corporation is donated to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey located in

New Brunswick, NJ. For more information about Joshua's Closet, please find them on Facebook or email joshuasclset@live.com.



(above) Representatives of Joshua's Closet and clothing drive participants of Chubb Insurance.

AUSTRIAN STUDENTS MEET THE CANUCK

North Plainfield welcomed four students from Austria for a week long stay starting September 22nd. The students, Annalena, Lisa, Rebecca and Inca were involved in the program Academic Adventures in America, and came to North Plainfield for a brief stay while they traveled to New York City, the Jersey Shore and ventured on local shopping trips. They spent one day in the high school, shadowing current students and enjoying a day in the life of an American student. They got to experience one of the football games and met the high school mascot. During the stay, two girls stayed with Hildy Jackson's family, while the other two stayed with Sandi Helck's family. If you are interested in hosting an international student for this upcoming summer 2014, please contact Sandi Helck at arhelck@verizon.net



(above, l-r) Austrian students Annalena, Lisa, Rebecca and Inca with NPHS mascot.

FREE THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER

Hosted By

NORTH PLAINFIELD GIRL SCOUT TROOPS 65133 & 65937

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

2:00 pm -5:00 pm

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

170 Watchung Ave, North Plainfield, NJ

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WE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!

This event is fully funded by donations of food and supplies from our local business and from members of the community. If you would like to contribute, you may contact us at the email above or you can pledge your help by going to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4AABA82CA6FB6-girl/12884729

Thank you!

Note: We cannot accept Cash Donations but Gift Cards are appreciated

ANNUAL FRESHMAN FIELD DAY

On September 18th, 2013, the North Plainfield high school students took part in the annual freshman field day experience. As an outsider, one might think this day simply consists of student's running around a field, however upon closer inspection, a visitor just might see the beginnings of several imperative bonds forming between the senior and junior mentors, and NPBS's newest freshman class.

Freshman year presents many obstacles and challenges due to the change in environment and the increase of academic rigor. By participating in several activities on the turf, each mentor and mentee is able to create a bond that will be enhanced in future one on one mentoring sessions. The mentoring program is essential to the freshman students because it allows each student access to a mentor who will help, guide, and understand their journey through high

school.

Each mentor is selected for their excellence in the classroom and their willingness to help others by a panel of senior mentors and the mentor advisor, Jennifer Sloan.

Every year, the mentors get special training from the organization OPA Winning Teams, in order to help them learn ways to make all of the mentees feel comfortable while allowing the mentors access to leadership training, risk assessment training, and learning the value of compassion.

Mentor Day is the first of many activities in which the mentors and mentees are able to participate in guided activities that teach trust, respect, and the importance of goal making. Just one of the many great clubs run at NPBS, mentoring is a program that makes students feel proud to showcase their Canuck pride.



SAVE THE DATE! HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 23, 2013**

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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Saturday Nov. 23, 11am-4pm

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FREE ADMISSION

Craft Fair located at Fabricland, 855 Route 22, West, North Plainfield, NJ

908-755-4700

fabricland.com

ANNUAL SENIOR PICNIC

The Mayor's 35th Annual Senior Citizen Picnic was held on Saturday, September 28th at the Community Center. There was over 100 seniors in attendance this year and each one was greeted with an afternoon filled with food, gift bags, door prizes and entertainment, all provided by local businesses. This year, two local Girl Scout Troops, Troop 65133 and 65937, assisted with the picnic. The Girl Scouts helped at the buffet line while later leading a dance with Larry Kasar with music provided by "Larry Kasar Music". Many local businesses donated gift certificates, gift baskets, and other items for the picnic, while Somerset Farms donated mums. Food donations were provided by Kentucky Fried Chicken, Orlando's Chicken, Super Heroes, and Costco. Desserts were served up by volunteers, which included ice cream donated by Unique Sweets.

Thanks due to Gail Cain, Administrative Assistant, for her superb work in organizing the 35th Annual Senior Picnic.



(above, l-r) Special events members, Peter Eddy and Lisa Del Negro prepared hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill.

