

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 37 • JULY 2015

**North Plainfield  
SENIOR CITIZENS  
GROUP  
meets  
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## RECORDS BROKEN AT ROTARY TRACK AND FIELD MEET

Torrential rains gave way to partly sunny skies as nearly 200 student athletes participated in the 88th Annual Rotary Track and Field Meet at Hub Stine Athletic Complex on Wednesday, June 3. Rotarians and their friends enjoyed lunch and then jumped into their official duties, processing nearly two hundred athletes through the events without a hitch.

With a throw that matched his size but not his age, Marquis Morris of North Plainfield Middle School set a new record in the Group 2 Shot Put for 13 year old boys. His throw of 44' 3" surpassed the 1987 record of 40' 3" held by Brian Martin of Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains. Last year, Marquis set the record in the Group 1 event for 12 year old boys.

A record was also broken in today's Meet by Rahmah Hemby, also of North Plainfield Middle School, when she ran the Group 2 100 meter sprint in 12.43 seconds, besting the 1984 record of 12.70 seconds held by Shelbey Sanders of Plainfield's Maxson Middle School.

"This was another spectacular track and field meet offered by our club," said Rotarian Michael Townley, Meet Director. "The rainy skies parted and the combination of clouds and sun made for a beautiful day for the events."

"Over the years, we have had the privilege of hosting a number of young athletes who have gone on to set state and national records and win medals in Olympic competitions, including the late Milt Campbell, Olympic decathlon champion. It was thrilling to see Marquis and Rahmah set records in their events, but exciting as well to watch all the athletes compete for medals and ribbons in each of the events throughout the afternoon."

Members of the Rotary club, the Interact Club from North Plainfield High School, along with friends of the two clubs offered their services as officials and judges for an afternoon of friendly but determined competition by young 12, 13 and 14 year-old athletes from Plainfield, North Plainfield, and Watchung middle schools.

"We love to come out for this youth service project every year," said Mary Forbes, president of the Rotary Club. "And we especially appreciate the Interact Club for their help. We have so many positions to fill that we could not do it without their help. Everyone remarks at how well the kids perform their assigned tasks. They are just wonderful!"

Medals were awarded to first, second and third place finishers in all events except the relays, where ribbons were awarded to second and third place finishers. All three participating schools took home medals or ribbons.

North Plainfield Middle School - 19 first, 9 second, 6 third place awards  
Plainfield's Queen City Academy - 13 first, 12 second, 16 third place awards.

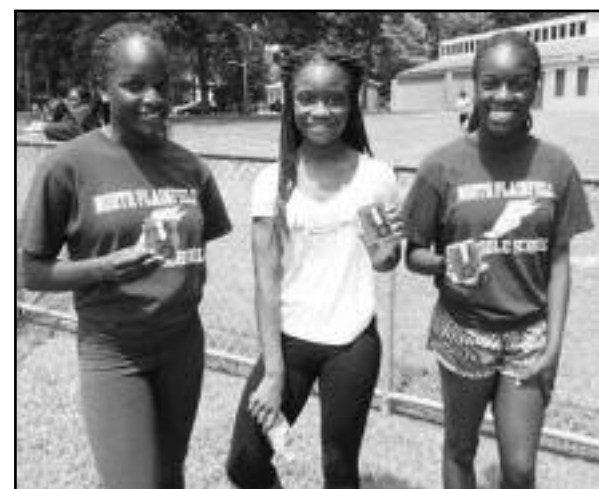
Watchung's Valley View -22 first, 32 second, 19 third place awards.

The Track and Field Meet was held again this year at the Hub Stine Field in Plainfield. "We appreciate and are very thankful for the use of the athletic complex," said Mr. Townley. "Hub Stine was a longtime member of our club and served as club secretary for many years. Being here in the athletic complex that is named in his honor is a special privilege."

The Rotary Club expects to offer the 88th Annual Track and Field Meet next year at the Plainfield site on the first Wednesday of June. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend and support the young athletes.



