

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield



North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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## TEENS AND TWEENS STAND TALL IN OUR TRUTH AT LIBRARY



*Submitted by Carolann DeMatos*

Throughout the month of February 2018, North Plainfield teens and tweens attended a four-week workshop titled, Standing Tall in Our Truth, facilitated by the Meta Theatre Company and hosted at Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, North Plainfield, New Jersey. The Meta Theatre Company guides students in identifying social justice problems and creating an action plan for change. Participants included Barbara Cannell of the Meta Theatre Company, Caroline Hann of the Meta Theatre Company, Rachel Given,

Elizabeth Ellis, Carly Robertson, Grace Klikus, Brianna Cookman, Darrell Cogdell, Gabriela Tovar of the Meta Theatre Company, Victoria Williams Donath of the Meta Theatre Company, and SCLSNJ's Branch Manager Christal Blue.

"We appreciate the Friends of North Plainfield Memorial Library for funding this workshop presented by the Meta Theatre Company. It was an excellent creative outlet for North Plainfield teens to address social justice concerns that directly affect themselves and their community," said Blue.

## FRIENDS OF VERMEULE MANSION ANNUAL GIANT YARD SALE

*Submitted by Johanna Salvemini*

We're back! The Friends of Vermeule Mansion (FOVM) announces their annual Giant Yard Sale which will be held on Saturday, April 21st, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Vermeule Mansion, at the corner of 614 Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, April 22.

Cost for a 10' x 10' space is \$10 paid prior to April 6th. Spaces are \$15 if reserved and paid for after April 6th. No

tables or chairs will be provided, and no food items may be sold by vendors. Sellers may set up at 8 a.m., and sign-in is at the driveway. All vendors must vacate the property by 4:30 p.m. and must take their remaining unsold items and trash with them.

Food and drink will be offered for sale by the FOVM throughout the day. For more information and an application to reserve a space for the day, call Peggy Glicklich at 732-868-6940

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# The PRIDE of North Plainfield

The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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## 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 908-858-4012*

## THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS WELCOMES NEW PRIEST, MOTHER STEPHANIE SHOCKLEY

Submitted by Virginia Mickulick

The Church of the Holy Cross, 40 Mercer Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey, is thrilled to welcome new priest-in-charge, Mother Stephanie Shockley. She brings to the Holy Cross family and the larger community a wealth of experience: work in biomedical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania; chaplaincies at Bellevue Hospital, St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, and New York University Hospital Trauma and Emergency Center; and chaplain to the activist community in NYC. Mother Stephanie brought compassionate, unconditional support to her ministries, cherishing the connections she made. She says, "I have loved my ministry with a wide variety of people and feel blessed to be called to Holy Cross." And at Holy Cross and in North Plainfield she has found that parish with the diversity she came to love in NYC. She finds the Holy Cross family "warm, caring, open, and accepting." Holy Cross, in turn, eagerly welcomes this gifted shepherd who honors its reputation for unconditional welcome to any visitors in need of connections, support, and warmth. Mother Stephanie would undoubtedly

add that she has already learned that at Holy Cross there is always the welcome of fellowship, lots of laughter, and lots of good food!

Visit The Church of the Holy Cross at [holycrossnp.org](http://holycrossnp.org).



