

LIFE *in* LINDEN

FREE

Linden Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate of Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Distributed as a community service by the Linden Chamber of Commerce.

Issue 38 • December 2012

**LINDEN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
HOLIDAY PARTY
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2012
5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
SEATING IS LIMITED SO
KINDLY RSVP TO
908-352-0900**

lifeinlinden.com

The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of LiL, photo albums, and advertisements. Businesses and residents are encouraged to submit items for publication through the site.

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ROBINS NEST HOSTS DINNER FOR STORM VICTIMS

On November 19th, the Monday before Thanksgiving, Robins Nest Rhythm and Blues located at 3103 Tremley Point, Linden, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for their neighbors in Tremley Point who were affected by Super Storm Sandy. Live entertainment was provided by the group T-Ray and giveaways were provided by generous donations.

The event was organized by employee Marie Pizzi, who also lives in Tremley Point.

Robin's Nest Owner Robin Bacote would like to thank the following for their generous support which helped make this benefit a success: Linden Fire Department Local 34, Linden Fire Department Local 234, Eddie Kushner, Karmyda, Clark Family, Mikey Jones, Stevo, Bill Cameron, J. Tomaselli, Karen Reilly, Life in Linden, Sharon Silverstein, Wrap in Love, Krup's Landscaping, Apple Bees of Linden, Smokehouse of Linden, Starbucks of Linden, RC Jewelers, Joe's Barber Shop and Control Associates.



(above) Music was provided by the group T-Ray.



(above) Robin Bacote and Marie Pizzi



(above) Mickey Jones sorting donated blankets.



(above) The dinner brought smiles to Tremley Point residents, some who lost their homes.



(right) Volunteers had a great time.



(left, l-r) Joyce Sheehy and Tom Mazurowski.



POEM WRITTEN BY MARIE PIZZI:

You are not forgotten
Mother Nature shook her hand.
Washed our memories, in the sand.
Yesterday can't be undone
but today the healing has begun.
Strangers have come, from miles around.
To help our feet find the ground.
Americans stand united as one.
You are not the forgotten ones.

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LIFEⁱⁿLINDEN

Life in Linden is published by Renna Media in cooperation with the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. 6,000 newspapers are printed monthly. 4,000 are mailed to homes and businesses and 2,000 distributed free at distribution sites throughout Linden.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.



Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 300 • Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0300

Vice President: Kate Conroy
kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com
908-352-0900

Linden Chamber of Commerce
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and Courtney Villani, Villani Bus
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LIFE in LINDEN • Page 2 • December 2012

THE LINDEN AMERICAN LEGION HOSTED A SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND RAISER FOR TREMELY

The Linden American Legion Post 102 hosted a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, December 2nd, to benefit the Tremely Point victims of Hurricane Sandy. Westfield Legion Post 3 members also joined in to volunteer. Members of the Women's Auxiliary (Squadron S.A.L. 3) Unit 102 and Unit 3 helped in making

the event successful..

Legion Officer Ron Stefanowicz stated "Every little bit helps. It shows the victims of the storm that they are not alone. They have many neighbors who care. I'd like to thank everyone who showed their support by attending the dinner and donating."



(above, l-r) Volunteer cooks Dean Todd Sue Pruzinskis, Sharon Knight, Melody Hebert & Ed Pruzinskis.



(above, l-r) Servers Rich Edge, Pumpkin Godfrey of unit 102 with unit 3 members Jill Betau, Karen Moraulo and Sharon Knight; and Al Betau of Westfield Post 3.



(above, l-r) Ron Stefanowicz and Judy Pribish, Union County Auxiliary President.

AMERICAN LEGION BREAKFAST

Every third Sunday of the month a Pancake Breakfast is served at The American Legion Post 102 located at 112 W. Elizabeth Avenue - Linden, NJ 07036. Remember it's not just pancakes! Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 102. There is a small fee payable at the door.



Advertise in this newspaper

6,000 are printed with 4,000 mailed to businesses and residents and 2,000 papers distributed free throughout Linden.

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UNITED WAY OF GREATER UNION COUNTY

UWGUC partners with non-profits and government agencies to help deliver the human services our community needs. For more information on United Way of Greater Union County, please visit www.uwguc.org.

or contact Debbie-Ann Anderson at debbieann.anderson@uwguc.org.

