

# New Providence NEWS

Published by Renna Media

Issue 15 • December 2016

## THE NEW PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*will be conducting their*  
**ANNUAL HOLIDAY COPS IN SHOPS**  
*details beginning the week of*  
**DECEMBER 12TH.**

*Officers will have an increased presence in the business areas of the Borough during the holiday season to keep the shopping public safe.*

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## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 120 YEARS

Founded 120 years ago in Summit and moving to New Providence in 1957, Faith Lutheran Church, also known as The Family of Faith, is now a regional parish, drawing its hundreds of members from a 40 mile radius. Worship is the center of parish life, with its Pastors, the Rev. Jane McCready and the Rev. Dr. Murdoch MacPherson, constantly seeking faithful, innovative, creative worship experiences that will strengthen its members for their daily ministry. Aided by its Minister of Music, Dr. John Girvin, festivals and special liturgies are celebrated each month. Jazz, Gospel, Taize, Broadway, Celtic and other liturgies enrich the lives of the Family. Faith worships each week at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., celebrating the Eucharist with an open communion table. During this Advent season of preparation, it also offers communion liturgies on Wednesdays at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. Christmas is celebrated with a Christmas Eve Children's Service at 4 p.m. and then Candlelight Eucharists at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Day and New Year's Day see Nativity Eucharists at 10:00 a.m.

Pastoral care is an extremely high priority, with Pastoral Associates, the Rev. Dr. Robert Kriesat and the Rev. Markus Vaga, assisting the Pastors in caring for the Family.

Educational ministry provides classes, retreats and special events for everyone, age 3 through adult. Bible studies, theological exploration and Symposium events address Scripture, theology and current and ethical issues.

Faith understands itself to be a servant community, blessed with gifts and resources to care for God's children and God's

world. For almost 30 years Faith has partnered with St. John's Roman Catholic Soup Kitchen in Newark, serving thousands of meals each year on the second Saturday of the month. Faith was the founding congregation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network 3 decades ago. Now known as Family Promise, this ministry provides shelter in thousands of congregations across the country, caring for tens of thousands of people. For more than two decades Faith has cared for people living with AIDS and who are HIV positive, for the last decade going twice a month to Broadway House in Newark to work with residents. Faith coordinates the community fall and spring food drives, proving food for local residents and stocking the Starfish Pantry in Plainfield for half a year. Faith's newest community partner is Imagine, a ministry that provides grief and support ministry for hundreds of children each year. Faith is an active leader in the ecumenical and interfaith community.

Faith has rich and longtime partnerships with Masama Mborney Lutheran parish in Moshi, Tanzania, building schools, medical facilities and worship sites. It has gone for two decades to Sunset Gap in Cosby, Tennessee, to lead an Appalachian ministry in the Smokey Mountains. And it works with the immigrant community at St. Stephan's Grace in the Ironbound section of Newark, tutoring and providing supportive services.

To learn more about his special Christian congregation, call the office at 908 464 5177 or go to our website at [www.famfaith.org](http://www.famfaith.org), or visit with us at 524 South Street.



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# New Providence NEWS

New Providence NEWS is published by Renna Media. 4,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in New Providence.

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To submit content  
call Tina at 908-418-5586  
Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)

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# HOLLYWOOD HEADLINES

## NAME THE MOVIES THAT FEATURED THESE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

Headlines appear on 19 newspapers published by Renna Media

1 	2 	3 	4 
5 	<b>Answers can be found at <a href="http://RennaMedia.com">RennaMedia.com</a></b> 1. Berkeley Heights News      11. The Pride of North Plainfield 2. Clark Monthly              12. Our Town Rahway 3. Cranford Monthly          13. Scotch Plains Monthly 4. Fanwood Post              14. Summit Times 5. Green Brook Gazette      15. Spirit of Union 6. Kenilworth Business Life   16. Warren Monthly 7. Life in Linden              17. Watchung Post 8. Long Hill Leader           18. Westfield Monthly 9. Mountainside View        19. Peterstown Newspaper 10. New Providence News		6 
7 			8 
9 			10 
11 			12 
13 			14 
15 	16 	17 	18 

## ATTORNEY SETTLES HOME EXPLOSION LITIGATION FOR \$975,000.00

Attorney David C. Bendush announced settlement of a lawsuit arising from a home explosion in Hunterdon County in September of 2014. The blast was caused by a contractor who was converting the home of his clients, from oil to natural gas. The clients were in the home with their infant daughter at the time of the explosion and fire. Davis Heating and Cooling was attempting without success to purge the new gas lines. Large amounts of natural gas were caused to accumulate inside the basement until the gas exploded, nearly levelling the structure and knocking the clients to the ground where they stood. Mr. Bendush litigated the liability issues aggressively, and attained the unusual result of summary judgment for plaintiff. The defense had little choice but to settle quickly and on favorable terms, in order to avoid a trial.