LIONS CLUB THANKS QUICK CHEK

Members of the North Plainfield Lions Club recently presented Quick Chek of North Plainfield with a plaque, thanking the store for its continued support of the Lions' charitable endeavors. Quick Chek has provided support to North Plainfield Lions fundraisers, including the Chili Cook Off, the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast and this year's Lions Wings Food Booth.

Monies raised by the Lions go to scholarships given each year to two graduating seniors from NPHS, to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and to programs which benefit those who are blind and who have various vision and hearing-related disabilities.

To learn more about the Lions, call Skip Stabile at (908) 756-8456, or Frank Stabile at (908) 754-2754.



(above, l-r) North Plainfield Lions Club Appreciation Award Plaque Presentation. Max Wojtech, Nick Psillos, Bill Wojtech, Fiore Ciarfellow, Mike Giordano, Leonard Lange.

EAST END ELEMENTARY AND SOMERSET SIX PARTICIPATE IN RESPECT WEEK

This year, in the school districts, Respect Week began on Monday October 7th. Students and staff at East End Elementary and Somerset Six participated in week long activities that taught the students about being kind and respectful to others as well as bullying

prevention tactics. The schools had a wide array of age appropriate activities for their students such as singing songs, reading and discussing books, guest speakers and making a pledge to stop bullying.

At East End Elementary, each class created a collage entitled "Everyone Deserves Respect" that was displayed in their Hallway of Respect. The students practiced showing respect thru good manners, wrote thank you cards to someone who always showed them respect and wrote and illustrated something unique about themselves that will be made into a classroom book to be left in the class library.

Somerset Six students had outreach program Steered Straight present on bullying, choices, and consequences. The students were in complete silence as they attentively listened to

the message. Teachers also passed out "Certificates of Appreciation" to students who were respectful and kind towards others. When the students received their certificates, they placed it on the "Somerset Student Caught Being Respectful" banner, which is placed in the atrium of the school.

The parents and guardians of Somerset Six students also participated in the week by receiving an informative newsletter which discussed signs which may point to a bullying problem as well as definitions of different terms associated with bullying (i.e. Cyberbullying, the definition of bullying, the definitions of upstander and bystander).

Both schools had a great week of respect! The students will get to demonstrate what they learned throughout the school year.

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CONNECTING TALENT

ARCHERY HITS A BULLSEYE WITH A \$1000 DONATION FROM PLAINFIELD ELK'S LODGE #885

Submitted by: Tom Mullen, North Plainfield Recreation Archery Director

Wednesday, September 15th was the Kick-Off Meeting for the North Plainfield's Recreation Archery Season.

The Plainfield Elks Lodge #885 helped support the program and this year donated a \$1,000 worth of archery equipment. Presenting the equipment from the Elk's was Colleen Zistch and Exalted Ruler, Stephanie Zistch. Receiving the donation was North Plainfield Archery Recreation Director, Tom Mullen.

The North Plainfield Recreation Archery Program is one of oldest and longest running program in New Jersey. The program was started in 1959 by Bill English. Under the leadership of retired Recreation Director, Lou Gomez, the program really started to grow.

Tom Mullen has been a part of the program for over 12 years and became its director 5 years ago. The program now has over 85 grade school students and has expanded to an adult class with over 25 archers.

The Plainfield Elk's Lodge #885 plays a very active part in the community. As a non-profit

community organization, the Elk's main efforts are helping veterans and children development groups.

The donation will go a long way in keeping the program running into the future.



(above) Colleen Zistch (left) and Exalted Ruler, Stephanie Zistch (right) Presenting \$1000 of archery equipment from Plainfield Elks' Lodge #885 to Tom Mullen.



North Plainfield Recreation Archery, one of New Jersey's longest running archery programs, fires off it's 2012 season with over 85 grade school students.

EAST END UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Monday, October 28th:
EAST END FOOD DRIVE BEGINS**

**Tuesday, November 5th
F.A.S.T. (FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER)**

Homework Help for Parents Pasta Dinner

A workshop to help parents help their children with homework and school work.

For East End School

Parents and Guardians.

