

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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**ISSUE 35 • MAY 2015**

**North Plainfield  
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## IT'S MORE THAN JUST A MEETING

By *Julissa Ramirez*

Girls Circle is a program that sets "a safe, creative environment and provides weeks of age-appropriate themes and activities." This program is a support group that allows young girls to interact with one another by learning to respectfully voice their opinions as well as understand others'. Girls Circle leaders, Ms.Harrington and Ms.Farhat, have established a Girls Circle in Somerset school for fifth and sixth graders and would like North Plainfield to know how successful this program has been.

As I walk into room 207, where the girls meet every Wednesday, I come across a diverse group of nine fifth and sixth graders. They were sitting in a warm, close-knit circle where one was talking while holding a small blue conch and the rest were listening.

One does not have to be a regular member of Girls Circle in order to feel the magnitude of friendliness, compassion and above all else, love. For the past year, these young girls have been meeting each and every Wednesday to discuss different topics that helps instill confidence and makes sure that these girls know that they are "not alone." The two teachers of Girls Circle are Ms.Harrington and Ms.Farhat. Together they began with the idea of meeting with their students once a week only to have them feel safe and understood, but months later, it has become more than a meeting.

It's a second home where the girls are not only telling each other stories, but are opening up pieces of their lives to each other as well as helping one another grow from their experiences. After a year of these



(above) "Girls Circle" participants and leaders at Somerset

connections, the girls explain how much Girls Circle has helped them. The girls explained how they were once shy, quiet, lonely and afraid, but now leave Girls Circle feeling confident and understood.

Overall, both Ms.Harrington and Ms.Farhat have made a small idea into a life changing program. These girls have learned to grow and to love in the midst of their difficult surroundings, all thanks to two amazing teachers. If anyone has questions or would like to cooperate with Girls Circle, email and.Harrington at [maura\\_harrington@nplainfield.org](mailto:maura_harrington@nplainfield.org).

## FISHING DERBY PHOTOS FEATURED ON NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Renna Media has created a Facebook page for all twelve of its publications including The Pride of North Plainfield. The Facebook page compliments the company's website [www.RennaMedia.com](http://www.RennaMedia.com). The The Pride of North Plainfield Facebook page will feature photo albums that also appear on the website, and frequent blog posts.

Residents are encouraged to like the page to keep up with the latest upcoming events. They can also "Like," "Tag," and "Share" the photos. The most recent album uploaded is of the Fishing Derby. Besides current albums, Renna Media will maintain a community calendar of events. Non-profits are encouraged to submit their information. All past issues can also be found on the site.

(See photos on page 4)



Photos of this and other events can be found at [www.renna.com](http://www.renna.com) and on The Pride of North Plainfield Facebook page. Like, Tag, and Share.

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# The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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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Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent via phone, fax or email to:

Renna Media, LLC  
 Publisher: Joe Renna  
 202 Walnut Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016  
 Phone: 908-447-1295  
 Fax: 908-709-9209  
 Email: joerenna@rennamedia.com

## 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.

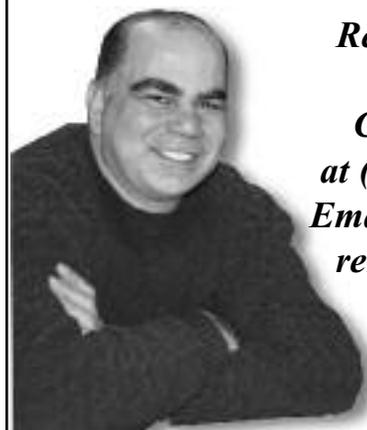
Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email Lynn Sjurset at [lynn@rennamedia.com](mailto:lynn@rennamedia.com).



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 Fri and Sat: 9:30-5

Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

All branches of Somerset County Library System of New Jersey, including the Watchung Library branch, will be closed on Tuesday, May 19 for Staff Development Day and on Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

### Explore music this May with SCLSNJ.

Tuesday, May 5, 3:30-4:30 pm.

Children grades K-5 are invited to make their own drum using items they can find around the house at the M.I.Y. DRUMS program

For more information, visit: <http://sclsnj.org/s/nplmusic>

### All ages are welcome to Folklore History and Myths:

Saturday, May 23, 2:15-3:45 pm.