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## SAFETY ROUTES TO SCHOOL GAINS AWARDS THROUGH INTERACTIVE MAP

By: Edir Coronado

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4 PM - Children's Service  
7 PM - Candlelight Service w/ Choir  
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11 PM - Candlelight Service w/ Praise Team

*Christmas Morning Service*  
11 AM - Traditional Service

*New Year's Day*  
11 AM - Contemporary Service

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New Providence often has the issue of traffic in the early mornings and in the afternoons, when parents are dropping and picking-up their kids from school. With so many cars flooding the streets, it is difficult for parents to feel comfortable letting their child walk or bike to school every day. Cecile Seth is a New Providence resident who was concerned about the frustrating traffic situation in New Providence. Since 2003, the Seth family with their three children have been living in New Providence. When all the issues of traffic and safety routes arose, Cecile took the initiative and decided to co-chair, the Safety Routes to School Team.

Safety Routes to School is a program powered by the parents, school, and community leaders, with the help of local, state, and federal government, to improve health through walking or biking to school. The program gives students the opportunity to walk or to bike by examining the area around the school and creating projects that reduce pollution and traffic. Through these programs, safer travel conditions arise making it more appealing for kids and parents to use alternative means of transportation.

The New Providence SRTS team, for two consecutive years, has been efficient in reducing traffic for children of all ages, earning the award, and honor of holding onto this title for three years, of NJ Safe Route to School Silver Boot, 2015-2018, Salt Brook School; NJ Safe Route to

School Silver Boot, 2016-2019; New Providence Middle School; NJ Safe Route to School Gold Boot, 2016-2019; Allen W Roberts School; and NJ Safe Route to School Gold Boot, 2016-2019; for the Borough of New Providence.

With a collaborated effort from school officials and co-chairpersons, the SRTS has been able to improve drop off and pick-up locations by moving the drop off zone forward at Allen W Roberts School, in order to allow more vehicles to enter the roundabout. Other projects, like the SRTS in 9 Google Maps Layers, through color codes and different layers, allow parents or students to review the map and learn drop and go locations, crossing guard locations, bike rack locations, areas to park and walk, areas where parking and dropping off are restricted, travel routes, student entrances to school.

The interactive map also allows you to submit edits when residents find any errors or area that are in need of update. The SRTS team encourages public participation in the map and hope parents will get involved, to make the map as effective as possible.

All these programs, information, and team members can be found on STEMshoots.com, or on their Facebook page, STEMshoots; a site created by Seth in order to incorporate STEM to student's walks on their way to school. Stemshoots, in addition to the site, will also post blogs, which will help parents keep kids interested in STEM.

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## DROUGHT WARNING ISSUED FOR NEW PROVIDENCE

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed 14 counties in North, Central and Northern Coastal New Jersey under a drought warning due to ongoing precipitation deficits and deteriorating water-supply conditions, particularly storage levels in reservoirs.

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin signed an Administrative Order on October 21, 2016 designating the drought warning for Morris, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties.

This designation enables DEP to more closely manage reservoir systems by directing water transfers among systems, controlling releases from reservoirs, and modifying the rate of flow in streams and rivers in order to balance ecological protection and needs of water suppliers.

The goal of the drought warning is to preserve and balance available water supplies in an effort to avert more serious water shortages in the future. The warning also reinforces the need for residents and businesses in impacted counties to conserve water.

"The situation in our reservoir systems is becoming more critical, with some systems dropping to half their capacity or less,"

Commissioner Martin said. "Without knowing how much precipitation we are going to get over the fall and winter to replenish our water sources, it is vital that every resident and business step up efforts to voluntarily reduce water use in the hopes of averting a water emergency and mandatory restrictions."

New Providence officials strongly encourage all residents to eliminate unnecessary water use and encourages residences to comply with the following recommendations:

- Don't let the faucet run while brushing, shaving or washing the dishes.
- Run your washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Fix leaky faucets.
- Don't wash your car at home – a car wash uses less water and recycles it, too.
- With the end of the growing season, be sure to turn off automatic lawn and garden sprinkler systems.

For more state water supply status information and to view the Administrative Order, visit: [www.njdrought.org](http://www.njdrought.org).

For more information on ways to conserve water, visit [www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/conserve.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/conserve.htm).

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The New Providence Police Department and the New Providence PBA Local 132 are proud to announce our participation in the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program again this year. We are collecting toys until December 10, 2016. A collection box is located in the lobby of the Municipal Center at 360 Elkwood Avenue. Thank you for your generosity in getting gifts to children who might otherwise have none.

Questions can be directed to Lt. Justine Kennedy at 908-665-1111.

