

The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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NPSTAB HELPS WITH GREEN BROOK PARK CLEANUP



(above) Adopt-A-Park cleanup crew at Green Brook Park included members of No. Plainfield Shade Tree Advisory Board

Under the leadership and generous support of Betty Ann Kelly of Union County Parks, another great Adopt-A-Park effort occurred in Green Brook Park, which is located in Plainfield and North Plainfield, on Sunday September 16, 2018, when students from Kean University joined forces with members of the North Plainfield Shade Tree Advisory Board (NPSTAB), Thalia Saloukas and Bart Thomas, to clean up a section of the park along Parkview Avenue in North Plainfield.

The group, along with members of the Union County Adopt-A-Trail Chainsaw Crew and Adopt-A-Park steward Cathy Cole, worked hard to improve a section of trail and remove litter, recyclables and invasive plants from the site. Chainsaw crew members cut trees that fell across the path to

allow access once again. Volunteers removed 32 bags of garbage and debris, 5 bags of recyclables, a tricycle, stuffed animal, power washer and a variety of other items.

The NPSTAB AAP stewards have adopted this section of Green Brook Park for over 12 years and in doing so have successfully controlled several populations of Japanese knotweed, a very aggressive, invasive plant that displaces other native vegetation. Cathy Cole and her family have participated in many cleanups in the other sections of the park. The Adopt-A-Trail Chainsaw crew has removed many hundreds of fallen trees throughout the Union County Park System in the past year. Recent rain storms have kept this crew leader, Ned O'Connell, and members Bob Czaja, Larry Russo, Paul Hanson and Bryon Housel quite busy.

PARK COMMISSION SEEKS 2019 JUNIOR RANGERS

The Somerset County Parks Commission Park Rangers are seeking young people ages 6-12 to participate in the Junior Ranger Program. Children who enjoy hiking, discovering wildlife, and are interested in learning more about the environment and its inhabitants are perfect Junior Ranger candidates. Junior Ranger Plans for 2019 include a 2-part series on tree life, the lives of fireflies, bats, spiders and more.

The program offers an opportunity for children to connect with Park Rangers and other young people who share their interest.

Further information will be available on the Somerset County Park Ranger Facebook page at facebook.com/SCPCRangers, or by phone at 908-722-1200 ext. 5121.

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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 are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012



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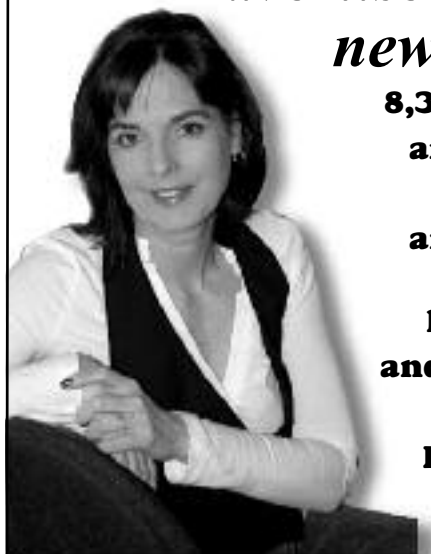
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THIRD GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE DICTIONARIES

Submitted by Michael Townley

Teams of Rotarians and volunteers went out to the three elementary schools in North Plainfield and the ten elementary schools and three charter schools in Plainfield during the months of October and November to give a dictionary to every third grade student. A total of 1,200 dictionaries were presented, including Spanish-English dictionaries for ESL students.

"Our Dictionary Project for Plainfield and North Plainfield school children is in its twelfth year," said Roberta Smith, president of the Rotary Club of the Plainfields. "It is one of our most important and most successful community service projects because of its direct contact with so many young girls and boys in their classroom settings. All of our members feel the same way – our hearts are warmed by the smiles and even cheers when we announce the gift and present the dictionaries to each student. This project is so important to the education of our children, and we are proud to play our part."

People from both communities are welcome to join this project. The Rotary Club works with the schools and teachers to help make their students active readers, good writers, and creative thinkers. "We love to have people join us on the project," said club president Smith. "It's a great way to see directly what Rotary is all about - service to others. What better way to do that than helping children with their education?"