## NPCCR MEETING MAY 3

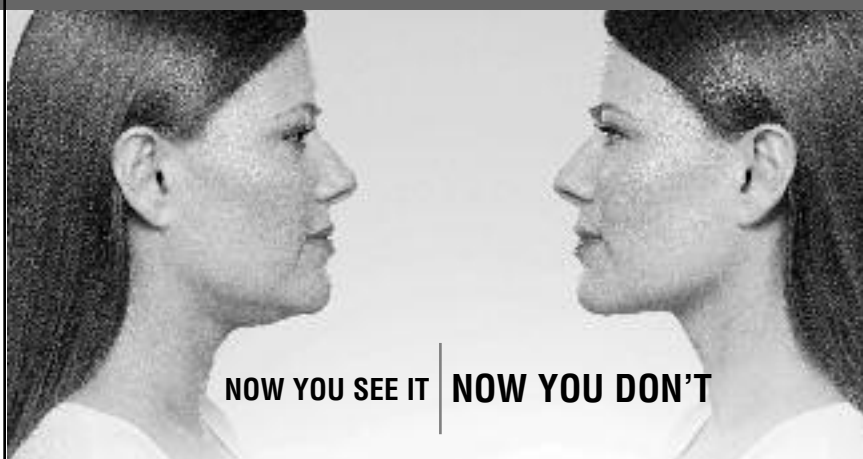
The next meeting of the North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) will be Thursday, May 3, at 7 p.m., at the North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield.

Our guest speaker will be from the Somerset County Sheriff's Department. The subject will

be "Gun Safety: Current Trends of Violence and How Police Agencies are Being Proactive."

Residents of other municipalities are welcome to attend. NPCCR posts the current police reports and council meetings on our site. You can view them by going to [npccr.org](http://npccr.org).

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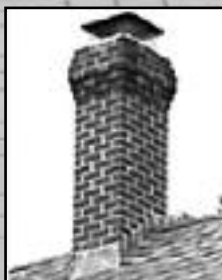
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# ROTARY CLUB OF PLAINFIELD-NORTH PLAINFIELD 19TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING DINNER

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield 19th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner will be held on April 18 at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield, New Jersey, and is a fundraiser for the club's scholarship program.

Plainfield resident and Union County Freeholder Linda Carter will receive the 2018 Service Above Self Award. Past recipients of the Rotary Service Above Self Award include Janice Allen, former mayor and councilwoman North Plainfield (2010 inaugural recipient); William Parenti, North Plainfield Chief of Police (2011); Michael Townley, South Plainfield resident and Rotary member (2012); Donna Albanese, Plainfield business owner and leader (2013); Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools North Plainfield (2014); Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp (2015); North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giordano (2016); and Shirley Weaver Thompson

of South Plainfield (2017).

Tickets for the Wine Tasting Dinner are \$70.00 each and are available on-line at [tinyurl.com/2018WineDinner](http://tinyurl.com/2018WineDinner). A tax-deductible portion of the cost is available because credit card payments go to the Rotary Plainfield-North Plainfield Foundation (Rotary PNP, Inc.), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Seating is limited, and early reservations recommended. Tables will be reserved for parties of eight or more.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield, visit their website at [RotaryPNP.org](http://RotaryPNP.org). The club meets every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at Giovanna's Restaurant, 1462 South Avenue in Plainfield. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary and the club is invited to attend a meeting as a guest of the Club.

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# LOCAL STUDENTS SHINE AT ANNUAL SPELLING BEE SPECTACULAR

Somerset County Library System of NJ (SCLSNJ) hosted their 3rd Annual Spelling Bee Spectacular at the Somerset County Vocational and Technical School on March 10, 2018.

Sixty-three Somerset County students competed for the title of bee champion. Winner, seventh-grader Aashi Mishra of Valley View School in Watchung, won by spelling the word "acharya." Mishra will

attend the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. at the Library System's expense. Explore SCLSNJ's Bee Spectacular Bee Facebook photo album: [facebook.com/SCLSNJ](https://facebook.com/SCLSNJ).