*(above) Marquis Morris proudly poses with the Gold medal he received for his record-breaking shot put of 44 feet, three inches at the 88th Annual Rotary Track and Field Meet on June 3, 2015.*



*(above) Queen City Academy's Nadazi Gause is flanked by Sydney and Jasmine Muhando of North Plainfield as they pose with their medals from the Group 3 100 meter sprint event at the 88th Annual Rotary Track and Field Meet.*

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# The PRIDE of North Plainfield

The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

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## FIFTH SEMI-ANNUAL FARMER'S MARKET FESTIVAL ON JULY 11

The North Plainfield Farmers Market is Now Open Saturdays from June 27th to October 3rd from 9am to 2pm.

The North Plainfield Farmers Market and The North Plainfield Economic Development Committee Present: The 5th Semi-Annual North Plainfield Farmers Market Festival on Saturday July 11, 2015 at the North Plainfield Farmers Market across from Borough Hall at 263 Somerset st in North Plainfield. The market opens at 9am, music starts at 10am. They will have seven great musical acts, great barbecue, vendors, crafts people, artists, face painters and so much more.

Appearing at this years festival Real Tom Lucas of the band "Sad About Girls", Jeff Bridi and Nick Bohensky, Lou Tambone, Jon Fried and Deena Shoshkes of "The Cucumbers", The Shrubs, Rick Barth Band and Dollar Store Riot. There will be food and drink and a 20' tent for shelter, courtesy of Norz Hill Farm. Bring your

favorite Captains chair and enjoy the music all afternoon.

Off street parking available at the Craig place Municipal lot west of Somerset Street about a block and a half from the festival. For more information visit their Facebook page.



(above) The Shrubs with Rob Takleszyn (left) from North Plainfield on lead guitar

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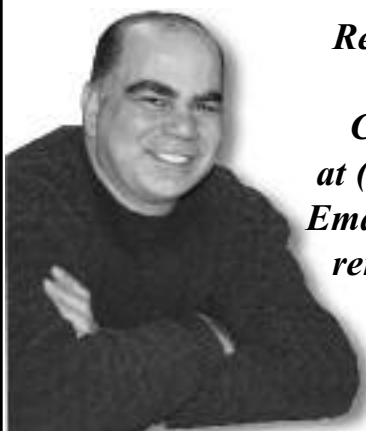
Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

**Organizations  
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 content can  
 email Lynn Sjurset  
 at  
 lynn@rennamedia.com.**



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## NPPFD ANNOUNCE 1ST YOUTH WEEK PROGRAM

*Submitted by Chief Parenti, NPF Police Dept.*

Chief William G. Parenti announces North Plainfield Police Department's first Police Youth Week program. We hope to provide innovative and effective programs. The North Plainfield Police Department Youth Academy is designed to provide the cadet an opportunity to gain an understanding of the role of the police officer. The program will provide a positive environment to build a bond between our police officer and our young people.

Cadets will undergo physical training, lectures and hands on practical activities designed to provide the student with a working knowledge of Law Enforcement. Students will learn valuable skills too include; Communication, problem solving, pride in appearance and team building. This academy will expose cadets to some of the training, procedures and technology utilized by police officers in order to provide the tools necessary to form objective opinions regarding police action. They will learn; Accident Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation, Radar/Speed enforcement, Driving While Intoxicated detection, Fingerprinting, Canine Demonstration, Internet Safety, The perils of Distracted Driving and the need for Physical Fitness Training. It is our hope that this program inspires an interest and leads some of the graduates to consider a career

in police work.

The applicant must be entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade and because of limited space, we can only accept 20 students. The selected process is on a first come first serve basis. Hence, get your application in fast. The one-week program, and will be held July 13-17, 2015 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the West End Elementary School, located at 447 Greenbrook Road.

