

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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ISSUE 52 • OCTOBER 2016

KIDDIE ACADEMY® OPENS IN WATCHUNG SQUARE

National child care learning company brings high-quality child care to the area

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Kiddie Academy®, a nationally recognized provider of comprehensive education-based child care programs, has just opened its newest location in Watchung Square with a capacity for 214 children. This gorgeous 16,620 sqft building includes a 3,300 sqft dedicated multiple purpose room where kids can run, play and have tons of fun. For more than 28 years the company has been successful with combining learning with child care, said John Ao, Owner of Kiddie Academy of Watchung Square, located at 325 North Drive, North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

"Our well-trained, attentive staff assists children in developing the confidence and self-esteem necessary to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Our philosophy at Kiddie Academy is that care and learning go hand in hand," Ao said. "We also believe that it's extremely important to foster bonds between not only our educators and children, but between educators and parents, academics and the local community."

According to the National Childcare Accreditation Council, children's learning and development is enhanced when they make choices and guide their own experiences through their individual interests, personalities and skills. Children's learning occurs through planned and spontaneous experiences, during their participation in daily routines and through their experience of positive modeling by adults and peers.

Ao says that's exactly Kiddie Academy's focus. "The assortment of activities we have available for the children is endless, which encourages them to learn, play and explore. When children attend Kiddie Academy of Watchung Square, they will acquire the skills and strength of character that will foster their success."

Kiddie Academy, founded in 1981, began with the idea to combine learning with child care, and a commitment to be a leader in the industry. Kiddie Academy developed a comprehensive education-based child care program for its academies, which are structured to respond to the increasing demand for child care. The Watchung

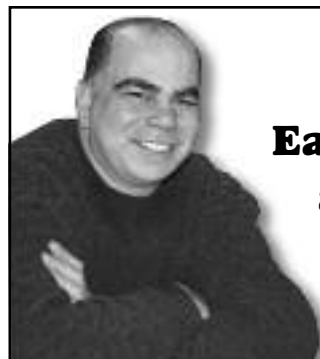


Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on The Pride of North Plainfield page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".

Square location utilizes the Kiddie Academy Life Essentials® curriculum created to promote each child's intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth. According to Spinelli, the programs emphasize continuous, open communication between teachers and parents concerning each child's development.

"We invite children to embark on a journey with Kiddie Academy that will prepare them for success in school and beyond," Ao said.

For more information about Kiddie Academy of Watchung Square, please contact the center directly at (908) 769-5437 or email the Academy at Watchungsquare@kiddieacademy.net.



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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



The Annual Halloween Parade

When: Sunday, October 30, 2016
Where: Parade starts at West End School
Time: Register at 12:00
 Parade starts at 1 pm
Cost: free

All North Plainfield residents are invited to participate in our annual youth Halloween parade and festivities. Residents dress-up in their best costume on the Sunday afternoon before Halloween, get a number and march from West End School to Vermeule Playground**.

**In case of inclement weather, go directly to the NPHS gymnasium

Awards are given to kids for the following categories:

Group: Most Original	
Individual:	
Most Original	Cutest (up to Kindergarten)
Prettiest	Local Hero (cops/fireman/etc.)
Scariest	Super Hero
Funniest	Villains

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MUSIC AT THE MANSION CONCERT SERIES

The popular Music at the Mansion concert series held on Sunday, September 18th 2016 at the Vermeule Mansion was a wonderful success. The program sponsored by The Friends of Vermeule Mansion, Inc. (FOVM), featured the Harmony Celebration Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International.

Harmony Celebration Chorus, a group of 25 singers, presented a highly entertaining show to a capacity-filled audience. The HeartStrings, Harmonics & Just 4 quartets subsets of the group sang a wide range of songs from eras including renditions of Michael Buble's Crazy Life, I'm Got the World on a String by Frank Sinatra, The Shoop Shoop song a song that made a comeback by Cher, Mr. Sandman, When I'm 64 (the Beatles), Let There Be Peace on Earth, and At Last (covered by Christina Aguilera and

Beyonce), and many others tunes.

