

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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**North Plainfield
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LITERACY NIGHT AT WEST END SCHOOL

The West End F.A.S.T.(Families and Schools Together) committee with support from the North Plainfield Education Association hosted a Literacy Night at West End School. Over 100 children and adults attended the event. S.P.A.N. (The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network) gave a presentation in English and in Spanish about how to build literacy skills at home. The families participated in activities such as, describing foods, creating a book, and asking "big questions." To end the evening, everyone enjoyed a dinner from Grove Street BBQ. The event was a great success! Thank you to all the volunteers; Alison Apisa, Erica Gara, Angela Steger, Brian Steger, Heather Novorro, Alyson Difiori, Lisa Cirillo, Teresa Diller, Lindsey Gall, Vicki Mendes, Chris Sepesi, Meredith Reedy, Diana Palomo, Heather Morgan, Kourtney Gissona, Dina Glowacki, and Heather Shealy. F.A.S.T. is sponsored by NJEA.

West End F.A.S.T. will be hosting a Science Night on April 23, 2015.



(above, l-r): Diana Palomo, Heather Morgan, Chris Sepesi, Dina Glowacki, Angela Steger, Heather Novorro, Lindsey Gall, Alison Apisa, Lisa Cirillo, Heather Shealy, Vicki Mendes, Alyson DiFiore, Erica Gara, Teresa Diller, and Meredith Reedy.

CIVIL RIGHTS VOLUNTEER SHARES EXPERIENCES WITH STUDENTS

By Denis J. Kelly

The Rev. Brooks Smith, a retired pastor at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, spoke on Friday, Feb. 27, to English and Social Studies students at Watchung Hills Regional High School about his experiences as a student civil rights volunteer during the 1964 "Freedom Summer."

He spoke at the invitation of English teacher Laura Goodson, who said Smith was invited in part to celebrate February as Black History Month, and in part to give a broader context to the subject of this year's Academy Award-nominated movie, "Selma." Selma is about the struggle in the 1960s to help Black Americans in the South

(right, l-r) Watchung Hills Regional High School English teacher Laura Goodson, and students Kyle Anderson of Warren Township and Nicole Parisi of Stirling welcome the Rev. Brooks Smith of North Plainfield, a retired pastor at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield.

He spoke to Watchung Hills English and Social Studies students, sharing his experiences as a Civil Rights student volunteer during the summer of 1964.

register to vote. "Jim Crow" laws had for decades made it virtually impossible for blacks to vote, Smith said.

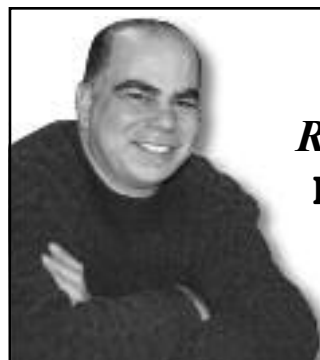
Smith recalled how dangerous it was for young civil rights volunteers in the South during the summer of 1964. Three of his fellow student volunteers that summer were murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Two others were kidnapped. And many, including Smith, were arrested.



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The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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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NEXT NPCCR MEETING MAY 7

The next meeting of the North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) will be Thursday 7 May, 7:00 P.M. at the North Plainfield Community Center 614 Greenbrook Road at Clinton.

Our guest speaker will be from the New Jersey Division of Taxation. The topic will be the Senior Tax Freeze. If you are age 65 or older or are disabled you may qualify for the tax freeze program.

If you know anyone from another community that might be interested in this topic, please invite them to our meeting. Bring any questions you may have about this topic to this meeting. Our meetings are open to everyone. If you have a topic that you believe would be of benefit to our residents email your suggestions to communityrights@gmail.com

NPCCR records all council meetings and police reports these can be viewed by clicking on www.npccr.org

YARD AND CRAFT SALE

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Enjoy some very special activities for kids and adults. Take a tour of this North Plainfield landmark, a 150 year old Carpenter Gothic masterpiece.

And speaking of "All are welcome," the Holy Cross family continues its long tradition of offering a warm welcome to all who want to visit, whether it is for a worship service or fellowship at one of the outreach programs: Betty's Basement Thrift Shop, Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, Men's Breakfast, Adult Study, Conversations With Teens.

Visit The Church of the Holy Cross Facebook Page and www.holycrossnp.org for details.

PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email Lynn Sjurset at lynn@rennamedia.com.



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LIBRARY'S NIGHT OF MAGIC, FUN AND GAMES

On Thursday, February 5, the North Plainfield Library was transformed into Hogwarts for Harry Potter Book Night. Over 50 attended this night of magic, fun and games.

The participants were able to make their own wizard hats with sparkly stars as well as create their own edible wands out of pretzels and frosting. They also got to show off their wizards skills with a Quidditch balloon toss, Pin the scar on Harry, and Harry Potter trivia. The night was topped off with wizard hat cupcakes and photo opportunities in front of Platform 9 3/4.

