

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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ISSUE 53 • NOVEMBER 2016

BOY SCOUTS SHARPEN SKILLS AT FALL CAMPOREE

NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOC GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday
NOVEMBER 22ND
at 7pm

VALLEY NATIONAL BANK
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Route 22 West.

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Bruce Heyman at
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bruce@fabricland.com

All members of the
North Plainfield
business community
are invited. There is
no admission or dues
to attend.



On the weekend of October 14th, nine scouts from troop 235 in North Plainfield attended a multi-district camporee at the Round Valley Youth Center. There were 28 Troops who participated in skill games during the morning and were tasked with creating the world's longest monkey bridge in

the afternoon. Troop 235 was successful in building their bridge (30 feet long and 4 feet high) and invited other troops at the event to try it out. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Scouting program please contact Bob Holzer 908-791-1052.

HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT AT EAST END SCHOOL

East End School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on the evening of Tuesday, October 11th at the school. The event, which welcomed students and their families, included a night of food, music and dancing inspired by the cultures of the many Hispanic countries found at the school.

"During National Hispanic Heritage Month, East End School has recognized the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and embraced the celebrations of heritage and culture", remarked principal John Ferguson in his opening greetings.

The evening, with over 300 people in attendance, featured student-led songs and dances, with students lining the stage with flags representing various Hispanic nations. Said ESL teacher and event coordinator Francesca Cordona, "Our art, music, library, and classes, have provided students with diverse hands-on lessons centering on Hispanic heritage, as well."

Second grade teacher, Maria Lopez added, "The East End Heritage Committee wanted to share in this special annual tribute by having this evening celebration. The collaboration and love of diversity has been flowing through our hallways all month."

In attendance for the night's festivities, were superintendent of schools, Dr. James McLaughlin and assistant superintendent, Mrs. Michelle Vella. "Tonight was a wonderful gathering to pay tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have had profound and positive influences on our country and school community through their strong commitment to family, service, and education", voiced Dr. McLaughlin.

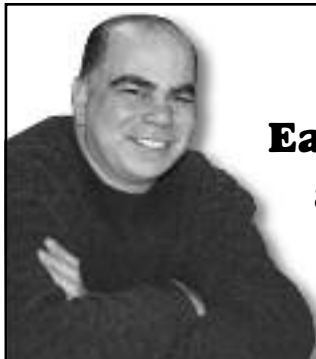
The Hispanic Heritage Committee wishes to express their gratitude to all our East End families that came out for the night's celebration and to the many teachers and PTO volunteers. Members of the committee were: Francesca Cordona, Maria Lopez, Lynnelle Thomas, and Nicole Divenuta.

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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

Publisher: Joe Renna

202 Walnut Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016

Phone: 908-447-1295

Fax: 908-709-9209

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

DESIGNER BAG BINGO

The Plainfield Area Humane Society -

The Plainfield Area Humane Society is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo event on November 18th, 2016 at the North Plainfield High School Cafeteria. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and Bingo begins at 7:15 p.m. Admission to the event is 30 dollars per person and contestant must be 18 years or over to participate.

There are two ways people interested can reserve a spot, either visit <https://www.pahsnj.org/donate/>, click the donate button and enter the dollar amount, for the number of people you wish to pay for. In the note section please make sure to add Bag Bingo. You can also make a check payable to Plainfield Area Humane Society and mail it to 75 Rock Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07063. All tickets picked up on the night of the event will include one Bingo Board per Bag and a Chance to win door prizes.

The Plainfield Area Humane Society has been serving the animal population continuously since 1933 and a portion of our income comes from events like the Designer Bag Bingo. Through these events, donations, animal control service contracts, adoption fees, fund-raisers, bequests, grants and corporate gifts we are able to fulfill our mission, of finding a safe, loving and appropriate home for every homeless pet, including those with special needs or challenges

Please join us for a chance to win a designer bag, like Coach, Michael Kors, and many more, as well as contributing to a great cause. For more information on the Plainfield Area Humane Society Designer Bag event and other fun filled events or to find out more about the Humane Society and how you can help please visit [/www.pahsnj.org](http://www.pahsnj.org).