Music of the Andes at SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch

Explore the enchanting music of the Andes. Kalpas, a local Ecuadorian folklore musical group will be performing Ecuadorian, Peruvian, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, and Argentinean Andean songs. Bring your own instruments to play along!

### Naturalization & Citizenship Information Session

Tuesday, June 2, 10 am - 12 pm.

This program is for legal permanent residents ("Green Card" holders) and others interested in the official naturalization and citizenship process. Topics covered will include: the naturalization process, the new Naturalization Test, rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. Registration is required.

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## POLICE REMINDERS FOR HOME SAFETY

The North Plainfield Police Department and its community policing unit would like to give you a few reminders for home safety.

By educating the community on crime prevention techniques and involving citizens in crime prevention activities our goal is to reduce crime, the fear of crime, build effective partnerships and improve the quality of life for the citizens of North Plainfield.

Our department feels that Crime Prevention is an important component of the foundation of community policing, and that the information provided will help residents make their neighborhoods safer.

Always remember burglary is a crime of opportunity. Make their work risky and difficult, and you stand a good chance of stopping them before they get in. Burglars try the doors and windows first. If burglars have difficulty here, chances are they will move on to another property. Always lock your doors whether you are home or not. Lock the front doors while you are in the backyard and vice versa. Lock your doors and windows when you leave the house, even for just a few minutes. Always keep your garage door closed and locked as well.

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# INTERACT STUDENTS SUPPORT GIVING GARDEN

Members of the North Plainfield High School Interact Club helped prepare two planting beds at the Wagner Farm Arboretum's Giving Garden on April 28. Fifteen Interactors worked for several hours to turn over and prepare the 4 by 40 foot beds, planting one bed with beet seeds and the other with snap pea seeds. In addition, the students worked on clearing two potato bins of weeds and old soil, then refreshed them with many wheelbarrows of new, fresh, soft soil, ideal for growing potatoes.

Interact will be at the Garden every Wednesday afternoon through the end of June, assisting Rotary Club members with the Garden project.

The purpose of the (GGP) Giving Gardens Project is to produce vegetables, dedicated to (right) Interact students in the group photo include – LenaZhu, MelodyNjoku, Christina Forrester, Nikita Forrester, EmelyVlastegui, ClarisaZavala, Yinging Liang, KarenGordon, JawanaWilson and advisor Alexandria Pereira

feed the poor and needy, which are distributed through agencies such as SHIP, Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Star Fish, soup kitchens, Second Harvest, and other appropriate agencies. The produce is grown on plots at Wagner Farms Arboretum and tended entirely by volunteers, groups and individuals.



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## NORTH PLAINFIELD EAGLE SCOUTS DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP

On Sunday April 19th, 2015 North Plainfield BSA Troop 235 Chartered by the West End School PTA, held an Eagle Court of Honor in Saint Luke's Church hall to recognize two members who received the Eagle Scout Rank – Robert W. Bereheiko, Jr. & Stephen D'Armiento.

Both Bobby and Stephen joined Cub Scout Pack #135, in North Plainfield as first graders. Bobby in September 2002 & Stephen in 2003 as Tiger Cub Scout's; advancing to Webelos, where they each were awarded the Arrow of Light. Bobby received his in March 2007 & Stephen in March 2008 before they each crossed over to Boy Scout Troop #235 in North Plainfield.

Bobby Bereheiko completed his advancement from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout rank on May 7th, 2014 having earned 31 merit badges and having served as, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guide. During this time he attended Bishop George Ahr High School, where he graduated in June 2014, and was involved in a variety of activities such as; member of the Marching Band, Jazz Band and Concert Band, Technician for all theater productions and a religious education teacher. While also serving his community as a Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a Volunteer Fire Fighter

For his Eagle Project Bobby consulted with Miss Lisa Cerulo, Art Teacher at West End School and together decided to completely enlarge and improve the garden at West End School which would create a safe space for students to learn by planting and caring for vegetables and flowers they could plant themselves.

Bobby led other Scouts and volunteers in the excavating of the old garden which was enlarged as planned to improve the area and create a safe space for the students by installing a chain link

fence around the enlarged area and protecting the space for the students. Work activities included building raised flower beds for the students to plant vegetables and flowers, creating a walkway surrounding these flower beds for safe access of the students around the garden, installing weed blocker covered by pebbles to prevent weed growth in the walkways and installing stepping stones around the flower beds. After successfully raising over \$1,125 in monetary donations and supplies, he completed this project with the help of Scout volunteers and friends in March 2014.

