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### **ISSUE 3** DECEMBER 2013

# 20th Annual MEYERSVILLE TREE LIGHTING

Presented by Meyersville Tree Lighting Committee Meyersville Circle Schedule of Events Sunday, December 1, 2013 5 PM: WELCOME 5:05: Central School Grades 7/8 Band plays under the direction of Mr. Jonathan Birckhead 5:20: Santa Arrives 5:25: Tree Lighting in Circle. Fireworks as soon as tree is lit. 5:40: Santa meets with children Refreshments by the Long Hill Chamber of Commerce \*Please bring a tray of your favorite holiday cookies to share with neighbors and friends at the event.

**US POSTAGE** PRSRT STD-Permit #108-Newark, NJ PAID

# POSTAL CUSTOMER

### By Eleanor Mathews

"Almost 35 years to the day," muses Mario Diez. "It's almost thirtyfive 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 included on the phys ed "menu."

Among options selected by students on a half-semester 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.

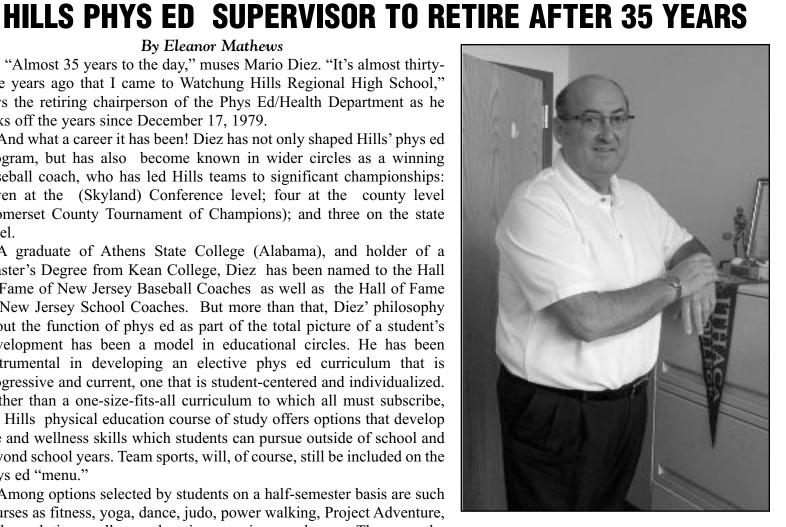
Students also fill in a "fitness-gram" which helps them assess their aerobic capacity, strength, agility, etc., all of which may play a part in their choice of phys ed courses.

The Hills elective phys ed program, started in the mid-80's, has been both successful and well-received 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



(above) Mario Diez

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."

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.





### **On-line at RennaMedia.com**

*Long Hill Leader* is published by Renna Media. 3,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and home in Long Hill, NJ and the balance are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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Content Contact: Lynn Sjurset 516-987-4603 • lynn@rennamedia.com

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WATCHUNG HILLS HS IS SEEKING HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS By Eleanor Mathews

Nominations to Watchung Hills Regional High School's Hall of Fame are being accepted through January 15th, 2014. Nomination forms may be obtained at the school's main office at 108 Stirling Road, Warren Township school website, www.whrhs.org.

The names of the 2014 honorees will be announced at the end of February, and an induction/reception ceremony for those selected by the nominating committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the evening of Friday, May 9th in the school's Performing Arts Center.

