

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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RECORD TIED AT ROTARY TRACK AND FIELD MEET NORTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL DOMINATES IN AWARDS TALLY

With an overcast sky and pleasantly cool temperatures, young student athletes from area middle schools and one elementary school gathered for the 91st Annual Rotary Track and Field Meet, held June 6, 2018 at the Hub Stine Athletic Complex in Plainfield.

Vincent Rizzi, holder of the Meet high jump records for boys ages 12 and 13, tried valiantly to best the 14-year-old boys’ record in the same event. Despite his best efforts, the record remained at 5’ 10” for another year, but now is shared between Vincent of Valley View School in Watchung and Mitchell Webb from Maxson School in Plainfield. Mitchell set the record in 1999 and stood alone for nineteen years until Vincent’s strong effort in 2018.

“We had three athletes participate in the Boys Group 3 High Jump - Vincent Rizzi, Christopher Ntim, and Jordan Gelin. Both Christopher and Jordan had never participated in the high jump, but performed well and were excited to receive their medals,” said Meet Director Michael Townley. “These are just two examples of many first-timers who come out for our Track and Field Meet, hoping for and many times succeeding in earning an award.”

The Rotary Club’s meet has been held annually since 1924, with a three-year break during World War 2 and several meets cancelled due to weather. Started as an organized meet for elementary school students, the meet shifted to the high school level to provide a friendly competition for area students. Later, when high schools began competing through a statewide system of athletic events, the Rotary meet shifted to the middle school grades.

Invitations went out to area schools in early May, with



(above) Vincent Rizzi of Valley View School in Watchung ties the record for the 14 year old boys high jump with a jump of 5' 10".



(above) Middle School student puts the shot for a great result.



(above) Collecting medals at awards table.



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ROTARY TRACK AND FIELD MEET (continued)

nearly 250 students registered for the Meet. "This year we have students from North Plainfield Middle School; Valley View School in Watchung; and Cedarbrook Elementary School, Hubbard Middle School, Maxson Middle School, Queen City Academy, Plainfield Academy AAS of Plainfield," said Meet Director Michael Townley. "We thank all of our area school districts for allowing their student athletes the opportunity to participate and to earn individual honors. We especially thank the Plainfield School District for allowing us free use of the beautiful Hub Stine Athletic Complex."

"Over the years, we have had the privilege of hosting a number of young athletes who have gone on to set state and national records. One athlete, the late Milt Campbell, Olympic decathlon champion, even went on to win medals in Olympic competitions" said Meet Director Townley. "We look forward to seeing athletes like Vincent Rizzi achieve at least some of those accolades as they continue their athletic careers."

"But even more important than hosting future greats is our ability to give any interested student athlete the opportunity to compete against their peers, sometimes for the very first time. I have been doing this for over twenty-seven years, and one of the joys of that long history is meeting young men and women who tell me that they competed in our Meets when they were in high school or middle school. Even in their thirties and forties and older, their smiles are just as big as the day they competed at the Rotary Track and Field Meet."

Members of the Club and their friends offered their services as officials and judges for an afternoon of friendly but determined competition by the young 12, 13 and 14-year-old athletes. They were supported by members of the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School who also filled key roles, such as judges, timers, and field event assistants. Interact is the youth-based service club sponsored by Rotary International.

"We are so grateful to our family members and friends and our Interact Club members who come out to help us with this youth service project," said Roberta Smith, president of the Rotary Club. "There are so many positions to fill that we could not do it without their help. And our Interact Club members and their adviser, Alexandra Pereira are just wonderful! We sincerely appreciate the support of the North Plainfield School District in allowing these students to participate in so many of our club's events."

Medals were awarded to first, second and third place finishers in all events except the relays, where ribbons were awarded to second and third place finishers. All participating schools took home medals or ribbons, with North Plainfield Middle School dominating with forty-eight total awards.



(above) Rotary volunteer Brian Townley checks in runners for the 13 year old girls 100 meter.

- Cedarbrook Elementary School
- 2 first, 2 second, and 5 third place awards;
- Hubbard Middle School
- 1 first, 1 second, and 15 third place awards;
- Maxson Middle School
- 10 first, 11 second, and 3 third place awards;
- North Plainfield Middle School
- 24 first, 18 second, 6 third place awards;
- Plainfield Academy of Arts and Advanced Studies
- 5 first, 3 second, 7 third place awards;
- Queen City Academy
- 2 first, 9 second, 10 third place awards;
- Watchung's Valley View
- 9 first, 5 second, 5 third place awards.

