

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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**ISSUE 47 • MAY 2016**

## **NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOC GENERAL MEETING**

*Tuesday*

**MAY 31**

*at 7pm*

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## **FISHING DERBY WAS FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

On April 23 North Plainfield Recreation held their annual Fishing Derby at Green Acres Park. About 75 children participated. Many prizes were distributed including a grand prize, flat screen T.V., which was won by Julia Gomes for catching the biggest fish. Santiago Fernandez won a bicycle for catching the most fish.

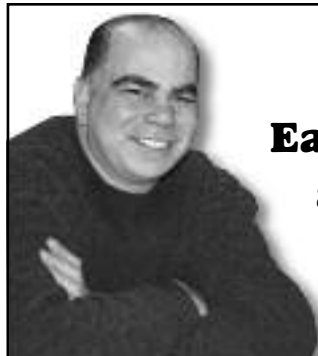
## **FISHING DERBY PHOTO ALBUM**

*Photos of this and other events*

*can be found at [www.rennamedia.com](http://www.rennamedia.com)*

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# The PRIDE of North Plainfield

The Pride • Page 2 • May 2016

## FINGERPRINTING IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Submitted by William G. Parenti, North Plainfield Chief of Police

*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.

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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Fax: 908-709-9209

Email: [joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com)

Chief William G. Parenti is partnering with Somerset County Sherriff Frank Provenzano and the North Plainfield Board of Education. On April 15, 2016 they conducted a voluntary fingerprinting identification program for the children of West End School, StonyBrook School and East End School. This identification kit consists of fingerprinting the children and sending the card home with the child for the parents to complete and store in a safe place. A photograph and hair sample complete the kit. The kit will be of great benefit in the unlikely event the child would need to be identified.

Each year a child disappears in a crowd at the fair. A toddler wanders out an open door. A teen doesn't return from the mall. In fact, every year, hundreds of thousands of kids in the U.S. are reported, "missing."

What can parents do to help us? Have information that helps identify your child ready to hand to law enforcement the instant you report your child missing.

Recording your child's fingerprints is particularly important. Why? Not only because everyone's fingerprints are unique, but also because they don't change over time like physical appearances. We also recommend that you update the photos of your kids in the kits at least once a year.

Are the fingerprints or other information in the kits kept by the police? No! The family is to keep the kits and fingerprints in a safe place...and provide the information to the police only in case of emergency. Even then, we don't keep the information in our records permanently without your permission.

## FOURTH GRADE INVENTION CONVENTION

On Wednesday, April 27th, Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, in collaboration with West End Elementary School, hosted the Fourth Grade Invention Convention. Participants pitched an idea, then created a prototype for the most creatively useful item in class. The winning invention, "The Absentator" by Jasmine Stacey, resolved the issue of missing classwork when absent. Stacey's invention would allow students to FaceTime the classroom by driving the phone around on a robotic car.

The program was funded by the Association for Library Service to Children "Curiosity Creates"; grant made possible by a generous donation from Disney.

Amy Behr, a librarian at SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch and "Curiosity Creates" grant coordinator, worked with fourth grade teachers Heather Morgan, Ryan Johnson, Nicole Faraone, Alison Apisa, and Teresa Diller; Assistant Principal Marilyn Quinones, and Supervisor of Science and Social Studies Jamil Maroun to make this program

possible. For more information about SCLSNJ's "Talk It Up" programs under the "Curiosity Creates" grant, visit [SCLSNJ.org/s/TalkItUp](http://SCLSNJ.org/s/TalkItUp) or call 908-755-7909.



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## ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL TRACK AND FIELD MEET



### NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING

*This is important information:*

The next  
North Plainfield Business Association  
meeting will be held on

**Tuesday May 31st  
7:00 pm**

**International Club & Sports Bar  
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**Sign-A-Rama of  
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The oldest service club of the three Plainfield's will hold their most important annual community service project on June 1 at the Hub Stine Athletic Complex in Plainfield.

Long a mainstay in supporting the North Plainfield and Plainfield communities, the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield will offer an afternoon of friendly but determined competition to young 12, 13 and 14 year-old athletes from area middle schools.

"This invitational meet is the longest-running meet of its kind in the entire state," said Michael Townley, director of the meet. "We have offered this meet as a service to area youth since 1923, except during World War II."

Rotary club members and their friends serve as the officials at the Meet. They are supported by members of the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School. Interact is the youth-based service club sponsored by Rotary International.

"Interact is a great club of enthusiastic students who are interested in doing good deeds for others," said Ravenell Williams, Rotary president and the executive director of the Plainfield YMCA. "They help us with a number of our service projects and activities throughout the year, and host quite a few activities of their own to benefit North Plainfield residents. We are proud of them and of all that they accomplish throughout the year."

