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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY ANN MACCHIA COONS

by Audrey Sanko

North Plainfield is home to the "Lunch Bunch," established in September 2014. This small group of senior women who enjoy social events/ meets monthly for lunch at various local restaurants.

One of our members has reached a milestone and we are proud to share the good news with the North Plainfield community.

Anna (Ann) Macchia Coons is celebrating her 100th Birthday this month. The second youngest of 10 children, Ann was born on October 4, 1919 in Jersey City, New Jersey.

After graduating from All Saints Grammar School, Ann continued her education at Lincoln High School, graduating in 1937. Her interest in sewing and her dream of designing elegant dresses was quickly realized when Ann found herself enrolled in The Traphagen School of Design in New York City. One of Ann's designs was chosen for the cover of the school's magazine - "Fashion Digest."

To feature the latest clothing designs, Traphagen held fashion shows in New York City hotels. Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians was the orchestra that accompanied the models for the shows. After 2 years Ann received her certificate of completion from Traphagen.

Ann got a job as a sample maker at Abe Shrader Dress Company on 7th Avenue, NYC. She would receive a sketch and make the pattern and sample. Her pay was \$65 a week.

She worked for Shrader during the day, but since this was during World War II, she got a job at RCA as an assemblyline worker from 11 P.M. to 7 A.M. to help the war effort.

Harold Coons was a regular visitor to his Great Aunt, who lived next door to the Matthias. He and Ann were married in All Saints Church in Jersey City in 1948. Sadly, Harold died 17 years ago.

Ann speaks lovingly and with much pride of her two daughters-Joanne and Lorraine. Joanne is a writer who has written for the TV show "Another World." Her latest writing endeavors are fantasy novels under her pen name - Brandylen James. She currently teaches English



at Keiser University in Florida.

Lorraine is Chairperson of the History Department at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

The Coons moved to North Plainfield in the early 1960's. She decided her girls would have a good education and so she went to work to assure there would be funds for their college education. She got a part-time job at Banker's Trust in New York, as a proof reader. Ann found this job to be too boring, so she asked to be trained a secretary. The bank sent her to secretarial school where she quickly learned the skills needed to function as a secretary. After 23 years, in 1983, she retired.

A typical day for Ann was much like mothers of today. She dropped her daughters off at school, drove to the Plainfield train station to get the train to Newark, hopped another train to New York and walked blocks to Wall Street.

Ann enjoys sewing, reading, and traveling. She is a parishioner of St. Joseph Church.

Ann lives at home, takes no medications, has a wonderful sense of humor and is sharp as a tack. Ann did confess that her knees are starting to bother her, especially going up the steps.

When asked her advise on reaching her 100th birthday she replied "I didn't plan to live this long, I didn't want to be a burden to my family. I take one day at a time and don't let things bother me."

We of the Lunch Bunch" admire this feisty lady and treasure her friendship.

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NJROTC BEGINS NEW YEAR AT NORTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by Brian Yumiguano

School is in session, and so is the North Plainfield High School NJROTC Program. Returning cadets are getting their uniforms ready, while new cadets are eagerly awaiting their first year experience! This year the ROTC Program has approximately 160 cadets. Earlier this year at our annual Awards Ceremony, our new staff for 2019-2020 was formed.

Here are the following staff members: Top 3 in the program are Cadet Commander Brandon Olivares as Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Brian Yumiguano as Executive Officer, and Master Chief John Vargas as Master Chief.

In the Operations department is Lieutenant Commander Michael Matos as Operations Officer, Lieutenant JG Mahd Ismail as Assistant Operations, Ensign McKenna Dougherty as 2nd Assistant Operations, and Chief Petty Officer Amy Buenano as Operations Chief.

In the Supply department is Lieutenant Jessica Lozada as Supply Officer, Lieutenant JG Ashley Dawsey as Assistant Supply, Ensign Julissa Jacome as 2nd Assistant Supply, Ensign Jeremiah Jeffries as 3rd Assistant Supply, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Juan Gonzalez as Supply Senior Chief.

In the Administrative department is Lieutenant Irvin Solis as Administrative Officer, Lieutenant JG Verina Girgis as Assistant Admin, Ensign

Brandon Peralta as 2nd Assistant Admin, and Chief Petty Officer Anas Sabir as Admin Chief.

In the Public Affairs department is Lieutenant Daisy Cifuentes as Public Affairs Officer, Lieutenant JG Christina Aguilar as Assistant Public Affairs, and Lieutenant JG Jimena Torres as Assistant Public Affairs.

In the Drill department is Lieutenant Darwin Lopez as Drill Officer, and Chief Petty Officer Raquel Kruszcynski as Drill Chief.

In the Weapons department is Lieutenant JG Anthony Ventriglia as Weapons Officer, and Ensign Willie Vick as Assistant Weapons.