The Track and Field Meet was held at the Hub Stine Athletic Complex in Plainfield through the cooperation of the Plainfield Board of Education. "The groundskeepers at Hub Stine are just terrific," said Brian Townley, a friend of Rotary and the Clerk of Course for the running events. "They have the fields and track and tip-top shape every year, with tables and tents all set up and ready for us when we arrive. They help us bring our materials down to the Awards Tent area and help us pack up at the end. We truly appreciate their hard work." The Hub Stine Athletic Complex is named for a longtime member and secretary of the Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield expects to offer the 92nd Annual Track and Field Meet next year at the Plainfield site on June 5, 2019. The Meet is always held on the first Wednesday of June. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend and support the young athletes.

Interested in serving others? The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield welcomes visitors to any weekly meeting, 12:15 PM on Wednesdays at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield, except the first Wednesday when they meet at The Coffee Box, 1354 South Avenue, Plainfield at 8:30 AM. Come as the club's guest and learn more about Rotary!

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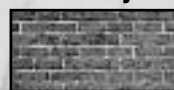
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ADELE DELEEUEW SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO NPHS STUDENTS

Three local former high school graduates from the Plainfield and North Plainfield high schools received a total of \$11,300 in continuing scholarships from the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund at a dinner held Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at the Spain Inn in Piscataway. The scholarships are financed by a bequest from Adele DeLeeuw, longtime Plainfield resident, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield-North Plainfield Rotary Club administers the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund and is one of five local Rotary clubs that provide scholarships from the Fund to students in their communities who pursue a course of study in poetry, art, journalism, writing or engineering. Fifty-five thousand dollars was distributed this year to twenty-one area students by the Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation. This year's awards bring the Fund's twenty-three year total distribution to over 1.3 million dollars.

The Scholarship Fund provided continuing scholarships to college students Melody Njoku and Brenda Okereke (both from North Plainfield), and Kenar Myers from Plainfield. An additional eighteen students from area high schools received scholarships from the Fund.

Applications for the 2019 Adele DeLeeuw Scholarships will be available in January from North Plainfield High School guidance office. For further information, call Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at (908) 755-8098.



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY: A MESSAGE FROM SAFE + SOUND SOMERSET

Submitted by Taylor Williams LSW, Senior Clinical Leader

Jesse and Sam had been dating for 2 years and recently moved in together. Jesse always had a jealous streak and never liked when Sam went to see friends. One night after coming home from a night out, Jesse accused Sam of cheating and threw Sam into a wall. Jesse apologized repeatedly saying, "If you wouldn't have provoked me, this wouldn't have happened." Sam was shocked and did not know what to do or how to act. Sam loved Jesse and did not want to make

matters worse by calling the police, but Sam was scared. What should Sam do?

This is an unfortunately common type of fight for survivors of domestic abuse. However, how would your perception of this story change if Sam and Jesse were both men? Or both women? Or if either were transgendered? What would it change for you?

Those who identify as a part of the LGBTQ community are at an increased risk of abuse within their lifetime as compared to heterosexual, cisgender peers. It is estimated that 22% of men and 40% of women in same-sex relationships experience physical abuse as opposed to 7% of men and 20% of women in opposite sex relationships (NCIPDCP, 2011). It is unclear why domestic abuse is more common in these relationships, but these survivors face different barriers.

Every survivor feels the stigma of asking for help or reporting abuse, but those in the LGBTQ community have the additional fear of how law enforcement, the community, and criminal justice system will treat them and their relationship. Questions like, "Will the police believe that a woman can abuse another woman?" "What if the judge thinks I'm the abuser because I'm trans?" "No one knows I'm gay. How can I tell my family I'm being abused if they don't even know who I'm dating? What will they think of me?" "Will my family disown me if I come out about my sexuality and my abusive relationship?" These types of questions lead many survivors to stay silent about their abuse out of fear and shame.

If you are a member of the LGBTQ community and you are questioning if you are in an abusive relationship, I encourage you to please call our hotline (866-685-1122), even anonymously, to see if we can help. If you are not a member of this community, I challenge you to become an ally. Becoming an ally can be as simple as asking someone's preferred pronouns, doing your own research on the barriers this community faces, or simply reminding yourself that a survivor can be straight, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and everything in between.

Statistics cited from:

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report: Atlanta, GA.

Safe + Sound is located at 427 Homestead

Road, Hillsborough, NJ. Their mission is to "empower survivors of domestic abuse and engage the community to break the cycle of violence." Reach out to their 24-Hour Call or Text Hotline 866-685-1122. Visit them on the web at www.safe-sound.org.