Eighty-eight years of track and field meets has drawn many thousands of participants, including Olympic decathlon champion and former Plainfield resident Milt Campbell. "We recognize that participating in our Track and Field Meet was but one step in Milt's long and successful

drive to achieve his decathlon championship," said Townley. "In fact, our Club was proud to be one of the many community groups that financially supported his Olympic trip."

According to Townley, each year the Club members learn something new about the athletes that participated in the Meet. "One of the seniors we interviewed at Plainfield High for our scholarship awards last year commented that not only did she win a medal at our Meet, it was also her first formal track event. It influenced her to go on to star on the PHS track team, and led to her decision to run track in college."

Schools invited to send athletes to this year's Meet include North Plainfield Middle School, Plainfield's Maxson Middle School and Hubbard Middle School, the Valley View School in Watchung, South Plainfield Middle School, and four other area schools.

Medals will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers in all events except the relays, where ribbons are awarded to second and third place finishers. If the past is any indication, medals or ribbons will be earned by athletes from every school that is registered.

"Our Club looks forward to this special service project," said Townley. "Rotary International's motto is 'Service Above Self'. We truly enjoy providing this service to these fine young athletes and presenting them an opportunity to win medals or ribbons for their athleticism."

The Track and Field Meet is open to the public. The Hub Stine Athletic Complex is located on Randolph Road in Plainfield.

Anyone wishing to volunteer assistance to the Rotary Club should contact them at RotaryPNP@verizon.net, or call 908-822-1441.

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North Plainfield High School Art, Visual Arts and Photography teacher, Kim Nydick, said, "This is a wonderful community event showcasing the talent of students in all grades and across many art forms."



*(above) North Plainfield High School  
Sophomore Noran Zaher, Living Theatre actor,  
wrote her own lines, performed them live to  
illustrate this well-known piece of art,  
“Scream.” Two in the scene liked the view of  
the bridge, lake and mountains. The main  
character called the view, “The infinite scream  
of nature.”*



*(above) North Plainfield High School Senior Fred Lopatosky, Living Theatre actor, said of his character featured in the famous “Young Union Soldier,” “He speaks of his feelings about the war. It is an accurate description, since art is not always about the positive. It is sometimes about the dark experiences in the past from which we can learn.”*

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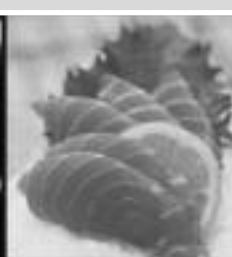
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Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
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## THIS MUSEUM IS ALIVE!

On March 22, SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, in collaboration with the North Plainfield Middle School, hosted a "Live Museum" as a part of the Curiosity Creates grant-funded Talk It Up programming.

Eighth grade students at North Plainfield Middle School selected favorite figures from

history and worked to portray them during the Live Museum. The community was invited to walk around and speak to the different historical figures to learn about their lives. The event was such a success that it will now be an annual event for the eighth grade class in which the school will collaborate with the Library.



(above) Brandon Murillo and Xavier Pena Portraying Roberto Clemente



(above) Valerie Hrdoiza and Jasmin Aybar Portraying Sandra Cisneros



(above) Grace McGrath Portraying Genghis Khan



(above) Isaiah Medina and Daniel Duncan Portraying Miyamoto Musashi



(above) Steven Brumbaugh Portraying Julius Caesar



(above) Jimena Torres Portraying Queen Nzinga



(above) Gustavo Caraballo Portraying JRR Tolkien



(above) Kristine Olivares Portraying Shakespeare



(above) Ma'Taya Chapman Portraying Maya Angelou

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## NORTH PLAINFIELD'S LIBRARY GETTING MUCH ANTICIPATED UPDATES

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield, will be experiencing some much-needed updates and renovations at the end of the 2016 year. The proposed plans include replacing carpeting, an increase in community interaction and seating areas, refreshed paint on all first floor walls, additional electric outlets to respond to growing technology demands, all new furniture, and more.

Acknowledging that it is time for the furniture to be updated, County Library Administrator for SCLSNJ Brian Auger said, "Do you realize Nixon was president when we bought the furniture at the North Plainfield Library branch? And that's the first term Nixon administration."

"The Library remains committed to meeting the informational needs of all North Plainfield citizens," said Christal Blue, SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch manager. "The renovation embraces a user-focused design that reflects how the community uses the Library's space."

"Borough officials have supported the Library's need for an update," continued Blue. "With the support of borough officials and Library Advisory Board, we have been steadily working to improve the look and design of the Library. The Library's previous director, Lauren Ryan, had the vision to propose a list of Capital Projects designed to bring the Library's facilities up to 21st century standards. Within the last 2 years, we've partnered with the Borough to add new children's room furniture, make the lower level handicap accessible, and install an

electronic sign to better identify our building as the Borough's Library."