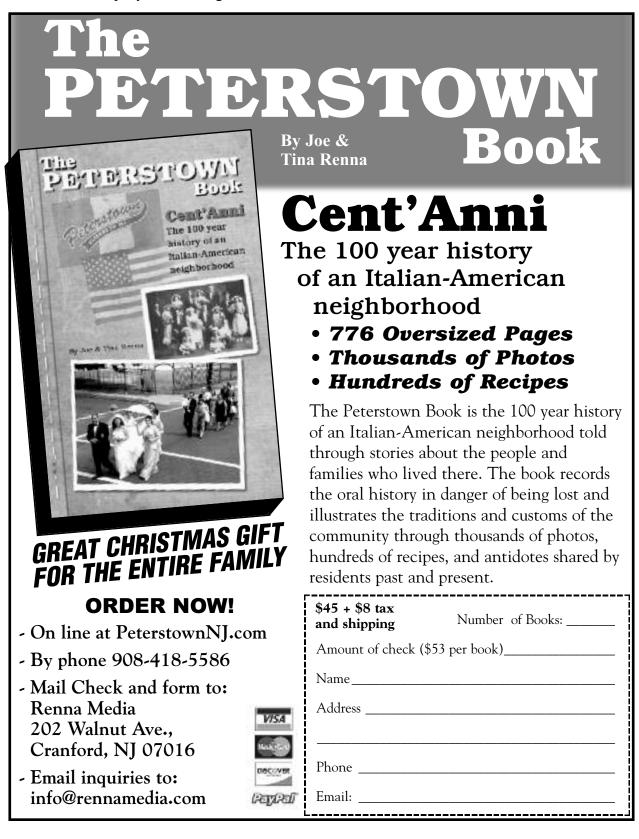
The Watchung Hills Hall of Fame, initiated in 2008, marking the school's fiftieth anniversary, honors alumni of the school who have achieved distinction either during their high school years or in professional or community life thereafter, and also acknowledges individuals such as school board members, teachers, coaches and others who exemplify outstanding service to the

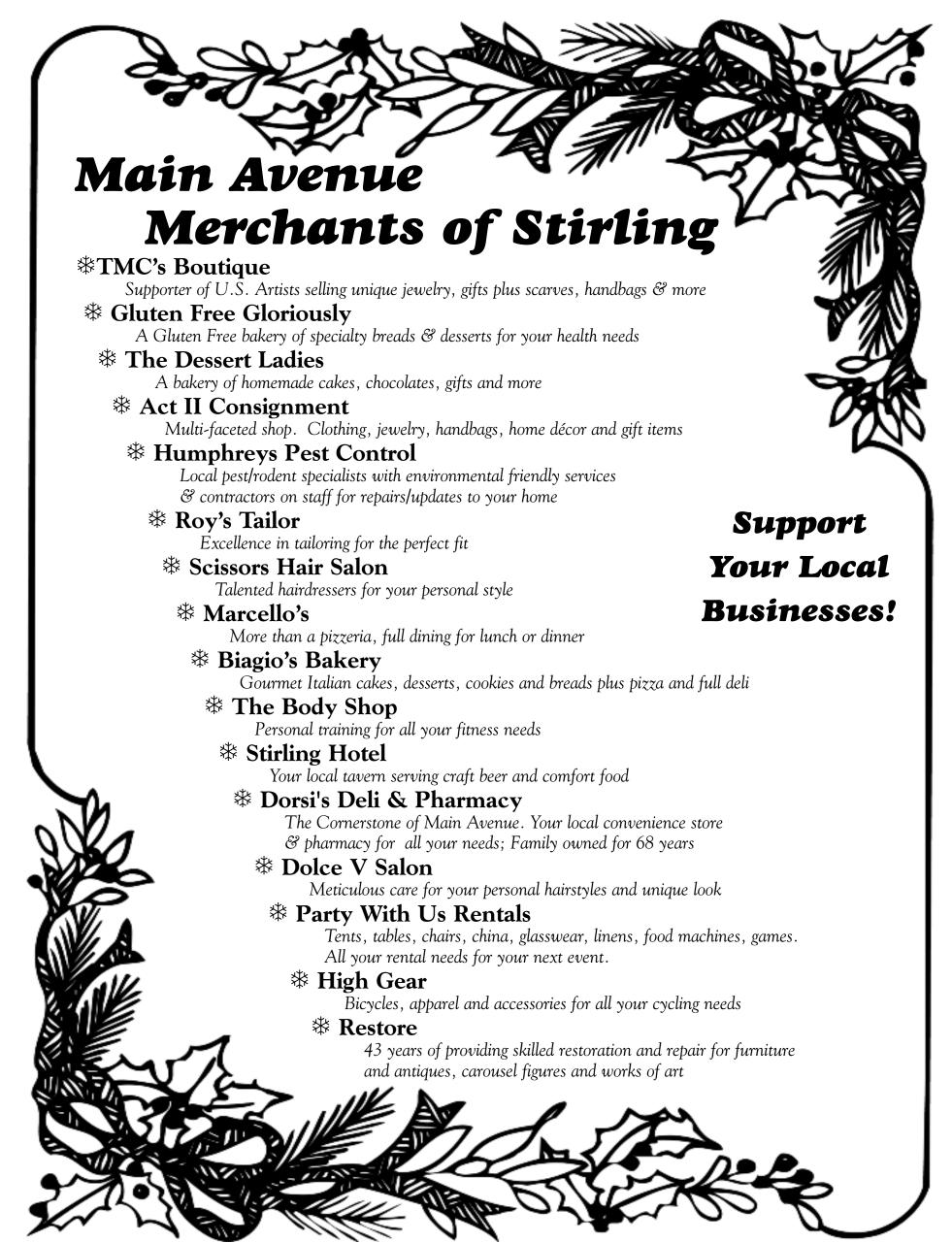
Nominations to Watchung Hills Regional school. Alumni nominees must have graduated igh School's Hall of Fame are being accepted at least ten years ago.