## THE CHATHAM BRASS COMMUNITY BAND TO VISIT LIBRARY

The Chatham Brass Community band will sing and play at the New Providence Memorial Library on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 3 p.m. Come and hear this popular local group play all kinds of holiday music. The audience will get a chance to perform, too with a sing along and even holiday treats.

This is a great family event!

The Library is located at  
377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence.

## COOKIE WALK SET FOR DEC. 10TH

On Saturday, Dec. 10th, 2016 from 11a.m. to 4p.m. (or until cookies run out), the American Legion Post 433 located at 357 Elkwood Ave., New Providence, will sponsor a Coolie Walk Benefit / Fundraiser.

A \$5.00 donation provides your choice of delicious, traditional, homemade cookies in a decorative, recyclable, holiday motif gift box. Proceeds benefit The Christopher B. Cosgrove II, USMC Memorial Fund.

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There have been numerous black bear sightings throughout the Borough recently, mainly on the East side of town. Sighting locations include Livingston Ave, Overhill Road, Delwick Lane and Central Avenue. Residents are advised to follow the steps outlined below if they spot a bear.

If you believe an encounter places a life in immediate danger, please call 911. If not, you should call the non-emergency police line at (908) 665-1111 to report a bear.

Black bears by nature tend to be wary of people. However, if you encounter a black bear in your neighborhood or outdoors, follow these common-sense safety tips.

- Do not feed bears! Never feed or approach a bear!
- Remain calm if you encounter a bear. Do not run from it.
- Make the bear aware of your presence by speaking in an assertive voice, singing, clapping your hands, or making other noises.
- Make sure the bear has an escape route.
- If a bear enters your home, provide it with an escape route by propping all doors open.
- Avoid direct eye contact, which may be perceived by a bear as a challenge. Never run from a bear. Instead, slowly back away.
- To scare the bear away, make loud noises by yelling, banging pots and pans or using an

airhorn. Make yourself look as big as possible by waving your arms. If you are with someone else, stand close together with your arms raised above your head.

- The bear may utter a series of huffs, make popping jaw sounds by snapping its jaws and swat the ground. These are warning signs that you are too close. Slowly back away, avoid direct eye contact and do not run.
- If a bear stands on its hind legs or moves closer, it may be trying to get a better view or detect scents in the air. It is usually not a threatening behavior.
- Black bears will sometimes "bluff charge" when cornered, threatened or attempting to steal food. Stand your ground, avoid direct eye contact, then slowly back away and do not run.
- If the bear does not leave, move to a secure area.
- Report black bear damage or nuisance behavior to the DEP's 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337).
- Families who live in areas frequented by black bears should have a "Bear Plan" in place for children, with an escape route and planned use of whistles and air horns.
- Black bear attacks are extremely rare. If a black bear does attack, fight back!

A Department of Environmental Protection podcast, which focuses on bear safety in New Jersey, can be found at [www.nj.gov/dep/podcast/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/podcast/).

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# CDC THEATRE ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR NOEL COWARD'S BLITHE SPIRIT

New Providence NEWS • Page 9 • December 2016

CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously operating community theatre will hold auditions for Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit on December 12 and 13 at 7pm.

All auditions and rehearsals will take place at the theatre's home at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford, NJ. The production is scheduled for February 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2017.

Winner of the 2009 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revival, the smash comedy hit of the London and Broadway stages, this much-revived classic from the playwright of Private Lives offers up fussy, cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, re-married but haunted

(literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira who is called up by a visiting "happy medium", one Madame Arcati. As the (worldly and un-) personalities clash, Charles' current wife Ruth is accidentally killed, "passes over", joins Elvira and the two "blithe spirits" haunt the hapless Charles into perpetuity.

Additional information can be found by visiting [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org). Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT BLOOD DRIVES

New Jersey Blood Services, a division of New York Blood Center, which supplies blood products and services to 60 hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers at blood drives. The blood service volunteer is an integral member of the collection team whose task it is assist donors with registration, escorting and

canteen duties, and to watch for post donation reactions. Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules. For additional information contact, Manager of Community Relations, R. Jan Zepka at 732-616-8741 or [rzepka@nybloodcenter.org](mailto:rzepka@nybloodcenter.org).