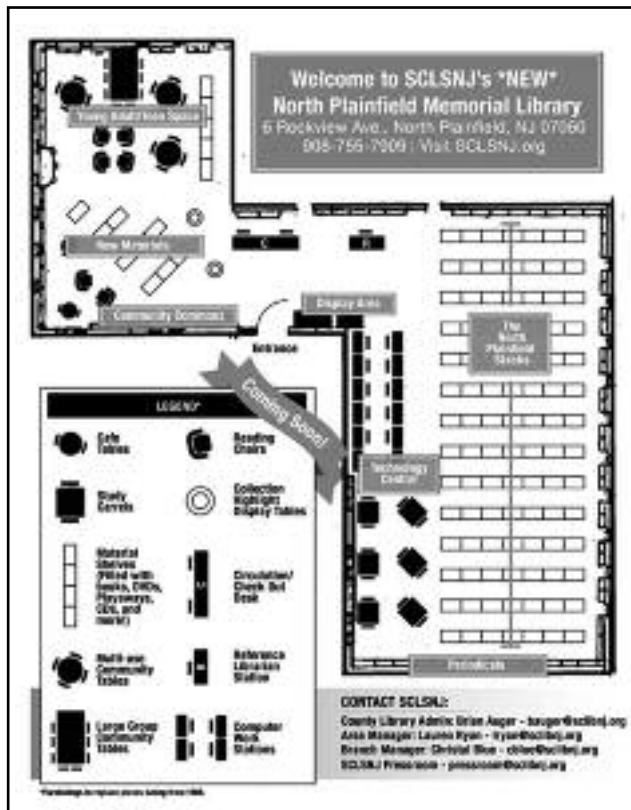
"In 1969 the borough had the foresight to erect a building which has proven to meet the needs of the community for decades," said Lauren Ryan, SCLSNJ's east area manager. "We're fortunate to have a large open space; there is no need to create additions or to build walls. The upstairs, interior of the building, has not been reconfigured in over 40 years. We look forward to making the upstairs

area completely handicap accessible, to create more areas for seating, and to lay out the collection in way to encourage more browsing. Additionally, staff have worked hard to ensure that the present collection is completely up to date and relevant to the North Plainfield community."

For more information about the updates to SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, call 907-755-7909.



(above) Christal Blue, SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch manager.



(above) One is the proposed first floor layout for SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch.

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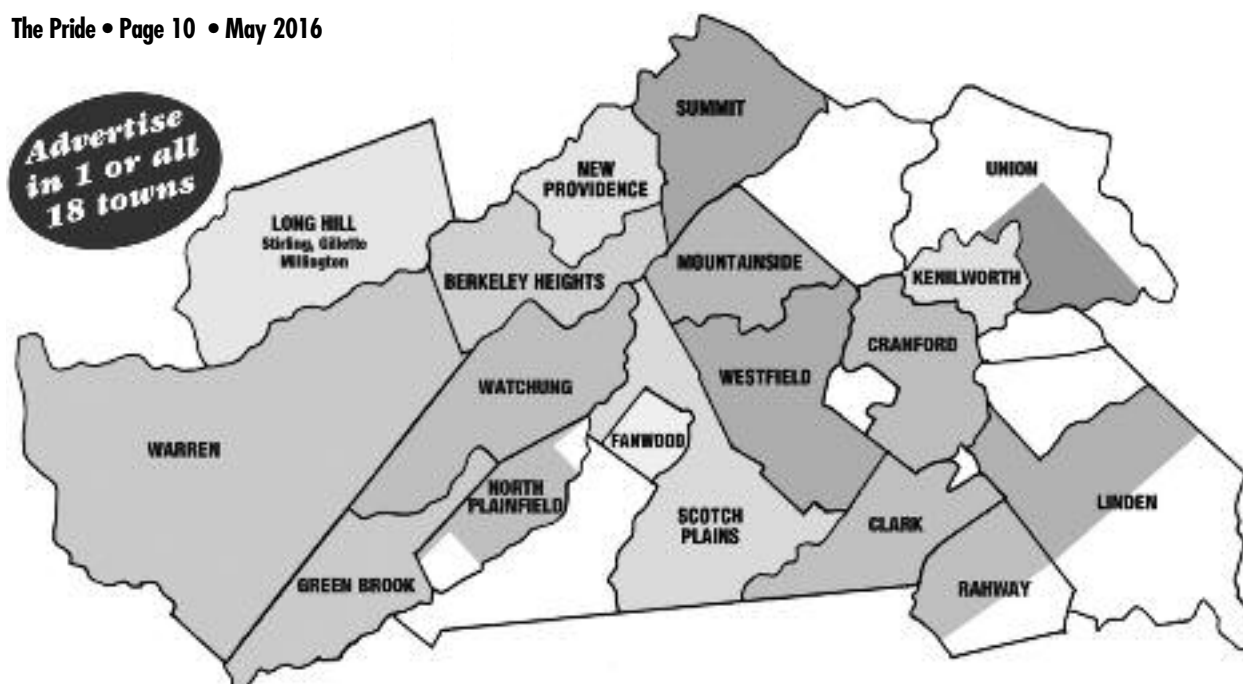
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# MAYOR RECEIVES ROTARY CLUB AWARD

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield presented North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giordano with its 2016 Service Above Self Award, at the club's 17th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner. The event was held on March 16 at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield.

