

New Providence NEWS

Published by Renna Media

Issue 16 • January 2017

NETWORKING EVENT

JANUARY 18TH, 2017
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AN OPEN INVITE FROM NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKING GROUP



(above) The Neighborhood Networking Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 7:30 am – 9 am, at Connell Business Center, 100 Connell Drive, Berkeley Heights, NJ.

The Neighborhood Networking Group (NNG) was founded in 2004. NNG started with 6 leading business owners, and has grown to 30 professionals with a mission to provide outstanding service to the community, and support each other in growing their businesses.

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 7:30 am – 9 am, at Connell Business Center, 100 Connell Drive, Berkeley Heights, NJ.

The meetings rotate the following schedule:

Member Spotlight - so members and their guests can really understand what the spotlighted member brings to the market.

Educational Presentation - so members can get new ideas and learn about best practices. These presentations are given by members and guest speakers.

Networking - during which members get to know each

other and learn of new business opportunities.

As the President of the Plus Factor, Terry Viney has this to say "I am so proud and grateful to be part of the NNG. It has been such a big help in my personal and business growth. I know all of our members feel this way."

Ines Cohron, President of Total Home Cleaning, put it this way, "NNG has helped me grow my business and through NNG I have met fellow professionals that have been of service to me and that I can recommend to others with confidence."

Patrick Cicala, Mortgage Banker at Capital One, "NNG is a key resource for my business and my clients."

NNG are now interviewing for new members. If you would like to be a guest at one of their meetings, or would like to set up an interview for membership, please call Terry Viney 973-218-0120.

STRESS SEMINAR OFFERED AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On Saturday January 28th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. a free seminar focused on dealing with stress will be offered at The Presbyterian Church, 1307 Springfield Ave, New Providence, in the Ministry Center.

Are you feeling overwhelmed, stressed out, anxious, frequently discouraged or down? Through presentation and

interaction led by Dr. Jim Owen, licensed psychologist and former associate minister, we will cover emotional, spiritual and physical disciplines and tools for the management and prevention of stress, anxiety and depression. Light refreshments will be served. Walk-ins are welcome; reservations are appreciated. Call 908-665-0050.

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DISTRICT'S MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



The New Providence School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The district joins 476 districts across the country in receiving the prestigious award in 2016.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

Districts that have been recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, members of the district community answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

This award recognizes that all district schools

in New Providence are leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the new federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation, signed into law in December 2015, replaces No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing—while leaving behind subject such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of well-rounded education for all children.

“Congratulations to our Music Department and school community for this recognition!” said Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools. “To receive this prestigious award four years in a row is a testament to the sustained commitment to music education in our schools. Once again, congratulations to our students, staff, parents, and administration for this wonderful accomplishment.”

About The NAMM Foundation:

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,300 members around the world. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

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FREE TAX RETURN HELP AT NEW PROVIDENCE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

New Providence, Berkeley Heights, and other area residents can obtain free assistance in preparing and filing their individual 2016 tax returns. There are no age or income limitations for participation in the program, but taxpayers with complex returns may be advised to seek paid assistance. Free assistance will be provided at the New Providence Senior Citizens Center (NPPSCC), 15 East Fourth Street, New Providence, by volunteer tax counselors under a program sponsored jointly by the AARP, the Internal Revenue Service, and the New Jersey State Division of Taxation.

Assistance will cover individual federal and NJ state income taxes, the NJ Homestead Property Tax Rebate, and the Property Tax Reimbursement Program (PTR – 1 & 2), as applicable. All returns will be filed electronically, resulting in refunds being received typically in about four weeks after filing. Any taxes due would not be payable until April 18, 2017. Taxpayers will be provided with vouchers to be submitted by that date with any payments due.

Tax counselors will be available on Mondays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., from Monday, February 6, 2017, through Monday, April 17, 2017. Beginning January 25, 2017, taxpayers seeking assistance in preparing and filing their returns may call the NPPSCC at 908-665-0046, between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, for an appointment, or they may sign up at the center.

The Internal Revenue Service is again advising taxpayers to file their returns as early as possible to reduce the potential for identity theft.

Taxpayers must bring government-issued photo identification, social security cards of persons filing the return and of any dependents listed on the return, copies of their 2015 federal and state returns, and any 2016 federal forms W-2, 1099-R, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-B,

SSA-1099, etc., documentation of the amount of rent or real estate taxes paid in 2016 and of other expenses if the taxpayers wish to itemize deductions; and, if they wish to have any refund directly deposited to their bank account, a check showing their bank's routing number and their account number. In the case of taxpayers filing joint returns, both taxpayers should be present to authorize the electronic filing.