People looking for an opportunity to help, have several options to volunteer and/or donate.

- On-Line Contributions: donor.unitedway.org/?campaign=emergencyfund

- Text a \$10 Donation: Texting the word UWGUC to 50555 to make a \$10 donation
Those seeking help and resources - call 211



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NUSTAR DONATES \$113,000 FOR VICTIMS OF SUPER STORM SANDY

To help those hardest hit by super storm Sandy, the United Way of Greater Union County (UWGUC) created the Community Recovery Fund to be used for near- and long-term recovery needs of Union County, North and South Plainfield residents.

NuStar, responding quickly to the fuel needs for first responders and gathering contributions, presented a total of \$113,000 from various company sources; \$100,000 from the Greehey Foundation, \$10,000 from the NuStar Foundation, \$3,000 from NuStar's Executive Vice President of Administration Mary Rose

Brown, and other contributions from NuStar employees.

On November 20th representatives from NuStar and UWGUC gathered with community leaders at the Linden NuTOP Terminal, for a check presentation.

The NuTOP Terminal location was one of the terminals providing fuel for first responder vehicles during the first few days after the storm and continues to support customers. NuStar was able to successfully get operations up and running to help meet the desperate fuel supply needs of the region.



(above) Renee Banks, Mayor's Confidential Aide; Debbie Ann Anderson, UWGUC COO; Linden Mayor Richard J. Gerbounka; James Horne, UWGUC CEO; Scott Bergman, NuStar VP/General Manager; Claire Riggs, Sr. Public Affairs Manager; Mike Raikos, Area Terminal Manager; and Fred Bland, HR Specialist.

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FEMA OPENS A DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER IN LINDEN

FEMA has opened a Disaster Recovery Center located at the Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. in Linden. The center is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

“The first step for Hurricane Sandy disaster survivors is to call 1-800-FEMA (2262) to register for federal disaster assistance. Also they will receive an application from U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and it is imperative that the affected individuals return that application, because if they don’t, the process stops right there. Even if a person doesn’t want a low-interest disaster loan, that is part of the process”, says Maria Padron, spokeswoman for FEMA.

Once the survivor applies, then an inspector makes an appointment to verify the losses and after that, the applicant receives a letter in the mail and an application for an SBA loan, and may also receive the funding in their bank account.

The loans can go to homeowners, renters, business, and non-profit agencies to pay for disaster-caused damages not covered by insurance.

It is important that survivors return that application for their own benefit. They would have readily-available funds for hidden damages that may be discovered after the initial inspection. Also applicants may be automatically referred to other disaster assistance programs for which they may be eligible if they are turned down for a loan, the initial estimate of the cost of repair may prove inadequate for the work that is actually required,

and the loan funds could cover the difference. Sometimes an insurance policy or settlement may not cover all repairs, replacement or rebuilding costs and the loan funds could be used to fill that gap.

The SBA loans are low-interest, and long-term. In some cases, SBA can refinance all or part of an existing mortgage. SBA loan officers work to come up with a plan that fits a survivor’s budget.

Loans of up to \$200,000 are available to eligible homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters may apply for loans of up to \$40,000 to cover for personal property, including clothing, furniture, cars or appliances. Loan amounts cannot exceed uninsured losses.

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets that are not fully covered by insurance.

When a survivor qualifies for a grant from FEMA’s Individuals and Households Program, the transaction is usually by direct deposit to the survivor’s bank account. FEMA also can pay for temporary housing up to 18 months.

The last day to apply for FEMA aid is December 31, 2012.

“If a person receives a ‘denial letter’ the applicant should visit a Disaster Recovery Center to clarify, sometimes some information is missing or we might have a question regarding the insurance settlement”.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are available for those whose jobs were

impacted by the hurricane. That includes people not normally eligible for unemployment benefits, such as self-employed persons and farm workers. Registration closes Feb. 4, 2013; applicants should contact a New Jersey Reemployment Call Center. Locations include Union City (201-601-4100), Freehold (732-761-2020), and Cumberland (856-507-2340).

DUA applicants who need copies of Federal Income Tax Returns can obtain them at IRS Tax Returns: 1-866-562-5227, Press “1” for Hurricane Sandy.