The Rotarians take the opportunity to teach the children about service to the community, both local and worldwide. "I like to involve the students by first asking for help defining 'rotate' and 'club,'" said Michael Townley, club secretary. Mr. Townley is on the ATM Team, along with Aturo Cousar from Investors Bank and Timothy Priano of ABTP Services. Their

team presented the dictionaries at the Cook, Cedarbrook, and Evergreen schools in Plainfield. "After hearing some excellent responses, I have a student read each definition from their dictionaries, and show them that 'rotary' and 'rotate' have almost the same definition. This helps explain how the Rotary Club got its name. Then we talk about service, about what it means to be a Rotarian helping others, such as Rotary's efforts to eliminate polio. The discussion is a great opportunity for us to teach 'Service Above Self' to these young students," said Mr. Townley.

The dictionaries are purchased through The Dictionary Project, Inc., a non-profit created in 1995 in South Carolina. The Dictionary Project's mission is to put a dictionary in the hands of every third grade student in the United States. Since its founding, over 27.2 million dictionaries have been presented to children across the U.S. More information is available at the Dictionary Project's website at dictionaryproject.org.

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields was founded in 1921 and has served the community for ninety-seven years. Members are community and business leaders in the area who meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield, except for the first Wednesday of the month when they meet at The Coffee Box in Plainfield. The Social Hour at The Coffee Box is from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Come to either the Social Hour or a lunch meeting at Giovanna's to learn more about how you can join or support this great service club.

Contact Michael Townley, club secretary, at secretary@rotarypnp.org for additional information about the Rotary Club or to help with the Dictionary Project, or visit the Club's website at rotarypnp.org.

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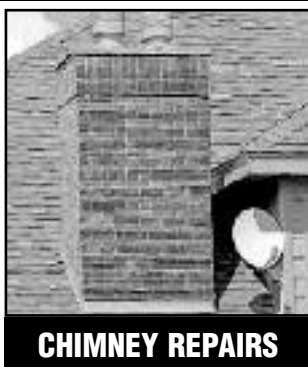




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GIRL SCOUTS ACROSS AMERICA JOIN TOGETHER IN WAKE OF TRAGEDY



Submitted by Donnetta Chambers

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, three Girl Scouts and their leader were lost in a tragic hit and run motor vehicle accident involving an intoxicated driver in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. One Girl Scout is currently hospitalized due to her injuries. On Saturday, November 10th, over 50 Girl Scouts and community members of North Plainfield gathered together to honor the lives of these fellow Girl Scouts and their leader from Troop 3055. They joined thousands of people across America for a moment of silence at 4 p.m. followed by a short ceremony and a song. The North Plainfield Girl Scouts will be developing a service project to honor those who lost their lives in this tragic accident.