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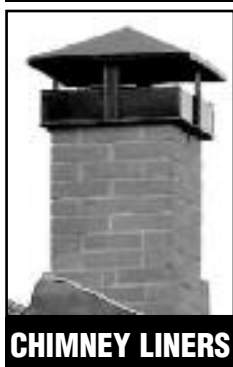
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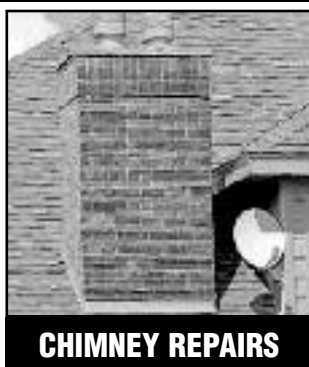
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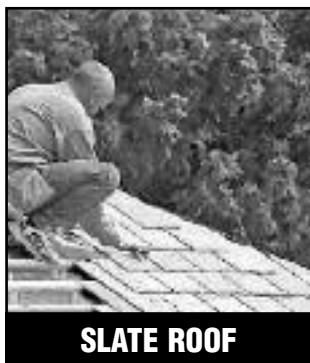
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All are welcome, no questions asked. At the last luncheon, approximately forty neighbors enjoyed the warmest hospitality and a home

cooked meal.

If the menu says "Linda's meat loaf," it is! The most recent menu offered: London broil, chicken, vegetable, potatoes, salad and dessert. In winter, there is also always a big pot of hearty soup. No matter the season, everyone gets leftovers to take home.

Originally organized by the parish, many community members have come to visit and then have chosen to return to help and make their contributions. This is neighborhood and community in the best sense of both words.

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ROTARY CLUB OF THE PLAINFIELDS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Rotary Club of the Plainfields had five new members joining the oldest service club of the three Plainfields.

Rev. Joyce Scheyer, priest-in-charge at Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield, joined the club after receiving an invitation from Club Secretary Michael Townley. She was familiar with the Rotary because her father had been a Rotarian and has already participated in the club's Scholarship Program and the Youth Service Track and Field Meet Project as Coordinator for the Long Jump events.

Michelle Vella, Assistant Superintendent of Schools in North Plainfield, who is currently serving as Acting Superintendent, joined the club as a representative of the school district. The Rotary Club has a long-standing relationship with North Plainfield School District, working cooperatively to host the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School.

Eugene Mitchell, Branch Manager of Unity Bank on Somerset Street in North Plainfield, came over to the local Rotary club from his membership in the Rotary Club of Union where he previously was employed in the same capacity for another bank. Eugene played a key role in the

club's recent Wine Tasting Dinner, using his humor and friendly persona while awarding door prizes to lucky recipients. He also participated in the club's Track and Field Meet, serving as a timer in the track events.

Aturo Cousar, Branch Manager at Investors Bank in Plainfield, more recently joined the club. She was invited by Eugene Mitchell with whom she was acquainted in his prior bank position.

Lt. Dante Cox of the Salvation Army in Plainfield joined the club along with his wife Lt. Monica Cox in a dual capacity, allowing either to attend meetings and participate in club events. Due to their own service project of feeding the hungry, it is difficult for them to attend Wednesday meetings, but Lt. Dante has been a regular at the monthly Social Hour at The Coffee Box on the first Wednesday of each month, where he brings canned food for the club's Star Fish Food Pantry Support Project.

The Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield. Contact Michael Townley, club secretary, at PNProtary@gmail.com for additional info or visit www.rotarypnp.org.



(above, clockwise) 5 new community and business leaders joined the Rotary Club of the Plainfields this Spring. New members Aturo Cousar, Eugene Mitchell, Michelle Vella, Rev. Joyce Scheyer, Not pictured are Lt. Dante Cox or for Lt. Monica Cox.

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NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BRANCH EVENTS JUNE 2018

6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey. For more information call 908-458-8435 or visit SCLSNJ.org.

ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Family Game Day - July 9, 2-4 p.m.

