

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 18 • DECEMBER 2013

**North Plainfield
SENIOR CITIZENS
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THE RELATIVES CAME TO EAST END SCHOOL!

Last month, sponsored by a North Plainfield PRIDE in Public Education Grant, 4th grade teacher, Kathy Porter, invited relatives of her students to come to East End Elementary School to spend time together enjoying reading, reflecting on past family memories, and creating new ones.

Learning about their country is a highlight of 4th grade social studies. Across our diverse country lie traditions, landforms, products, animals, plants, foods, and sights just waiting to be discovered by inquisitive students.

"Studying authentic literature is a hands-on, real-world way to discover and understand the regions of our country," states educator Kathy Porter.

One book, in particular, spoke strongly of family and became the basis for our event. *The Relatives Came*, by Cynthia Rylant, is a sweet tale of simpler times. Two families, gathering in Appalachia to reunite for an extended family reunion, from different backgrounds and ways, discover pleasures in their differences as they work, play, and feast together.

No less than 30 moms, dads, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents surprised the students and gathered to read and feast together in celebration of the importance of family. A comment from parent, Tracy Benjamin, summed up her family's thoughts on the day: "Today's event was so thoughtful. We really enjoyed it. Taylor's reaction was priceless."



STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The Student Council "Partnership" just completed its' 10th year with a very successful food drive campaign. The "Partnership" joins together the Somerset School and Middle School Student Councils as well as the Middle School National Junior Honor Society. Starting in mid-October, they collect a large bounty of food in their classrooms and homerooms, which is earmarked for the North Plainfield Food Pantry.

Mr. Reginald Sainte-Rose and Mr. John Ferguson, principals at Somerset and the North Plainfield Middle School welcomed students, staff and family members to this food sort and delivery event where the students sorted the donated food items. Students, parents and faculty volunteers worked together to sort, box, label, and load the food into cars and then transported the food to the local North Plainfield Food Pantry. Throughout the whole process, students were enthusiastic about helping their community and local families.

In addition to the food drive, last month the Middle School students and teachers organized a faculty vs. student

kickball game that raised additional funds through ticket sales for the event. Mrs. Lindsey Mulry, Middle School Counselor and Student Council Advisor, presented a \$100.00 gift card to Martha Truxel, long-time volunteer coordinator of the North Plainfield Food Pantry.

The Student Council "Partnership" was established in 2004 by Ms. Patton, Somerset School physical education and health teacher. The mission of the "Partnership" has always been to re-stock the shelves of the North Plainfield Food Pantry for the upcoming holiday season. Students work together in a collaborative effort through this community-based project with priorities to have middle school students provide mentorship and guidance to the grade 5 and 6 students which results in a co-existence of teamwork, cooperation, leadership, respect and camaraderie.

Special thanks to Kate Moore, Eleftheria Fiotakis, Lindsey Mulry and Megan Farrell, advisors from both schools, as well as all of the classroom teachers, administrators and students for their tireless efforts and wonderful support.

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The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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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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SCREENING COMMITTEE FOR EAST END PRINCIPAL

Submitted by: Marilyn E. Birnbaum, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

The North Plainfield Board of Education is forming a community/staff committee to interview candidates for the position of East End Elementary School Principal. Because the Board believes that community/staff involvement can improve the process, we are asking the following representatives to serve on the committee: Parents/Community Members, Teachers, Support Staff and Administrators

The committee will interview candidates on January 23 (5 PM - 7 PM), January 27-28, February 3 (5 PM - 9 PM). The interviews will take place at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield.

If you are interested in participating in the screening committee and can be available at the specified times on all four dates - January 23, 27, 28, February 3, 2014, please submit a letter of interest by noon on January 3, 2014 to:

North Plainfield Public Schools
 Office of the Superintendent
 33 Mountain Avenue
 North Plainfield, NJ 07060

You can also fax your letter to 908-755-5490 or send it via email to

florence_ward@nplainfield.org.
 Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

Selected participants will be notified of the specifics of the task by January 20, 2014.

LETTER FROM OUR MAYOR

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a Happy Holiday Season.

We have much to be thankful for this year. Last year at this time we were recovering from Super Storm Sandy. We can all take pride in how we came together to help our neighbors in need and in our professional staff who continually work to protect our community. This is what makes North Plainfield such a Proud Community.

We should all be grateful for our volunteers who serve as members of the committees, commissions, and advisory boards and their countless hours of service this past year.

I look forward to working with all the residents of our proud community in 2014. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or any member of our Borough staff at any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope you enjoy your Holidays with friends and family. For those of you who are traveling, please do so safely – buckle up, put down the phone, slow down, and don't drink and drive!

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014!

