

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 18 • NOVEMBER 2013

**TREE
LIGHTING
& SANTA'S
ARRIVAL**
Sunday
**DECEMBER
1ST**
4:00 PM
**VERMEULE
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The Annual Halloween Parade was a great success. The weather was perfect for a fall parade. Our Grand Marshall this year was former Mayor Janice Allen. The North Plainfield High School Marching Band led the parade along with our "Wicked Witch". Thank you to the North

Plainfield High School Cheerleaders who helped with registration and judging and thank you to the members of the Marching Band who also helped with the judging. The categories for judging were: most original (individual and group), scariest, superhero, cutest and prettiest.



ADELA'S OPENS ON GREENBROOK ROAD



Adela's Accessories, located on Greenbrook Road in North Plainfield, is a new, inexpensive stylish women accessories store. At Adela's Accessories, the time is taken to select each individual piece of the latest styles in fashion, jewelry and handbags. They also have handmade jewelry that are one of a kind with special attention given to the craftsmanship of each piece. Come in and see our selection of handbags, jewelry, scarves, gloves and more!

GRANT FOR GIRL CIRCLE AND GANG ASSEMBLY

By: Vice Principal Luis Jaime

I am excited to announce that we have been chosen as the recipients of two great programs for Somerset Intermediate School. The first program is called Girl Circle and the other is a Gang Awareness Assembly. Both programs will provide information and support on two important topics here at Somerset School.

Countless hours of communication, research and persistence with Empower Somerset during the summer has officially paid off. After writing a letter in support of the grant and programs, Brenda Esler, from Empower Somerset, happily announced that we would be acquiring a mentoring program for female students called, Girl Circle. Girl Circle is a grant funded program providing mentoring for girl's which targets topics such as body image, socialization skills, and peer pressure. Our male students currently have a mentoring program in place and we now have one for our female students as well.

The second program, which is a Gang Awareness Assembly, will be available to our entire student body. The presenter is someone I have worked with on other events in the past, Mr. Edwin Torres is a 23-year veteran of Law Enforcement in New Jersey. He started looking into gangs in 1993 which led to the creation of the Gang Management Unit for the Juvenile Justice Commission under the Attorney's General Office.

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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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NORTH PLAINFIELD LIONS CLUB SEEKS NEEDY FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

The North Plainfield Lions are looking to make the Holidays a little brighter for some deserving local families this year. The Lions Club is looking for children from needy families, from North Plainfield, to write letters to Santa. The letters to Santa must include: the child/family's name and address; gift request; and the special reasons why Santa should make that gift request come true.

All letters to Santa should be placed into the Lions eyeglass collection mailbox located in the lobby of the North Plainfield Public Library (throughout the rest of the year the mail box is used to collect used eyeglasses and hearing aids for refurbishment and distribution to the poor). All letters to Santa must be placed into the Lions

mailbox by Friday, December 6th.

Santa Claus and the Lions will not be able to honor every request or make every wish come true, but they will work very hard to make some Holiday magic happen for North Plainfield families who need it most.

The North Plainfield Lions Club meets at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at the Dunellen Hotel, on Washington Avenue, in Dunellen.

The club is always looking to invite new members to join. If you are interested in joining, or in learning more about Lions projects, please contact Skip Stabile, club president, at (908) 756-8456, or Frank Stabile, club membership chairman, at (908) 754-2754.

HISPANIC HERITAGE DAY

The North Plainfield Memorial Library of the Somerset County Library System hosted an event commemorating the Hispanic Heritage Month on October 26th, 2013. This highly successful and innovative Hispanic Cultural event entertained over 100 participants and has become one of the most popular traditional celebrations at our library.