(above, l-r) North Plainfield students participating in SCLSNJ 3rd Annual Spelling Bee Spectacular:

- Zorian Little, Grade 4, West End School;
- Isa Malik, Grade 4, Stony Brook School;
- Hamza Ramadan, Grade 4, East End School;
- J'khia Gaskin, Grade 8, North Plainfield Middle School;
- Bradley Rosas, Grade 4, East End School;
- Julia Gomes, Grade 8, North Plainfield Middle School;
- Raiden Landa, Grade 4, West End School

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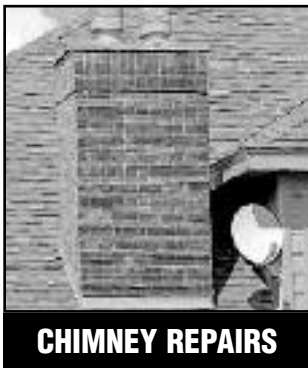
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Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta



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# ST. BALDWIN'S FUNDRAISER AT FIRE DEPARTMENT

By *Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta*

The North Plainfield Fire Department, 8 Lincoln Place, North Plainfield, New Jersey, recently hosted a St. Baldwin's Foundation head-shaving event to raise funds and awareness for lifesaving childhood cancer research.

Over 70 local participants, including local firefighters, children, and even a pastor, went bald to support the Foundation's mission to take childhood back from cancer. With the participants, the barbers, and people who came for support, there was over 200 in attendance. The event was set up by off-duty firemen. The barbers and the DJ all volunteered their services.

This year's event raised over \$40,000, and some years over \$100,000 has been raised. Since 2004, the North Plainfield Fire Department has raised about \$1,050,000, according to event organizer, Captain Robert Beattie.

"It's an open community event," said Beattie. "Not just firemen. Teachers, police officers, cancer survivors, people of all walks of life. This is my twentieth year on the fire department and it's the highlight of my year. It became a friendly challenge; who can raise the most money?" Beattie shaved his head at the very end of the event.

Jeff Holtz, a retired fireman and big supporter of the event said, "I am proud of Captain Rob for continuing 15 years."

Chuck and Cheyenne Mangione were in charge of donations and running a Tricky Tray to help raise funds.

The top five shavees of 2018, who raised the most money to shave their heads were:

1. Frank Wagner, who raised \$4,575.
2. Vincent Williams, who raised \$3,000.
3. Jack Heyer, who raised \$2,745.
4. Alex Moshier, who raised \$2,225.
5. Mike Daley, who raised \$1,505.

Wagner said he shaves his head once every three years and has been doing so since the beginning. His teenage daughter Samantha shaved her head a few years ago. Now that she's licensed, she was on board shaving heads today, including shaving her dad.

Captain Rick Connolly has also been getting shaved since the beginning. He said, "It's a good event. It's been very successful."

Pastor Scott Harris from Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield was a first-time shavee. Prior to getting shaved, he shared, "I want to help research children's cancer. I'm a pastor. One of our missions is to love our

neighbor. The church donated a huge chunk of change. I can't wait to cut it off."

David Kriete, 13, was an honored child. He survived bone cancer but is now going through bone reconstruction. His father Brian Kriete shaved his head in support.

Find out more about The North Plainfield Fire Department at: [northplainfield.org/NPFD/index.shtml](http://northplainfield.org/NPFD/index.shtml) or call on the non-emergency line: 908-769-2935. For more information about St. Baldwin's Foundation, visit: [stbaldricks.org](http://stbaldricks.org)



(above) Samantha Wagner shaves her dad, Frank Wagner.

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## MAYOR ADDRESSES NPBA

Submitted by Bruce Heyman

Mayor Michael Giordano spoke at a recent North Plainfield Business Association (NPBA) meeting. He addressed issues concerning the business community. He was joined by North Plainfield Business Administrator David Hollod. Topics covered included taxes, schools, road repairs, and recreational events including the Summer Concert Series, fireworks, and the Farmers Market.

The event was sponsored by the Kiddie

Academy and their owner, John Ao. Ao introduced everyone to his beautiful, and busy, new facility on North Drive in North Plainfield, New Jersey.