Nominations of individuals who were nominated but not selected will be retained for consideration for four years.

Persons who lack complete information about a potential Hall of Fame nominee, are requested to fill out the nomination form and contact Vice Principal Terry MacConnell at tmacconnell@whrhs.org, or call him at (908)647-4800, Ext. 6975, for further assistance. Every attempt will be made by the Hall of Fame committee to gather additional information about that nominee.

Those honored by membership in the Hall of Fame are recognized by a personalized plaque in the school's main lobby. The Hall of Fame includes persons who represent many fields, such as teaching, music, public service, entertainment, the arts, athletics, science, etc.





# WATCHUNG HILLS STUDENTS EARN 2013 'AP SCHOLAR' DESIGNATION By Eleanor Mathews

Two-hundred-and- twenty-four Watchung Hills Regional High School students who took Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in May of 2013 have won distinction as "AP Scholars," according to the College Board, creators and sponsors of the Advanced Placement (testing) program.

The program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school and to earn college credit, advanced placement in college course work, or both, for successful performance on the AP Exams. The program offers several levels of awards which recognize college-level achievement on students' performance on the Advanced Placement Exams, and students may progress from one level to the next as they successfully complete the exams which are given each spring.

At Watchung Hills, 19 students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award, which designates students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these. Watchung Hills' National AP Scholars, whose average score was 4.62, are:

Neha Agrawal Jessica Bethlahmy Kevin Chen John Draikiwicz Alan Gou Patricia Hwang Hao Yan Li Audrey Luo Brian Pester Jessica Xu. Kayleigh Askin Rohit Biswas Katherine Dong Joshua Ehrenberg Olivia Hampton Felix Kung Diana Liao Milonee Mehta Matthew Piekarski

The AP Scholar with Distinction designation recognizes students who received an average score of at least 3.5 on all APs taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Watchung Hills had 86 Scholars with Distinction who earned an average score of 4.31. They are:

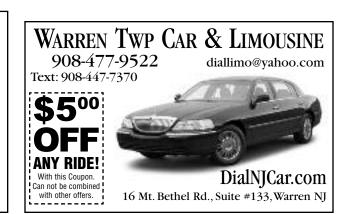
Neha Agrawal Samuel Aldous Esfahani Ansari Jackson Bahr Rohit Biswas Sarah Brown Anderson Chan Vincent Chang Kevin Chen Nicholas Akrawi Nicole Alexandre Kayleigh Askin Jessica Bethlahmy Leanne Block Karan Cariappa Edward Chang Woo Chang, Whittney Chu



Sarah Decker Connor Dempsey Katherine Dong Joshua Ehrenberg Carlee Faccia Jane Frank Andrew Gilbenberg Alan Gou Olivia Hampton Jessica Hoffman Rohan Jadvani Felix Kung Hao Yan Li Yitao Li Sheree Liu Monica Mahal Dylan McNulty Rupal Nahar Suchi Patel Matthew Piekarski Gregory Przybylski Michael Ricciardi Alexander Rucker Sruchika Sabu Alyson Schapira Lauren Sinski Clare Stomber Soumva Sudhakar Linda Sun Joshua van der Kroft Seneca Velling **Owen Whitley** Anika Yetsko Charlotte Zuber