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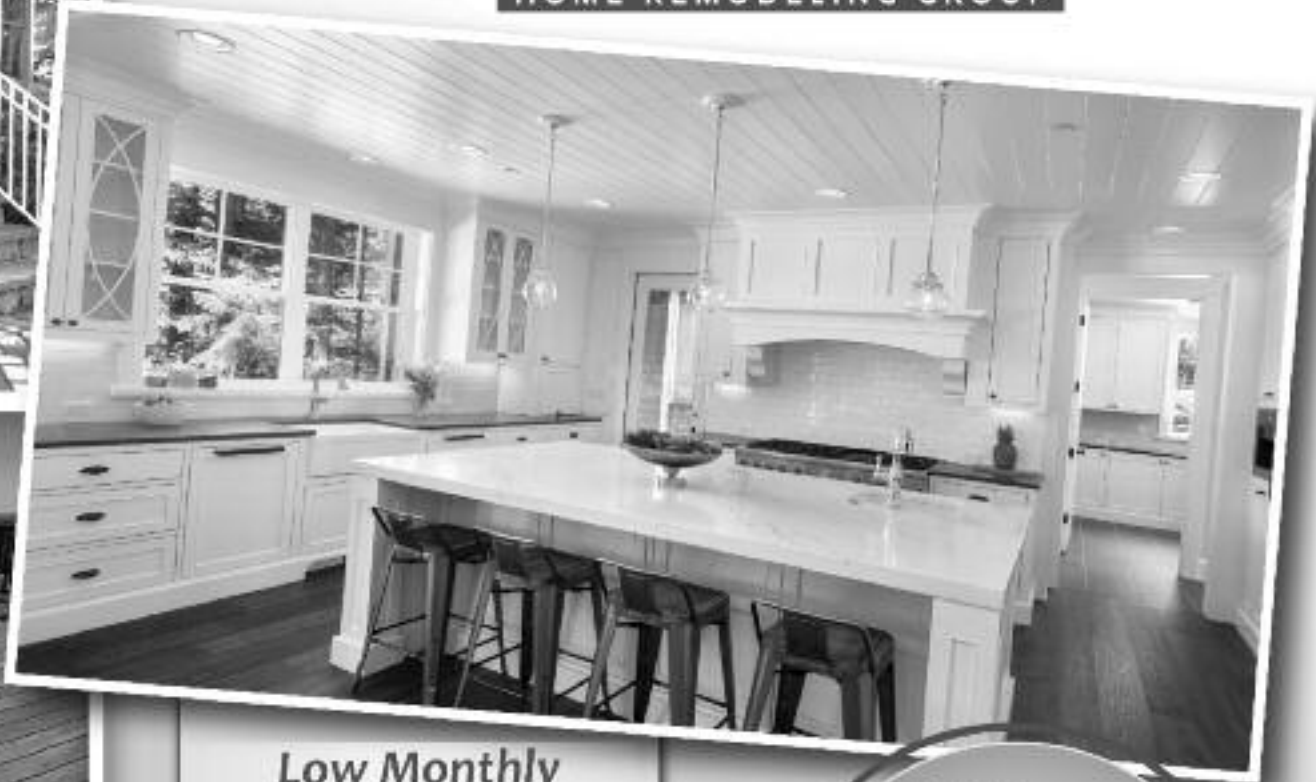


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CAJUN CRAB OPENS ON ROUTE 22

The Cajun Crab Louisiana Seafood Restaurant opened in December 2018 at 789 Route 22 West in North Plainfield. Owner Jenny Chen operated Fresh Catch Seafood Market at the location for ten years.

The restaurant features a tank with live lobsters and dungeness crabs. The menu offers both steamed and fried dishes. Diners can chose from Louisiana Cajun, Asian Garlic Sauce or Lemon Pepper flavoring and three levels of spiciness. Meals are a hands-on experience and served are with bibs and gloves.

The Cajun Crab also has take-out service and catering. Orders can be made by calling 908-822-8888 or online at CajunCrabOnline.com.



(above) Judy Chen presents a combo dish of Snow Crab Legs, Clams, Shrimp, Crawfish and Mussels, Sausage, Corn and Potatos served in a steam bag.

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SCORE is a free business counseling resource sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and provides counseling in English, Spanish & Chinese

NPCCR MEETING

The next meeting of the North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) will be Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the the North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Rd. Our guest speaker will be North Plainfield Chief of Police William Parenti. If you have any questions about the police department and how it operates, bring them to this meeting.

NPCCR posts the current police reports and council meetings on our site. You can view them by going to npccr.org.



GOLDEN NUGGET CASINO BUS TRIP WITH THE NORTH PLAINFIELD SENIORS CLUB

The North Plainfield Seniors Club will sponsor an express bus trip to the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City on Wednesday, December 12. The bus leaves the parking lot of Saint Luke's Church, 300 Clinton Ave., at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$35.00.

On arrival the casino will give you a \$25.00 voucher to use in the casino and a \$5.00 voucher for food. For more information, call Shirley at 908-561-3240. All are welcome on this bus trip.