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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER'S NOVEMBER CALENDAR AND SPECIAL EVENTS LISTING

All Somerset County-operated Senior Centers offer a nutritionally balanced lunch, Monday through Friday, for a suggested donation of \$2.50, for anyone 60 and above. Menu choices include a hot meat-based or meatless entrée or a cold meat-based or meatless boxed lunch. Please make reservations prior to 10:00 am the previous business day. Why not invite a friend or neighbor to join you for lunch! As an additional suggestion, why not come earlier in the day and enjoy one of the center's many programs.

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"Magic of Marco"

November 14 – 10:30 am.

Marco is a sleight of hand magician whose show consists of props and objects vanishing, changing colors, and moving into a spectator's hand magically and in plain view. Experience transposition, rising objects, mind control, a killer card trick or two and rope effects.... astonishing all those in attendance.

"Brain Fitness"

November 15 – 10:30 am

By Mike DiCristino, LearningRx Warren. Highlighted will be brain fitness elements which can help you learn more effectively and efficiently. The focus will be on the relationship and importance of exercise, nutrition, mental activity and socializing to cognitive health. How can reinforce our cognitive skills? This program will offer a demonstration of these skills.

Raritan Valley Community College Dance Ensemble Performance

November 18 – 10:30 am.

Under the direction of Loretta DiBianca Fois, the group's performance will expose the communication aspects of the art form of dance. It features dancers performing a variety of dances set to a wide range of music and sound accompaniment.

The audience will have a chance to inspire movements that will be incorporated into dance phrases.

"Music of Times Past"

November 28 – 10:30 am.

by Tom Harabin, Musician & Singer. Tom is a musician, singer and a lover of history. He is also the resident musician at the Abraham Staats House. He will present his musical program in period costume for all to enjoy.

MAGIC OF MARCO MAGICAL MOMENTS!

Magic of Marco will be bringing his magical fun adult/senior parlor magic show to Warrenbrook Senior Center on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 10:30 am. Together, we will experience fun, laughter and amazement. This is not clown nose magic. This is sophisticated, challenging, sleight of hand

magical entertainment!

Warrenbrook Senior Center is open to any senior 60 and above that can handle activities of daily living on their own. Even though Warrenbrook is a Somerset County operated senior center, they can live anywhere, not only in Somerset County.



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DONATIONS SOUGHT TO PROVIDE THANKSGIVING MEALS THROUGH ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

The seventh annual Adopt-A-Family program will help provide Thanksgiving meals for needy families. The estimated cost of a Thanksgiving meal is \$40. Anyone wishing to donate may send a check to any of the following local programs:

- Food Bank Network of Somerset County, P.O. Box 149, Bound Brook, NJ 08805
- Franklin Township Food Bank, P.O. Box 333, Somerset, NJ 08875-0333
- Feeding Hands Inc., Emmanuel Church, 100 Grant Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876
- Hillsborough Food Pantry, Attn: Social Services Department, 379 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
- North Plainfield FISH, Holy Cross Church, 40 Mercer Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Reformed Church of Bound Brook, P.O. Box 347, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880
- Samaritan Homeless Interim Program Inc. (SHIP), 87 E. High St., Somerville, NJ 08876

On the memo line of your check, write Adopt-A-Family and the name of the town where you wish your donation to go. If \$40 is difficult for you, any amount will be gratefully accepted. The Food Bank Network and SHIP serve residents throughout Somerset County; the Franklin, Hillsborough and North Plainfield programs primarily serve residents within those respective towns; Feeding Hands Inc. serves the Somerville area; and the Reformed Church serves both Bound Brook and South Bound Brook.

For more information, call the Food Bank Network at (732) 560-1813, the Franklin Township Food Bank at (732) 246-0009, Feeding Hands Inc. at (908) 397-6452, the Hillsborough Social Services Department at (908) 369-3880, North Plainfield FISH at (908) 561-9340, the Reformed Church of Bound Brook at (732) 356-9345 or SHIP at (908) 393-9545.



