

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 5 • SEPTEMBER 2012

## NORTH PLAINFIELD MAYOR'S 34TH ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS PICNIC

Saturday, September  
29, 2012

Senior  
Citizens/Community  
Center

614 Greenbrook Road  
(Rain or Shine)

12 Noon to 4:00 PM

Details on page 2.

## NORTH PLAINFIELD REMEMBERS 9/11

On the 11th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the North Plainfield community gathered in front of the Fire Bell to remember the victims who perished on that fateful morning. The North Plainfield Police and Fire Departments, along with Mayor Michael Giordano, led a procession of emergency vehicles down Somerset Street. The sound of a ceremonial bagpipe accompanied their procession.

"I know that for all of us here today – and in fact, for all Americans – September 11th, 2001 forever changed our lives," said Mayor Giordano. Mayor Giordano spoke about honoring the memory of those lost on 9/11, and trying to make sense of the atrocities eleven years later.

"Even today, eleven years after September 11th, we strive to find hope in the moments of hopelessness that still haunt us," Mayor Giordano said. "That hope is found in the families who continue their lives after suffering such a grievous loss." Mayor Giordano spoke to the importance of keeping the individuals lost in the attacks in our prayers and memories.



(above, l-r) Police Chief William Parenti; Fire Chief William Eaton; Mayor Michael Giordano Jr.; Detective Alan McKay and Sergeant Bill Speck.

The borough's tribute to the victims and heroes of September 11th was solemn and straightforward; a respectful reminder of how much we lost on that day.

## NORTH PLAINFIELD'S WEAM RADIO – YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Submitted by Rich Phoenix, RMC North Plainfield Borough Clerk & Chief Operator, WPQJ970

In the days when "cats' whisker" crystal sets and large pieces of living room furniture with "morning glory" horns held forth, North Plainfield Mayor William L. Smalley threw the switch on radio station WEAM, considered the first municipally owned and operated radio station in the New York area. It was also amongst the first municipal stations nationwide with its 1922 sign-on date. WEAM listeners never suffered from a lack of variety. There were local news and entertainment along with police calls. Mayor Smalley even reached out to neighboring municipalities offering airtime in hopes that North Plainfield's own radio station might turn the Borough into a local radio city of sorts.

Its 21st century counterpart is the modest "WPQJ970" – 1630 Radio beaming from the DPW garage on Steiner Place with 24-hour weather and community safety bulletins with ten watts of power, in radio terms, about the wattage of an appliance lamp, but always there to serve North Plainfielders in need of up-to-the minute weather reports and pertinent local info. The current 1630 AM Radio is a special class of radio station termed a TIS, or Travelers Information Station. It is in precisely the same class of radio station as Highway Advisory for which you will see signs posted on major regional thoroughfares. This type of station is restricted to information-only like weather-related delayed openings and school-related closures

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

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### BOROUGH DIRECTORY

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
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| Borough Clerk .....                  | 769-2910 |
| Construction Department .....        | 769-2918 |
| Court .....                          | 769-2265 |
| Finance Department.....              | 769-2908 |
| Fire Non-Emergency .....             | 769-2935 |
| Health Department.....               | 769-2907 |
| Mayor & Business Administrator ..... | 769-2902 |
| Police Non-Emergency .....           | 769-2937 |
| Property Maintenance.....            | 769-2917 |
| Public Works.....                    | 769-2914 |
| Tax Assessor .....                   | 769-2906 |
| Zoning/Planning Department.....      | 769-2915 |

### HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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

Phone numbers utilize the 908 exchange.

## NORTH PLAINFIELD MAYOR'S 34TH ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS PICNIC

Saturday, September 29, 2012

Senior Citizens/Community Center

614 Greenbrook Road

(Rain or Shine)

12 Noon to 4:00 PM

Tickets will be available for purchase at all Senior Citizen Meetings and in the Mayor's Office. Cost of Tickets will be \$1.00 each. The event is open to all North Plainfield Residents age 55 and older. A Picnic Style Buffet will be served, door prizes given out throughout the afternoon, and Larry Kasar will be providing the afternoon's entertainment.

The Senior Citizen Bus will be available for those needing transportation. Please call the transportation number at (908) 753-0707 to make arrangements for pick-up. If you have any questions please call the Mayor's Administrative Assistant, Gail Cain, at (908) 769-2902.

## SENIOR BUS TRIP TO GOLDEN NUGGET CASINO

The North Plainfield Seniors conduct a bus trip to the Golden Nugget Casino the second Wednesday of each month. The bus leaves the parking lot of Saint Luke's Church 300 Clinton Ave. promptly at 10:00 A.M.