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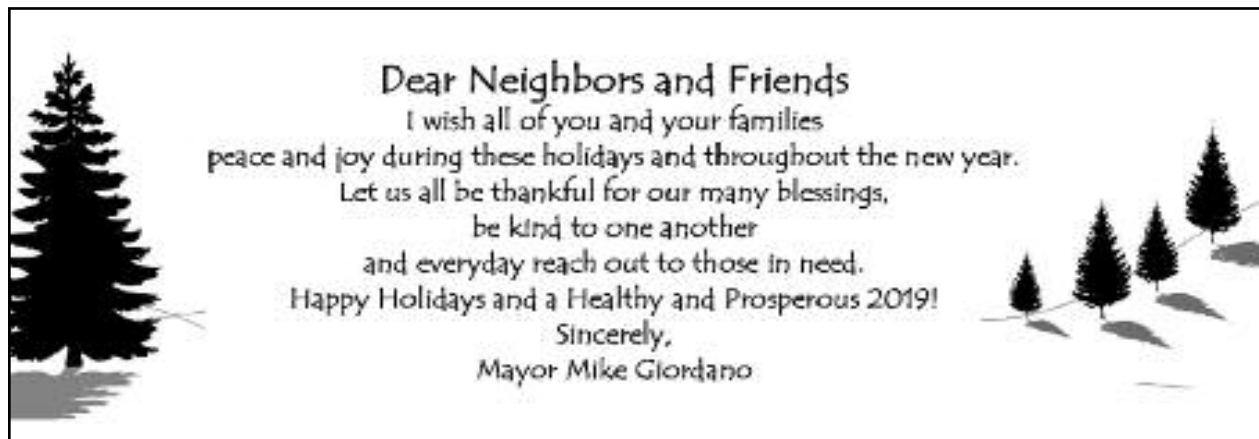
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Central Jersey SCORE, a non-profit resource partner of the Small Business Administration, is looking for volunteers to assist people looking to start a business or grow an existing small business. The organization is recruiting retired or current business owners and executives who want to share their experience and knowledge with today's up-and-coming entrepreneurs. The Central Jersey Chapter of SCORE serves Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties.

Central Jersey SCORE provides in-person mentoring at a wide variety of locations and also

presents seminars at local venues. In addition, the SCORE website offers tools and templates on a wide variety of topics related to organizing and managing a business and numerous online courses and webinars to assist small business owners through every aspect of business development. Services are offered free of charge.

Anyone interested in volunteering with SCORE or seeking additional information is invited to contact SCORE at centraljersey.score.org.



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North Plainfield Events

December/January

12/3 Happy Chanuka!
12/8 11am Photos with Santa
at the Fire House
12-19 Best Decorated House Contest
12/21 1st Day of Winter
12-24+25 Merry Christmas
Borough Hall Closed
12/31 New Year's Eve - Borough Hall
Closed
1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
Borough Hall Closed
1/21 Martin Luther King Day
Borough Hall Closed

Season's Greelings

See northplainfield.org For More Info
Questions? - 908 769-2902 -
events@npmail.org

DONATE TO TOYS FOR TOTS AT PEPE'S

Pepe's is proud to announce our participation in the Toys For Tots program. The Toys For Tots donation box will be at Pepe's until December 15, 2018. Please stop by to help the Marines distribute toys for children in the area.



(above) Luis Zavala of Pepe's makes the first donation to start the 2018 season of giving.

LIBRARY CUSTOMERS NEW PASSPORT SERVICES

Elaine Skubits of Manville, and Lynn Keane of Bridgewater were the first Library customers to utilize passports services at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Bridgewater Library branch. Skubits and Keane came to the Library recently to renew their expired passports.

"[Applying for passport renewal] was a piece of cake," said Keane.

"Super easy and very pleasant," added Skubits.

Explore more information about passport services available at SCLSNJ: sclsnj.org/passports.



(above) Pictured are SCLSNJ passport agents Christopher Fales (left rear) and John Hosmer (left front) assisting Skubits (rear right) and Keane, (rear left).



(above) Pictured are SCLSNJ passport agents John Hosmer (rear left) and Christopher Fales (rear right) sharing information about passport services with Library customers.

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DECEMBER EVENTS AT NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BRANCH

North Plainfield Memorial Library branch is located at 6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

New Jersey. For more information call 908-458-8435 or visit SCLSNJ.org.