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**December 24-Christmas Eve**  
4:00 p.m. Children's Service of Lessons and Carols  
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Soloists  
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Sanctuary Choir,  
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**DECEMBER 25**  
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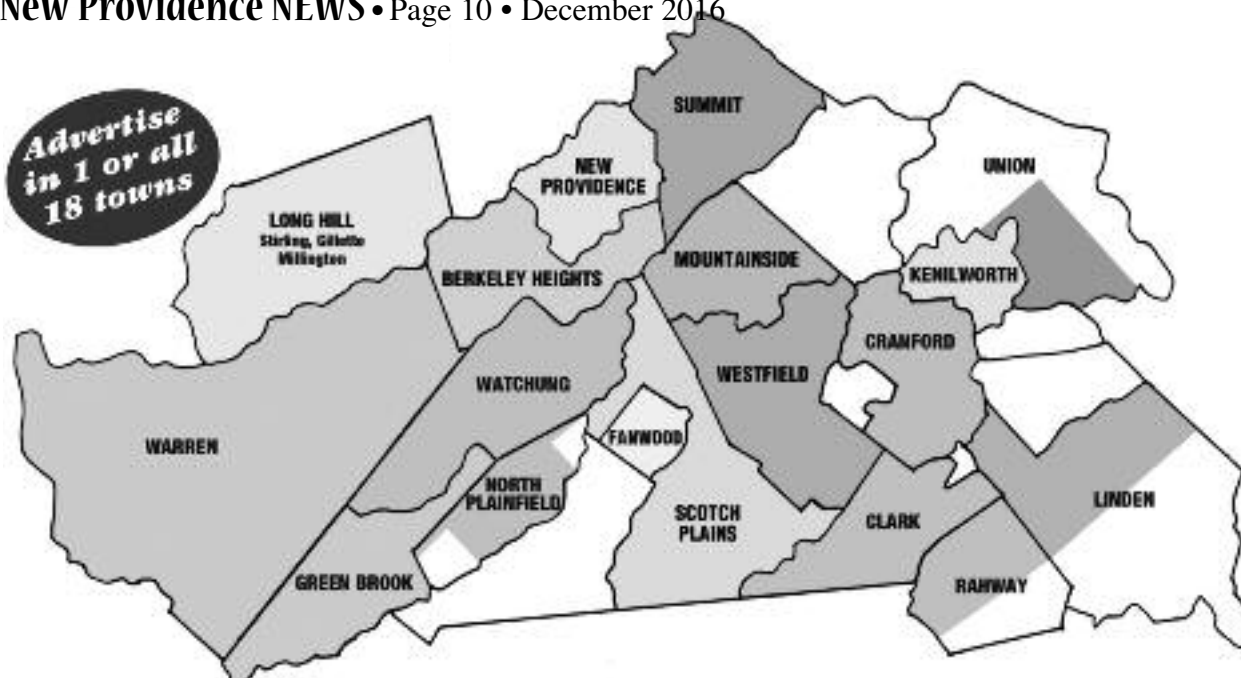
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## THIRD UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER DRAWS NEARLY 600

At a time when the nation is gripped by divisiveness and intolerance for those who differ from us is worn by many like a badge of courage, nearly 600 people from all walks of life came together for the Third Annual Union County Day of Prayer, held October 6 at The Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield.

"Day of Prayer and Reflection: Honoring People of All Faith Communities" drew speakers and readers from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths. They were joined by people of all races and nationalities, as well as more than 100 people with disabilities. The event featured prayers, meditations and songs.

The Annual Union County Day of Prayer is planned and orchestrated each year by the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, an organization comprising interfaith congregations and community-based nonprofits, including Community Access Unlimited (CAU). The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public while bringing greater awareness of these services to the wider community, according to Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director.

"In these times when families are being rendered asunder, when communities are being torn apart, when someone who is different is being rejected, it is essential to come together," Blanchard said.

Rabbi Joel Abraham of the Temple Shalom in Scotch Plains said, "I think it's important to stand with people of other faiths whenever possible. Especially now when there is a force of division...we want to reach across the pew and see how we are more alike than different yet also celebrate the ways we are different."

Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, said, "There are many misunderstandings

in our country about different faith groups, many stereotypes. I want to promote the vision we are all called by God and need to respect each other."

The Venerable Klint Kaevalin from the Buddhist Dhammakaya Meditation Center in Fanwood, said, "It's nice when we can come together and share peace and have a true commonality that we want to have goodness in the world."

Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge said, "Interfaith cooperation is critical for not only the Muslim community but all communities. I've been talking about how to confront and counter bigotry. I will know I am making a difference when I see a Muslim say something hateful about another group and another Muslim stand up and say, 'That's not right.' When a Jew says something hateful and another Jew says, 'That's not right.' And a Christian and so on."

Chaudry encouraged everyone in attendance to

sign a pledge to "stand up for the other" that reads: "While interacting with members of my own faith or ethnic community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the other and challenge bigotry in any form." The pledge form is available online at [www.standupfortheother.org](http://www.standupfortheother.org).

"If you hear something hateful and bigoted, if you don't speak out they'll think you agree with them," Chaudry said. "If we can all take enough of a stand speaking out that that's not right, we can make a difference."

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.



(above) Members of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and other invited speakers at the Third Annual Union County Day of Prayer.

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