Our mission statement is "Somerset County Library System partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover." The North Plainfield Library once again honored the Hispanic Culture by sharing its traditions through history, folklore, and cuisine. On behalf of the North Plainfield Library, we would like to thank all our sponsors, volunteers and participants for showing their outstanding support by donating their services/time. Your endless support helps us enrich our diverse cultural heritage in our community. Thanks to our precious sponsors Inti Raymi - Ecuador, Ballet Folklorico Peru, Lujansa Dance & Music Studio, Grove BBQ Churrasqueria, Pan Caliente

Bakery, Punto Cubano restaurant, Mi Buenaventura restaurant, Inca Maya restaurant Peruvian Cuisine, Dona Irma's restaurant and bakery, El Paso restaurant, La Caravana restaurant, Costa Azul Mexican restaurant, and Mi Ranchito Viejo restaurant. We truly appreciate your generous sponsorship.

The Annual

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Vermeule Community Center Sunday, December 1st at 4:00 pm

This event is a jointly run with The Special Events Committee who is bringing Santa Comes to Town. Everyone is invited to join us at Vermeule there will be holiday music, balloon caricatures, hot chocolate, cookies and other refreshments.

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Prices Effective thru December 31, 2013. At some stores prices may vary, quantities may be limited and some products may not be on hand.
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“WALL OF HOPE”



In October, North Plainfield’s cheerleaders spearheaded a charity initiative in which the raised funds for the South Jersey Breast Cancer Coalition (the SJBCC). In addition to raising money for breast cancer awareness, the cheerleaders also erected a “Wall of Hope” outside of the cafeteria. This display included messages of hope and well wishes for the families of North Plainfield that have been touched by this horrendous disease. Our goal is to continue this initiative next year and hopefully expand the project throughout the community!

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HONORS VETERANS

While combat was still raging during World War II, a small group of New Jersey residents were trying to devise a unique way of honoring America’s service men and women. Instead of a stone monument or a bronze plaque, these New Jerseyans wanted to create a living memorial. And so, members of the Garden Club of New Jersey arrived at a plan to plant a five-mile long section of U.S. Route 29 (now Route 22) with flowering dogwood trees, which would produce white blossoms in the springtime and red berries in the autumn. This corridor was chosen because many of the troops returning to the U.S. from Europe would arrive in New York City and then begin their stateside travels home on Route 29. The selected length of highway, between Mountainside and North Plainfield, was designated, “Blue Star Drive” and planting of the dogwoods was begun in the fall of 1944. The name for this section of road was taken from the banner that families would hang in their front windows to show that someone from that house was on active duty during the war.

In just a few years similar Blue Star Memorial Highways began to spring up across the U.S and it was decided they would honor all the men and women who served in the American military, not just those who had fought in the Second World War. It remains a point of pride that the first of these highways runs through North Plainfield and that one of the signs announcing the Blue Star Drive has been located at the intersection of Route 22 and North Drive.

Over the years, the sign and the area around it had been cared for by several groups and

individuals, namely the Watchung Garden Club. Although the site was spruced up and rehabbed by NJDOT in 2004 and a grant for new plantings was awarded by the Garden Club of New Jersey in 2012, money was not available to repair or replace the Blue Star Drive sign until this year. As a result of the renewed attention the memorial began to receive, a plan was drawn up by NJDOT that would radically redesign and improve the site and finally replace the weathered sign. After assistance from the Mayor’s Office and North Plainfield DPW, the old sign was removed and work began at the intersection. Dozens of hollies, redbuds and dogwoods have recently been planted and a new sign is nearly ready to be installed. As work nears completion, travelers on Route 22 will be able to see the new memorial take shape. The improved Blue Star memorial will really come alive in spring though, when the new plantings bloom in a profusion of purple and white. It should prove to be quite a site!

This rejuvenated living memorial is a wonderful, fitting way for North Plainfield to honor and show gratitude towards our veterans. While driving on that stretch of Route 22, near North Drive, take a moment to look at the Blue Star Drive site and to reflect on its meaning.

A dedication ceremony is planned for spring of next year. For information about the Blue Star Drive project, please contact Skip Stabile at: s_stabile@yahoo.com or (908) 756-8456.

For information about the Garden Club of New Jersey, contact Bea Allen at: (908) 788-2937, or Susan O’Donnell at (908) 489-2127.