The group also sang Happy Birthday to one of the Mansion's Fleetwood Camera Museum curators, George Helmke, who celebrated his 97th birthday. The event was capped with light refreshments and an audience/chorus meet and greet, plus a special birthday cake.

The Harmony Celebration Chorus can be reached at 908-889-4704 or www.harmonycelebration.com.

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 at the Vermeule Mansion.

For more information of future music and other events as well as volunteer opportunities, contact Johanna Salvemini at jo@johannas.com. Like the Mansion on FaceBook and get up to date information on the Vermeule Mansion page.



(above) The popular Music at the Mansion concert series held on Sunday, September 18th 2016 at the Vermeule Mansion was a wonderful success. The program sponsored by The Friends of Vermeule Mansion, Inc. (FOVM), featured the Harmony Celebration Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International.



“ I finished the 40 days at the end of March, 28 pounds down. For the next 4 weeks I used the tools that I was taught by this wonderful staff to maintain my weight even while on vacation at an all inclusive resort. When given the green light, I was able to lose 10 more pounds on my 'own', but still using Nutrimost tools and support. I am 38 pounds down now and am thrilled to be feeling so much more energetic and healthy.

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THE WEST END PTA 2ND ANNUAL FALL FAMILY DANCE

The 2nd Annual Fall Family Dance party will be held on October 28th in the West End Community Room for West End School families. It starts at 7pm and ends at 9pm.

The West End PTA's Family Fun Night series, are several themed nights throughout the school year held to give West End families the opportunity to meet and get together for non-school related events. It gives our families a chance to connect and come together as a community, which we don't often get to do in the day-to-day rush of school, work, sports and other extra-curricular activities. Programs range from dances to movie nights to presentations by animal experts and more.

In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, the dance is Fall themed. There is a good chunk of our community who do not celebrate Halloween and we do not want to alienate them. Keeping the dance, a general Fall theme allows us to have our doors open to everyone.

We have hired JVE Entertainment Partners as our DJ service. JVE DJ'd our dance last year as well as our Annual School Fair. This company really knows how to work the crowd and get everyone up and dancing, learning a new line dance, or playing a game. There are decorations to set the festive mood and a selfie station to make memories of the event. Beverages and snacks are available for purchase, but the event is otherwise free.

Last year's dance was a lot of fun. Seeing adults and kids out on the dance floor together was great. I would say that the line dances were the favorite - they gave everyone the chance to either learn something new or demonstrate their prowess. It was also interesting to see what songs the kids would react to as compared to what the adults favored, but in the end, there was a lot of parents and guardians out on the floor just sharing a special moment with their kids. So many adults thanked the PTA on their way out and said it was a great time that we knew we were going to have to make it an annual event.

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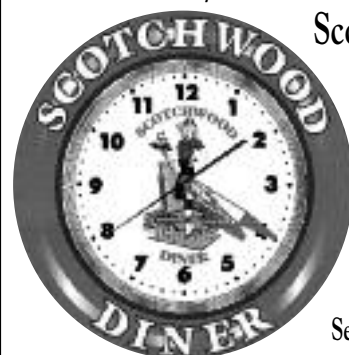
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ROTARY CLUB TO DISTRIBUTE FREE DICTIONARIES

Teams of Rotarians and volunteers will go to the three elementary schools in North Plainfield and the ten elementary schools and three charter schools in Plainfield during October to give a dictionary to every third grade student. A total of 1,200 dictionaries will be presented, including Spanish-English dictionaries for ESL students.

"Our Dictionary Project for Plainfield and North Plainfield school children is in its eleventh year," said Ravenell Williams, president of the club. "It is one of our most important and most successful community service projects because of its direct contact with so many young girls and boys in their classroom settings. All of our members feel the same way – our hearts are warmed by the smiles and even cheers when we announce the gift and present the dictionaries to each student. This project is so important to the education of our children, and we are proud to play our part."

People from both communities are welcome to join this project. The Rotary Club works with the schools and teachers to help make their students active readers, good writers, and creative thinkers. "We love to have people join us on the project," said club president Williams. "It's a great way to see directly what Rotary is all about – service to others. What better way to do that than helping children with their education?"