Michael Giordano, Jr.
 Mayor



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Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$44.99
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Bacardi Gold	1.75L	\$19.09
Bacardi Silver	1.75L	\$19.09
Captain Morgan	1.75L	\$26.09
Grey Goose Vodka	1.75L	\$55.09
Hennessy	750ml	\$29.09
Jack Daniels	1.75L	\$42.09
Johnnie Walker Black	1.75L	\$62.09
Johnnie Walker Blue	750ml	\$174.09
Johnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$32.09
Jose Cuervo Gold	1.75L	\$32.09
Smirnoff Vodka	1.75L	\$19.09
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Svedka Flavors	1.75L	\$19.29

BEER SPECIAL:

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Corona	Loose Btls	\$26.99
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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. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. All prices subject to sales tax. We reserve the right to limit quantities. No further discount on sale items.

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EAST END FOOD DRIVE HELPS LOCAL FAMILIES

East End School conducted an Annual Food Drive to provide Thanksgiving baskets for some of their East End families. Non-perishable food items were collected from students and staff. Donations were accepted from November 12, 2013 through November 21, 2013. Food items were placed in boxes at the main doors of the school. We collected canned vegetables, boxed potatoes rice and pasta, pasta sauce, stuffing mixes, beans, and other nonperishable items.

We also gratefully accepted donations in the form of gift certificates to the local supermarkets which were donated by the East End teachers and staff through the school's Helping Hearts Committee. In addition, the North Plainfield Girl's Scouts Troop donated baskets of food with gift cards for five families. East End School was proud to give food and gift certificates to our needy families for Thanksgiving.



(above, l-r) Mrs. Thomas, Student Liaison, Nicole Rivlin, Guidance Counselor and Diane Olsen, School Nurse helped to coordinate drive.

EAST END CALENDAR

Holiday Shop December 9-13th
 Potluck Dinner/Vendor Night December 13th
 Holiday Sing-a-Long December 20th
 Winter Break December 23rd – January 1st

D'AMORE SWORN IN NEW DEPUTY CHIEF

Over the past month, the department said goodbye to a long time member and Deputy Chief, Lane Solon, who recently retired and we swore-in his replacement, Deputy Chief Frank N. D'Amore Jr.

Lane had been with our department since being hired in January of 1988. During those 26 years, he has made many positive contributions to the department and has earned many departmental awards, citations and commendations over his career. For the last 11 years, he has served as Deputy Chief overseeing the department's day-to-day operations.

Our new Deputy Chief, Frank N. D'Amore, Jr., was promoted to Captain in 2001 and since then has run our Fire Prevention bureau as the Borough's Fire Official and has been the EMS Supervisor. In 1995, Frank was instrumental in getting our EMS program up and running as one of the department's first EMT's. He was sworn in by Mayor Giordano at the November 12th council meeting amongst friends and family.

At that same council meeting, the fire department held its annual awards ceremony and 26 members of the department were recipients.



(above) Deputy Chief Frank D'Amore, Jr. being sworn in.

Awards included multiple CPR saves, a child delivery by our EMTs and rescue efforts made during Superstorm Sandy. Congratulations to all of our awardees.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to please be extra attentive to fire safety around the holidays. Overloaded electrical outlets from decorations, unattended cooking and candles are some of the common causes of fires. Please use basic safety practices to avoid any holiday tragedies. Some recommendations are as follows:

- Don't put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the live tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Place trees away from heat sources, including fireplaces or heat vents. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.
- Don't link multiple light strands, unless the directions indicate it's safe. Connect strings of lights to an approved, UL listed multiple outlet device rather than an extension cord, before plugging into the outlet.
- Avoid using lit candles; consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles
- Ensure that Christmas trees and other holiday decorations don't block an exit way.

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WED. Large plain pie \$8.95 (pick up only-no credit card)

THUR. 2 med pies w/ 1 topping + 2 liter soda \$21.95 (pick up only)

FRI. 20% off check (\$20 min/dine in only)

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HOILIDAY DRIVING SAFETY CONCERNS

North Plainfield Police Chief William Parenti advises all motorists and pedestrians to exercise caution as the Holiday season approaches. Concerns for driving safety have been amplified due to two recent fatal motor vehicle accidents in the borough; one involved a pedestrian and the other potentially aggressive driving by exceeding the speed limit and changing lanes. Typically, motor vehicle traffic volume expands greatly as Thanksgiving approaches and remains high until after the New Year.

The Chief reminds all pedestrians to exercise safety and caution, and to obey all traffic laws. Pedestrians should never assume that all motorists will see them during night time hours; and motorists should always be alert for

pedestrians doing unexpected and potentially dangerous things such as running out in traffic or disregarding traffic signals.

The Chief reminds all motorists to buckle up; obey posted speed limits; avoid distracted driving, and never ever drink and drive. The Chief said that police departments in Somerset County will be increasing patrols and enforcement of distracted drivers in a joint venture with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and the municipal police departments throughout Somerset County. "A goal of all residents should be that no family should have their holiday season destroyed by a needless motor vehicle accident", Chief Parenti said.

NORTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs: 9:30-9,
Fri and Sat: 9:30-5

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

STORY & CRAFT (Ages 3-5)

Tuesdays at 10 - 10:30 a.m.