Applications are available for pickup at the police desk, on our website northplainfield.org/NPPD/Forms.shtml by email or calling Detective Albert Domizi at (908) 769-2971 adomizi@npmail.org. The applications will be accepted until July 1st and may be mailed to the North Plainfield Police Department, Attn: Youth Academy, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060, hand delivered to the police desk located in the lobby of Borough Hall or emailed to: adomizi@npmail.org

Each Cadet will receive an official North Plainfield Department Youth Academy uniform to wear throughout the program. Upon successful completion of the program, the Cadets will be presented with a certificate of completion. The Youth Police Academy is not a "boot camp" for troubled youth. It is designed to operate like an actual police academy for those interested in law enforcement.

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| Kids 3-6.....\$3.99        | Kids 3-6.....\$5.99            |
| 2 & Under.....FREE!        | 2 & Under.....FREE!            |

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|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Lunch 11am - 3:30pm</b> | <b>Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm</b> |
| Adult .....\$7.99          | Adult .....\$11.59             |
| Kids 7-10.....\$5.99       | Kids 7-10.....\$6.99           |
| Kids 3-6.....\$3.99        | Kids 3-6.....\$5.99            |
| 2 & Under.....FREE!        | 2 & Under.....FREE!            |

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|                       |
|-----------------------|
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# CONGRATULATIONS TO NPF CLASS OF 2015

## Submitted by NPF Schools

The 118th Commencement Ceremony for North Plainfield High School took place on June 19, 2015. The ceremony began at 6pm on the high school's football field. The ceremony celebrated the graduation of 259 members of the Class of 2015. The graduates wore the school colors Maroon and White. The boys wore maroon and the girls wore white. The graduates were led on to the field by the district administration, members of the Board of Education and the district faculty.

Senior, Melody Njoku, began the event with the singing of the National Anthem. President of the Class of 2015 gave the welcoming address and was followed on the dais by Valedictorian

Mateo Gilsilveti. The winner of the senior essay contest, Chad Covin, immediately followed. The high school concert choir provided an interlude with its beautiful rendition of James Erb's, "Shenandoah". The graduates were then addressed by the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Michelle Vella, followed by the High School Principal, Dr. Jerard Stephenson, then Board of Education President, Linda Bond-Nelson.

Principal, Dr. Jerard Stephenson, read the roll call of graduates while members of the Board of Education and the District Administration congratulated the graduates and handed them their diplomas. The evening concluded with the singing of the Alma Mater by the high school

concert choir and the ceremonial tossing of the caps. The faculty formed a corridor of honor for the graduates to walk through to congratulate the graduates as they exited the field.

Project Graduation's Senior Smash, the drug and alcohol free graduation party was held at the Branchburg Sports Complex. The graduates returned to the school at 9:45pm where they boarded buses to attend the party. The party was chaperoned by parents, community members and high school teachers.

The graduates returned to the high school in the morning, tired after a long night of celebrating their achievement with their childhood friends.

*Photos by David Palmucci*



**photos are online at [www.renamedia.com](http://www.renamedia.com) and on [facebook.com/ThePrideOfNorthPlainfield](https://www.facebook.com/ThePrideOfNorthPlainfield)  
Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share"**

## FOUR YEAR OLD'S SENSIBILITY HELPS NEIGHBOR

Submitted by William F. Eaton, Fire Chief/Director

On Thursday, June 4th, the Borough fire department responded to a reported structure fire on Richard Way. Thanks to the alertness of a 4 year old boy who lived across the street, we were able to quickly respond, assist the occupant and contain the situation.

Jason Mejia was playing in his backyard when he heard the occupant of the house across the street yelling for help. He ran inside to tell his mother, who was unaware of the situation. She went back outside to check and noticed her neighbor across the street, standing in her doorway struggling to get out of her home and smoke coming out of her front door.

Jason's mom called 9-1-1 to report the fire

and went over to assist the woman whose movement was restricted because she was connected to her portable oxygen. Her home was quickly filling up with smoke due to unattended cooking in the kitchen.