(5:30 - 7:30PM)

**Tuesday, November 12th
PTO MEETING**

(7:00PM)

**Wednesday, November 13th - 20
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

**Tuesday, November 26th
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BUSY SUMMER FOR ROTARY

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR AND ART EXHIBIT - DEC 14TH



On Saturday, December 14th, from 2 to 7 P.M. the Washington Park Historic Association will sponsor a "Victorian Christmas House Tour and Art Exhibit".

All of the homes are located in the North Plainfield Washington Park Historic District and many still have their original architectural features. After more than 10 years of work by Washington Park volunteers, the Washington Park Historic District was listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places on April 9, 1987. The Washington Park Historic association is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and protection of our Historic District.

The tour starts at The Church of the Holy Cross 40 Mercer Ave. The church is an excellent example of Carpenter Gothic Architecture. Local artists will have some of their original work on display in the homes. The ROTC Cadets from our high school will participate as guides.

After the tour, participants are invited to a wine and chocolate tasting, donated by local merchants.

Tickets are \$20.00 purchased in advance \$25.00 the day of the tour. For additional information call 908-757-6353 or email frankdsr@comcast.net

Service to others is the hallmark of Rotary International, the thousands of Rotary clubs, and 1.2 million Rotarians throughout the world. It is a mantra that every Rotarian bears through the motto "Service Above Self." For the members of the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, part of their service is providing food for those in need.

The members of the Rotary club meet weekly to enjoy friendship and to plan service projects and activities. On the first Wednesday of every month, club members bring canned goods, such as soup and vegetables; peanut butter and jelly; pasta; and cereal for donation to the Star Fish Food Pantry in Plainfield. These donations help supplement the pantry's supplies which are always in need.

But during the summer, the club adds another set of activities by growing their own vegetables at the Wagner Farm Arboretum in Warren. Supported by the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School, the Rotarians plant and care for two plots in the Giving Garden at the Arboretum. This garden area is used solely to raise crops for people in need. This past summer, the club produced lettuce, beets, tomatoes, zucchini and eggplant; most of the over 450 pounds of fresh vegetables grown went to the Star Fish Food Pantry.

Volunteers at the Giving Garden also made weekly trips to the Rutgers experimental farm in Pittstown to harvest their vegetables. The Rutgers farm cannot sell what they grow; they simply make it available to non-profits in the area. Using a van and trailer, Ernie Cottrill, the founder of the Giving Garden, and his helpers bring thousands of pounds of vegetables back to the Giving Garden each week.

Throughout the summer, one of the Rotary club's members collects a portion of these vegetables from Rutgers and those grown at the Giving Garden and deliver them to the Star Fish Food Pantry and to the Salvation Army in Plainfield. Boxes of tomatoes and potatoes and apples and corn flow all summer long to the hungry through the efforts of the Rotary club.



Recently, the Rotary club's weekly delivery for Star Fish and the Salvation Army included boxes of apples and corn. A second trip to Pittstown that same week resulted in a van and trailer full of pumpkins. Two representatives of the Rotary club picked up a load of pumpkins and shared them with Star Fish, a nursery school, and a senior citizens apartment building, all in Plainfield.

Rotary in action! One club member asked the other members to support the Star Fish Food Pantry with donations of canned and dry goods. Another member alerted the club to the opportunity to grow fresh vegetables at the Giving Garden that would be used for the needy in the area. The club then pointed the Giving Garden toward supporting the Star Fish Food Pantry with donations of its fresh produce. The Giving Garden then asked the Rotary club to help deliver produce from the Rutgers farm to Star Fish and the Salvation Army. All of the benefits that arise from this project are a result of following the Rotary motto - "Service above Self."

The Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM 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 or by phone at (908) 822-1441. For additional information, you can contact Michael Townley, Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield member, at (908) 822-1441.

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FIRE DEPT. CELEBRATES PREVENTION WEEK

William F. Eaton, Fire Chief/Director
North Plainfield Fire Dept.

The fire department hosted its 2013 Open House on October 5th, recognizing National Fire Prevention Week.

We welcomed several neighborhood children and their parents in headquarters where they received; tours of the apparatus, demonstrations of firefighting and emergency medical equipment, viewed video presentations and were given fire prevention literature, blood pressure screenings & plastic fire helmets and stickers. Thank you to the members of the community who came out that day.