Club President Ravenell Williams of the Plainfield Area YMCA welcomed guests with a brief explanation of Rotary and of the services that over 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide provide to their communities, making Rotary a way of life. "All of these clubs and members are united in one over-arching purpose, to serve others," said Mr. Williams. "This dinner raises between \$4000 and \$5000 for our scholarship program in Plainfield and North Plainfield. It also gives us the opportunity to recognize service above self on the part of Rotarians and members of the communities we serve."

After a delicious meal with each course accompanied by another wine, Rotarian and former North Plainfield Mayor Janice Allen introduced the guest of honor. Mrs. Allen highlighted a number of the Mayor's accomplishments, particularly highlighting economic development that has surged under his leadership. The development of the Costco complex, the recent addition of the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant, the coming addition of the La Z Boy Furniture store, were but a few examples of the progress made in the Borough.

After receiving the award, Mayor Giordano gave a gracious acceptance speech, deflecting praise for his accomplishments in favor of all of

the people who work so hard to make the Borough a great place to live. He thanked Rotary for the many projects undertaken by the club for the community and for the children of North Plainfield.

Well over one hundred people attended this annual event, and a number of others sent donations to the Club's scholarship fund in honor of Mayor Giordano.

During the dinner, guests were given an overview of the great work done by the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School. Interact is the youth-based service club sponsored by Rotary. North Plainfield Lions Club President Skip Stabile honored Mayor Giordano by presenting a \$250 check to the Interact Club for their "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. After announcing that donation, a number of guests spontaneously donated additional money, resulting in \$385 more for the project.

The Wine Tasting Dinner raised over \$4,200 for the Rotary club's scholarship program. Rotary International's Polio Plus, a multi-year effort to eradicate polio from the world, received a \$425 check after the dinner, thanks to contributions that were in addition to the overall proceeds.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, visit their website at [www.RotaryPNP.org](http://www.RotaryPNP.org). The club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM at Giovanna's Restaurant, 1462 South Avenue in Plainfield. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary and the club is invited to attend a meeting as a guest of the Club.

# 4 SINGERS SELECTED FOR ALL STATE CHORUS

Tom Mazur, Supervisor of the Arts for the North Plainfield School District is pleased to announce that the following four high school students have been selected, after a rigorous and competitive audition process, to be part of the 2016 All State Chorus: Juniors Lauren Ventriglia (soprano), Aniyah Gaddis (soprano), Sefa Kolubah (bass) and sophomore Noran Zaher (soprano). The All State Chorus performs in Atlantic City during the NJEA Convention in November.

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### FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### Youth ESL Conversation Group

May 11, & 18, 6:45-8 p.m.

(family friendly):

#### Jr. First Lego League Expo

May 14, 1-4 p.m.

(family friendly)

Note: This program will be held at the Vermeule Center, located at 614 Greenbrook Rd. in North Plainfield.

#### North Plainfield Library Book Sale

May 27, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$2 for a bag of books

### CHILDREN, TWEEN, & TEEN PROGRAMS

#### Teen Game Days

May 9, 16, & 23, 3:30-5 p.m.

(teens):

#### Moving Kiddos

May 10, & 17, 10-11 a.m.

(6 months - 2 years old):

#### Toastmasters International - Youth Leadership Program

May 17, 7-8 p.m.

(ages 10-14):

#### Rhyme Time and Play with Miss Amy

May 11, & 18, 10-11 a.m.

(ages 2-3):

#### Dungeons & Dragons

May 11, 18, & 25, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

(twens & teens):

#### Debate Club

May 13, & 20, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

(grades 4-6):

#### Creation Station

May 17, 2-8 p.m.

(grades K-5):

### ADULT PROGRAMS

#### ESL Class Sponsored by The Jointure:

May 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, & 25,  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 6:45-8:45 p.m.

#### Morning Knitting & Crochet Meetup

May 10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

#### Afternoon Book Discussion

May 12, 1-2 p.m.

"The Martian" by Andy Weir

#### Evening Book Discussion

May 19, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

"The Martian" by Andy Weir

#### Citizenship Class

May 26, 6-8:30 p.m.






#### Vegan Cooking: Cold Salads

May 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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