The cost is \$26.00 of which \$20.00 is returned to you at the casino as a casino card to be used for the games, and you are given a \$5.00 certificate to be used toward a meal. For more information call Edie at 908-753-6812.

## FREE RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, November 10, 2012

10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

N. Plainfield Fire Headquarters,  
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Please have dogs on a leash and cats in a carrier. Animals must be supervised by an adult. For further information or questions please contact 908 769-2907.

## M.A.S.H.

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North Plainfield, NJ 07060

We meet every Monday - 7:30PM to  
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Contact: Carol A. 908-359-9357

Our group is non-denominational and co-ed.

## PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY OF THE PRIDE AT:

- The North Plainfield Library (Grove Street)
- North Plainfield Municipal Building (Somerset Street)
- Jackson Avenue Post Office
- Senior Citizen Center
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# BETTY'S BASEMENT CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR

Submitted by Jim Sherman

The thrift store at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, "Betty's Basement", will celebrate its 10th anniversary in October. The idea for a thrift store in the chapel basement was conceived of and implemented by Betty Bradley, a late parishioner of Holy Cross Church.

The store is open three days a week: Tuesdays, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM; Fridays, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM; and Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. It is located in the basement of the church's chapel wing at 40 Mercer Avenue in North Plainfield.

The store sells adult and children's clothing and shoes, household items, toys, games and books.

The money raised from sales is used to

support the Holy Cross church, such as painting and the installation of a new roof on the church.

Betty's Basement is always willing to take donations of items to sale.



## ST. JOSEPH FIRST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Join us for our First Annual St. Joseph Church, North Plainfield, Golf Outing on Monday, October 1, 2012 at Neshanic Valley Golf Course, Neshanic Station, NJ. Barbeque Lunch/Registration at 11:30 AM, Tee Off at 1:00 PM and a savor Dinner to follow. Sponsor a Hole \$250, Per Golfer Registration \$225 and Foursome Registration \$900.

Please contact John Valencza 908 889-4116 or Bill Crosby 908 310-3406.

## PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY PLANNED FOR FALL

Join Fr. George Farrell and parishioners and friends of St. Joseph's Parish, North Plainfield, November 5, 2012 on a 12-day adventure through Italy! Our trip will showcase the "Italian Treasures" of Milan, Tuscany, Florence, Padua, Assisi and Rome, with visits to the tombs of Saints Anthony and Francis, and St. Mark's Cathedral. We end in Rome with a stop at the Spanish Steps and a Papal Audience. All airfare, transfers and hotels are included, as well as full daily breakfast and most dinners (20 meals total) for only \$2898 per person, double occupancy. For a copy of the complete brochure, please contact Mary Foy, events coordinator at St. Joseph's, 908-756-3383, Extension 13 or at [sjnp.events@yahoo.com](mailto:sjnp.events@yahoo.com). For all other info, please contact Nuovo Tours at 973-882-0021.

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## CAR NUTZ CAR OF THE MONTH:

This 1965 Ford Mustang is owned by Car Nutz Car Club president Dan Battista. It has a 289 V-8 engine, with an automatic transmission and 70,000 original miles. The car is dark blue with a white interior.



(above) Dan Battista's 1965 Ford Mustang

## BOY SCOUTS WELCOME NEW RECRUITS

Submitted by Thomas Ventriglia,  
Pack 135 Leader

Cub Scout Pack 135 is holding a meeting Tuesday September 25th at West End Elementary.

Pack 135 is looking for new scouts to join them on their journey. All boys in the 1st to 5th grade who are interested are encouraged to attend the meeting and learn more about the benefits of becoming a Cub Scout. The Pack meets monthly in the community room at West End Elementary.

For more info on scouting, interested North Plainfielders can check learn more at [www.BeAScout.org](http://www.BeAScout.org) or at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

# TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Submitted by Susan Lewis

The Church of the Holy Cross  
40 Mercer Avenue in North Plainfield  
is proud to present Carol Hall's musical  
*To Whom It May Concern*  
on Saturdays October 13 & 20 at 8 PM,  
and Sundays October 14 & 21 at 4 PM  
Tickets are \$20 each and all proceeds  
will benefit the church's music program.  
To purchase or reserve tickets  
call 201-991-8024.  
Tickets will also be available  
for purchase at the door.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

We've all been there. We sit in the same pew week after week and see the same faces. Some people we know, but many others, we do not. We often find our minds wandering. We wonder what brings the others around us to church. Perhaps we even wonder why we are there ourselves. To Whom It May Concern is our story. It is the story of a community of people who all come with our own experiences and beliefs, from our own unique vantage point. It is the story of life and death, mistakes and successes, and perhaps most importantly, everything in between. Together we share our stories, we admit our faults, we share a meal, we make a connection, and we go back into the world strengthened for the journey ahead.