Over the course of the next month the fire department will be conducting its "smoke detector and battery replacement" program. This long standing program is something we have done for several years in conjunction with the Borough's senior citizens group. It includes checking the operation and location of smoke detectors as well as replacement of the batteries.

Rabies Clinic
this year will be held on
Saturday November 23rd
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Fire Headquarters
located at 8 Lincoln Place.
Dogs must be on leads,
cats in carriers.

FLU SHOTS
SATURDAY, NOV. 2
NP COMMUNITY CENTER
614 Greenbrook Road
from 10 a.m. to noon
Flu shots will be \$5 for adult residents of North Plainfield who are age 18 and over and \$20 for non-North Plainfield residents.

The Optimist Club of North Plainfield.

12th Annual

WINE TASTING EVENT

This year is about the Latin flare!
Sample & learn about a wonderful array of wines produced in Chile, Argentina & Spain.

Saturday, November 23rd
7PM,

Vermeule Mansion

614 Greenbrook Rd.

Beneficiaries include:

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Camp Quality

Proper attire requested.

\$50 per person, all-inclusive.

For reservations & ticket information please contact:

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Or any Optimist Club Member
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CHILDREN

DAY OF THE DEAD PARTY (Grades K-5)

Friday, November 1 at 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of "Día de los Muertos." Decorate a skull, make festive flowers, and learn about the traditions associated with this Mexican holiday! Registration begins October 18.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID PARTY (Grades 3-5)

Tuesday, November 5 at 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Come to the library and celebrate the release of Jeff Kinney's newest addition to the series – Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck. Play games like Cheese Touch Hot Potato, participate in a trivia contest, and make a fun craft! Registration begins October 22.

DIY: ART (Grades K-2)

Tuesday, November 12 at 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Make a one-of-a-kind art project using everyday objects. Registration begins October 29.

AFTER SCHOOL MOVIE (All Ages)

Tuesday, November 19 at 3:30—5:30 p.m.

Join us for a snack and relax after class with a movie. Showing Monsters University (Rated G). No registration.

TEENS

MAKE YOUR OWN SNACK : PIZZA BAGELS (Grades 6-12)

Wednesday, November 6 at 3:30- 5:00 pm

Come and make this delicious afterschool treat with us. Registration begins October 23.

GAME DAY (Grades 6-12)

Mondays, November 4, 11, 18,
and 25 and December 2, 9 and 16 at 3:30-5:00

Join us for a fun afternoon of playing a variety of board, card, and video games. No registration required.

IMPROV/ACTING GAME AFTERNOON (Grades 6-12)

Wednesday, November 13 at 3:30- 5:00 pm

Do you like to act? Come for a fun improv afternoon as we play games like park bench and freeze. No registration required.

SUPER SMASH BROTHERS BRAWL TOURN (Grades 6-12)

Wednesday, November 20 at 3:30- 5:30 pm

Show off your battling skills in this fast paced Wii tournament as you compete for a Game Stop gift card! Registration begin November 6.

ADULTS

WHAT'S NEW IN MOBILE GADGETS?

Thursday, November 7 at 7:00pm

This session will provide an overview of what is currently available in mobile phones, tablets, e-readers and more. Also learn about online "cloud" storage and how you can download library ebooks and music on these devices for free.

SETTING UP AN EMAIL ACCOUNT

Monday, November 11 at 7:00pm

This class will cover the major email providers, selecting a username and a secure password. Participants will have the option of making an appointment for a one-on-one session to set up an account.

DAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, November 14 at 1:00pm

Join the afternoon group for tea, cookies and a lively discussion of Year of Wonders:

A Novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks.

SENIOR CITIZENS HAPPENINGS

The North Plainfield

Senior Citizens group meets every Tuesday at 10:30 am

at the Community Center located at 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield.

The Group also sponsors a bus trip to the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City the second Wednesday of each month. For reservations call Elsie at 908-755-9347.

For more information regarding membership and transportation call Frank 908-757-6353.

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