The Rotarians take the opportunity to teach the children about service to the community, both local and worldwide. "I like to involve the students by first asking for help defining 'rotary' and 'club'," said Michael Townley, club secretary. Mr. Townley is on the team that usually presents the dictionaries at the Cook,

Cedarbrook, and Evergreen schools in Plainfield. "After hearing some excellent responses, I have a student read each definition from the book. Then we talk about service, about what it means to be a Rotarian helping others, about Rotary's efforts to eliminate polio.

"Most children don't know about polio, because it is not a disease we find in this hemisphere. That opens up a wider discussion about how Rotarians throughout the world have worked together to virtually eliminate this crippling disease. The discussion is a great opportunity for us to teach 'Service Above Self' to these young students," said Mr. Townley.

The dictionaries are purchased through The Dictionary Project, Inc., a non-profit created in 1995 in South Carolina. The Dictionary Project's mission is to put a dictionary in the hands of

every third grade student in the United States. Since its founding, over 27.2 million dictionaries have been presented to children across the U.S. More information is available at the Dictionary Project's website at www.dictionaryproject.org.

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, founded in 1921, has served the community for over 95 years. Members are community and business leaders in the area who meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield. Come to Giovanna's any Wednesday to learn more about how you can join or support this great service club. Contact Michael Townley, club secretary, at rotarynpn@verizon.net for additional information about the Rotary Club, and its activities or to inquire about membership, or visit the Club's website at www.rotarynpn.org.



(above) Happy children proudly display their new dictionaries, a gift from the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, during a recent presentation.

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FDR AND TEDDY WILL VISIT SCLSNJ LIBRARIES

You read the headline right. Two former presidents (portrayed by actors, of course!) will visit two more Somerset County Library System of New Jersey library branches this fall, on October 19, from 7-8 p.m. at SCLSNJ's Warren Township Library branch located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren Township; and on November 7, from 7-8 p.m. at SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield.

In September, American Historical Theatre actor Neill Hartley visited SCLSNJ libraries to perform Franklin Delano Roosevelt's famous speech, "Arsenal for Democracy."

In October, American Historical Theatre actor Peyton Dixon will make his last visit to Warren Township Library to deliver spellbinding performances as President Theodore Roosevelt. In November, Hartley will return to one more SCLSNJ library branch for an encore performance as FDR.

Hartley is often recognized from his role as the

Secretary of the Treasury in seasons 2, 3 and 4 of the popular series "House of Cards." During his performances at SCLSNJ's library branches, you will hear President Roosevelt's plea for the support of our Allies and learn what he was thinking during this historical moment.

Combining years of theatre and improvisation training with history research, Peyton delivers a living history experience as the youngest president in American history, Theodore Roosevelt. Peyton will bring Teddy's vigorous persona to life on October 19, 7-8 p.m. at SCLSNJ's Warren Township Library branch, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren Township.

These free programs are funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Registration is required to attend these programs. Visit SCLSNJ.org or contact your local library branch for more information or to register.



(pictured) Actor Peyton Dixon as Teddy Roosevelt



(above) Actor Neill Hartley as FDR in *An Arsenal for Democracy II*

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GIRL SCOUTS KICK OFF A NEW YEAR

By Kimberly Carter

As the 2016-2017 school year begins, the Girl Scouts of North Plainfield (NPGS) are ramping up for another exciting and fulfilling year of activities. The fall is a very busy time of year when our scouts focus on others and their community. Many of our older troops are gaining invaluable leadership experience as they plan the numerous community events. Starting with Veteran's Day, run by troops 65133, 65937, and 65255, our scouts will be helping with the flag ceremony and ushering our beloved local veterans, who have bravely served our country. November will come to a close with food collected by all troops for the annual distribution of Thanksgiving baskets, to be delivered to various North Plainfield families in the community by troop 65516. Each troop is assigned one or two families and everyone pitches in to help our neighbors. Lastly, the Free Thanksgiving Dinner has become one of our newest traditions. Troops 65133 and 65937 plan, coordinate and implement the array of freshly baked/cooked dishes to our friends in need.