The Department of Health and Human Services has activated behavioral health professionals from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps to provide mental health support in shelters and for first responders. The toll-free National Disaster Distress Helpline is 1-800-985-5990 or by texting ‘TalkWithUs’ to 66746. Multilingual support is available.

Disaster Legal Services provided by members of the Young Lawyers Division of the New Jersey Bar Association, are available to survivors at 1-888-541-1900, if they need assistance replacing lost legal documents, assistance with all insurance-related claims, counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems, counseling on landlord/tenant problems, creditor/debtor matters and FEMA appeals.

Individuals can register for assistance and follow up on previous applications by registering online or by web-enabled mobile device at m.FEMA.gov. By phone or 711/VRS, you can call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585.

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UCEDC OFFERS STORM RECOVERY LOANS FOR IMPACTED BUSINESSES

Fast turn-around for storm recovery loans

In response to the devastation facing small businesses in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Union County Economic Development Corporation is now prepared to expedite loan applications of up to \$15,000 to meet the post-storm recovery needs of small businesses.

The Union County Economic Development Corporation is committed to providing small business owners with a decision within two weeks of receiving a completed application. The loans carry no prepayment penalty, so you can pay off your balance with insurance proceeds if you choose to do so.

For larger capital needs, the UCEDC continues to offer loans up to \$250,000 with conventional processing periods.

Those interested in applying for these programs, should call today at 908-527-1166 to speak with UCEDC loan officers – the offices are open and ready for your call. UCEDC is located at 75 Chestnut Street, Cranford, NJ.

GATEWAY CHAMBER

Members of the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, are welcomed in all Gateway events. For information call the Chamber at 908-352-0900 or visit our website at www.gatewaychamber.com

8:30 AM DECEMBER 12

KENILWORTH CHAMBER GROUP MEETING

Kenilworth Library, 548 Kenilworth Blvd, Kenilworth

8:30 PM DECEMBER 14

LOCAL & COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Summit City Hall, Springfield Avenue, Summit 07901

6:00 PM DECEMBER 18

IRISH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NETWORKING

Molly Maguire's Irish Pub, 1085 Central Avenue, Clark

8:00 AM DECEMBER 19

EMPLOYER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Kenilworth Inn, Boulevard & 31st Street, Kenilworth

8:30 AM DECEMBER 19

CLARK CHAMBER GROUP MEETING

Holiday Inn, 36 Valley Road, Clark

Hosted by Columbia Bank

8:00 AM DECEMBER 21

SOMERSET HILLS BUSINESS NETWORK

Royce Brook CC, 201 Hamilton Road, Hillsborough

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS OFFERING RECESSION RATE OF JUST \$100 FOR NEW MEMBERS

Is the economy getting you down? Now's the time to join your local chamber! Like a good insurance policy, the chamber is here when you need it. From networking to personal introductions to other members to money-saving discounts on services you have to buy anyway, there are so many reasons to join – and only one not to. If money has gotten tight during these economically harsh times, the chamber's Recession Rate of just \$100.00 is for you. Call or email Kate Conroy (908) 352-0900, kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com for the special application and grow your business!

The Gateway Chamber is the umbrella organization for the Linden Chamber, which means when you join at the local level, you automatically become a member at the regional level, with all the extras and perks.

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Pasta Dinner to Benefit Officer Mark Evan

Sunday, January 13, 2013

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM



Knight of Columbus
118 N. Park Avenue

Linden, New Jersey 07036



Tickets

\$15.00 per adult

\$10.00 per child 12 and under

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by contacting
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This Event is Sponsored by Linden PBA Local #42
and The Linden Knights of Columbus #2859

THANK YOU PHILLIPS 66

A Bullex Fire Extinguisher Training System was recently purchased by Phillips 66 and donated to the Linden Fire Department. The system which cost \$6,940, will be used to train the public in the proper use of fire extinguishers.



(above, l-r) Fire Inspector Dan Stanley, Ms. Mary Phillips, Community Relations Coordinator for Phillips 66, Fire Chief Joseph Rizzo and Fire Lieutenant James Kushner.

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SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR DAMAGE AND LOSSES RELATED TO HURRICANE SANDY

A VISIT FROM DAD

School No. 4 had a special and personal Veterans' Day celebration. Staff Sergeant John Vasquez of the New Jersey National Guard was the surprise guest in Mrs. Panzino's Kindergarten class. SSgt Vasquez has been deployed to Kuwait since January 2011 and used Veteran's Day to surprise his daughter Juliana by coming to her class. She had not seen him since his deployment.