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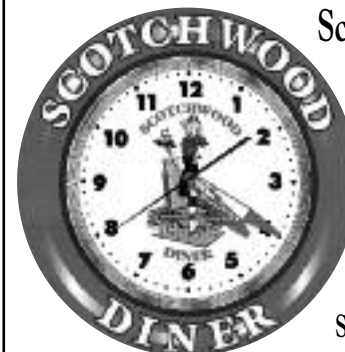
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HOLIDAY CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

The Church of the Holy Cross is having its annual Holiday Craft And Vendor Fair on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 AM to 3 PM. As always, there will be wonderful items for sale from Fair Trade knitted goods to handmade jewelry to beauty products, with everything in between!

And, as always, there will be cooked to order lunch and Holy Cross' famous baked goods sale. Come enjoy the day, do some holiday shopping, and eat well. Menu Items, which are homemade, include butternut squash soup with sausage and apples, Thanksgiving sandwiches with fresh turkey, stuffing, and cranberry, to name a few.

The Holiday Fair started as an extension of the semi-annual rummage sale in 1995. The fair was called Overlooked Treasures which featured items that were superior quality and not appropriate for the rummage sale. Both the rummage sale and Overlooked Treasures were

started in response to a need that was seen in the community for good quality, fairly priced items. The Overlooked Treasures sale then evolved into the Holiday Boutique now called the Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair which included the Overlooked Treasures table and vendors and crafters. Last year we had our largest number of vendors. The fair also provides a bake sale and lunch.

The proceeds from the fair are used for the support of the Church of the Holy Cross and its ministries which include a thrift shop and monthly soup kitchen.

Holy Cross will provide vendors with tables. Interested in learning more?

Contact Deb for vendor information: debpr@optonline.net, 908 756 7520.

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LIBRARY'S ADULT LITERACY SUPPORT MATERIALS

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey has received a \$2,500 2016 Literacy Collection Development Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the New Jersey State Library to benefit adult library users with low-literacy skills.

Using grant funds, SCLSNJ has purchased multimedia adult literacy support materials for library customers, including: titles covering a variety of adult literacy subjects (for instance, how to prepare for the General Education Development and Test Assessing Secondary Completion tests and immigration guides explaining how to obtain visas and become a U.S. citizen); ebook titles accessible through SCLSNJ's Digital Media Collection on a variety of adult literacy subjects like how to prepare for the GED and TASC tests and how to teach English as a second language; copies of Citizenship 2.0: A Bilingual Overview of U.S. History and Government DVD produced by the California Language Laboratories in the following languages: Cantonese, Hindi, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish; and Launchpads from Playaway, programmed to help adults learn English grammar, phrases, spelling, and writing.

"Thanks to the generosity of The New Jersey State Library, we have made a substantial addition to our adult literacy collection offerings in a variety of subjects and formats," said Morris Balacco, SCLSNJ collection development librarian and project director for the grant. "People learn in many different ways. With that in mind, we thought the best use of this grant would be to expand our adult literacy offerings not only in print, but also in DVDs and ebooks. Last summer, we introduced pre-loaded, circulating tablets with educational content for

children called Launchpads that have been tremendously popular. When I learned that the same company had started producing Launchpads for adult learners pre-loaded with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) topics, I thought it would be a great opportunity to expand the use of tablets among our adult learners and give them a new tool for learning."

According to the 2014 American Community Survey, 77,836 of the 328,704 residents of Somerset County, or 23.68%, are foreign born and 29.9% of the population ages five and over speak a language other than English. Recognizing a need in the county, SCLSNJ believes a robust collection of materials in a variety of languages such as Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Hindi, Gujarati, and Tamil, and a variety of resources for ESOL are essential to support the literacy needs in Somerset County.

For more information about 2016 Literacy Collection Development Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the New Jersey State Library, visit www.imls.gov. For more information about the services and resources available at SCLSNJ, visit SCLSNJ.org.



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NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT THANKSGIVING SAFETY TIPS

Chief William G. Parenti

The increased traffic that traditionally occurs during the Thanksgiving holiday means that drivers must be more alert when traveling. Safety begins behind the wheel and we're asking all motorists to follow the rules of the road and to drive safely.