We congratulate everyone on their new ranks and hope for a great year for the NJROTC Staff of 2020, and for the new cadets!



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ANNUAL 9/11 SILENT PROCESSION CEREMONY



Photos by Borough of North Plainfield

On September 11, 2019 the Borough of North Plainfield held its annual 9/11 Silent Procession ceremony at 8:30 a.m. The procession and short service were held to commemorate the victims of September 11th, 2001. It was coordinated by the North Plainfield Police, Fire/EMS and Public Works departments, where members marched down Somerset Street and then gathered at

Somerset and Lincoln for a brief service. Police Chief William Parenti spoke a few words to the crowd, which included all of the students and staff from Somerset School. Reverend Scott Harris of Trinity Reformed Church gave an invocation and a member of the Somerset County Pipes and Drums was in attendance to play the bagpipe.



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ENJOY FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH THE ROTARY CLUB - OCTOBER 26

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, October 26
 Church of the Holy Cross
 40 Mercer Ave, N.Plfd.
 9:00 to Noon



Rotary www.RotaryPNP.org

Submitted by Michael Townley

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields will host their Sixth Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 26, 2019, at the Church of the Holy Cross Church, 40 Mercer Avenue in North Plainfield.

The event starts at 9:00 a.m. with fresh pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk being served until noon by Rotary Club members and the members of the Interact Club at North Plainfield High School.

No one is charged a fee for the breakfast. The club invites everyone to attend, with donations accepted for Rotary's fight to End Polio Now! All donations will be given to the Rotary Foundation to support the worldwide effort to eliminate the deadly polio virus. Rotary's End Polio Now! campaign has virtually wiped out the disease in every country except Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Rotary Club represents all three North Plainfield, Plainfield, and South Plainfield communities. "We have members from each of the three communities and service projects that benefit all three as well," said Club President Shannon Jefferys. "This event is a great multi-community service project, providing a delicious breakfast at no cost to anyone attending."

The Rotary Club of the Plainfields, founded in 1921, has served the community for over 96 years. Members are community and business leaders in the area who meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. Come to any weekly meeting (locations listed on rotarypnp.org) 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 and its activities or to inquire about membership, or visit the Club's website at rotarypnp.org.

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(above) North Plainfield High School Interact Club members with adviser Alexandra Pereira and members of the Rotary Club of the Plainfields at the 2018 Pancake Breakfast.

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VERMEULE MANSION WILL PARTICIPATE IN WEEKEND JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST

The Vermeule Mansion announces their participation in the annual Weekend Journey Through the Past, a weekend tour of historically significant places in Somerset County. Approximately 30 sites will participate in the event run by the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 13 noon-4 p.m. This is the 14th year for the program. Complete information about the event and participating sites can be found at SCHistoryWeekend.com.

The Vermeule Mansion staff has new programs for the 2-day offering, including a visit from a direct descendent of the Vermeule family! Scheduled activities include:

Saturday, October 12:

**11:00 a.m. - Meet John Daniel,
Descendant of the Vermeule Family**

2:00 p.m. - Meet Molly Pitcher

Sunday, October 13

**12:30 p.m. - Meet John Daniel,
Descendant of the Vermeule Family**

2:00 p.m. - Meet Molly Pitcher

Continuous activities throughout the weekend include tours of the Mansion and the photography museum, children's activities, and light refreshments typical of earlier times in history. Members of the Friends of Vermeule Mansion (FOVM) will be on hand to provide interesting highlights about the Vermeule property and how the Friends organization came into being. Information on activities and membership in the FOVM will also be available.

The Vermeule Mansion is located at 614 Greenbrook Rd, North Plainfield, New Jersey and is open regularly on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. except holidays and is wheelchair accessible. Have a passion for history and culture and sharing your time and knowledge with the community?

Join us on the Journey! Visit our website, VermeuleMansion.org and like our Facebook page at facebook.com/vermeulemansion.

Contact the Friends of Vermeule Mansion, or email or call johcre@yahoo.com or 908-755-8098.



(above) Vermeule Mansion and Fleetwood Camera Museum

WATCHUNG HILLS ELKS OFFERS MEETING SPACE FOR FREE FOR NON-PROFITS

Submitted by Michael Ryder

One of the most challenging aspects of running a small non-profit is having a place to meet. A good meeting room provides an atmosphere that facilitates effective and decisive meetings.

There's nothing wrong with a friend's living room or a library conference room. Starbucks and Panera Bread seem not to mind meetings. However these options aren't always reliable because of their "first-come, first-serve" nature and certainly can become challenging when the number of members grows.

The Watchung Hills Elks have 6.5 acres of property that include a lodge meeting hall, bandstand, picnic ground and pavilion. These are all available for rent by the public — birthday parties, retirement celebrations, weddings, concerts, movie-nights, etc.