(above, l-r) Staff Sergeant John Vasquez with Juliana in his arms, together with Juliana's younger sister Camila and mom Mrs. Carolina Vasquez.

Photo by Linden Public Schools

1. Offers low-interest federal disaster loans to New Jersey residents (homeowners or renters), businesses of all sizes, and private nonprofit organizations impacted by Hurricane Sandy.
2. Rates as low as 1.688% for residents, 4% for businesses, 3% for private, non-profit organizations.
3. Any losses either uninsured or under-insured.
4. In addition to physical damage losses, Small businesses or most non-profits can obtain Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). Even if they did not have physical losses, they can apply for EIDL only loans.
5. Don't need to wait for insurance claim to settle, no cost to apply, no obligation to take the loan if approved.

SBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE LOAN INFORMATION

Loans for repairing or replacing disaster-damaged property Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their disaster-damaged primary residence.

Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace disaster-damaged personal property, including vehicles.

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other assets.

Interest rates can be as low as 1.688% for homeowners and renters, 4% for businesses and 3% private non-profit organizations. Terms may be up to 30 years, SBA determines loan amounts

and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

The EIDL assistance is to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

Small businesses, small agriculture cooperatives and small businesses engaged in aquaculture, as well as, most private, non-profit organizations of any size may borrow to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster (regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage)

The maximum business disaster loan is \$2 million, for any combination of physical property losses and working capital needs.

Three ways to apply

1. Apply in person at any Disaster Recovery Center or Business Recovery Center (see below for locations)
2. Apply online using SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
3. Apply by mailing your application to SBA at 14925 Kingsport Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76155-2243

SBA disaster representatives are at the Disaster Recovery Centers and the Business Recovery Centers meet individually with Louisiana residents and business owners, explain how an SBA low-interest disaster loan can help pay for their disaster losses, answer questions, and help each individual complete their application.

Anyone can get questions answered and/or check current center locations & hours by calling SBA Customer Service Center at: (800) 659-2955

or can go online at: sba.gov.

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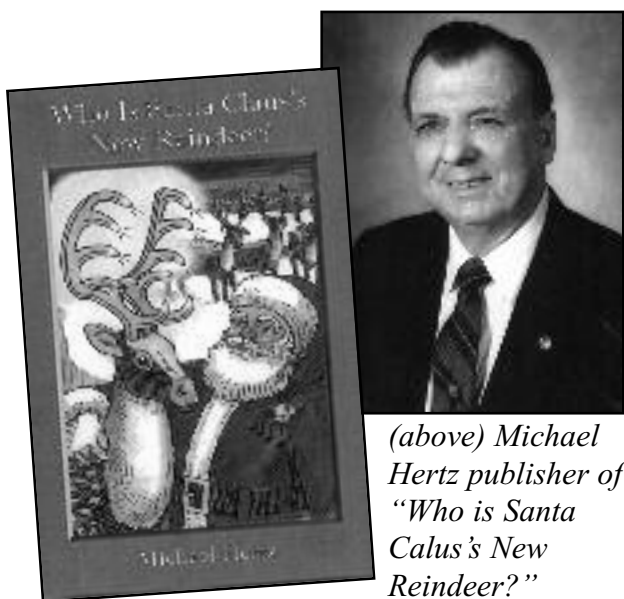
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LINDEN RESIDENT PENS CHILDREN'S BOOK

Linden resident Michael Hertz has published a children's Christmas story, titled, "Who is Santa Claus's New Reindeer?" It is a twelve page story with accompanying color illustrations.

For all those who love the familiar figure, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, "Who is Santa Claus's New Reindeer?" will weave its own kind of magic, enchanting young and old alike. The story has to be read to find out why and how this young reindeer was sent to the North Pole to find Santa Claus; what his permanent name is; and also his many special attributes.

The book is available at all major retailers, including Amazon.com, as well as the distributor, Ingram Publisher Services. You may place orders directly by calling 877-736-5403.



(above) Michael Hertz publisher of "Who is Santa Claus's New Reindeer?"

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The Linden Library will be hosting a
BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, December 20, 2012

from 12:30 pm - 6:30 pm,

in the Columbia Bank Room

on the 3rd Floor.