Super Summer Movies - July 9, 23; 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Vegan Ice Cream Social - July 26, 6:30-8 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Kids in the Kitchen

July 3, 10, 17, 24; 1:30-3 p.m.
(entering grades 3-5)

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Discover Stories

July 5, 12, 19, 26; 10-11 a.m.
(ages birth - 3 years)

Reading Buddies

July 7, 14; 10 a.m. - noon
(entering grades 1-5)

If You Give an Author a Birthday

July 10, 2-3 p.m.
(entering grades Pre-K to 3)

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

July 11, 18, 25; 10-11 a.m.
(18-60 months)

LibraryBash! And Musical Instrument Building

July 12, 2-3:30 p.m.
(entering grades K-5)

Snack Attack

July 16, 2-4 p.m.
(entering grades 4-9)

Unique Creatures from Around the World

July 19, 2-2:45 p.m.
(entering grades K-5)

Minecraft Club

July 23, 2-3:30 p.m.
(entering grades 4-7)

Miss Jen's Lab - Libraries Rock

July 26, 1-2 p.m.
(entering grades K-5)

Animals Rock featuring Eyes of the Wild

July 30, 4-5 p.m.
(entering grades K-5)

Propbox Players Present Three Pigs

July 31, 2-3 p.m.
(entering grades PreK-2)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Morning Knit and Crochet

July 3, 17, 31; 10 a.m. - noon

US Citizenship Course

July 5, 12, 19, 26; 6-8 p.m.

Book Discussion

July 12, 19; 1-2 p.m.

Postcards from the Edge of Somerset County

July 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

Digitizing Somerset County's Common Heritage -

Exploring the Evolution of a Thriving Community

July 21, 1-3 p.m.

Healthy Avenues Van

July 31, 1-3 p.m.

SHARE COMMUNITY MEMORIES

On July 21, 2018 at SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch library, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) will be collecting, cataloging, and preserving the collective memories of Somerset County residents. The Library will be providing residents the opportunity to both preserve and learn about their own history and that of their neighbors.

Somerset County residents should bring no more than five items to each digitization session, including:

- Historic photographs, letters, or documents;

- Sketches, paintings, or other artwork;
- Family heirlooms including recipes;
- Jewelry or decorative arts;
- Textiles such as quilts, samplers, flags, or uniforms;
- Antique toys;
- And, other artifacts.

If a resident has a more robust collection of historical items that they wish to digitize, that patron should make a one-on-one appointment with the library by emailing CommonHeritage@sclibnj.org. If a patron wishes to share an oral history of a historic and/or life event, short recorded interviews can be arranged.

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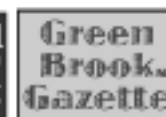
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LOCAL DADS BUILD A HOME, BUILD COMMUNITY AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As a result of the resounding success of Women Build month, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield & Middlesex County (Habitat GPMC) launched a new volunteer event to celebrate fathers, the important role that they play in the lives of their children and the broader role that they play in the community.

The local Union and Middlesex Affiliate of Habitat will gather 15 local Dads to help complete their newest home in Plainfield as part of our inaugural Fathers Build event. An innovative collaboration with the Men and Fathers of Omicron Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. who have in turn invited the fathers of the Greater Union County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America to join them in this event.

“Fraternities and social organizations like Omega Psi Phi and Jack and Jill work tirelessly to make a difference in their community, often without public recognition”, said Kamili Williams, Executive Director of Habitat GPMC. “We saw Fathers Build as a wonderful

opportunity for fathers to not only contribute to the rebuilding of a neighborhood and to lead by example and service, but we wanted to honor and recognize the contribution that they make day in and day out to the lives of many.”

In volunteers worked to complete our current project on West 3rd Street in Plainfield

If you have a group that would like to volunteer and contribute to a Habitat Build in Middlesex County, visit www.habitatgpmc.org.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield & Middlesex County

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield began in 1989 when a group of local residents attended a march from Portland, Maine to Atlanta, Georgia Middlesex County spreading the word of about their mission to end poverty housing. (Habitat GPMC) evolved as the result of a merger between Greater Plainfield and the Middlesex County affiliates in 2015. Together, Habitat GPMC has completed 47 homes in partnership with local families.

NPBA MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 31

SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch will be hosting the upcoming North Plainfield Business Association meeting on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 7 p.m. The library is located at 6 Rockview Avenue in North Plainfield. Business Librarian Elizabete Pata will be demonstrating several helpful library resources available to SCLSNJ card holders that can help entrepreneurs and small businesses succeed. A special focus will be given to a new resource available at the library system, the Gale Small Business Builder (GSBB). GSBB is a step-by-step online planning tool for starting, managing and optimizing a business or nonprofit. Also recently acquired is the resource Demographics Now, which boasts free market analysis by searching businesses and consumer information. Pata hopes to inform the local business community of these valuable and free resources and invites anyone interested to stop by and learn about these new offerings.

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