On our arrival, along with the NPPD, we assisted the woman further and ventilated the smoke from her home. Our police department also assisted by controlling two large, aggressive dogs who were not allowing us entry to the home.

It is rare for a child of that age to be this attentive, so Jason deserves recognition for what he did. Due to his quick reaction, a potentially worse situation was averted.

## FIRST GRADERS DISPLAY MEDALS EARNED IN ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

First grade students at East End school proudly display the medals they earned while participating in the "Academic Olympics" program.

Students earned their "Mustang Medals" by creating and completing several academic goals throughout the school year. "East End congratulates all our award winning students,"

said Principal John Ferguson. "It is a significant accomplishment for our young learners to design individual goals and work to see their completion."

Teachers helped monitor their student's progress and offered them suggestions to help them achieve success. A total of 300 students were awarded medals for their efforts.



(above, kneeling, l-r): Elia Garrido, Andreicha Veras, Derrin Holston, Alexa Cubi, Victor Leal-Mejia, Yamilet Acosta, Jacob Negron, Braelyn Morris  
(standing, l-r): Jaeden Hutchinson, Kristey Benitez, Matthew Smith, Daniela Escobar-Cifuentes, Ali Smallwood, Denisse Amaya, Jordyn Barcelo, Ashley Salazar

## SENIORS' EXPRESS BUS TO ATLANTIC CITY

The North Plainfield Seniors Club have an express bus to the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City the second Wednesday of each month.

The bus will leave the parking lot of Saint Luke's Church 300 Clinton Ave. promptly at 10:00 A.M. and returns to North Plainfield

around 8:00 P.M.

The cost is \$28.00. You will receive \$25.00 in credit to play and a \$5.00 food voucher when you arrive at the casino.

All are welcome on this trip. For more information call Elsie at 908-755-9347

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### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Drop in Summer Reading Craft (all ages welcome):**  
Every day during library hours.

**Rhyme Time with Miss Amy (ages 2-4):**  
July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 10-10:30 am.

**Moving Kiddos (ages 6 months - 3 years):**  
July 7, 14, 21 & 28, 10-10:30 am.

**Youth Stages: Farm Yard Follies (ages 4-8):**  
July 7, 2-2:45 pm.

**DIY: Kites (family program, all ages welcome):**  
July 8, 2-3 pm.

**Hero of Magic (ages 4+):**  
July 9, 2:30-3:15 pm.

**Tasty Treats:**  
July 10 (Breakfast), July 17 (Great Grains),  
July 27 (Veggies & Fruits) & July 31 (Protein Groups),  
10-11 am (grades K-2)  
& 11:30 am - 12:30 pm (grades 3-5).

**Super Scientists:**  
July 14, 2-3 pm (grades K-2)  
& 3:30-4:30 pm (grades 3-5).

**Creation Station (grades 1-5):**  
July 16, 2-3 pm.

**Family Movie Afternoon (all ages):**  
**Big Hero 6:**  
July 21, 2-4 pm.

**Eyes of the Wild: Nature's Heroes (grades K-5):**  
July 22, 2-3 pm.

**Superhero Storytime (ages 3-5):**  
July 23, 10-11 am.

**Be a Hero: Make Yourself a Superhero (grades K-5):**  
July 23, 2-3:30 pm.

**DIY: LEGO Head Pencil Holder (grades 2-5):**  
July 28, 2-3 pm.

**Hometown Heroes (ages 3+):**  
July 30, 10-11:30 am.

### \*YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

**Teen Game Day (grades 6-12):**  
July 6, 13, 20 & 27, 3:30-5 pm.  
No registration required.

**Teen Cooking (grades 6-12):**  
July 8, 3:30-4:30 pm.

**Train Like a Ninja Warrior (grades 6-12):**  
July 15, 3-4 pm.

**Magic Makeup (grades 6-12):**  
July 16, 4-5 pm.

**Tween Volunteers (grades 4-6):**  
July 21 & 28, 6:30-7:30 pm.

**Heroes vs. Villains Party (grades 6-12):** July 29, 3:30-5 pm.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Citizenship Class:**  
July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 6-8:30 pm.