A VISIT WITH SANTA

The Children's Room

of the Linden Public Library

will be sponsoring "A Visit with Santa."

This event will be for children who are ten years old or younger, and who live in Linden.

Our Visit with Santa will be on

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.

This event will be held on the third floor of the library. Tickets to this event are free, and they are available at the main desk of the library. Your child must have a ticket to attend. You may bring a camera to take a picture of your child with Santa. If you have any questions about this event, please contact the Children's Librarian, Karen Gray, at: kgray@lindenpl.org

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN A. RINCON FOR NAVY BASIC TRAINING

Linden High School 2012 graduate Brian A. Rincon recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program he completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Brian was a cadet in the NJROTC unit all four years at Linden High School

METRO LIQUORS' SCOTCH TASTING DINNER

Metro Liquors located on St. Georges Avenue in Linden, recently hosted a scotch tasting dinner at Cuban Restaurant in Rahway. The Macallan Distillers presented their line. According to an article in Whisky Magazine, June 2004: The Macallan is one of the world's most awarded and admired single malts. Recently named Best Malt in the World; it is found in the finest hotels, bars and restaurants around the world, from New York to Shanghai and is sought after and recognized as the World's Most Precious Whisky.



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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**Come join us on Saturday,
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Santa will arrive on the fire truck at 9 am sharp.

Adult admission is \$6.00, Children 1 to 10 yrs. \$1.50

Includes a complete Breakfast

We will also have a coloring contest and story time

For the Adults we will have a raffle (proceeds donated Toys for Tots)

We will also be collecting toys for the Toys For Tots program

We ask that you bring your gifts unwrapped.

DISASTER RELIEF FROM MONTANA BENEFITS LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Big Sky Mobile Catering from Missoula Montana were setup in Linden, NJ following Hurricane Sandy, as a staging facility for FEMA workers. Before they left "Tent City" the demolished grounds at the Old GM plant on Route 1, they donated very generous perishable food products to the St. John's Food Pantry which services Linden and surrounding area residents.

The donations came at a most appropriate time as the Pantry prepared for clients with Thanksgiving goodies. Big Sky Mobile staff graciously filled the pantry truck and even

delivered perishable food products to the pantry, days before they were to end their two week "Hurricane Sandy" emergency relief catering stay.

"Food pantry clients were most grateful, for they received rare commodities such as milk, bread, fresh produce, cold cuts, fresh fruit, bakery desserts, and much more. Seeing total strangers, from miles apart, bond so quickly for the better cause of humanity was truly an inspirational civic lesson on what America is all about." said Mary Ann Fiorillo the pantry's director.

LINDEN POLICE DEPT. FOOD DRIVE

The Linden Police Department is holding a food drive for the food banks in Linden to keep them stocked after the effects of Hurricane Sandy. Some examples of non-perishable items that could help: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Boxed Stuffing, Cereal, Tuna Fish, Soups with Meat.

The drop off will be at the Linden Police Department's Front desk 24/7 or at the Linden Police Department's Records Bureau, Monday thru Friday from 1 to 4 PM.



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR: AFTERMATH OF SUPER STORM SANDY

After last year's weather involving Hurricane Irene and the Halloween Snowstorm, I felt we couldn't experience any worse weather. Boy was I wrong! Super storm Sandy hit Linden twice as hard as both of these storms put together.

All Monday night into Tuesday morning I rode our streets with the Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Management. Around 9:00 p.m. the weather started getting real ugly. Soon thereafter trees were being toppled throughout Linden falling on houses and knocking down power lines. Transformers started blowing up making it appear at first that this was lighting, and numerous telephone poles crashed to the ground. Needless to say at a certain point there were no street lights and only one traffic light in the entire city was functional. Ninety percent of Linden residents lost their electricity and debris such as aluminum sheds and awnings were blowing about our streets. Then Mother Nature hit us with the 2nd punch. A fifteen-foot storm surge generating from the Arthur Kill hit the Tremley Point area of our city.