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COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED TO HOLD OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "ALADDIN JR." IN JANUARY

The CAU Community Players will be holding open auditions for their 2017 production of "Aladdin Jr." Tuesday, Jan. 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 21, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. All auditions will take place in the auditorium of Community Access Unlimited (CAU) at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, 07202.

The CAU Community Players is a troupe of individuals with developmental disabilities and actors and actresses from the broader community. Formed in 2012, the troupe allows CAU members to engage in the pleasures of acting, singing and dancing with people from the wider community and to be judged for their talents rather than disabilities.

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.

The CAU Community Players stages a three-day production each year that draws hundreds. This year the troupe will be staging "Aladdin Jr." Based on the Disney movie, which itself was based on the folk tale of the same name, "Aladdin Jr." is the story of a street urchin, a princess and a genie all overcoming their respective obstacles to escape the traps of their lives and achieve their

fullest potential and happiness.

Each year the CAU Community Players select a play that is representative of the agency's message of inclusion, acceptance and believing in oneself, as well as everyone's worth regardless of disability.

Auditions will be held at 80 West Grant Street, Elizabeth, NJ and are open to all members of the public, including youths and adults, as well as all members of Community Access Unlimited. For more information and a downloadable audition packet, visit www.caunj.org and click on Recreation/CAU Community Players.

Audition schedule: Tuesday, Jan. 17 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 19 – 6:30-8:00 p.m. ; Saturday, Jan. 21 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



(above) The cast of last year's production, "Music Man, Jr."

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MOMS HELPING MOMS 3RD ANNUAL SNOW BALL GALA FUNDRAISING EVENT

New Providence NEWS • Page 7 • January 2017

The Moms Helping Moms 3rd Annual Snowball Gala will take place on January 28th at Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. There will be food, drinks, music, silent auction, raffle, and games, all to support a great cause.

Moms Helping Moms Foundation provides low income families with baby essentials like diapers, wipes, and clothing. Bridget Cutler, a New Providence resident and Mom was overwhelmed by all the gifts she received from family and friends when she had her first baby. She wanted to donate some of the gifts to families who weren't as fortunate. The issue was she couldn't find an organization to give to, so she founded Moms Helping Moms to fill the gap.

Moms Helping Moms Foundation partners with social workers and other local organizations

in New Jersey. They recently partnered with several Nursery schools, preschools and gyms this past September to collect more than 8,400 diapers during National Diaper Awareness Week. 1 in 3 American families struggle with diaper needs, not having enough diapers for their baby. Annually, Diaper Need Awareness Week draws national attention to this consequence of poverty and Moms Helping Moms Foundation is part of the solution.

Moms Helping Moms Foundation invites you to help them fight child poverty by attending this fun event. It's such a fun night - we hope you can all join us!! Get your tickets by going to www.momshelpingmomsfoundation.org and click on "Events" to get your ticket!

Photo courtesy of Aspen Leaf Photography.



(above l-4) Moms Helping Moms Snow Ball Gala 2015- Board Members: Megan Schreiber Deaton, Jackie McCormack, Bridget Cutler and Jerusha Oleksiuk.



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FREE WORKSHOP ON STARTING A NEW BUSINESS

Starting your own small business may be the fulfillment of a long-held dream, but it's also a very risky proposition: about half of all businesses fail within five years. That's why UCEDC, a non-profit, small business lender and entrepreneurial training organization, is offering a free workshop, "Starting a Business in NJ – the Steps you Need to Take" on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6 pm at its Cranford headquarters.

Led by UCEDC Director of Training Erich Peter, the session will cover the mechanics of starting a business including the pros and cons of different legal business structures, required insurances; understanding your tax liabilities, and HR issues.

"You may have the greatest product or service to sell, but it won't matter if you don't prepare yourself for the many challenges you will inevitably face," warns Peter. "We'll review some of the more critical factors that contribute to a successful small business and give you a strong foundation to move ahead."

UCEDC is the entrepreneurial training arm of the NJ Economic Development Authority and provides scores of free business literacy workshops throughout New Jersey.

Online registration for the free workshop is available on the UCEDC website: www.ucedc.com. For more information, contact Erich Peter at 908-527-1166 or

epeter@ucedc.com.

UCEDC (Union County Economic Development Corp.), a nonprofit economic development corporation, is dedicated to promoting New Jersey's small businesses with resources tailored to every stage of business growth. Since our inception in 1977, we've provided over \$24 million in loans to start-up and established businesses through a variety of SBA programs and other funding sources. Our Procurement Technical Assistance Center helped local businesses win over \$2 billion in awarded government contracts. And thousands of entrepreneurs have attended our workshops and seminar.

