# Green Brook Gazette

MAILED FREE TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS IN GREEN BROOK, NJ

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### **GREEN BROOK STUDENT PREPARES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES**

On just about any day, for several hours, you can find Ryan Hardgrove, a 2008 graduate of Green Brook Middle School and a 2012 graduate of Watchung Hills Regional High School, swimming laps in an Olympic-size swimming pool, preparing for his dream, which came true on September 13, 2013 when Marc Edenzon, President of the Special Olympics New Jersey, invited him to join Team New Jersey on the Aquatics Team for the 2014 United States Special Olympic Games, which will be held in Princeton, NJ.

"We are so proud of Ryan and all that he has accomplished," said Tom Hardgrove, Ryan's father and long-time bus driver for the Green Brook Township Public Schools. "While we knew Ryan was talented, we never dreamed that he would be swimming at this level," said Mr. Hardgrove.

"I never had the pleasure of working with Ryan while he was a student in the middle school, but I have heard many wonderful comments pertaining to his work ethic, character, and love for swimming by many parents and staff members from Green Brook," stated Dr. Richard Labbe, Superintendent of Schools for the Green Brook Township Public Schools. "Both Ryan and his father have represented the Green Brook Township Public Schools so well over the years that we feel the need to assist and support him in any way that we can. Therefore, the district will be participating in the Team New Jersey T-Shirt Fundraising Campaign. In addition, prior to the commencement of the games, we will host a pep rally for Ryan, at the middle school, as he is truly an inspiration to all members of the Green Brook community."

If you would like to assist Ryan by ordering a T-shirt, you can download the order form from the home page of the school district website at www.gbtps.org. Completed order forms and checks can be

(above,) Ryan Hardgrove

sent to Dr. Labbe in the Board of Education Office (132 Jefferson Avenue, Green Brook, NJ 08812) by Wednesday, November 27th. If you have any questions regarding the T-Shirt Campaign, please email Dr. Labbe at rlabbe@gbtps.org.

# **SOLEMN CEREMONY COMMEMORATES VETERANS DAY**

A solemn ceremony commemorating Veterans Day was held in Washington Memorial Park on November 11th, at 11:00 AM. Members of the color guard were from the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 5479 and the American Legion Post 119, both in Dunellen. Bill Uhler from American Legion Post 119 delivered opening and closing remarks and introduced the speakers. The Invocation was delivered by the Father John C. Siceloff of St. John's Roman Catholic Church. Speeches were made by VFW State Commander Art Taylor, Dunellen Mayor Robert J. Seader and Green Brook Mayor Patrick Boccio. The Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Charles Wardo. Dunellen and Green Brook thank all veterans for their service to our country.





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Santa will be coming round Green Brook on the Fire Truck between the

hours of 10am to 3pm.

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND

9AM TO 11AM AT THE

GREEN BROOK

FIRE HOUSE.

The first 300 kids under 10 years old will receive

a present from Santa!!

Permit #1081 Newark, NJ

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### **GREEN BROOK REC ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6** 7:00 P.M. **111 GREENBROOK RD**

Come enjoy performances by the GBMS Choir & Instrumental Band Ensemble. Come dressed as you favorite Holiday Character for our Best Santa or Elf Costume Contest.

We will be accepting donations for Operation Shoebox - see right column for items. Enjoy some Hot Chocolate and Munchkins. And as always, a visit from Santa Claus delivered by our Fire-EMS.



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### **OPERATION SHOEBOX NJ**

Operation Shoebox NJ is an all-volunteer grass roots organization dedicated to collecting donated supplies and shipping care packages to U.S. troops based in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Middle East countries.

Operation Shoebox NJ has shipped more than 62,000 total packages to U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and other posts in the Middle East.

Monetary donations are gladly accepted, as shipping costs are about \$25 to send four care packages.

Operation Shoebox NJ is 501C3 non-profit organization registered with the IRS and the New Jersey Department of State. We are not affiliated with any other organization using that name or any variation.