Within 25 minutes four members of our Public Works crew went from working on a dry Public Works Building and floor to 4 foot of water. After saving the majority of our vehicles they exited the area driving out in a front end loader with three men riding in the bucket. Considerable damage has been done to our Public Works building including the loss of a one-year-old boiler, two dump trucks and three pickup trucks. All the electrical wiring in the offices have to be replaced and that is why many members of the public thought someone was

hanging up on them when they called for assistance after the storm. The old Public works number 908-474-8666 has been reinstalled at their new location and you can now call the Public Works Dispatch directly again.

Unfortunately, the storm surge also affected about 25 homes in Tremley Point with water flooding their first floors and some homes lost foundations. Many homes are currently uninhabitable and homeowners have thrown out all their belongings besides ripping off the sheet rock to the studs. Several homes also sustain damage from 500 lb wooden 12' x 12' x 10' railroad ties that were literally tossed around like toothpicks into people's backyards and foundations. Spectra Energy, the corporation responsible for putting in a new 48" gas pipeline, is assuming responsibility for any damage caused by their equipment.

I personally witnessed two of these railroad ties sitting in a homeowner's backyard right next to but not touching their foundation. This property was surrounded by a four foot fence and there was absolutely no damage to any section of it.

On Emma Place, homes along this two block area all had flooded basements and 1st floors. One home lost the side of its foundation by the force of the storm surge. During the night of the storm a woman suffered a heart attack but emergency personnel could not reach her. There was 4 feet of water in the roadway besides being blocked by a 2 foot wide downed tree which also knocked down a live power wire. Fortunately, she was able to sustain herself until the flood

waters receded. She is okay.

As if all of these problems weren't enough, an odor of oil permeated the area the next day. Phillips 66 discovered a spill of "slop oil" from a regulated DEP permitted holding area which was on their property. The storm surge created a surface oil spill in the Rose Hill Cemetery property and covered tombstones. Some oil seeped into the yards of homeowners and cellars that bordered the rear cemetery lots. Phillips 66 quickly acknowledged responsibility and they have cleaned up the spill.

What added "insult to injury" to these poor homeowners is that they just returned to normalcy after sustaining severe flood damage from Hurricane Irene 14 months ago.

All of the Corporations in our heavy industrial section of Tremley Point were hit extremely hard by the storm surge. Phillips 66, CITGO, NuStar, Bulk Transport and the PSE&G generating station all sustained considerable damage. At this writing most are up and running on a limited basis.

During the night of the surge it was impossible to proceed over the Turnpike Bridge and five employees from the PSE&G generating station were trapped on high ground unable to be rescued until the waters receded. The next day I surveyed the damage with our Emergency Management personnel. On South Wood Avenue between the entrance to NuStar and the Arthur Kill everything imaginable was blocking the roadway. Whether it was industrial debris or anything that floated in the Arthur Kill, it was there! Included in the debris were twenty-one 30

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Message from the Mayor continued

foot boats belonging to Clear Venture. They removed them from the Kill onto dry dock only to have the storm surge wash them away.

One railcar parked on the Chemical Coast rail line was actually visible from our Turnpike Bridge laying in the slow lane of the North Bound lanes of the N.J. Turnpike. This roadway was closed due to flooding that night between exits 12 & 13. A 10 acre ground mounted solar panel farm survived the surge but as the panels started producing electricity from the sun's rays, fires started breaking out in various electrical box connections due to the salt water.

So one can see Linden not only suffered heavy tree damage and severe power outages throughout our city, but many homes were damaged due to the 15-foot storm surge.

In the aftermath of Super storm Sandy Crisis Relief Centers were originally opened up in our J.T.G. Center and P.A.L. Building but we soon realized the need was more urgent in the 7th and 8th Wards. The Sinai Christian Academy (old school # 3 on Grier Ave), volunteered their buildings and Councilwoman Yamakaitis worked closely with them to serve the 8th ward residents. Councilman Sheehy opened up the 7th ward Recreation Center for Tremley Point residents and Councilwoman Cosby-Hurling did the same at the John St. Multi-Purpose Center. All of these Crisis Centers and Councilpersons were assisted by neighborhood volunteers.

During this crisis Governor Christie held daily conference calls with the Mayors. He and his department heads from the DEP to the State Police kept us informed of the State's efforts and what was available from Trenton. The Union

County Freeholders, County Department Heads and PSE&G had conference calls periodically to update Mayors on their emergency efforts also. Many of our major traffic intersections had County and Linden generators powering the traffic control lights. Senator Scutari, Freeholder Hudak and Assemblywoman Stender kept in contact with my office during the entire crisis offering their help in any way they could.