Stephen D'Armiento completed his advancement from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout rank on February 6, 2015 having earned 27 merit badges and having served as, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and as Senior Patrol Leader. Currently Stephen attends Somerset County Vocational & Technical School as a shared time student and North Plainfield High School, from where he will graduate from this June, he has been involved in a variety of activities such as, wrestling, varsity baseball, varsity football, Mentoring program and the Saint Luke's Youth Group.

For his Eagle Project, Stephen consulted with Mrs. Mary Sue Frank, Director of the Giving Nest Pre-School located in the Parish Center at Saint Luke's R.C. Church and decided on a plan for the Outdoor Play Area Revival. Plan was to build a shade/weather covering over a fenced-in outdoor play area/classroom for the students there. This project included doing some heavy pruning of bushes and trees around the outdoor area plus the removal of various trees and bushes nearby. These improvements focused on giving the students in the preschool an outside area that is away from the harmful UV rays and from the weather while also improving part of



(above, l-r) Troop 235 Eagle Scouts Stephen D'Armiento & Robert W. Bereheiko, Jr.

the Church grounds.

Stephen lead other Scouts and volunteers in clearing a rundown and overgrown fenced in play area of overgrown trees and bushes that could propose a possible hazard to young children. Additional work involved the tilling of the play area grounds and placing approved wood chips in play areas. Repairs including strengthening of the surrounding fence and the installation of a removable 10 foot by 20 foot shade carport. After successfully securing all of the material and supply donations, he completed the project with the help of many Scout volunteers and friends on November 30, 2014.

Bobby and Stephen are the 65th & 66th Eagle Scouts from Troop 235 in its 55th year of developing leadership in "A Proud Community".

## BAGPIPES VISIT EAST END SCHOOL

On St. Patrick's Day at East End School, kindergarten teacher, Miss Oliver invited her friend, Miss Diane Leighton, who treated the pre-k and kindergarten classes to live, authentic bagpipe music! Miss Leighton is an accomplished bagpipe player of 11 years who is part of the Cuchullain Pipe Band based in Morris County, New Jersey. She plays for crowds in parades, competitions, and other events all over the east coast of the United States, and has even played in Scotland and England with The Queen's Piper – the official bagpipe player for The Queen of England! In addition to that, for the past four years Miss Leighton has always made sure to make a special guest appearance in Miss Oliver's class on St. Patrick's day. Miss Leighton played several holiday songs and informed the group about the bagpipes, how they work, and her experience as a member of a bagpipe band. She also came clad in an official kilted uniform and explained its articles, and answered students'

questions. The students were surprised to hear how loud the bagpipes are, and were delighted to

see and touch the bagpipes and receive special St. Patrick's Day gifts from Miss Leighton!



(above) Pre-K and Kindergarten Class with Bagpiper Diane Leighton

# SOMERSET HILLS SCHOOL HOSTS FREE SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

The Somerset Hills School is hosting two free workshops in May for parents focusing on developing effective and collaborative Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and the transition years for special education students: The “Special Education Transition Years: Maximizing Services and Supports for Students with Disabilities from ages 14-21” workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and The “Advocacy Strategies Across Your Child’s School Career: Developing Effective & Collaborative IEPs” has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Both workshops will be held at Somerset Hills School, 107 Westervelt Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. The workshops are free of charge, but advanced registration is required. Please call 908-754-4114 or mail [vfornelius@somersethills.org](mailto:vfornelius@somersethills.org). Light refreshments will be served.

Both workshops will feature attorneys from the Florham Park law firm of Hinkle, Fingles & Prior, which specializes in representing people with disabilities.

“The world of special education is complex and can be confusing for many parents,” said Ryan Kimmins, the director of the Somerset Hills School. “We hope these workshops will provide valuable information for parents struggling to make sense of their options.”

Somerset Hills is a day school for out-of-district placed students ages 5-21. Classifications include behavioral and social/emotional disabilities, ADHD/ADD, Autistic Spectrum, Specific Learning Differences and Dyslexia.

Somerset Hills provides an emotionally supportive environment in which students can learn at their own pace, according to their individual strengths and needs. The students are provided with the strategies needed for learning the necessary skills in all academic and social areas. Learn more about our school and the students we serve by visiting [somersethills.org](http://somersethills.org).