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FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

The fifth grade students in Mrs. Castro's Math classes have been working very hard to master their multiplication facts. They have played games, such as Multiplication Bingo, Around the World with flashcards, and many others. They have now found that they can practice their facts and help fight world hunger at the same time. The students have been practicing their facts at www.freerice.com! At freerice, the students earn 10 grains of rice for every correct answer they get. The faster they answer the fact the more rice they earn. This has become their new favorite way to practice their facts. Mrs. Castro said, "It is amazing to watch them. The students understand that the rice is helping areas where people do not have enough (or any) food. The students are even competing with each other

to see who can earn the most rice during the time frame they are working on the website!" To date, the students have earned 136,880 grains of rice. One student in the class researched and discovered that it takes 19,200 grains of rice to feed one person for a day. This is a win/win situation. The children are practicing their multiplication facts and doing a community service project at the same time. They are very proud reporting the number of grains they have earned each time they get to use freerice. Mr. Sainte-Rose, the school principal, is very pleased with the students' efforts in light of the typhoon in the Philippines and with Thanksgiving right around the corner. It is a great way for the students to help others and also help themselves.



HELPING HEARTS AT EAST END SCHOOL

During the week of October 28th East End School had an estimation contest to benefit the Helping Heart Fund. The East End School Helping Heart Fund was established to help East End families who are facing a crisis, in an emergency situation and in need of resources.

Students were invited to estimate how many candy corns were inside a large jar during their lunch periods. Each guess cost 25 cents. The student who guessed closest to the exact amount was third grader Gabriela. She won an enormous stuffed animal. Her class also received the jar of candy corns to eat! This event was organized by Ms. Rivlin and Mrs. Thomas and raised \$104.41.



A COMMUNITY AFFAIR!

Please come out for The

I Can Foundation's Holiday Movie Night
Sat., December 14, 2013 from 5pm - 8pm.

Bring your family out and enjoy pizza, popcorn, & fun. There is no fee, but an RSVP is required by obtaining free tickets at <http://TICFMovieNight.Eventbrite.com>.

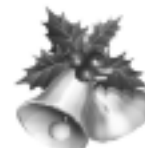
It will be held at the Vermeule Community Center, 614 Green Brook Road

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2013

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EL PODER

Somerset Medical Center and Somerset Intermediate School have worked together in organizing a new program, "El Poder", for the community of North Plainfield which successfully started on October 12, 2013. We prepared flyers and informational booths to promote the program to our community and the program was able to reach full capacity two weeks before the classes started. As the program begins, we hope to continue to carry out that level of enthusiasm for the next ten weeks.

"El Poder" which is translated to "The Strength" is a Diabetes management program that is being held in the community room at Somerset Intermediate School. The first day began with a sign-in, receiving informational folders and sitting with facilitators to fill out any additional health assessment paper work. As part of the initial assessments, health screenings were provided with results on personal medical cards. This assessment will act as a baseline and will provide participants with initial results indicating their cholesterol, blood sugar, and HDL levels. Following the screenings was a counseling session with the Registered Dietician

NEWS FROM THE NORTH PLAINFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



Our office has moved to 93 Greenbrook Road North Plainfield 07060. The office is the former Dare House next to Stony Brook Field.

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HISPANIC PARENT NIGHT

On November 5th, 2013 Somerset school hosted their 3rd Hispanic Parent Night. The event is geared towards our Spanish speaking parents but open to all to attend. The objective of the event is to strengthen the communication between our Spanish speaking parents and Somerset school through disseminating information about our district, school, and out of district services. It also provides an informal setting for parents, children, and teachers of Somerset School to congregate over traditional homemade foods. Hispanic Parent Night featured four non-profit organizations which provided parents information about resources that are available for them. The four agencies invited were Maria Luisa de Moreno Foundation (MLMIF), The Family Support Organization (FSO), The Women's Health & Counseling Center (WHCC), Resource Center of Somerset, and Healthfirst NJ.