The AP Scholar with Honor designation was granted to students who received an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. There were 34 students in this category; their average score was 3.90. They are:

Celine Alapatt Elizabeth Booth Karen Chi Audrey Chu Teddy Devico Eric Gardner Bryan Gerber Aaron Jaslove Yiming Li Noah Monetti Alexandra Pash Syeda Quader Erin Schwartzstein Mark Barrameda Elana Borinsky Salil Chowdhury Jordan Cole James Ford David Garyantes Kalashree Gopal Josh Katz Kathleen Lo Natalie Moszcynski Benjamin Profenius Dillon Robinson Setu Shah



Yash Srivastav Dennis Tan David Wasserstein Elaine Xiao

Eighty-five students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams. Watchung Hills had 85 such Scholars, with an average score of 3.58 They are:

Nim Sten-Gilady

Melanie Ting

Emily Wilson

Alexander Yu

Trevor Adriaanse Sara Battaglia Lucy Bolognese Samantha Braver Woo Chang Adam Christopherson Kelsey Conway Alexis Coven Christopher Demczuk Michael Di Bianca Sreya Doddakashi Alison Draikiwicz George Filippatos Lianne Galante Kevin Glorius-Patrick Brandi Goldman Kevin Guo Greer Hennnessy Isabella Hou Katherine Humphrey Claire Iroudayassamy **Cristine Jones** Amalia Kanaras Rebecca Kinsella Rachel Langer Deborah Liaw Danielle Mak Anika Mavinkurve Ashwini Nagappan David Oliveira Vikas Patel Ben Raibley Leah Rich Joyce Samarina Lauren Scott Stephanie Silva Patrick Skowronski Abhay Srinivas Justin Strnatko Valerie Tan Joshua Voorhees **Emily Weaver** Mitchell Woo

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Each of the different AP Exams is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and Advanced Placement teachers, ensuring that the exams are aligned with the same high standards expected by college faculty at some of the nation's leading liberal arts and research institutions. AP scores are accepted by more than 3, 800 colleges and universities worldwide, including more than 90% of four-year institutions in the United States. Many of the students listed above have already begun their college studies and have either received credit for their achievement or have bypassed some of the required courses.



# LONG HILL LIBRARY

First priority for these programs is given to Long Hill Township residents, but non-residents are welcome to join our waiting list. Registration is required for most programs and can be done in person, by phone, (908) 647-2088 x2, or via email to childrens@longhillibrary.org.

# **MOVIES AT LONG HILL LIBRARY**

**Paradise** Wed, Dec 11 @ 2pm **Blackfish** Mon, Dec 16 @ 6pm **The Lone Ranger** Wed. Dec 18 @ 2 **Prince Avalanche** Thurs, Dec 19 @ 2 Elf Sat, Dec 21 @ 11am **Prisoner** Mon, Jan 6 @ 6pm **Harry & Tonto** Wed, Jan 8 @ 2pm **Jayne Mansfield's** Car

Thu, Jan 9 @ 2pm

Last Love Wed, Jan 15 @ 2pm **Museum Hours** Thu, Jan 16 @ 2pm **Secret Life of Walter** Mitty Wed, Jan 22 @ 2 (with Danny Kaye) **Don Jon** Thu, Jan 23 @ 2pm **Sweetwater** Mon, Jan 27 @ 6pm The Family Wed, Jan 29 @ 2pm **Runner Runner** Thu, Jan 30 @ 2pm

BOOK CLUB

Monday, Jan 13 at 7pm

Diana Karmin, author of Escaping Food Coma. Diana is a Westfield author who lost over 100 pounds.

We'll be discussing Salt Sugar Fat by Michael Moss. Diana Karmin will also be with us to discuss her book and answer questions.

Moss's book tells us us how the food industry manipulates our taste buds With Salt, Sugar & Fat. Moss details how those 3 ingredients became key to the success of processed and packaged foods — and how they are fueling the nationwide obesity epidemic.

Employing scientists to dissect elements of the palate and tweak ratios of salt, sugar and fat to optimize taste, the processed food industry, Moss says, has hooked consumers on their products the same way the cigarette industry hooked smokers on nicotine.

# PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email Lynn Sjurset at lynn@rennamedia.com.



# **CRANFORD MONTHLY JOINS RENNA MEDIA'S FAMILY OF NEWSPAPERS**

Beginning in January 2014 Cranford Monthly will join Renna Media's family of newspapers. Just like Long Hill Leader, Cranford Monthly will deliver important information from the departments in town hall, along with news from the schools and library. Community service organizations are encouraged to promote their events and celebrate their accomplishments free of charge. The newspaper's goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of Cranford. There will be no investigative reporting or political content; Cranford Monthly exists to share all of the good things that are happening in town.

Renna Media is a Cranford based business owned and operated by husband and wife team Joe and Tina Renna. Cranford Monthly joins

**18 FULL PAGE** 

**Back Cover** 

FRONT PAGE BANNER 8.25" x 2"

Renna Media's family of twelve community newspapers published in and around Union and Somerset counties. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote events and services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$60. A discount is also applied for those businesses involved in their local Chamber of Commerce. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for advertising in multi publications.

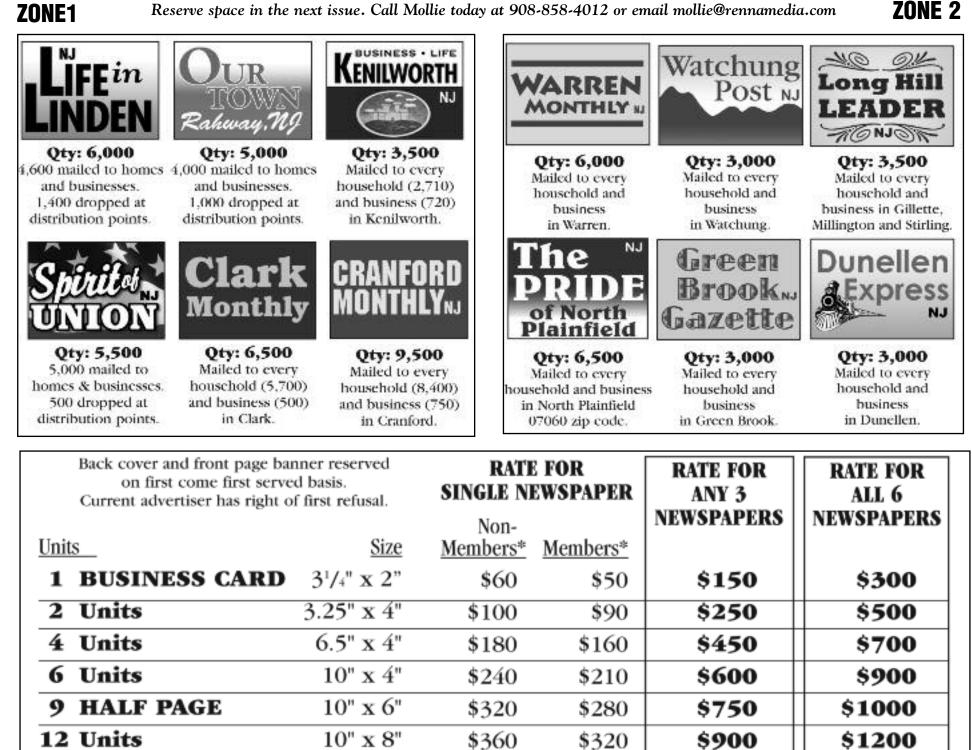
Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998 with the launch of Around About Peterstown, a regional newspaper about the Italian-American neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ.

Renna Media sought to fill what they saw as a void in other communities and created newspapers that would give a venue to town administrations and non-profit organizations to promote upcoming events as well as to showcase the accomplishments of local residents and businesses.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please visit www.rennamedia.com. Contact information: info@rennamedia.com; 908-418-5586.

# **58,000 NEWSPAPERS MAILED MONTHLY**

Reserve space in the next issue. Call Mollie today at 908-858-4012 or email mollie@rennamedia.com



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\$320.

\$350

\$500

\$1000

10"x13.5"

10"x13.5"

\$1400



# Discount on all nonsale 750 ml bottles of wine only: Case quantity - 12 bottles save 15% 6 bottles save 10%

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.





Bud......Loose Btls ......\$17.99

\$1.00

Expiration: 12/31/13

. 32oz GR

Expiration: 12/31/13