#### **ITEMS NEEDED**

The following list contains items frequently requested by U.S. soldiers and Marines serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please note that aerosol products cannot be shipped overseas. Also, all items must be in their original packaging. When in doubt, think small. It is easier to ship smaller packaged items than large, economy size.

- Lip balm
- Powdered drink mixes
- Sun block
- Cereal/Snack/Granola bars
- Moist wipes
- Instant oatmeal (individual packets)
- Bug spray non-aerosol
- Boxes of hot chocolate (individual packets)
- Bars of soap
- Small cans of tuna with pop-tops
- Small bottles of shampoo
- Small cans of fruit with pop-tops
- Deodorant non-aerosol
- Microwave popcorn (individual bags)
- Athletic socks
- Gum & Candy
- Batteries all sizes
- Small bags of trail mix, peanuts, pretzels
- Small boxes of cereal

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**THE GREEN BROOK CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH** 7:30 pm **GREEN BOOK TOWN HALL** 111 Greenbrook Rd • Green Brook, NJ THE GREEN BROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY **MEETS DIRECTLY AFTER AT 8:30 PM.** 

We are always looking for people interested in history to join our group!



/ วับเทม	
750ml	\$8.99
750ml	\$9.99
750ml	\$9.99
750ml	\$7.49
750ml	\$9.99
750ml	\$8.99
750ml	\$7.99
750ml	\$9.99
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Discount on all nonsale 750 bottles of wine: Case quantity - 12 bottles save 15% 6 bottles save 10%

JUIIIIIIE WAIKEI DIACK	
Johnnie Walker Red	<b>\$32.09</b>
Bacardi Gold	<b>\$19.09</b>
Bacardi Silver	<b>\$19.09</b>
Captain Morgan	<b>\$26.09</b>
Jose Cuervo Gold	<b>\$32.09</b>
Absolut Vodka	<b>\$31.09</b>
Smirnoff Vodka	<b>\$19.09</b>
Svedka Vodka	<b>\$19.29</b>
Avion Silver Teq	
Svedka Flavors	<b>\$19.29</b>
Hennessy	750ml <b>\$29.09</b>
Jack Daniels	<b>\$42.09</b>
Grey Goose Vodka	1.75L <b>\$55.09</b>

Prices Effective thru December 31, 2013. At some stores prices may vary, quantities may be limited and some products may not be on hand. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. All prices subject to sales tax. We reserve the right to limit quantities. No further discount on sale items.



### **ROTARY CLUB GIVES DICTIONARIES**

Each year, the Dunellen-Green Brook Rotary Club gives dictionaries to local third-grade students at John P. Faber School in Dunellen. This event is designed to promote literacy in our youth.

Rotary International, consisting of 1,200,000 members in 170 countries, raises funds to help people internationally (such as the eradication of polio and the providing of clean drinking water) and locally. Our club supports the fire company, rescue squad, public library, boy scouts, little league and other groups, and provides thousands of dollars in scholarships to local high school students.



(above, l-r) Rotarians William Robins, Bill Mundy, Dale Granberg, Ann Hill, and Joan Henry, with third-grade teacher Laura Hughes.

#### PLEASE STAY INFORMED ABOUT **GBTPS NEWS BY MONITORING OUR** MANY INFORMATION MEDIUMS

Stay connected and ensure that you do not miss any news or information pertaining to the wonderful things occurring in the Green Brook Township Public Schools by subscribing to email alerts via the district website at www.gbtps.org. In addition, please take the time to view the contents of the Web Backpacks located on the home page of the district website, as well as on the home pages for each school.

Additionally, if you have a Facebook account, please "like" us so that we can push out information to you via it. Likewise, if Twitter is your preferred social media, please find and "follow" us. Finally, if you have not already registered your child on InfoSnap, please make sure that you do so in order to receive broadcast emails, texts, and phone calls.



