

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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ISSUE 51 • SEPTEMBER 2016

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MICHELANGELO, THE LITTLE THERAPY HORSE TO VISIT NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Meet the miniature horse who promotes mental growth and authored a book

Michelangelo is a miniature therapy horse who has an important job in New Jersey: he visits assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and group homes, as well as schools for children with special needs. According to EquestrianTherapy.com, therapy horses are used to help promote emotional growth, particularly those with ADD, anxiety, autism, dementia, delay in mental development, down syndrome and other genetic syndromes, depression, trauma and brain injuries, behavior and abuse issues, as well as a variety of other mental health conditions.

Bringing smiles to the faces of everyone he meets isn't his only job; Michelangelo is also the author of a recently published picture book.

Michelangelo, The Little Therapy Horse tells the story of his life, which begins in Pennsylvania and continues at Hope's Promise Farm in New Jersey, where he finds a new family and embarks upon his life as a therapy horse. Michelangelo's book, 60 pages filled with beautiful pictures, is available for checkout at all 10 Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's Library branches.

Not only can you check his book out at SCLSNJ, but you can meet him, wearing his adorable shoes! - there, too. This summer and fall, community members of all ages can meet Michelangelo during programs at four SCLSNJ branches. During the programs, attendees will learn about miniature horses, what they eat, where they live, and since they are too small to ride, what kinds of jobs they have. Attendees will



(above) Jessica Bauer, an SCLSNJ youth services librarian at our Hillsborough Library branch with Michelangelo, The Little Therapy Horse.

also have the opportunity to pet and visit with Michelangelo, as well as have their picture taken with him. His book will be available for purchase.

Michelangelo will be making his appearance at North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield on September 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

SCLSNJ's Michelangelo, The Little Therapy Horse programs are family friendly; all ages are welcome. Registration is required. To register, visit SCLSNJ.org or contact your local SCLSNJ Library branch.

NORTH PLAINFIELD CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY RIGHTS MEETING

The next meeting of the North Plainfield Citizens for community Rights (NPCCR) will be Thursday, October 6th, 7:00 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center 614 Greenbrook Rd. at Clinton Ave.

Our Guest Speaker will be Bruce Hymn, President of the North Plainfield Business Association. Mr. Hyman will tell us about what the association does to promote businesses in

North Plainfield. If you have any questions about the business association you will have an opportunity to ask at this meeting. Our meetings are open to everyone.

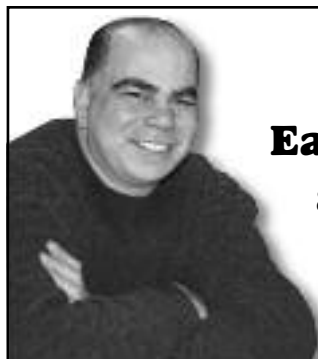
If you have a topic that you believe will be beneficial to our residents, please let us know. NPCC records council meetings and posts them along with the current police reports. They can be viewed by going to www.npccr.org.

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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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Renna Media welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent via phone, fax or email to:

Renna Media, LLC

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Email: joerenna@rennamedia.com

PROMOTE YOUR 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 editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

NORTH PLAINFIELD LANDLORD'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

The North Plainfield Landlord's Association will be holding its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, September 20th, at 7:00 pm at The International Club and Sports Bar, 403 Somerset Street. All Landlords who currently rent or lease their properties are encouraged to attend.

The association was formed to educate and assist landlords on how to manage their rental properties. Monthly meetings will be held and guest lecturers will be invited to speak on issues such as:

- Insurance – are you properly covered?
- Should your rental property be an LLC (Limited Liability Company)?
- Are your leases Fair-Legal, will they hold up in an eviction procedure?
- Should you appeal your tax assessment?
- Are you getting the proper income tax credits for your rental?
- Are you thinking of selling your property – take advantage of 1031 tax free exchange

These and many more topics will be addressed in the months to come. Annual dues will be \$50.00. Walk-ins to the meetings are welcome but reservations are preferred. E-mail to Phil@DiRosaCPA.com or call Gary Cernuto at 908-754-7738 or Phil DiRosa at 908-757-5200.

FRIENDS OF VERMEULE PRESENTS HARMONY CELEBRATION CHORUS

The Friends of Vermeule Mansion, Inc, (FOVM) present their popular Music at the Mansion concert series on Sunday, September 18th 2016 at 3:00 pm in the Vermeule Mansion at the corner of 614 Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue, in North Plainfield. The program will feature the Harmony Celebration Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International.

Harmony Celebration Chorus members have a passion for musical excellence and a tradition of producing highly entertaining shows for audiences of all ages. Audiences love the exciting, four-part a cappella sound and clever choreography of the group. Harmony Celebration's unique repertoire of jazzy show tunes, tender ballads, and toe tapping popular favorites will leave the audience humming along.

Light refreshments will be offered and admission is free.