### THE ANCIENT COLOMBIA:

**Arepas:**  
July 25, 2:15-3:35 pm.

**Classic Hollywood Romance:**  
On Screen & Off: July 28, 7-7:45 pm.

# NORTH PLAINFIELD GIRL SCOUTS SHOW THEIR COMMUNITY THEY CARE

Written by Kendy Coxwell Rudy, Jr.

The girls of North Plainfield's Girl Scout Troop 65255 are working on their Bronze Award. They made "We Care Kits," which are bags of necessary items for those who need help affording them. The Bronze award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can get. Girls can only get this in the 5th grade (their 2nd year of being a Junior), it must address an unmet need.

It took a lot of thinking but they finally found an unmet need in their community. The Troop thought of the idea and has been planning it for months.

"It makes me feel excited and part of something big," says Julia Gomes, an 11-year-



(above) North Plainfield Troop 65255 Junior Girl Scouts Emma Collazo, Brianna Cookman and Kerry Pierro with Manuel Moricormia and his wife, Maribel Moricormia, Overseers of the Lighthouse Food Ministry in North Plainfield, N.J. Photo Credit: Kendy Coxwell Rudy, Jr.

old member of the Troop.

The bags are full of things such as dental floss, tooth paste, soap, mouthwash and other personal items. Donations were collected from schools, family members, churches, the CVS in North Plainfield and other businesses. The troop is grateful to everyone who made a donation.

These girls are 10 and 11 years old and are just as excited about helping people as they are about winning an award. This is the very first time they are doing a project on their own with such little help from their troop leaders.

"I want to make this world a better place," states 11-year-old Kerry Pierro, another Troop member. "This is my first step."

The Scouts delivered the kits and provided babysitting for the kids while parents got their "We Care Kits" at the Lighthouse Food Ministry on Somerset St. in North Plainfield on May 30, 2015. Lighthouse is a food bank that serves more than 120 families in the greater North Plainfield community. The girls have also handed out chickens and turkeys there for Thanksgiving. Pastor Tom Dickerson introduced the Troop members to some of the families

present, who were happy to receive the We Care Kits.

Manuel Morocoimai, a leader at Lighthouse Ministry, told the Troop, "Thank you for your help, you have been a blessing to have here."

"I am so proud of what the girls have accomplished in preparing We Care Kits for the community," says Nancy Pierro, a leader of the troop. "It's wonderful to see the girls so committed year after year to being a part of a local resource like Lighthouse. They don't need any encouragement to give back to the community."

Troop 65255 does not want to stop helping the community once their Bronze Award is complete. They intend to continue volunteering at Lighthouse over the summer months. Members of Troop 65255 who have all worked toward this project: Kaila Barns; Emma Collazo; Brianna Cookman; Kendy Rudy; Alicia Day; Zuri Felton; Domonique Geiger; Julia Gomes; Madison Kasper; Nicole Lindemeyer; Niah Llewellyn; Kerry Pierro; Carly Robertson; Victoria Smagalla; Naila Twyman; Sydney Waddy; and Amani Weeks.

# FOUR TIME OLYMPIAN INSPIRES NPF STUDENTS

The grade 5 and 6 students at Somerset School recently participated in the Joetta Clark Diggs' Fitness Challenge sponsored by EmPoWER Somerset. Joetta Clark Diggs, a former nine-time NCAA champion, four-time Olympic athlete in track, NJ Hall of Fame 2013 Inductee and creator of the Joetta Clark Diggs Sports Foundation, presented the two week program educating our students in the importance of fitness and nutrition.