Carol Hall has crafted a wonderful look at that sense of community "of communion" through the lives of fourteen men and women. As you hear their stories in this show, you will not hear any right or wrong answers but hopefully, you will make a connection with them.

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# NORTH PLAINFIELD'S UP-AND-COMING ROCK STAR: TAM GARCIA

North Plainfield resident Tam Garcia – singer, guitarist and songwriter – fronts not one, but two local rock bands: “Becoming the Ghost” and “Garden State Line.” Both of his bands make diverse, catchy songs that have been building them a devoted following at regional shows and on online radio stations. Tam and his bandmates have seen a recent flurry of activity – both of his bands are in the process of recording their debut albums, and have been steadily performing at a local circuit of venues and bars. Tam even found the time to audition for NBC’s “The Voice”.

When asked about the potential challenges of working in two different bands, Tam said there is never an issue. “We’re all friends,” he said, speaking of the two groups he performs with. “We’re sort of a community of musicians, always bouncing ideas back and forth.” Becoming the Ghost is currently writing new material in a specially-designed home studio. Despite all of his time in the studio and on stage, Tam says the inspiration for his music often comes from everyday life.

“It’s always music-first, riffs-first, and then the words come later,” he says, describing his

songwriting process. “Things that are happening to me at the time always work their way into our music,” Tam says. One of Becoming the Ghost’s singles, “Veronica”, was inspired by a girl shampooing his hair when he was getting a haircut. Another, “The Send-Off”, was about a humorous incident Tam had on the way to a gig involving being stuck in traffic, and Mexican food not agreeing with his digestive system.

Tam tries to emphasize humor in his songs, and says he often looks to make the audience laugh with his lyrics. Tam is a songwriter with serious talent, but his motivation is crafting songs “to chill out to and have fun to.” He says his intention is to create fun, party music that people will want to listen to when they’re hanging out or at the bar.

Both Becoming the Ghost and Garden State Line tour frequently in the local music scene – they can be often be found playing in New Brunswick, and Tam describes Zupko’s Tavern in Dunellen as their “home base.” Anyone interested in seeing them play should check out [www.reverbnation.com/becomingtheghost](http://www.reverbnation.com/becomingtheghost) and [www.reverbnation.com/gardenstateline](http://www.reverbnation.com/gardenstateline).



(above) Tam (2nd) with Garden State Line.

Photo by suedepinho



(above) Tam with Becoming the Ghost.

Photo by Joe Larson

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## POLICE CORNER

News and Reminders

Submitted by William Parenti Police Chief

Chief Parenti would like to provide some friendly reminders to all borough residents as we transition from the summer to fall.

All children walking to borough schools should follow designated routes. Information on routes may be obtained from the Police Department's Traffic Safety Division at 908-769-2931 or on the web at <http://www.northplainfield.org/NPPD/Patrol> Children should be advised by parents to immediately report any attempted contact by strangers to school officials and the Police Department.

Residents should always roll up windows and lock doors on all unoccupied motor vehicles no matter the location (home, school, church, work). Valuables should not be left in the car, or at least, they should be stowed out of sight under the seats or in the trunk. These two steps will reduce burglaries in motor vehicles.

Never provide any personal or financial data to anyone that contacts you without you having first initiated the contact for any reason. Verify the identity of anyone requesting that information, if they are resistant end the conversation and contact the police.

Chief Parenti is pleased to report that a contingent of North Plainfield Police Officers took first place in the Police Team category of the Fire Man's Benevolent Association, (FMBA), annual 5K run for Fallen Heros on September 8, in Lake Como, New Jersey. The run is held to raise funds for families of firefighters fallen on 9/11.



(above, l-r) Sergeant Ed Ciempola;  
Officer Chuck Halsted; Sergeant Joe Stopinski;  
Officer Rico Perrone; Sergeant Alex Shegelski;  
Retired Elizabeth Fire Battalion Chief  
Bob Lavin, FMBA 5K race chairman;  
Sergeant Russ Flynn; Lt. Gerry Clyne.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Submitted by William F. Eaton, Fire Chief

With October quickly approaching, North Plainfield will soon be celebrating "Fire Prevention Week." Please take a moment to read the following information to help remind yourself and your family about the importance of fire safety.

### HOME FIRES

A house fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010. In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, \$6.9 billion in direct damage and 2,640 civilian deaths. That is just over 7 fatalities per day due to fire.