But for non-profits in and near Warren Township, NJ, they can be rented at no charge. (Additionally if you're an Elk, you gain access to our bar/lounge and large, private swimming pool.)

Areas are available at no-charge, Mondays through Thursdays for non-profits and available Fridays through Sundays for a suitable donation. There is seating for about 80 at the round tables in the "banquet style" and seating for about 100 in the "theater style." 8 foot pull-down projection screen (bring your own projector) is available. Other attributes include high-speed internet, good overhead lighting, and ample parking.

We're happy to count these non-profit organizations as satisfied customers of our facilities: American Legion of North Plainfield, Warren Township Cub Scouts, Warren Township Girl Scouts, Warren Township Honorary PBA, and Warren Township PBA Local #235.

Call the lodge to check the calendar at 908-668-9727 and please leave a message if we aren't available to pick-up the phone, or send an email to reservations@elkslodge885.org and the bar staff will get back to you as soon as possible about your request. We're located at 1 Elks Trail, Warren, NJ, 07059 (across the street from the Warren Township Rescue Squad).



(above) The Watchung Hills Elks has meeting spaces available for non-profits at no cost from Monday through Thursday.

NEW CHILD SAFETY WEB SERIES

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently launched, "Into the Cloud," a brand new online safety product for children in grades K-5. This includes an animated web series and video game. Using data from actual NCMEC CyberTipline reports, each episode focuses on a different element of online safety, from strategies for handling cyberbullying

to recognizing and reporting unsafe/inappropriate interactions and content. Additional episodes will be available throughout the year.

"Into the Cloud" presents important safety information in an age-appropriate and entertaining manner! All the resources are free!

The episodes are available at www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/videos.



North Plainfield Optimist Club

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NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BRANCH EVENTS

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

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Young Adult Leadership Academy

October 1, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Toddler/Preschool Storytime - Rhyme and Play

October 2, 9, 16, 23; 10-11 a.m.

(ages 18 months - 5 years)

Digital Escape Room Design

October 2, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Discover Stories

October 3, 10, 17, 24; 10-11 a.m.

(ages birth - 3 years)

Kids in the Kitchen

October 10, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 3-5)

Family Storytime - Fables and Tables

October 12, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(families with children)

LEGO® Club

October 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades 2-5)

Culinary Creators

October 15, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Teen Movie Screenings - The Hunger Games

October 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Homework Help

October 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

(grades 3-6)

Paint and Snack - Watercolor

October 22, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Game Time

October 23, 3:30-5 p.m.

(grades 5-12)

Learning Lab - Circuits

October 24, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

(grades K-5)

Friday DIY - Clay Wall Hanging

October 25, 3-4:30 p.m.

(grades 3-6)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Writer's Group

October 1, 15, 29; 6-8 p.m.

Bollywood Dance

October 2, 7-8 p.m.

English Conversation Group

October 7, 14, 21, 28; 7-8:30 p.m.

Knit and Crochet

October 8, 22; 10 a.m. - noon

Book Discussion:

“The Last Days of Night” by Graham Moore:

October 10, 1-2 p.m.

October 17, 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Resume and Job Search Assistance

October 16, 11 a.m. - noon

Special Needs Social Hour

Adult Sensory Storytime

October 18, 11 a.m. - noon

The Story of Abbey Road and the End of the Beatles

October 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

Criminal Minds - Killer Handwriting

October 29, 7-8 p.m.

ALL AGE PROGRAMS

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage

Community Open House

October 17, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dances From Spain

October 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Family Night - T-Shirt Bags

October 24, 7-8 p.m.

(families with children)

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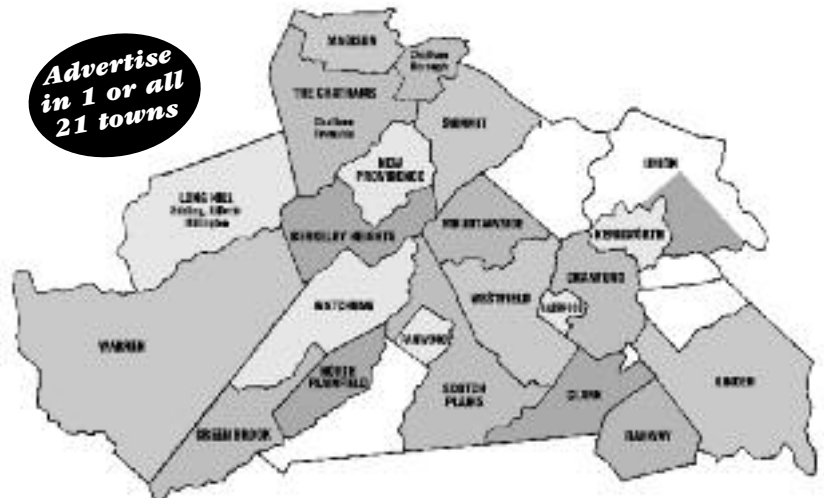
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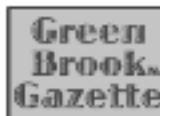
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ROTARY DONATES WATER FOR NEWARK RESIDENTS

The Pride • Page 11 • October 2019

Submitted by Michael Townley

Members of the Rotary Club of the Plainfield recently pitched in to help residents of the City of Newark get bottled water during the lead crisis.