## FAMILY FUN NIGHTS, A WONDERFUL TRADITION

Family Fun Nights have become a big event at Stony Brook School. On the last Friday of each month Stony Brook’s PTA have invited all family and staff members to gather and share good old fashioned family fun time together. Families have been encouraged to meet and greet each other, participate in various planned activities and share a light dinner together, all in an effort to build a strong home and school community. Various families have donated international “Pot Luck” dinners for all to share. Dinners have included foods from many different countries: Pandebono from Colombia; Empanadas from Ecuador; Mazamorra de Morado from Peru; Tamales from Mexico, as well as pizza, green salads, oven roasted chicken and rice, hot dogs, cupcakes and cookies from the United States. PTA Officers and organizers have been: Carlene Aurelian, Lovely Attis, Patricia Wallace, Diana Palacios, Patricia Garcia and Catherine Palmer.

“The Family Fun Nights have become a wonderful tradition at Stony Brook School. I am looking forward to many more memorable evenings like these for our families,” stated Principal Cathy Kobylarz.

## SENIOR BUS SCHEDULE

To arrange to ride the bus and for more information, 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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ON TIME PROFESSIONALS With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.	ON TIME PROFESSIONALS With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.	ON TIME PROFESSIONALS With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.	ON TIME PROFESSIONALS With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

# Fresh Fruit &

# Vegetable Market

Freshly baked Portuguese and Italian bread delivered daily!

somersetfarms@verizon.net  
somersetfarmsnj.com

**908-757-7730**

**950 Route 22 East • North Plainfield, NJ**



**Store Hours:** Mon-Sat: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Sun: 9:00 am to 5:00pm

**"We're Not Just Produce"**



**Large Selection of Mother's Day Plants**

## FRESH FRUIT OR VEGETABLE PLATTERS

Platters over stuffed with the best the season has to offer.

- 14 inch 24.99
- 16 inch 29.99
- 18 inch 39.99

**Perfect for Special Occasions!**



### COUPON

## FRESH SHRIMP

**\$9<sup>99</sup>** NPF5  
**lb** 16/20 size

By the pound only. Limit 1 lb per customer per coupon per day. Not to be combined with other offer. Offers good thru 6/15/15.



## FRESH FISH

**Available Thursday to Sunday**

*Filleted, Steaked, Cleaned to your liking!*

### COUPON

## FRESH SALMON

**\$6<sup>99</sup>** NPF5  
**lb**

By the pound only. Limit 1 lb per customer per coupon per day. Not to be combined with other offer. Offers good thru 6/15/15.



### COUPON

## Boar's Head Oven Gold Turkey Breast

**\$6<sup>99</sup>** NPF5  
**lb**

Must purchase 1 lb. Limit 1 lb. per coupon. Coupon may not be combined with other offers. Limit 1 offer and coupon per day. Offer expires 6/15/15.



### COUPON

## Land o Lakes American Cheese

**\$5<sup>99</sup>** NPF5  
**lb**

Must purchase 1 lb. Limit 1 lb. per coupon. Coupon may not be combined with other offers. Limit 1 offer and coupon per day. Offer expires 6/15/15.



### COUPON

## \$1.00 OFF your purchase of \$20.00 OR MORE

Excludes garden center and fish purchases. Limit 1 offer per customer per day. Not to be combined with other offer. Offer expires 6/15/15.



# GARDEN CENTER NOW OPEN

**ANNUALS PERENNIALS • HERBS • VEGETABLES • PLANTS • TREES AND SHRUBS...**

## Fresh Fruit Arrangements & Chocolate Covered Strawberries



**Fruitful Creations**  
By Somerset Farms

- PERFECT GIFT FOR**
- Birthdays • Thank You
  - Get Well
  - Deepest Sympathy
  - I Love You
  - Centerpieces
- PERFECT DESSERT ADD ON**
- Available For Pick Up Or Delivery**

**Call Today To Order!**

**908-757-7730**

**950 Route 22 East**

**North Plainfield**

Open 7 Days Daily 9am-7pm

Sunday 9am-5pm

**Send one for Mother's Day!!!!**

**\$5 OFF**

**YOUR FRUITFUL CREATION \$39.99 OR MORE**



NPF5 Offer expires 6/15/15



*May Special*  
**Chocolate Covered Strawberries**



**\$24.99 BOX OF 12**