Every effort will be made to remove aggressive, impaired drivers from highway, including asking law-abiding motorists to report drivers who endanger others. In addition to highway safety, we ask that everyone be careful regardless of what your plan consist of, during this Thanksgiving holiday.

Please be aware that the following tips are only a few things that we can do to keep ourselves safe, not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year as well.

Travel Tips

When you travel, plan ahead! Whether you are planning to travel across the country or simply across town, it is equally important to keep safety in mind.

- Prior to traveling, obtain a map or download the latest available GPS data.
- Have a route planned and let others know of your departure and arrival destination. If traveling for an extended distance, keep in touch with a family members and/or friends, informing them of your location. Daytime travel is best!
- Should you observe anyone in need of assistance, extend them the courtesy of reporting your observation to the police at your earliest opportunity.
- Have a fully charged cellular telephone with you at all times and vehicle charger for extended travel distance.
- Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows rolled up.
- If you become lost, find a heavily populated business, police station or fire department to ask for directions.
- If you experience a breakdown, pull as far onto the shoulder as possible and activate your emergency flashers. Immediately summons assistance from a reputable source and/or call for law enforcement response. If a stranger stops, speak to them through a partially rolled-down window and do not exit your vehicle until a law enforcement officer or tow truck operator arrives.
- If you feel that you are being followed, do not drive home. Immediately notify law enforcement and follow the directions they provided based on your location.
- Replenish fuel prior to reaching ¼ tank and carry a breakdown kit/first aid kit.
- Devote your full time and attention to driving! If you feel yourself getting tired, pull over and take a break at a safe location.

Shopping Tips

Whether you are doing some early Christmas shopping or preparing for a Thanksgiving feast, shoppers are reminded to be alert of their surroundings.

- Always try to walk to and from your vehicle with another person. If you are shopping alone, consider walking near other shoppers in the parking lot.
- Shop with friends or relatives if possible; there is safety in numbers. If you are leaving a store late at night and/or feel unsafe, do not hesitate to ask for a security officer or employee to accompany you to your vehicle.
- Inside a store or mall, avoid dark hallways and backroom areas. Avoid using restrooms that are in isolated locations of buildings. Always accompany your child(ren) to the restroom facility.
- When using a shopping cart to transport small children, ensure that they are properly secured by following the directions indicated at the rear of the cart. Do not leave children unattended in carts or allow them to ride in the basket area.
- A male should carry his wallet in the front pocket of his pants, rather than in a back pocket or in a jacket. A female should hold her purse close to her body, with the opening facing towards her; when walking with another person, the purse should be held between the two.
- Consolidate purchases into one or two bags so you can keep track of everything. Never leave purchases unattended, even for a few minutes.
- Shoppers are often forced to park further away from buildings during the holiday shopping season, sometimes in poorly lite areas. Now that there is less daylight you're likely to find yourself entering the building while the sun is up and leaving after dark. If forced to park away from the building, park in a highly traveled area with security lighting present.
- Place purchases in the trunk or cargo area of your vehicle so they are out of the sight of thieves. Avoid leaving valuables in the passenger compartment of your vehicle.
- Handle bank and credit cards as if they were cash and memorize your PIN codes.
- If you withdraw money from an ATM, ensure it is in a highly visible location. For withdrawals made after dark it is recommended that you

have someone accompany you and avoid making large cash withdrawals. Minimize time spent at the ATM by being prepared to make the withdrawal and immediately leaving the area. Avoid using the ATM if you see anyone loitering near the machine or approaching your location in a suspicious manner.

Cooking Safety Tips

Now that you have safely returned home, we want to keep it that way. According to the U.S. Fire Administration website; Thanksgiving Day fires in residential structures cause more property damage and claim more lives than residential structure fires on other days.

- Always remain in the kitchen while cooking food on the stove top. Whenever you are utilizing the oven make sure to use the timer and conduct kitchen checks.
- Keep the cooking ware clean and free of easily combustible items such as food packaging, drapes, towels, food wrappers and pot holders. They should be kept a minimum of 3 feet away from the oven, stove or other hot surface.
- When cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.
- Keep young children away from the cooking area and closely monitored while they are in the kitchen.
- When deep-frying a turkey, always follow the manufacturers instructions relating to the proper usage of the cooker. It should be placed on a level surface, in an open area away from homes, fences, sheds and other structures. Never place the cooker on a wooden deck or inside a garage. The cooker should be monitored at all times and children should not be allowed in the area while the cooker is being used.
- Not only humans face hazards during cooking of Thanksgiving dinners. Dogs and other pets should be prevented from getting into or near the cooking area.