January 7 through February 11

Have fun at Miss Nancy's Storytime!

We will read fun stories and complete a great craft!

No Registration.

TODDLER TIME (Ages 18 months to 3 years)

Wednesdays at 10:00—10:30 a.m. repeated at

11:00—11:30 a.m.

January 8 through February 12

Sing songs and read a story. We will also do an easy crafts suitable for little hands!

No Registration.

PJ STORYTIME (Family Program)

Tuesdays at 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

January 7, 14, and 28. February 4 and 11.

Relax and listen to some stories before bedtime. Feel free to wear your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal friend!

No Registration.

BI-LINGUAL STORYTIME (Ages 18 months to 5 years)

Thursday, January 16 at 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 19 at 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Sing songs and read stories with Miss Amy. This storytime is for speakers of Spanish and/or English. We will also complete a craft!

No Registration.

POLAR POT LUCK (Grades 1-5)

Thursday, January 16 at 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Polar seals, bears, and penguins! Oh, my! Come learn about everything polar such as ice, glaciers, blubber, and camouflage. Be prepared for the plunge into polar fun. Presented by the Somerset County Park Commission.

Registration begins January 2.

RAINBOW LOOM BRACELETS (Grades 3-5)

Thursday, January 23 at 3:30—4:30 p.m.

Rainbow Loom bracelets are fun and make a great gift! Join us to learn how to make basic bracelets without a loom!

Registration begins January 9.

BRAIN GAMES (Grades 1-3)

Tuesday, January 28 at 3:30—4:30 p.m.

When the rain pours down or the snow is just too high, these games will exercise your minds! Come and play these fun, educational games. Presented by the Somerset County 4-H.

Registration begins January 14.

LEGO CLUB (Grades K-5)

Thursday, January 30 at 3:30—4:45 p.m.

Come, have fun, and build your own crazy Lego creation!

No Registration.

TEEN PROGRAMS

GAME DAY (Grades 6-12)

Mondays, January 6, 13, 27,

and February 3, 10, and 24 at 3:30-5:00

Join us for a fun afternoon of playing a variety of board, card, and video games.

No registration required.

ASK A COLLEGE STUDENT (Grades 9-12)

Wednesday, January 8 at 3:30- 5:00 pm

Have any burning questions about college? Come and talk to our panel of college students and college graduates for an informative afternoon.

No registration required.

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HELP APPLYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE AT THE LIBRARY

The North Plainfield Library will host help sessions for individuals and small businesses applying for health insurance through the government Marketplace website, www.healthcare.gov. The purpose of the Affordable Health Care Act is to make sure all Americans are able to get health insurance. 90% of the uninsured will be eligible for either Medicaid or subsidies. Sessions will be held with professional Navigators, funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, with appointments or drop-in on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Navigators who speak Spanish will be available. To make an appointment call 908-755-7909 or just stop by the library, which is located at 6 Rockview Ave. The North Plainfield Library is a branch of the Somerset County Library System, www.sclsnj.org.

THE NORTH PLAINFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW LOGO CONTEST

The North Plainfield Education Foundation, in its constant effort to stay current and effective, is pleased to announce an exciting contest for the design of a new logo. The Foundation, working in conjunction with the duCret School of Art in Plainfield, has created this exciting contest which will not only produce a new logo, but also offer the winner a chance to advance in the field of art and graphic design in a hands on manner. The contest is opened to students of North Plainfield HS.

The contest started on December 5th and will continue until January 10, 2014. The First prize

winner will be able to see his/her logo on all Foundation materials used in the future. The winner will also be able to work one-on-one with a duCret staff member to bring their logo design to final publication. Finally the winner will be able to attend a class of their choice for one semester at duCret. The second prize winner will also receive recognition and will be awarded a weekend class at duCret.

For information on the contest contact Mr. Tom Mazur, Fine Arts Supervisor, at NPHS (908-769-6000, Ext. 3150) or Mr. Robert Goellner, Foundation President (908-510-5458).

SAVE THE DATE: COMEDY BLAST

Evening of stand-up comedy
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Refreshments
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NPF

By the pound only. Limit 1 lb per customer per coupon per day.
Not to be combined with other offer. Offers good thru 1/16/14.

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

**Little Neck or
Top CLAMS**
\$3⁹⁹ /dozen

COUPON



Fresh Cod Fillet
\$5⁹⁹ lb (farm raised)

NPF

By the pound only. Limit 1 lb per customer per coupon per day.
Not to be combined with other offer. Offers good thru 1/16/14.

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

NPF

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 1/16/14.

COUPON



**Hormel
Dilusso Genoa
Salami**
\$5⁹⁹ lb

NPF

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 1/16/14.

COUPON

**\$2.00 OFF
your purchase of
\$20.00 OR MORE**



NPF

Excludes garden center and fish purchases. Limit 1 offer per customer
per day. Not to be combined with other offer. Offer expires 1/16/14.



**LARGE SELECTION
FRASIER FIR
CHRISTMAS TREES
\$24.95 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.