Many people in Newark are susceptible to lead poisoning due to lead leaching from water service lines. While there is a treatment in place that is system-wide, it takes time to coat the lead water lines and block the lead from leaching into the consumers' water.

The City of Plainfield initiated a bottled water drive to help Newark residents, and our club pitched in to help. Rotary Club members Timothy Priano, Roberta Smith and Michael Townley trekked up to Costco and purchased 33 cases

(1,320 bottles) of water and took them down to the Plainfield City Hall collection site. They were joined by another club member, Valerie Jackson, who had alerted the Club to the collection drive.

Public Works employees helped unload the water and stack it, where it awaits pickup and transport to another site before going to Newark for distribution.

This was another great project to help those in need that exemplifies the Rotary motto of Service Above Self!

For more information about the Rotary Club and how they serve the community, please contact the club secretary, Michael Townley, via email at secretary@rotarypnp.org, or visit their website at rotarypnp.org.



(above) Rotarians Timothy Priano, Valerie Jackson, Roberta Smith, and Michael Townley unload bottled water for the City of Plainfield's water collection for residents in Newark.

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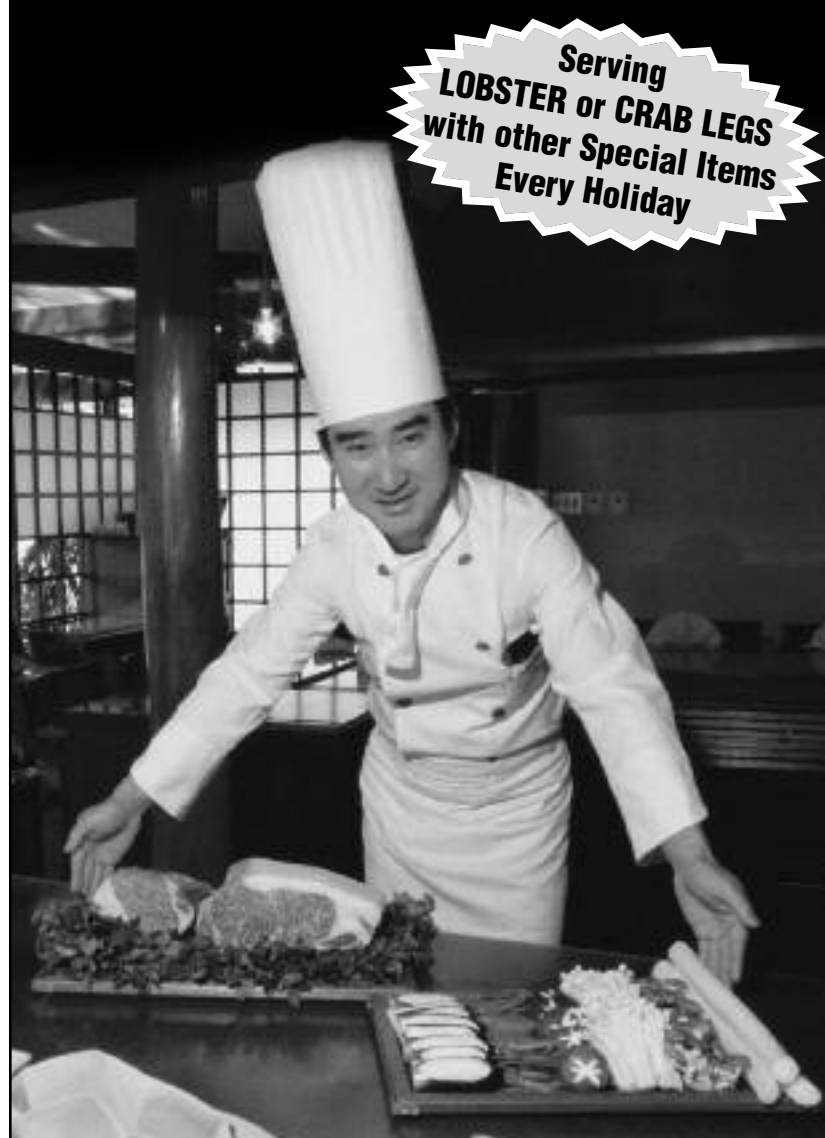
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Kids 7-10.....\$6.29	Kids 7-10.....\$7.79
Kids 3-6.....\$4.29	Kids 3-6.....\$6.29
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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