Above all have a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the time with your family.

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ROTARY CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Many people seek a way to help others and prefer to do that with other like-minded people, rather than individually. Two such people recently found the ideal way to achieve that goal.

Rick Smiley, City Administrator for the City of Plainfield, and Fred Wasiak, Associate Executive Director at the YMCA, are now members of the world's greatest service organization, Rotary International.

Rick and Fred were welcomed as new members of the Rotary Club of North Plainfield-Plainfield during a brief induction ceremony at a recent club meeting.

Rotary President Ravenell Williams IV shared his feelings about Rotary and the services provided to the community by club members. He welcomed the two new members by explaining the real purpose of Rotary - to serve others while upholding the highest standards.

"You have been chosen for membership in the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield because your fellow members believe you are a leader in your field," said Mr. Williams. "You have also been chosen because we believe you manifest those qualities of head and heart to interpret and impart the message of Rotary as reflected in our motto, 'Service Above Self'."

Both new members received a special Rotary pin and a folder of information to help acclimate them to their new club and their new friends.

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.

If you would like to meet new people, become friends, and serve others, then 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 rotarypnp@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.rotarypnp.org.



(above) Rick Smiley (r) and Fred Wasiak (l) pose after their induction as members of the Rotary Club of North Plainfield-Plainfield by President Ravenell Williams.

LANDLORDS ASSOCIATION MEETING SET FOR NOVEMBER 15TH

The North Plainfield Landlords Association (NPLA) will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday November 15th at 7:00pm at the International Club and Sports Bar, 430 Somerset Street, North Plainfield.

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. The October NPLA meeting featured Anthony M Rotunno Esq. of Flemington NJ. Mr. Rotunno shared invaluable information with the members on topics such as tenant security deposits and Proper rental lease formations. The meeting was sponsored by TaxPros Income Tax Service of North Plainfield. The NPLA announced its First Board of Directors and Trustees for 2017: Philip DiRosa (President), Gary Cernuto (VP), Angelo DiRosa (Treasurer), Michael Dellapolli and Danny Dominguez, (Trustees).

All landlords are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Please join us in November for a presentation by Michael Whelan of Global Indemnity Insurance Group of Metuchen. He will address many real estate insurance issues such as loss of rental income, group umbrella policies and tenant insurance. We look forward to seeing you at our November 15th meeting.

The organization can be contacted via e-mail PHIL@DIROSACPA.COM or by calling (908) 757-5200.