The North Plainfield Business Association is looking for local businesses to sponsor upcoming meetings. For more information about attending an upcoming event, sponsorships or to join the NPBA, contact NPBA President Bruce Heyman at 908-755-4700 or [bruce@fabricland.com](mailto:bruce@fabricland.com)

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(above, l-r) North Plainfield Business Association Board of Directors and guests: Cindy Bloyd, Valley National Bank; Bruce Heyman, Fabricland and Metropolitan Window Fashions; Dave Hollod, Borough Business Administrator; Mayor Michael Giordano; Carlo Baloco, In the Cut Barbershops; John Ao, Kiddie Academy; and Danny Dominguez, International Sports Club.

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# THE NEXT BIG THING!!! JOE RENNA'S HYPER LOCAL NETWORK ON YOUTUBE

Renna Media has launched a new YouTube channel called Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network! The channel will consist of a variety of shows, each with its own focus. The first episode of each show is up and ready to view.

### Mind Your Own Local Business

Mind Your Local Business uses real life examples to illustrate successful techniques for managing and marketing your business. Local businesses will be featured. The first episode is about crafting a 30 second elevator speech. The February 2018 meeting of the Irish Business Association held at Molly Maguire's in Clark, NJ is featured in the first episode. Businesses that would like to be featured in an episode can email Joe at [joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com).

### The Peterstown Show

The Peterstown show is a video continuation of the Peterstown Newspaper. The show focuses on the 100-year history of an Italian American Neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Like the newspaper, it preserves the culture and traditions while recording the oral history that may be lost. The first episode is an interview with Carmela Lepore who turned 108-years-old on January 30, 2018.

### Renna's Arena hosted by Nick Renna

Nick Renna has been the voice of high school sports as a public address announcer and brings that experience to a variety show; an eclectic mix of old and new video about general interests. His first episode is a video he shot of a 5th and 6th grade St. Anthony's Grammar School game from 1989.

### The Video Shoebox

As a camera bug from a very young age Joe Renna amassed a collection of VHS tapes and 8 mm film. The first video is of the Linden Debutant Ball that he shot in 1992. There are hundreds of hours of videos to come.

Anyone with 8mm film or VHS tape to transfer should email [joerenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:joerenna@rennamedia.com).

Renna Media will convert film for free if we use it on the show.

## PLEASE VIEW / LIKE / COMMENT / SUBSCRIBE.

More shows will be coming in the future! And if you have ideas for what you'd like to see, please comment or email me at [JoeRenna@rennamedia.com](mailto:JoeRenna@rennamedia.com). ▼ Please SUBSCRIBE to my channel to get regular business insights and networking guidance: [youtube.com/channel/UCqJS](https://youtube.com/channel/UCqJS). ▼ I welcome your likes, shares and comments! You can learn more about me and my business by visiting my website at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com).

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 <p><b>MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS</b> With Host JOE RENNA 0:27</p>	 <p><b>30 Second Elevator Speech</b> Mind Your Own Local Business 12:43</p>	 <p><b>THE Peterstown SHOW</b> ELIZABETH, NJ The Burg 0:45</p>	 <p><b>Carmella Lapore Turns 108 Years Old</b> 18:19</p>
<p>Mind Your Own LOCAL Business- Marketing/Sales</p>	<p>How to Give the Perfect Elevator Pitch   Examples</p>	<p>Peterstown Show &amp; Book- an Italian-American Community</p>	<p>Carmella Lapore Turns 108 Secrets to Aging Well  </p>
 <p><b>Renna's Arena</b> with Host Nick Renna 0:21</p>	 <p><b>St. A's 1989</b> E1 6:58</p>	 <p>Joe Renna's <b>Video Shoebox</b> Hometown Home Movies Film and Video Archives 0:30</p>	 <p><b>Linden Debutant Ball 1992</b> 56:44</p>
<p>Renna's Arena - Introduction to Local Sports Show &amp; More</p>	<p>St Anthony's vs St Rocco's Basketball, Elizabeth NJ</p>	<p>The Video Shoebox 50 years of Hometown Home Movies  </p>	<p>Debutante Ball Linden NJ 1992 Video Shoebox Ep#1</p>



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