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library (908-458-8435) for more information and to register. The library is located at 6 Rockview Ave, North Plainfield, NJ.

*Please note the Library will be closed on December 24, 25, and 31. The Library will open at noon on December 6.

ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Family Night - Gingerbread House Workshop

December 13, 7-8 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Cards for Kids

December 1, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and

December 18, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Holiday Fairy Tale Collage

December 1, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

(grades Pre-K to 2)

Drop-in - Guess the Characters

December 3, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

(grades K-5)

Storycrafters

December 4, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Toddler/Preschool Storytime - Rhyme and Play

December 5, 12, 19; 10-11 a.m.

(ages 18-60 months)

Minecraft Club

December 5, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 4-7)

Ace of Cupcakes - Holiday Edition

December 6, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Culinary Creators

December 11, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Game Time

December 19, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades K-5)

Baby/Toddler Storytime

December 13, 20; 10-11 a.m.

(ages birth - 36 months)

Knitflix

December 18, 3-5 p.m.

(grades 4-12)

Hot Movies and Hot Chocolate

December 26, 2-4 p.m.

(grades 5 and up)

Kids in the Kitchen

December 27, 1:30-3 p.m.

(grades 3-5)

ADULT PROGRAMS

How to Start an Etsy Business

December 1, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Morning Knit and Crochet

December 4, 18; 10 a.m. - noon

Beginner Spanish Course

December 4, 7-8 p.m.

US Citizenship Course

December 6, 13, 20; 6-8 p.m.

Winter Crafts - Winter Luminaries

December 8, 11 a.m. - noon

Computer Help

December 11, 11 a.m. - noon

Healthy Avenues Van

December 11, 1-3 p.m.

Book Discussion: "Skipping Christmas"

by John Grisham

December 13, 1-2 p.m.

ACA Enrollment Assistance

December 15, noon - 4 p.m.

Organizing and Storing Digital Photos and

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December 18, 7-8 p.m.




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LIBRARY COLLECTING FOR ANIMAL SHELTER

Donations will be accepted until December 14, 2018. Drop-off bins are located at the North Plainfield Memorial, Warren Twp., and Watchung branches.

This December the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) is collecting donations for the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter (SRAS). This is the 19th year the Library System will participate in donating to the shelter.

"SCLSNJ recognizes the importance of partnering with our community - especially during the holiday season," said Edith Lit, SCLSNJ operations supervisor. "Animal shelters provide a variety of services for the community as well as temporary accommodations for animals in need of forever homes. I am proud to be the coordinator of SCLSNJ's Holiday Wish List program since 1999."

The shelter, which depends on volunteers and donations, are in need of the following items for the orphaned animals they took in this year from flood-ravaged Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, and the Carolinas:

- Dog, cat, and kitten food (canned and dry)
- Dog and cat toys
- Clay cat litter
- Dog leashes
- Martingale training dog collars
- Pet carriers
- Paper towels
- Bleach
- High efficiency laundry detergent
- Gift cards for any pet or grocery store*
- Postage stamps*
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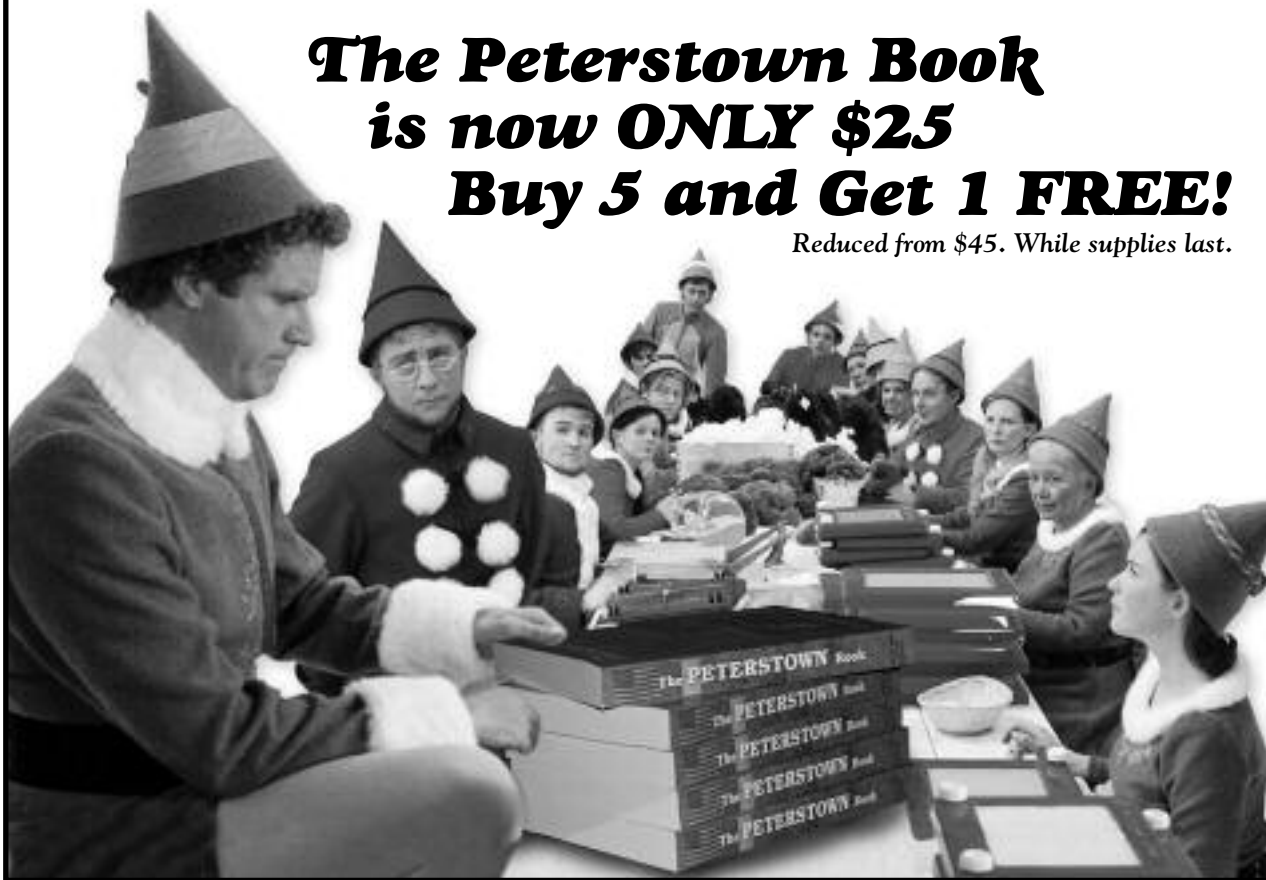
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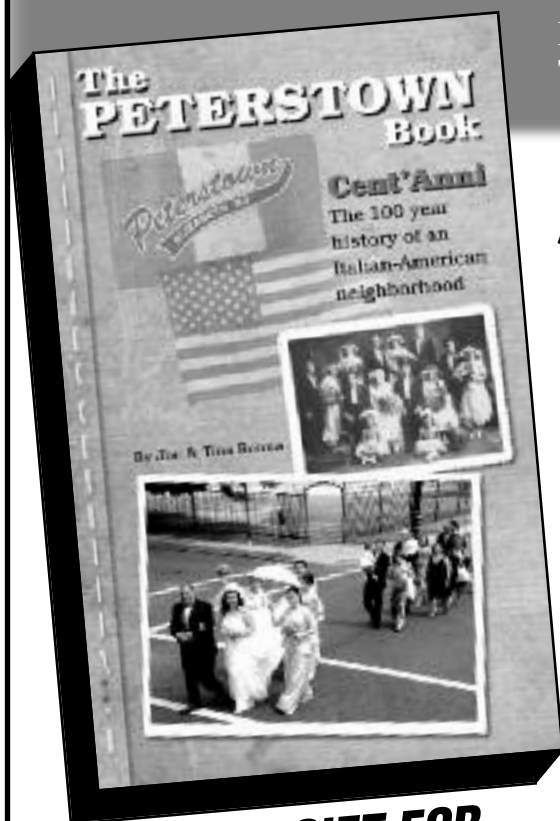
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