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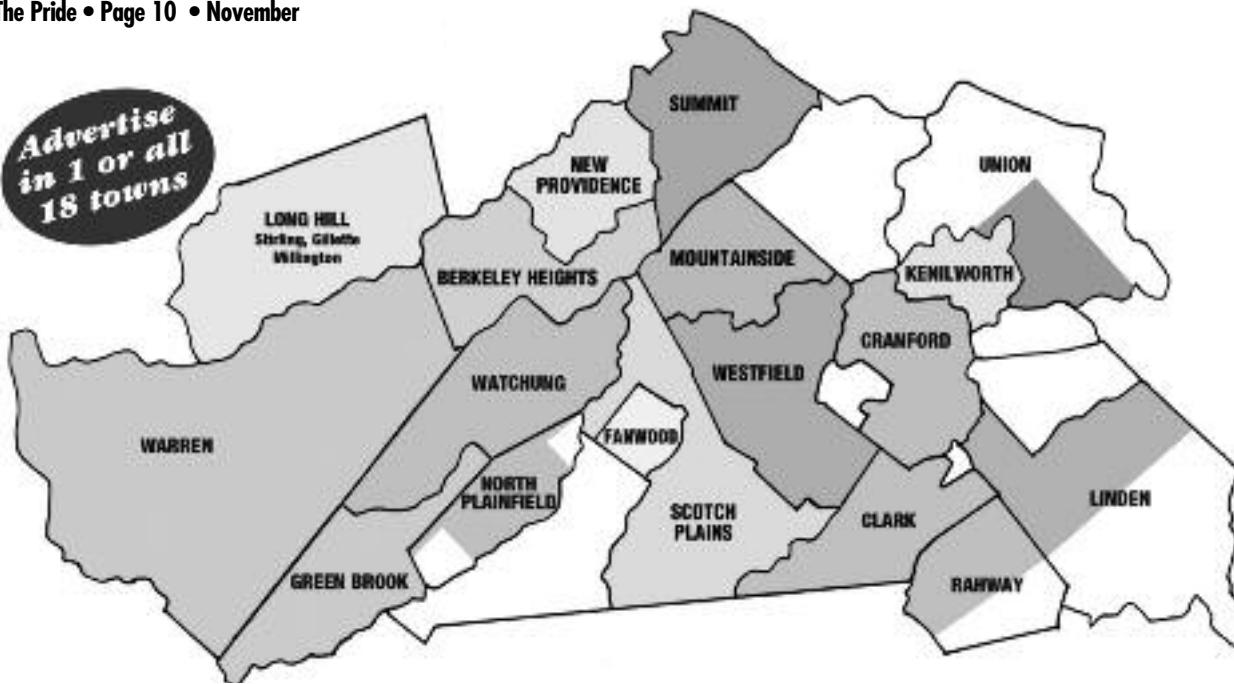
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NORTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The October meeting for the NPBA was held on Tuesday October 25th at Fabricland at 855 Route 22 in town. Dr. Harmapreet Kaur of Dental Designer sponsored the meeting. The guest speaker was Matt Sutton, of Facebook. He gave a presentation on "Promoting your business using Facebook". The next NPBA meeting will be held on Tuesday of the November 22th, 7:00 pm at Valley National Bank Route 1334 Route 22 West.

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 at: www.facebook.com/NPBusinessAssociation

(right) The sponsors for the October meeting of the North Plainfield Business Association were husband and wife team of Randeep Sing and Dr. Harmapreet Kaur, owners of Dental Designer located at 1300 Rock Ave., North Plainfield, NJ.



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.

North Plainfield Business Association "Working for You" MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address _____

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Email: _____

Number Years in Business _____

Number of Employees _____

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Type of business _____

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MAIL – 855 Route 22, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

QUESTIONS?

Call Bruce 908-755-4700;

Pete Eddy 908-256-1273;

or Danny Dominguez 908-447-2468

(Spanish version available from Mr. Dominguez)

NORTH PLAINFIELD LIBRARY PROGRAMS

SCLSNJ'S NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BRANCH

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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

November 12, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

North Plainfield Library Book Sale

November 26, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$2 for a bag of books.

Registration not necessary.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, & TEEN PROGRAMS

Moving Kiddos

November 8, 15, 22, & 29, 10-11 a.m.

(6 months - 2 years old)

Rhyme Time and Play with Miss Amy

November 9, 16, 23, & 30, 10-11 a.m.

(2-3 years old)

Dungeons & Dragons

November 9, 16, & 23, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

(twens & teens)

Teen Game Day

November 14, 21, & 28, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 6-12)

Curious Animals

November 10, 2-3 p.m.

Kids Cook

November 17, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades K-3)

Lego Club

November 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades K-5)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Citizenship Class

November 10, & 17, 6-8:30 p.m.

Adult Basic Education Series

November 12, 19, & 26, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

English Conversation Group Meetup

November 14, 7-8:30 p.m.

English Language Learners Series

November 12, & 19, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Morning Knitting & Crochet Meetup

November 8 & 22, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Book Discussion

November 10, 1-2 p.m. &

November 17, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

"Girl Waits With Gun" by Amy Stewart

Library Advisory Board

November 15, 7:30-9 p.m.

Vegan Cooking

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Kids 7-10.....\$5.99
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2 & Under.....FREE!

Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm

Adult\$11.59
Kids 7-10.....\$6.99
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