# **ROTARY SHRED 12,000 POUNDS OF DOCUMENTS**

Brook Rotary Club held its First Annual Shredding Day in the Provident Bank (North Avenue, Dunellen) parking lot. Over 100 cars brought nearly 12,000 pounds of documents to be safely shredded. Also, generous donors contributed \$320.00 for the "Hear Me Now" project to fight Autism.

President Jesse chose Shredding Day as his

On October 26, 2013, the Dunellen-Green presidential year gift and the public certainly seemed to appreciate it. Many users commented how excited they were to be able to bring their old but important documents to be safely shredded and discarded.

> If you would like to learn more about Rotary International or our Club, or would like to attend a meeting (Thursdays, 12:15, Dunellen Hotel), please call Bill at 732-713-6068.



(above, l-r) Mia, Bill, Sherry, Mike, Document Representative, Joe, Dale, Barbara, Ann, Jesse, members and volunteers of the Dunellen-Green Brook Rotary Club.

# ANNUAL 5K EVENT ! A great way to start your Thanksgiving morning! BENEFITING GREEN BROOK PBA LOCAL #398 **THANKSGIVING MORNING NOV. 2013** starting at 8:00 am WHERE: GREEN BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

132 Jefferson Ave. Green Brook, NJ 08812 Join Green Brook Racing as we celebrate Thanksgiving

with a USATF certified 5K course in our very own HOMETOWN!!!!!

- The course is flat and fast with only a rise of 10 feet
- The Finish Line is on the brand new Green Brook Middle School Track
- The race is lead by our local officers in a Green Brook Police Car
- Let's give back: Bring a non perishable food item for donation to our local FoodBank
- After race refreshments and DJ!

Pre-Registar Fees: Adults: \$25 Kids: \$17

RACE DAY Registration: 6:00am-7:15am CASH ONLY!!! Adults \$30--Kids under 12 \$20 **SCHEDULE** 

6:30am - 7:30: SHARP!!! Race day registration/package pick up

(No t-shirts available with Race Day Registration)

8:00am: 5k runners start

8:10am : 5k runners with dogs on leash and runners with running strollers (no individual awards for canine/runner combo ).

Runners PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS!!

8:15am: Walkers start

Package pickup also available Wednesday night 5:00-8:00PM at Green Brook Middle School AWARDS

Top 3 Overall Male and Female / Top 3 in 5 year age group(no repeats)

#### **AGE GROUP RACES**

5 year and under run 100 yards (a football field)

ages 6, 7 and 8 run 200 yards on the track

- ages 9 to 12 run 400 yards on the track
- \$11 Dollar fee includes t shirt and medal PRE REGISTERED ONLY

# Santa Paws is Coming to Town



Santa is making a stop at Central Bark Dog Park!

**Green Brook Recreation** is proud to invite you to take a photo of your Favorite Furry Friend with the Season's Favorite Jolly Fellow. (Even family photos with your pet)

Bring your camera and make a \$5.00 donation to support a local family in need.

When: Saturday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Noon – 2 p.m. (rain or shine)

Where: Central Bark Dog Park, 255 Greenbrook Rd.

(Parking in the rear left lot of the Green Brook Regional Center)

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We also offer tires and services for lawn, garden and ATV.

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### **GBMS STUDENTS GET "STEERED STRAIGHT"**

On Monday, October 21, 2013, the students at the Green Brook Middle school were visited by two remarkable individuals from an organization called Steered Straight so that they could "stay in their lane" in order to make goodlife decisions and stay out of trouble, as well as to prevent bullying. According to their website (www.steeredstraight.org), "Steered Straight, Inc. is a non-profit educational and prevention/intervention organization, committed to reaching children, teens and young adults with a message of reality about life-choices and the importance of consequential thinking so that they understand that there are consequences for their actions. Today, there exists an everincreasing need to reach the youth of our communities. With school violence, escalating use of drugs and alcohol by teens, accelerated recruitment into gangs, bullying and vandalism, and subsequent life-changing consequences, children and young adults need a profound message delivered to them from experienced, identifiable and caring messengers."