Donations are gratefully accepted. The Friends of Vermeule Mansion Inc, (FOVM) is a non-profit organization promoting the history of North Plainfield and arts and culture in the community.

Contact Johanna Salvemini at 908-755-8098 or Mary Forbes at 908-577-0560.

www.facebook.com/VermeuleMansion

9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Borough of North Plainfield will hold its annual 9/11 Memorial Service on Sunday, September 11th at 3 p.m.

It will be conducted outdoors at the Vermeule

Community Center. A Borough representative will then say a few words to conclude our memorial service. The general public is invited and welcome to attend.

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Written by Julissa Ramirez



(above) EMTs and members of the fire department coming together to show their faces to help make the town feel safe and know who is protecting the community.



(above) Officer Fowler helping the community learn more about drugs and alcohol through photos, booklets and brochures.

On Tuesday, August 2, North Plainfield held a National Night Out at the Municipal Parking Lot on Somerset Street to gather community members along with the town's police officers. North Plainfield holds an event every first Tuesday of August in order to teach the community how to keep teens and young adults off the street as well as show the pure intentions of the officers around town. Joan Graham, a member of North Plainfield and volunteer for the event, explains the purpose of the event when she says, "It's a good way of seeing the police in a different light." Albert "Tito" Dominzi, a detective and the organizer of the event, agrees

with Graham when he talks about the importance of the event by stating, "It gets everyone out of the house and brings the community together. It is so important to have events like this because it connects the people in the town with the officers making North Plainfield safe."

Families from all over town came together to share food and music provided by volunteers from local businesses. The night ended successfully when members of the community learned more about drug and alcohol abuse and how to keep children off the streets which was all made possible by the men and women who help serve and protect North Plainfield.



(above) Members of the community working as a team to make and serve food for the visitors of the event.

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Program dates and times are subject to change. All programs are free and registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Visit SCLSNJ.org or call the Library for more information and to register.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Saturday Special: Drop In Craft

September 10, 2-4 p.m.

Registration not necessary.

Michelangelo, The Little Therapy Horse

September 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Latin American Music & Culture

September 24, 2-4 p.m.

North Plainfield Library Book Sale

September 24 & 30, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$2 for a bag of books.

Registration not necessary.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, & TEEN PROGRAMS

Back to School Cooking for Young Adults

September 13, & 20, 3:30-5 p.m.

(twens & teens)

Dungeons & Dragons

September 14, 21, & 28, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

(twens & teens)

Teen Game Day

September 12, 19, & 26, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 6-12):

Moving Kiddos

September 13, 20, & 27, 10-11 a.m.

(6 months - 2 years old):

Lego Club

September 13, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades K-5)

Rhyme Time and Play with Miss Amy

September 14, 21, & 28, 10-11 a.m.

(2-3 years old)

Wii Mario Kart Tournament

September 15, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades 3-6)

Kids Cook

September 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades K-3)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Take Control of Your Health: Chronic Disease Stress-Management Program

September 15, 22, & 29, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(60+ years old)

Citizenship Class

September 22, & 29, 6-8:30 p.m.

English as a Second Language Series

September 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Adult Basic Education Series

September 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Book Discussion

September 15, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

“The Book of Unknown Americans” by Cristina Henríquez.

English Conversation Group Meetup

September 12, 19, & 26, 7-8:30 p.m.

Morning Knitting & Crochet Meetup

September 13 & 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Your Rights in the Workplace

September 27, 7-8 p.m.

Vegan Cooking

September 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Spaghetti Pie

For more information about these and other programs, visit SCLSNJ.org.

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SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY CREATES COMMUNITY MURAL

By: Edir Coronado

With the landscape of education and research changing rapidly and the format in which society consumes needed information becoming almost exclusively digital, the public library has maintained its relevance, as Carolann DeMatos stated, as a "community cornerstone." DeMatos is the Director of Marketing and Public Relations at the Somerset County Library System; holds a Master in Science in Digital Imaging and Design; and is the visionary behind this year's traveling mural created by the community.

The mural was created with the purpose of reminding the community of the library's message and educational forum; connect, explore, share, and discover, through art. The art project was developed at this year's Somerset County 4-H County Fair held on August 10th. 4-H is a nationwide youth development organization. According to the Somerset County 4-H association, the yearly county fair is a showcase for visitors to see a wide variety of 4-H projects in action.

DeMatos announced before the 4-H fair that a blank canvas with four boards would be made available for all to stop by, fill their hands with paint, and leave their handprints or thumbprint. The event took about two hours and over 200 participants of all ages were involved. DeMatos was pleasantly surprised with the number of people that wanted to be involved in the venture and the different types of folks that wanted to participate. One of the important aspects of the project, which was stressed during the design, was the expression of everyone's artistic self.

The County Agricultural Department presented the same idea for a mural, which inspired DeMatos, except a professional artist was brought in for the task. This, DeMatos felt, might discourage people from participating, so she decided to simplify it by making the artwork about handprints. At one point a child had placed a blob across the boards causing the mother to apologize for what she believed was her child ruining the art. DeMatos assured the woman, that nothing was ruined, but instead her son had only

enhanced the artwork. "Let him explore," expressed DeMatos. The Somerset County Library Mural Project, was meant to be easy going, in order to foster an environment where the community could be more involved with their library.