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BECOME A LITERACY VOLUNTEER

Literacy New Jersey is dedicated to providing free, student-centered tutoring services to adults who struggle with reading, writing and speaking English. Registration is now open for its Winter 2017 Tutor Training classes.

Tuesday, January 24 - 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM;
Thursday, January 26 - 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM;
Tuesday, January 31 - 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM;
Thursday, February 2 - 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM;
Tuesday, February 7 - 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

All sessions will take place at the Cranford Community Center, 224 Walnut Ave, Cranford, NJ, except for Thursday, February 2, which will take place at Summit High School, Kent Place Blvd, Summit.

After completing the five training sessions, volunteer tutors are matched with a small group of students from the growing waiting list of adults who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students in a public place, usually a Union County library, for 2 hours each week. New volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 50 hours.

LNJ provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free Professional Development workshops on specific topics such as Health Literacy, Learning Disabilities, Financial Literacy, and ESL Conversation and Small Group Instruction.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18-years old, able to speak and read English and willing to tutor in Union County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities.

There is a \$45 non-refundable registration fee to cover the cost of materials distributed to new volunteers.

For more information, or to register, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 or email Nancy Lama at nlama@literacynj.org.



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READY TO HELP SAVE A LIFE

The graduates of a recent suicide intervention training class held by caring and crisis hotline Caring Contact of Westfield proudly hold their certificates.

The Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) class was held Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 at the RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center in Scotch Plains. ASIST is an internationally acclaimed interactive training program in suicide first-aid that provides

participants with the tools to intervene in the case of a suicide and create positive outcomes when dealing with someone who is feeling suicidal.

The participants brought a variety of backgrounds, including social workers, teacher, realtor, retired therapist and college students and came from throughout Union County and as far away as Flemington and Jersey City.

For information about attending future ASIST training contact janet.sarkos@caringcontact.org.



CHATHAM BRASS HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Chatham Brass Holiday Concert was held at the New Providence Library on December

11th. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.





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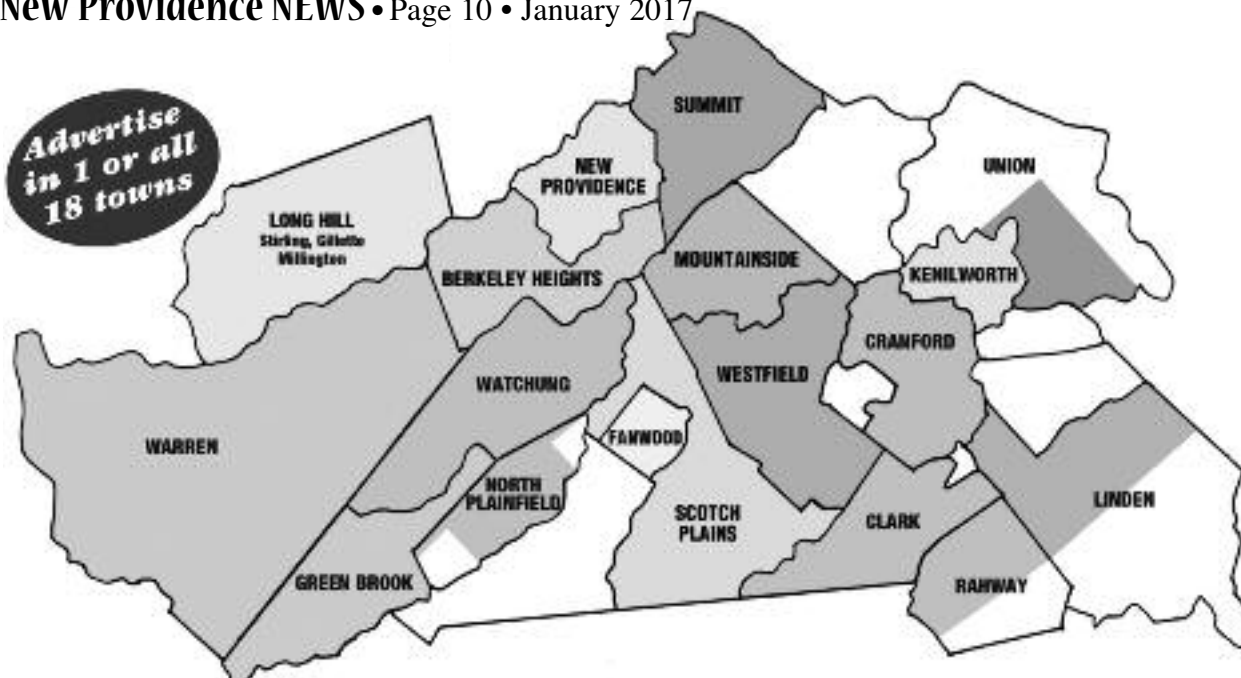
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