Troops are learning business savvy with the first fundraiser of the year. Scouts will be selling candy, nuts and magazines to help pay for Encampment and other activities.

Senior Troops 65133 and 65937 will be hosting a Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner for North Plainfield Residents on Saturday, November 19th from 2 pm to 5pm at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. The past years' feasts were such a great success with over 150 meals served on average. This dinner is a wonderful opportunity for our 11th & 12th grade girls to address a need in our community, learn about teamwork, bringing the community together and helping others. The younger girl scouts make the desserts and the decorations for a warm inviting atmosphere. This event is made possible by the generous donations from local businesses and organizations.

If you have someone who is interested in joining Girl Scouts, please go to www.npgirlscouts.scoutlander.com.

NORTH PLAINFIELD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Submitted by Kimberly Carter

In June, North Plainfield Parks & Recreation enhanced their new website with the launch of Online Registration. Now residents who cannot make an in person registration night or want to pay with a credit card can go online and register their children for our youth programs. Recreation will still hold 3 in person registration nights for fall, winter and spring; and residents can still use the "drop off" method. Residents should obtain information from our website at np-recreation.com.

Mark your calendars! Residents have asked for an earlier start to the soccer season and we listened. In order to do that, we will start and end the registration time period earlier in the year. For the 2017-2018 school year, Recreation will no longer be offering September sign-up dates.

Registration for Youth Soccer, Archery & Field Hockey will begin towards the end of spring. We will have in person fall registration sign ups in June before summer vacation begins. Online Registration will remain open until July 10th. Therefore, if you go on vacation over the summer for an extended period of time, please register your children before you go away. No 2017 fall registrations will be accepted after July 10th.

Our goal is to select teams, buy uniforms over the summer and start playing games by Mid-September, at the latest. This will also avoid having to play games with frost on the ground. We are not looking to turn players away, but we must have everyone registered by July 10th so that the Recreation Department can be ready for a September start.

THE NORTH PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT WILLIAM EATON, NPFD FIRE CHIEF

The North Plainfield Fire Department would like to remind our community that October is National Fire Prevention month. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is the nation's leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards, and their public education campaign is an annual reminder about the importance of "fire safety".

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," represents the final year of a three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

The NFPA's survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, the NPFA is addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10

years.

- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

During this monthly campaign, the fire department will be visiting many of the public and private schools to educate the students in our community about fire safety.

We will also be holding an Open House at our Fire Headquarters, 8 Lincoln Place on Saturday, October 15th between 10:00 and 2:00 pm. All Fire and EMS apparatus will be on display and our Firefighters and EMTs will be available to answer questions. Please come out and join us for this event!

Also be reminded that during this month we will begin our annual smoke detector battery replacement program for our local senior citizens.

If you wish to confirm or schedule a visit from us, please call fire headquarters at (908) 769-2935.



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POLICE CHIEF OFFERS SOME HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

The Pride • Page 9 • October 2016

North Plainfield Police Chief William G Parenti

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Tips for a Safe Halloween

Halloween can be a fun holiday for kids, but a worrisome one for parents. Concerns about children's safety--whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with bags of booty--can darken the day more quickly than a black cat. But not to worry! To make Halloween a treat, follow these safety tips.

ADULTS

- Make sure the path to your door is clear, welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch lights and turn on any exterior lights.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police department immediately call.
- Do not give homemade or unwrapped treats to children.

MOTORISTS

Exercise extreme caution when driving a vehicle. Be on the alert for excited youngsters, whose vision may be obscured by masks, darting out into traffic.

TRICK OR TREAT TIPS

Make sure your kids dress up safely

- Make sure costumes are flame retardant so children aren't in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can

be hot and uncomfortable, and they can obstruct a child's vision, a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps.

- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.

Make trick-or-treating trouble free

- Trick-or-treaters should always be in groups so they aren't a tempting target for real-life goblins. Parents should accompany young children.
- Make sure older kids trick-or-treat with friends. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Try to get your kids to trick-or-treat while it's still light out. If it's dark, make sure someone has a flashlight, add reflective tape to costumes and bags, and pick well-lighted streets.
- Do not go inside anyone's home. Remain on the porch at all times.
- Do not accept rides from strangers and be sure children do not approach any vehicle, occupied or not.
- Remind kids to keep a safe distance from moving cars.
- Cross only at street corners, never between parked cars, and never diagonally across an intersection.
- Look in all directions before crossing the street, and obey all traffic signals. Walk, never run, across the street, and use sidewalks, not the street, for walking.