### ESCAPE PLANNING

According to an NFPA survey, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half actually practiced it.

### SMOKE ALARMS

Almost two-thirds (62%) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.

### COOKING

More fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Cooking has been the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries since 1990. Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of these fires, which is about two of every five reported home fires.

Ranges accounted for the 58% of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.

### HEATING

Heating equipment was the leading cause of reported home fires in the 1980s and has generally ranked second since then. It is the second leading cause of home fire deaths. The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.

Half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

### SMOKING MATERIALS

In 2010, smoking materials started and estimated 17,500 home structure fires, resulting in 540 deaths, 1,320 injuries and \$535 million in direct property damage. Smoking materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.

Statistics provided by the NFPA – National Fire Protection Association; [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

## WINTER RECREATION

Submitted by Christopher Tarver, Director

As the days become shorter and the leaves start to change color and fall, the North Plainfield Recreation Department & Parks Commission is looking forward to another season of outstanding programs and events.

The North Plainfield Recreation Department was recently awarded \$2,900.00 to perform background checks on coaches from the Megan Kanka Foundation. This will ensure that all coaches will be covered - at no cost to the Borough. The Recreation Department, which also makes sure all coordinators and supervisors have First Aid, CPR & AED Device Training, will now have an AED Device on site for all programs and events.

The Recreation Department has programs for adults - Adult Open Co-ed Basketball is back! Come out for a game of hoops every Tuesday, 7pm – 9pm at the North Plainfield Middle School. We also have Badminton on Thursday at East End School 8pm – 10pm.

Residents should also come out for the Annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 28th, with a 12pm registration time. We are excited as we have a new route. This year the parade will start at West End School and finish at the Vermeule Playground. We will also have a Grand Opening for the new playground equipment! This is sure to be a great day.

There will be Basketball HOOPS Clinics on December 1st and 8th at 9:00 am at various North Plainfield School gymnasiums. The basketball season is from December to March. Girls and boys from 1st grade to 8th grade in North Plainfield are eligible to play. Players will learn the positions of basketball, learn how to defend their basket, and perform drills to help become more agile. REC basketball is a great way for kids to have fun and be healthy during the winter. The Basketball Festival is at the end of the season at the NPHS gym. Cost for the season is \$30.

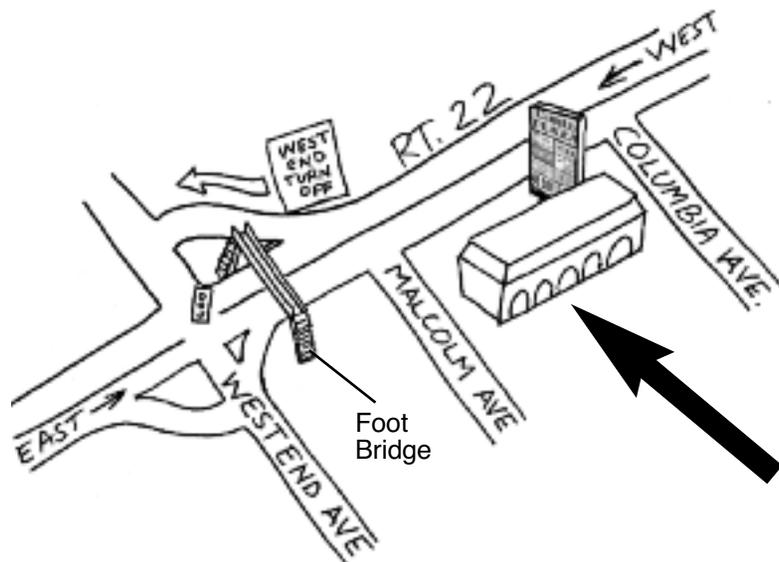
If you are interested in trying out for the North Plainfield Youth Sports Basketball (NPYSA) Travel team, please contact Larry LaRonde ([lltap@comcast.net](mailto:lltap@comcast.net)) for boys and Tammy Guevara ([tam\\_gue@yahoo.com](mailto:tam_gue@yahoo.com)) for girls. The tryouts will take place in mid-October.

Wrestling season is November to March. All girls and boys from K-6th grades in North Plainfield are eligible to play. Practice, home matches and tournaments are in the NPHS wrestling gymnasium. Last year's team had a successful season and received top ranked trophies. The cost for the season is \$40.

If you are looking for program information, details or cancellations, log onto the web at [www.np-recreation.com](http://www.np-recreation.com), like us on Facebook, or call us at 908-756-0247.

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