MLMIF offers support through social programs that will give immigrants access to a higher education; so that they could obtain a better quality of life and ultimately become less dependent on governmental aids. The FSO is a partner within New Jersey's Division of Children's System of Care. This system was created to help children with complex emotional, mental health or behavioral issues. The WHCC has been an integral community resource for women and teens since 1973 and works to reduce financial, ethnic, language or other barriers that prevent people from obtaining the services they need. The Resource Center of Somerset provides Help & Hope for people

affected by domestic abuse. All services are provided free-of-charge. Lastly, Healthfirst NJ is a not-for-profit managed care organization dedicated to providing low- or no-cost health insurance to eligible individuals and families in various New Jersey service areas through Medicare Advantage plans and NJ FamilyCare.

The event was a success in fulfilling our goal of creating an environment conducive to community awareness and communication. Parents did convey to the staff how informative and important events like this are for them in the North Plainfield School District. All parties are looking forward to the next event and the potential Hispanic Parent Night has to offer.

EAST END SCHOOL'S WALKING SCHOOL BUS

East End School, along with Ridewise of Somerset County, sponsored a "Walking School Bus" event. A walking school bus event involves walking with students from a designated time and start point to school. During the course of the event, instruction is provided on safe crossing procedures and at every corner students are reminded to look both ways and follow the electronic walk signals, if they are available. East End students were invited to meet at Hyewood Park Baptist Church at 8AM. Over 50 students and their parents joined the walking school bus to East End School. We walked down Manning Avenue and turned onto Oneida Avenue and concluded our walk by 8:20 at East End School.



Breakfast with Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013

8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Vermeule Community Center

Greenbrook Rd. & Clinton Ave., North Plainfield, NJ

Adults: \$5.00 • Children (3-12): \$3.00, Under 3: Free

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Optimist Club of North Plainfield

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

The Peterstown Book, Published by Joe & Tina Renna

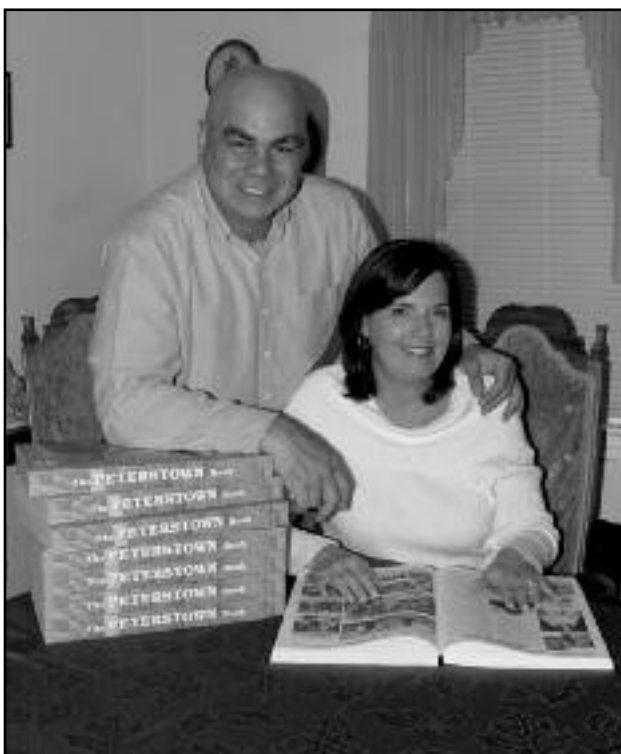
The Peterstown Book is the 100-year history of an Italian-American neighborhood told through stories about the people and families who lived there. The book records the oral history in danger of being lost and illustrates the traditions and customs of the community through thousands of photos, hundreds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



EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS MINI GRANTS

The North Plainfield Education Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Mini Grant awards. The Foundation, founded in 1995, has as its mission, "to recognize, reward and promote awareness of the excellent education experience our students receive.." This year three Mini Grants have been awarded. The Middle School will benefit from the Grant entitled "CANUCK-A-CYLE," submitted by Deanne D'Armiento, which is involved with the TerraCycle Brigades and is a yearlong recycling program. Kathy Porter's students, and the entire East End School, will learn more about the plants, birds, and insects in their school yard through the program called, "Students Take Flight." Lastly, the North Plainfield Glee Club, under the leadership of Carol Canales, whose music focuses on the anti-bullying theme, will soon be singing into new microphones and sporting new show choir attire.