Even though everyone was prepared for this Super storm our entire State was hit extremely hard and no one imagined the enormous devastation that Sandy would bring to us. This Super storm definitely tested our emergency response services and through this experience we learned some valuable lessons, which will be addressed once everyone is debriefed and their suggestions analyzed. Some of the most apparent problems that quickly surfaced are that we need a better way to communicate with our residents without relying on electricity. Without electricity Linden TV and computers were all down. Cell phone numbers and AM battery radios are an alternative among other options. We also learned Linden needs more emergency generators located in strategic buildings besides the Police and Fire Department and residents on the South Side of RT 1 & 9 need flood relief on both a short and long-term basis.

As your Mayor, I can honestly say I have never been more proud of all our employees and the residents that pitched in to work for the common good. Our Police, Fire and Public Works crews removed hazards and protected property at times putting themselves in harm's way. Central Dispatch and the Police

Department fielded volumes of calls, sometimes from very irate and demanding residents who did not realize the gravity of the situation. City Hall workers serviced our residents the best they could even though they did so without power. Department Heads rolled up their sleeves contributing not only leadership but hands on participation.

To the families that suffered severe damage to their homes there is nothing I can say that will ease the hurt and pain other than we will help you as much as humanly possible to rebound from this tragedy.

Most Linden residents were inconvenienced by Super Storm Sandy but we should count our blessings. No one was killed or injured due to the storm. All one has to do is look across the Arthur Kill to the severe damage done by the surge on Staten Island or farther south to the Jersey Shore.

To assist Linden victims of Sandy we have set up a relief fund through a non-profit 501 c 3 organization that operates Linden's food pantry. You can make a check out to Linden Interfaith Network of Churches (LINCS). Somewhere on the check list Hurricane Sandy. Please mail it to the Mayor's Office at 301 North Wood Avenue.

Linden is slowly returning to normal. We are a resilient blue collar community that will pick ourselves up and dust each other off. Everyone should know that this experience showed the best of our city.

I am proud to be the Mayor of Linden and represent employees and residents that care and love their community and this great city. It is an honor to serve you.

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BILL MANHARDT: THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE PATRIOTIC MAN

Written by: Katya Szewczuk



(above) Bill Manhardt in from City Hall Nov. 12, 2012 waiting for Veterans Day Ceremony.

Characters are unique. They come in all shapes and sizes and spread inspiration to those who honor them. The best characters aren't those in a books or movies, they are the ones who are in reality. Bill Manhardt is that character, the man who knows the true meaning of Red, White and Blue!

Bill Manhardt grew up in Elizabeth, graduated Sacred Heart High School in 1955, is a gallant member of the Elizabeth Council 253, Knights of Columbus, over 55 years. He lived in Elizabeth until he became a resident of Linden about 13 years ago.

He is an elected member of the Union County

Democratic Committee, a staunch, devoted member of John Dawson Gilmory Shea Assembly Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus. Bill is the Patriotism Chairman for over Twenty Years. A member of the Moose Lodge in Linden, the Elizabeth Linden Elks Lodge, a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, a Notary Public over 35 years and certainly is known for being a True American Patriot.

His mobility is limited, though he has no intention of Slowing Down. Riding around in his Power Wheelchair Bill makes the Community a 'better-place'. He is a Resident of the Delaire Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in

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BILL MANHARDT:THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE PATRIOTIC MAN (Continued)

Linden for over thirteen years and is an importance in their Community! He a motivation for the handicapped while he supports our Troops and Veterans, the Linden Fire Department, Delaire and much more.

Bill is dedicated to each and every Resident. According to those Residents, Bill is the "Mayor of Delaire". Bill's doctor, Doctor Solomon, told Bill that he was very proud of him. He admired how he gets around and what he does for Patriotism and Delaire. Delaire is lucky to have Bill, and should be very proud of him!

"In the Delaire Lobby we have a digital picture frame for visitors, staff and residents to view." Bill said, "I supply the different pictures about every two weeks!"

He has been in Photography over 45 years and

worked for Daily Photo on N Wood Ave in Linden for 25 Years. To this day Bill is still taking pictures for Delaire and the Linden Fire Dept.