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(above, l-r) Teen volunteer Gavin Costello, 13, running a trivia game with Katie Bojanek, Teen Librarian



(above) Patron Catherine Savoy with her wizard hat and pretzel wand creations



(left) Children's Librarian Jessica Trujillo with Wizard Hat snacks

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EVERY PENNY COUNTS AT STONY BROOK

North Plainfield's Stony Brook School joined over 1,100 schools in New Jersey in the fight



against Leukemia & Lymphoma, through a program titled, "Pennies for Patients." This program has been instrumental in funding the cutting edge research needed to find a cure and save lives. The school year 2014 – 2015 was the third year of participating in this school fundraising program. Each student received a small donation box and began the task of collecting spare change from family members. During the first week, close to \$300.00 was collected. Through this program, the students will be performing community service and learning how to help make a difference in the lives of others.

(above) Pennies for Patients organizer and school nurse, Doreen Humiston joins fourth grade students supporting the program. Pictured (front, l-r): Anthony Olivo and Justin Gilsilveti. (back, l-r): Doreen Humiston, Uriel Palacios, Shirley Supe, Kailyn Orozco, and Samantha Alvenus

NORTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC OUTREACH

Ongoing and effective communication among schools, students' families and the wider community is among the highest priorities of our school district. Our schools recognize the value of true partnerships and the contributions that can occur for our students when mutual concerns among all stakeholders are embraced.

The North Plainfield Schools would like your opinions and suggestions to help improve the quality of communication and outreach. A short survey has been prepared to assist using this effort. Please take a few moments to provide us with your thoughts. www.surveymonkey.com/s/NPPublicoutreach2015

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NORTH PLAINFIELD CUB SCOUTS LEARN ABOUT THE PRIDE

By *Julissa Ramirez*

Every other Monday, boys from all over town, from ages 6 to 7 years old, come together as one pack, Cub Scout Pack 135.

Now these Mondays are no ordinary Mondays, but are special days of the week where two Pack 135 leaders, Grace and Heather Sokolowski, help these second graders become the strong and determined boys they need to be, "Every time we meet, we have a new topic to discuss," Heather explains. Once the boys tackle a subject, they receive badges and belt loops, signifying their advancement as well as their knowledge on the topic. Naturally, one may

think Boy Scouts are all about camping, learning how to build a fire and spending much time outside, but it's also filled with pledges promising commitment and daily growth as a person. Each time they meet, the boys stand up and recite their pledge as Pack 135 promising to "do my best... Obey[ing] the law of the pack."

Now of course, these second graders know a lot about being outdoors, but on March 3rd, Cub Scout Pack 135 decided to take another route and learn about communications and the art of putting together a newspaper. As part of their requirement to advance in cub scouts, den mother Heather Sokolowski reached out to The

Pride of North Plainfield to help with this cub scout assignment. Joe Renna, publisher of The Pride, along with Julissa Ramirez, intern, gave an interactive presentation to the scouts. The boys had such a great time taking apart the newspaper and understanding the different parts of it. After learning about all the different components of the newspaper, Mr. Renna gave the boys a writing assignment to complete. You can read two such articles below.

Pack 135 is such an energetic and loving group, and if anyone is in need of camping helpers or reporters, contact these awesome, well rounded six and seven year olds.

(below) Newsletter produced by the members of Cub Scout Pack 135

Cub Scout
Pack 135

WOLF DEN NEWS

North Plainfield , NJ

April
2015

"We Went Bowling"

By Bennie Sokolowski, age 7

On March 16th the wolf den from North Plainfield pack 135 went bowling. Seven cub scouts came to the Strike and Spare in Green Brook. We rolled bowling balls to knock down pins. We learned how to bowl. This is part of our activities to earn our wolf badge. The scouts had a lot of fun!



Photograph by Mohammed Ahmed



Photograph by Manny Vasquez

"ALL ABOUT SAINT PATRICK'S DAY"

By Sean Coakley, age 6



Illustrated by Joa

St. Patrick's Day is a day when you celebrate St. Patrick and being Irish. You celebrate by wearing green. On St. Patrick's Day there are also parade. Sometimes you can find a four leaf clover. If you find that four leaf clover, make a wish and good luck will come your way.



Photograph by Joey Acinapura

Heather Sokolowski
Cheryl Acinapura
Wolf Den Mothers
Pack 135

ST. BALDRICK'S EVENT RAISED OVER \$100,000

By Robert Beattie, St. Baldrick's Day Event Organizer

The North Plainfield Professional Firefighters hosted their Annual St. Baldrick's Day Event in fire headquarters on Saturday, March 21. More than 80 volunteers gathered with friends and family to witness them shave their heads at the hands of 6 volunteer barbers as a sign of solidarity with kids who lose their hair to cancer treatment. In the process the 2015 event raised

more than \$100,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity dedicated to raising money for life-saving childhood cancer research and funds more in childhood cancer grants than any organization except for the U.S. government.

The firefighter's event has quickly become a

North Plainfield tradition. Since 2004 the North Plainfield Firefighters have held the annual event 12 times, bringing in more than \$700,000 and is among the longest running events for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Donations are still being accepted at: <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/NorthPlainfieldFire> or by phone at 888-899-BALD

More information about the St. Baldrick's Foundation can be found at www.stbaldricks.org

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(above, l-r): Sergeant Enrico Perrone, Detective Lieutenant Russell Flynn, Detective Sergeant Alan McKay, Chief William Parenti, Captain Gerard Clyne, Lieutenant Edward Ciempola, Officer Mark Constantino



(above) EMT Jon DeOliveira getting his head shaved at the event

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