The Foundation has now awarded over 60 Mini Grants, and most recently donated a new state-of-the-art sound system for the Krausche field and sponsored the musicians for last year's Christmas musical. The Foundation is always seeking new members who want to support the education of our children. For more information please contact Mr. Robert Goellner, President. Send email to: noplfdedfnd@yahoo.com.

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

The PETERSTOWN Book

By Joe & Tina Renna

Cent'Anni The 100 year history of an Italian-American neighborhood

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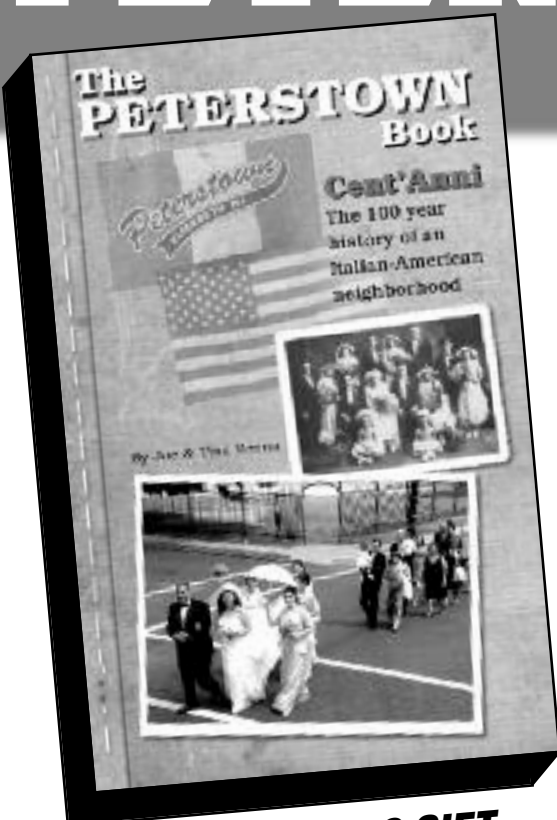
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**GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY**



Fresh Fruit &

Vegetable Market

Freshly baked Portuguese and Italian bread delivered daily!



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

"We're Not Just Produce"



Celebrating our 21st Anniversary!

somersetfarms@verizon.net
 somersetfarmsnj.com

908-757-7730 • 950 Route 22 East • North Plainfield, NJ

COUPON



FRESH SHRIMP
\$8⁹⁹ lb NPL

By the pound only. Limit 1 lb per customer per coupon per day. Not to be combined with other offer. Offers good thru 12/16/13.

FRESH FISH
 Available Thursday to Sunday
 Filleted, Steaked, Cleaned to your liking!

Little Neck or Top CLAMS
\$3⁹⁹ /dozen

COUPON



Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillet
\$7⁹⁹ lb (farm raised) NPL

By the pound only. Limit 1 lb per customer per coupon per day. Not to be combined with other offer. Offers good thru 12/16/13.

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 Holiday and Special Occasions!



COUPON



Boar's Head Imported Ham
\$5⁹⁹ lb NPL

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 12/16/13.

COUPON



Hormel Dilusso Genoa Salami
\$5⁹⁹ lb NPL

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 12/16/13.

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 12/16/13.



LARGE SELECTION FRASIER FIR CHRISTMAS TREES \$29.99 and up

WREATHS * ROPING GRAVE COVERS

HOLIDAY ITEMS NOW IN STOCK..
 Panettone, Pandoro, Dried Fruits, Spices, Almond Paste, Pignoli Nuts, Torrone, Soppresate, Dried Sausage and much much more.