Partly because the Somerset County Library system wants to exert itself as, not just a place where you can read books; which is still an important part, but, a place where you can sit and enjoy a cup of coffee and feel safe. "We are the

next best Starbucks, except we are free," stated DeMatos.

The Mural will be on tour to all of the Somerset County libraries, where it will be hung up for all community members to see. Its final destination is yet to be determined. A new mural project is in the works and because of the great turnout, a bigger canvas will be made available, so more people can be involved. DeMatos hopes that this project can serve as inspiration for local branches to create their own murals.



(above) Children participating in the creation of the Somerset County Community Mural.

CHIEF WILLIAM G PARENTI REMINDS YOU THAT SCHOOL IS OPENING – DRIVE CAREFULLY

Every fall, over 55 million children across the United States head back to school. With 13 percent of those children typically walking or biking to their classes, Chief Parenti warns drivers to be especially vigilant for pedestrians before and after school hours. The afternoon hours are particularly dangerous – over the last decade, nearly one in four child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Here are several recommendations from Chief Parenti regarding ways drivers can help to keep kids safe:

- Slow down. Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.
- Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.
- Eliminate distractions. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two

seconds doubles your chances of crashing. And children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.

- Reverse responsibly. Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles.
- Watch for bicycles. Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride. Find videos, expert advice and safety tips at ShareTheRoad.AAA.com.
- Talk to your teen. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and nearly one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at TeenDriving.AAA.com



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WAPC HOSTS SACRED CHORAL READING WORKSHOP

Musicians from as far as Maryland came together at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 6th, to attend a choral reading session, led by local composer Mark Miller. He is popular among church musicians, and has over 30 choral anthems currently in print, and more are coming soon.

The workshop featured 5 of Miller's own compositions, as well as 28 others in a wide variety of styles. The purpose of the workshop was to present a selection of interdenominational, high-quality choral anthems to church musicians interested in new material. Both a morning and an afternoon session allowed enough time for the attendees to sing through all the anthems.

An organ workshop presented by North Plainfield resident John Nowik, Organist and Liturgical Music Professor at Seton Hall University, provided a fun and interesting break for the participants, followed by a networking luncheon prior to the afternoon session. The organ workshop made good use of the church's

wonderful 24-rank Moller organ.

The church music conference was sponsored by the Plainfield Music store, and was directed by sales associate and Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church Music Director Karl Kaefer. Vicky Griswold, owner of the store, accompanied the anthems, assisted by Mark Miller and John Nowik. A display of sacred choral and keyboard music was available for the participants to browse, as well as purchase the anthems they had just heard.

The day was "an extremely valuable experience," according to one musician, with many others echoing the same sentiments. "It provided us with an opportunity to hear some wonderful sacred music we would not have heard otherwise, and Mark Miller is a wonderful composer and clinician!" said another. Karl Kaefer, whose idea it was to present the workshop, commented, "We would like to see this event as a way to invite local musicians to come together and grow together."




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Large Parking Lot to Accommodate our Customers

10% DISCOUNT
Seniors 60+, Military,
Police, College Students
Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet (Show ID)

www.hibachigrillandbuffetnj.com

BLUE STAR SHOPPING CENTER

1701 U.S. Highway 22 West • Watchung



MONDAY - THURSDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm

Dinner 3:30pm - 10:00pm

Adult\$7.99
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

Adult\$11.59
Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm

Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm

Adult\$7.99
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

Adult\$11.59
Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER

11am - 10pm

Adult.....\$11.59
Kids 7-10\$6.99
Kids 3-6\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

SUSHI

**Fantastic range of freshly prepared sushi.
Most selection and top quality among all competitors.
It is far from the typical "buffet quality" sushi.
At HIBACHI, you don't sacrifice taste for price.**

BUFFET

Elegant, modern, fresh, executed with care and confidence. HIBACHI Grill Supreme Buffet brings together 250+ of fresh-made Asian dishes in eleven buffet bars.

HIBACHI

Choose your favorite ingredients from dozens of seafood, meats and vegetables. Watch our chef preparing them in our special hibachi sauce to create a full-flavored dish.

ASK US ABOUT CATERING YOUR NEXT EVENT!

We have a large party room available for birthday parties, office meetings & weddings.

\$125 OFF
ADULT BUFFET

With purchase of a beverage per person
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 10/10/16.

\$250 OFF
2 ADULT BUFFETS

With purchase of a beverage per person
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 10/10/16.

\$10 OFF
ANY ONE PARTY

Of \$100 or more. Monday - Thursday Only.
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 10/10/16.

\$500 OFF
4 ADULT BUFFETS

With purchase of a beverage per person
Watchung • 908-490-1600
Cash Only. Limit 4. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 10/10/16.