Each session was full of aerobic and strength building activities and informative data to enhance the minds of our students. Our students and teachers really enjoyed the experience. The life lessons that were learned from this program will be a part of each student's memory with the hope that they will live healthy lives because of

it, now and for future years to come.

The culmination of the Fitness Challenge program was presented by Joetta and her staff to all of the grade 5 and 6 students who participated in the "challenge" at Somerset School on "media day".

Students joined together in the gym to be presented with medals and special awards based on the results of their aerobic and strength activities. Dr. James McLaughlin, North Plainfield School District Superintendent, Mr. Reginald Sainte-Rose, Somerset Principal and Mr. Karl Gordon, Athletic Director/Physical Education and Health Supervisor addressed the students expressing their pride and congratulatory well wishes to the many students in attendance.

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(above, l-r): Tyonna Gibson, Jeremy Carranza, Johelle McMullen, Raquel Kruszczyński, George Orellana, Giovanni Alvarado, Saiyani Rodriguez, Jennifer Benitez

# WARRENBROOK SENIORS "GET INTO THE ACT"

Warrenbrook Senior Center celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act by getting into the act. The month of May is designated as Older Americans Month and this year's theme was "Get Into The Act." The Older Americans Act is a government Act which funds the Nutrition Program and health promoting activities offered at senior centers along with many other community services for people age 60+.

Members "Got Into The Act" by giving back to overseas military families by collecting manufacturers' coupons, prepared eating utensil packs for a soup kitchen meal program, performed acts of kindness to others and became a part of a Young At Heart Cabaret Show.

With the help of the community (students and community residents were invited to collect and drop off coupons during the month), manufacturer coupons valued at \$66,265.44 were collected and will be sent to military bases overseas. In conjunction with the Overseas Coupon Program, coupons were collected, sorted and counted and will be sent to military bases overseas for military families to use in the PX, BX and Commissary.

The 50th Anniversary theme of the Older Americans Act featured ways in which people 60+ could make a positive impact in their community by showing acts of kindness to others. Members performed 27 positive acts of kindness. Some of the kindness acts that were posted on the "Together We Can Fly" butterfly poster were:

- Light Grocery Shopping for Disabled Person
- Installed Flags on five cemetery graves of Veterans in Warren
- Made cookies for senior day care center
- Took a friend out to dinner

Members assembled 295 eating utensil packs for the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP). These packs are given to those receiving meals at Ship's Galley (a soup kitchen), SHIP's Mobile Soup Kitchen and SHIP's Holiday Meals programs. In addition to the required knife, fork, spoon and napkin, each pack was given a copy of the grace that the center uses before meals and a special hand-made "thinking of you greeting card."

In honor of Older Americans Month's 50th Anniversary theme, "Get Into The Act," the Warrenbrook Senior Center hosted a "Young At Heart Cabaret" that featured members of the center and the North Plainfield High School Women's A Cappella Group, under the direction of Amy Six, Director of Choral Music at North Plainfield High School. The mother and daughter team of Adrienne Graubard (mother) and Amy Six (daughter) teamed up to provide the musical direction for an entertaining and fun-filled program. The Warrenbrook Senior Center entertainment included hand-bells, harmonica and piano presentations. The choral music included several solos.

When the hand-bell presentation included "It's a Grand Old Flag," the A Cappella Group sang along. When Paul Horwath, from Watchung, played "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" on his harmonica, everyone sang along.



(above, l-r) Alice Freiday, from Warren and Vivian Hamer, from North Plainfield, packing up the eating utensil packs for SHIP



(above) Vivian Hamer and Ida White, both from North Plainfield, packing utensil kits



(above) Warrenbrook Hand Bell Members – Paul Horwath, from Watchung, Veronica Kissell, from Martinsville, V.P. Kapoor, from Green Brook, Vivian Hamer, from North Plainfield and Alice Freiday, from Warren



(above) Betty Miksa, from North Plainfield, sorting coupons



Members of A Cappella Group from North Plainfield High School

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