The organization prides itself on bringing powerful speakers - some of whom are living examples of negative life choices - to schools so that students can hear first hand what the pitfalls in life may be and how to avoid them by making good-life decisions. In addition, they take pride in the fact that their presentations just might be the missing message that students in New Jersey and across the nation may need to hear. Furthermore, they postulate that educators and parents also need to hear their message about the realities of what is happening with the social consequences of the choices that young citizens are making. Based upon the overwhelming feedback provided by the students and faculty that attended one of three assemblies, which were all funded by the PTO, the message was heard loud and clear.

According to Dr. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools, who sat in on one of the assemblies, "Both speakers delivered their powerful messages with candor and sincerity." Along with the upcoming "White Out Bullying" campaign that the students in Green Brook will be participating in with students from WHRHS and the other sending districts, this workshop will serve as one of the required Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying training activities that students and staff must participate in yearly according to the recently-passed Anti-Bullying Statute.



# HILLS PHYS ED SUPERVISOR TO RETIRE AFTER 35 YEARS

By Eleanor Mathews

"Almost 35 years to the day," muses Mario Diez. "It's almost thirty-five years ago that I came to Watchung Hills Regional High School," says the retiring chairperson of the Phys Ed/Health Department as he ticks off the years since December 17, 1979.

And what a career it has been! Diez has not only shaped Hills' phys ed program, but has also become known in wider circles as a winning baseball coach, who has led Hills teams to significant championships: seven at the (Skyland) Conference level; four at the county level (Somerset County Tournament of Champions); and three on the state level.

A graduate of Athens State College (Alabama), and holder of a Master's Degree from Kean College, Diez has been named to the Hall of Fame of New Jersey Baseball Coaches as well as the Hall of Fame of New Jersey School Coaches. But more than that, Diez' philosophy about the function of phys ed as part of the total picture of a student's development has been a model in educational circles. He has been instrumental in developing an elective phys ed curriculum that is progressive and current, one that is student-centered and individualized. Rather than a one-size-fits-all curriculum to which all must subscribe, the Hills physical education course of study offers options that develop life and wellness skills which students can pursue outside of school and beyond school years. Team sports, will, of course, still be generation does."

included on the phys ed "menu."

Among options selected by students on a halfsemester basis are such courses as fitness, yoga, dance, judo, power walking, Project Adventure, body sculpting, wellness education, marriage, and more. These are the activities they can still pursue as adults, Diez says.

Students also fill in a "fitness-gram" which helps them assess their aerobic capacity, strength, agility, etc., all of which may play a part in their choice of phys ed courses.

The Hills elective phys ed program, started in the mid-80's, has been both successful and wellreceived by Hills students and has been visited by instructors from other schools.

The physical education offerings in the schools in the local sending district are coordinated with those at Hills.

Diez also acts as supervisor of the Business Arts Department. In addition to overseeing financial, family and consumer-oriented courses, he has been interested in developing courses in sports management and entrepreneurship.

Have students changed much in the 35 years of Diez' tenure? Technology has changed, says "Coach," but kids remain essentially the same. "Kids are still kids. They are a spirited bunch," Diez states. "They love to talk and they're interested in being social. They are facing greater challenges than my generation ever did—but they will overcome these, as every generation does."



(above) Mario Diez

Working at Watchung Hills has been "the thrill of a lifetime," Diez concludes, but retirement will also bring its joys, such as working in his Whitehouse Station garden, playing with his four grandchildren, some informal coaching, fishing, and finding out what else he can learn to do. Retirement will thus be a special adventure, just as teaching was.

Life will continue to be, as it always has been, a "perfect 10" for this retiring department head.

## WHRHS STUDENTS COMMEMORATE JFK IN ART EXHIBIT

Currently on exhibit at the Watchung Hills Regional High School's Atrium Gallery are collages done to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of President Kennedy's passing. The students paid homage to his life rather

than close scrutiny to his assassination.