The Linden Fire Dept. acknowledges Bill and salutes to his great work for the community.

"If I am on the road and a Fire Truck passes me they blow the air horn or siren and wave out the window." Bill said.

I understand that this Patriotic, Red, White and Blue man appreciates this very much from not only the Fire Dept. but from the entire community.

Bill has a passionate love for America. He is often found at the Linden Shopping Center, where he hands out his flyers that support Patriotism. Bill takes the time to design, print,

and hand out those flyers supporting Veterans and active U.S. Troops.

Bill was President of the Delaire Resident Council for six years. He ran a majority of events, not only to spread the greatness of Patriotism but also to provide entertainment for the Residents of Delaire.

Bill stayed in contact with Gund in Edison, NJ, who makes Plush Animals. For the Knights and Elks Children's Christmas Parties they would supply Bill with a good amount. Six years ago at Delaire he contacted them for Christmas & Easter. For two years they sent him over 700 Plush Animals!

During the St. Patrick's Day season, Bill held the famous St. Patrick's Day Dance, which involved "World Champion Irish Step Dancers". They had a very eventful schedule, but made the time to come because they, like the residents at Delaire, the Fire Dept. and many more, knew Bill.

On Memorial Day he had the Linden High School, ROTC Drill Team and the Union County Police & Fire Pipe Band perform. Bill also had the Union County Sheriffs K-9 Corps, who put on a Demonstration. During a Flag Day service at the Delaire, Bill received 275 small flags to hand out. Every American Flag in Delaire Bill got donated including the Flag Pole outside.

Despite his limited mobility, Bill Manhardt is committed to his County and fellow Americans. Because of Bill and his devotion to Patriotism and his Community, the American flag will forever fly high!

Bill Manhardt truly is a Red White and Blue Patriotic Man! Keep those colors flying!

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Naomi Betesh DO



STUDENTS HAY RIDE

School No. 6 ESL/Bilingual students participated in a traditional hay ride at Wightmans Farm in Morristown just prior to Halloween. They picked pumpkins, learned about the growth cycle of pumpkins and about other aspects of a working farm. School No. 6 hosts the district's elementary bilingual Polish program.

(left, l-r) are 2nd graders Jacob Wierzbicki, Seweryn Lukasiewicz, Julia Urbanowicz and Philip Orzechowski.

CHEMOLUMINESCENCE

Linden High School sent thirty-five chemistry students to participate in the Chem Expo held at Liberty Science Center, Sponsored by Infineum. The students conducted demonstrations and answered questions on the properties of "Chemoluminescence" for all who visited their booth.



(above, l-r) Chelsea Yeats (11th grade), Breanna Durham (11th grade) and Starriah McKelvey (12th grade) getting ready to let the glowing begin.

CANCER CENTER SUPPORT



NJROTC Regimental Commanding Officer Cadet Milena Drozd and Operations Officer Cadet Kinga Zebracka watch as Linden High School Principal Mrs. Antoinette Modrak signs a \$1,500 check made out to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The check represents the proceeds from a Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser conducted by the NJROTC unit in honor of LHS family members and friends who have struggled with cancer.

READING WITH RAZ KIDS



School No. 1 student Arenn Reid (Grade 1) in Mr. Bernhard's class, is using Raz Kids, a computer program that can be used either in school or at home. Raz Kids has animated leveled readers which are interactive and support reading comprehension and vocabulary development.

Photos by Linden Public Schools

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LIFE in LINDEN • Page 21 • December 2012

At a recent Board of Education meeting, twenty-one Linden teachers were recognized for having 100% of their classroom students score proficient or above on the state assessment last year in either Mathematics or Language Arts Literacy. Nine teachers were able to attend the meeting. Members of the 2011-2012 Superintendent's 100% Club include: Maria Pizzelli, School 1; Carol Cetroni, School 4; Aubrey Lord, School 6; Theresa Rogakos, School 9; Loni Ladoo, MMS; Kenya Moncur, Jennifer Pekosz; SMS: Elizabeth Bauer, Carole Lepore; LHS: Thomas Donachy, Robert Drake, Zofia Dytko, Sarah Edvalson, David Grasso, Dariusz Kondratowicz, Frances Malik, William McMahon, Esther Paden, Sofia Stratis, Patricia Tartivita, and Madhurima Vangupurim.



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