- Do not take shortcuts through back yards, alleys or parks.
- Do not eat any treats until parents have inspected them.
- Discard any homemade or unwrapped treats.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Check all treats before eating

- It's hard for kids to hold back from eating their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack beforehand.
- Check out all candy in a well-lighted place when your trick-or-treater gets home.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious.
- Halloween can be a lot of fun for parents and kids alike--if everybody remembers the tricks and treats of playing it safe.

COSTUMES etc:

A note to parents:

- Make sure your children's costumes are not flammable.
- Do not permit your children to wear cumbersome, floor length or vision-impairing costumes.
- Reflectorized stripes make your costume more visible.
- In lieu of masks, we recommend face make up.
- Wear comfortable, safe shoes.
- Call 9-1-1 if you suspect any tainted candy.



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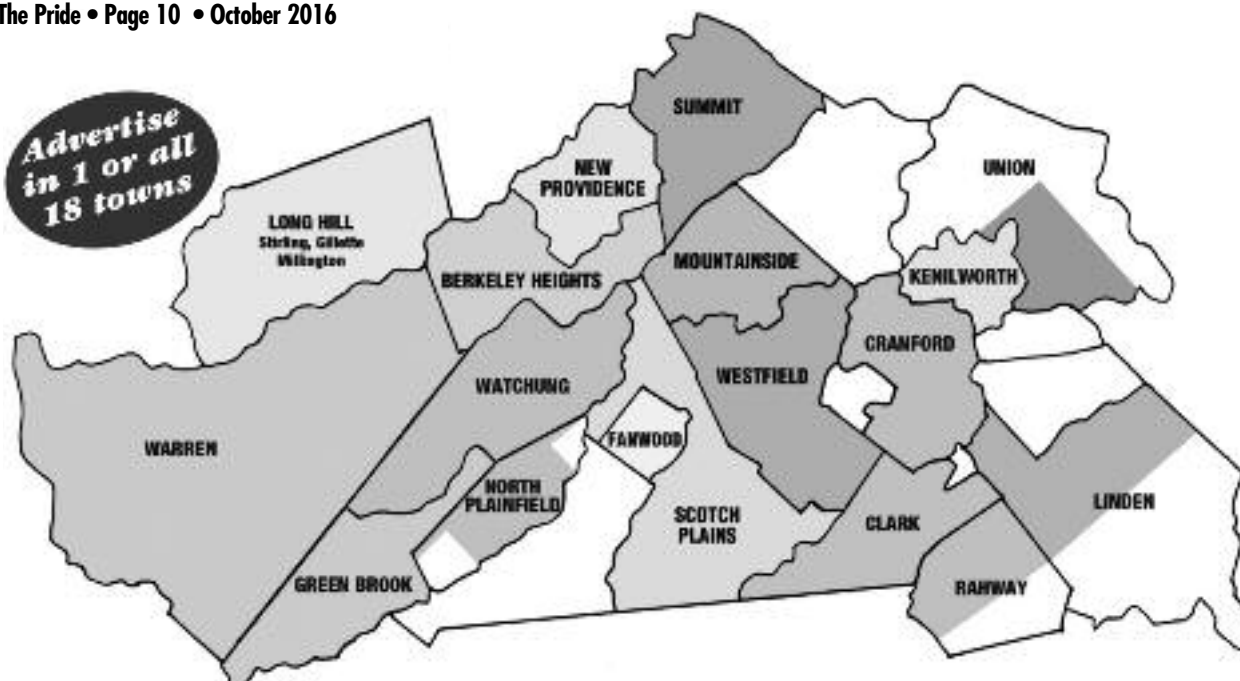
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NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The September meeting for the NPBA was held on Tuesday September 27th at the Vermule Mansion / Fleetwood Camera Museum located at 614 Green Brook Road in town. Johanna's Creations sponsored the meeting. The guest speaker was Kim Pearlstein, owner of Pearlmark LLC. She gave a presentation on "Where to spend your time and money on social media". The next NPBA meeting will be held in the last Tuesday of the month, October 25th at 7:00 pm at Fabricland located at 855 Route 22 West. Dr Harmanpreet Kaur of Dental Design will sponsor the meeting.