The project was a joint effort between the history and art departments.



(above, l-r) Jason Hoffman ), Warren; Brandon Leong, Green Brook; Michelle Sucre, Green Brook; Lizzie Wexler, Watchung; Kate Stoll (artwort insert), Green Brook; Lois Salzarullo, Watchung; Natasha Hunter, Warren; Brianna Torrisi, Warren; Brianna Martins, Green Brook; Olaia Martinez, Warren.

### THE PETERSTOWN BOOK RECORDS 100 YEARS OF ORAL HISTORY OF AN ITALIAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOD

The Peterstown Book, Published by Joe & Tina Renna

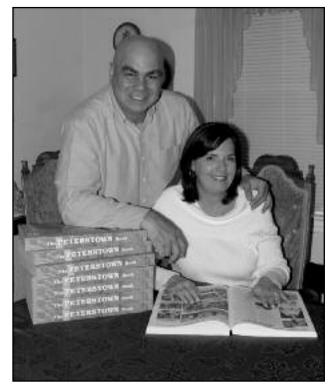
The Peterstown Book is the 100-year history of an Italian-American neighborhood told through stories about the people and families who lived there. The book records the oral history in danger of being lost and illustrates the traditions and customs of the community through thousands of photos, hundreds of recipes, and anecdotes shared by residents past and present.

The book has mass appeal to anyone interested in American history and how the rich Italian culture was weaved into it by those who arrived since the turn of the 20th century and their descendants. Every aspect of life is represented in its chapters, especially the dynamics of the family, social clubs and of the church. The book shows the contributions that were made to society in the arts and entertainment fields, sports, science, humanities and of course "the food." Over 200 recipes accompanied by background stories fill a hundred-page chapter.

People of all ethnicities can relate to universal themes addressed in the book highlighting the struggles and triumphs of families in search of the American dream, which was achieved through hard work, a strong family value system and dedication to the church.

This book is not only about the greatest

generation but also of those who gave rise to them and the generations that followed. It is a nostalgic look at The Great Depression, WWII and Baby Boomers. It also serves as a guide to future generations who, sadly, will not experience the sense of community that was prevalent in these old-time neighborhoods. The Peterstown Book intends to preserve the great Italian-American culture of the past century.



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Additionally, if you have a Facebook account, please "like" us so that we can push out information to you via it. Likewise, if Twitter is your preferred social media, please find and "follow" us. Finally, if you have not already registered your child on InfoSnap, please make sure that you do so in order to receive broadcast emails, texts, and phone calls



Anyone who would like to retail the book in their place of business should contact Joe at 908-447-1295 or email info@rennamedia.com • 776 Oversized Pages By Joe & Tina Renna Thousands of Photos **NERSTOWN** • Hundreds of Recipes The Peterstown Book is the 100 year history of an Italian-American neighborhood told through stories about the people and families who lived there. The book Book records the oral history in danger of being lost and illustrates the traditions and customs of the community through thousands of photos, hundreds of recipes, and **Cent'Anni** antidotes shared by residents past and present. Cent'Anni The 100 year \$45 + Sales Tax (\$3.15 for NJ purchases only.) history of an The 100 year history Case of (6) \$240 + NJ Sales Tax (\$16.80) Italian-American ich borhood FREE Shipping Number of Books: of an Italian-American Total check/charge amount \_\_\_\_\_ neighborhood Credit Card: \_\_\_\_Visa \_\_\_MC \_\_\_Discover **ORDER NOW!** Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date\_\_\_\_(mm/yy) Code#\_\_\_ - On line at PeterstownNJ.com Exact name as it appears on the credit card: - By phone 908-418-5586 Name - Mail Check and form to: Billing Address \_\_\_ Renna Media 202 Walnut Ave., (If shipping address is different from billing please supply both.) Cranford, NJ 07016 GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT Phone \_ FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY - Email inquiries to: Email info@rennamedia.com Reveal \_\_\_\_\_