The NPBA membership remains free. There are elevated membership levels, which range in price from \$100 - \$300, which includes benefits and sponsorship opportunities. Anyone interested in the NPBA can reach out to: Pete Eddy 908-256-1273, Danny Dominguez 908-447-2468, or Bruce Heyman 908-755-4700.

You can also find the North Plainfield Business Association on Facebook.



(above l - r) Kim Pearlstein, Pearlmark LLC, Bruck Heyman, Fabricland, and Johanna Salvemini of Johanna's Creations

NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The North Plainfield Business Association was established in 1938 and is open to any local business. Standard membership is FREE and the benefits are invaluable. Members receive the opportunity to network and advertise their business on a monthly basis. Monthly meetings feature educational guest speakers from the worlds of marketing, advertising, finance and more. The NPBA offers mentoring, problem-solving, start-up services and liaison with borough offices. If you have a local business, large or small, the NPBA is right for you. Fill out this form for your FREE membership or join at a higher level for additional benefits. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting – held the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

FAMILIES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN DAY HIKE WITH SCOUTS AT WATCHUNG RESERVATION

Open House To Be Held November 4 And November 5
For more information, please contact Charlean Mahon
at 973-524-4459 or Charlean.mahon@scouting.org.

Boys in grades 1-5 and their families (including sisters) are invited to attend "Hike Into Scouting," an interactive and educational activity designed to show boys and families what adventures await them in Cub Scouting. On Friday, November 4th, at the Vermeule Community Center on Greenbrook Road, families can stop in anytime between 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm to meet local Scouts and Scout leaders as well as learn about what they need to be prepared for their nature hike at Watchung Reservation with the famous Ranger Rich Sophie. The hike will take place the next morning, Saturday, November 5th at Seeley's Pond in Watchung Reservation. It will take families through an ancient canyon and teach children about the seasons and weather.

Following the hike, families are invited to attend a Fall Festival at Watchung Day hosted by Watchung Cub Scout Day Camp in the Scout Camping Area of Watchung Reservation (near Trailside Nature Center). The festival will include archery, STEM activities, arts and crafts, and more.



REGISTER NOW FOR BEE SPECTACULAR

After successfully sponsoring the SCLSNJ Bee Spectacular, a county-wide spelling bee held March 4, 2016 as part of the National Scripps Spelling Bee, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) is pleased to announce its plans to host the second county-wide spelling bee on March 11, 2017 at Somerset County Vo-Tech in Bridgewater, NJ.

SCLSNJ's Bee Spectacular is open to children grades 3-8. Participating schools and homeschools will be allowed to send their top spellers to compete in the SCLSNJ-sponsored county-wide bee. The eventual winner will be sent, at the Library's expense, to the National Scripps Bee in Washington, D.C. in late spring

2017. There will be additional prizes for the winner and the runners-up.

Enrollment to participate in the county-wide Spelling Bee is now open. To register, visit the Scripps site at www.spellingbee.com and click on the word "Teachers" at the top of the page and then click "Enrollment" to find the registration form. The cost to participate is \$145 per school during early bird enrollment (through October 14, 2016) and \$220 per school during regular enrollment (October 15-December 12, 2016).

Contact SCLSNJ spelling bee coordinators, Cathy DeBerry and Beth Bouman, with any questions at spellingbee@sclibnj.org, or call the Spelling Bee Hotline at 908-801-6465

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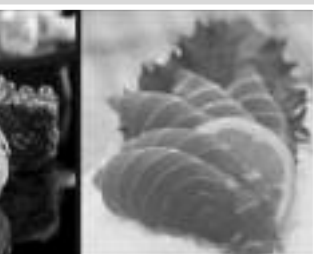
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