

# The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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IN NORTH PLAINFIELD

North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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## SANTA VISITS NORTH PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Submitted by William F. Eaton, Fire Chief/Director



(above) Firefighters and EMTs planned and coordinated for Santa to visit the firehouse on December 8th, 2019.

The North Plainfield Fire Department members recently participated in two important and successful endeavors.

In November, a number of the firefighters took part in the national "No Shave November" campaign just as they did last year. This month-long campaign is meant to raise awareness and funding for cancer prevention, research and education. Our NPFDD participants raised just under \$2,000 for the charity.

The Firefighters and EMTs also planned and coordinated for Santa to visit the firehouse on December 8th. Well over 200 visitors (mostly children) came through the firehouse for the opportunity to see Santa, draft a letter to him at a letter writing station, and get their picture taken with him. Local vendors Costco, Wawa, Texas Roadhouse, and Quick Check also helped make this event very successful.



(above) Children who visited the firehouse were able to meet with Santa, and write and mail a letter to him at a letter writing station.

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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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Publisher: Joe Renna  
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## NORTH PLAINFIELD SCOUTS FOOD DRIVE

North Plainfield Girl Scouts makes feeding the hungry a priority, a value that drives many of their service projects. Most recently, the partnered with Cub Scouts, as well as local school nurses and counselors to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for twelve families in town. All of the families received two additional bags filled with nonperishable food. Some troops donated the necessary food items, while other troops shopped for food together as a group. It was an eye-opening experience for many of the

girls, as they discovered that feeding a family is expensive, particularly when purchasing nutritious, fresh foods.

Troop 65141 coordinated the project by collecting and organizing donations and delivering the baskets to local schools to be distributed. "It feel good to help people who don't have enough food," commented Girl Scouts Sofia and Cassy. And Jennel added, "I feel good helping families have enough food for Thanksgiving."



(above) Members of North Plainfield Girl Scouts Troop 65141

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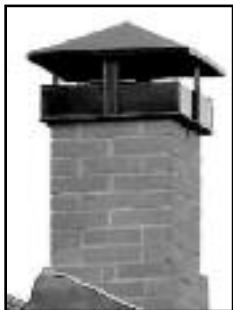


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# OPERATION WATCH DOG

Submitted by William G. Parenti, Chief of Police

The North Plainfield Police Department is committed to a productive partnership with the community. In an effort to expand that partnership and provide more comprehensive services to the community the North Plainfield Police Department initiated Operation Watch Dog. This program encourages residents and businesses to register their privately owned home/business video surveillance in efforts to increase safety and reduce crime. The department recognizes that crimes can be committed at any place or time and that home/business video surveillance may have captured vital footage that could help solve crimes in our community. During a criminal investigation our officers are often unaware of the many residences and businesses that have surveillance systems that may have captured footage of value to the investigation. Having knowledge of the location of a surveillance system in the area of a crime could be instrumental in a successful resolution.

There are several benefits to registering with

the North Plainfield Police Department Operation Watch Dog. It expedites the retrieval of footage from surveillance systems close to the crime scene in an effort to uncover criminal activity. It also reduces the number of officers assigned to canvass the area around a crime scene searching for operational surveillance systems. This allows officers assigned to the investigation to be deployed to other tasks in the investigation thereby enabling a higher degree of efficiency of allocated resources. Please note that this program does not give police the ability to tap into any home or business surveillance feeds.

Operation Watch Dog is just another useful tool which offers residents and businesses the opportunity to partner with the North Plainfield Police Department in the fight against crime.

Residents who are interested in signing up are asked to visit the website below. You can enter your information and submit your registration online with just a few clicks.

[northplainfield.org/government/departments/police/add\\_watchdog\\_registration.php](http://northplainfield.org/government/departments/police/add_watchdog_registration.php)

## CASA SHAW ANNOUNCES INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR JANUARY 2020

CASA of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties is part of a statewide network of community-based, non-profit programs that recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to “Speak Up for a Child” removed from home due to abuse or neglect. CASA is the only program in New Jersey that uses trained volunteers to work one-on-one with children, ensuring that each one gets the services needed and achieves permanency in a safe, nurturing home.

“Attending an information session is the first step in becoming a CASA volunteer advocate for a foster child who has been abused and neglected. This is where individuals learn about what it takes to become volunteer,” said Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA SHaW. Attending an Information Session is required for anyone interested in applying to become a CASA.

Below are the dates, times and locations for the

upcoming CASA SHaW information sessions scheduled for January:

*Tuesday, January 7 - 5:30 p.m.*

*PeopleCare Center*

*(120 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ)*

*Wednesday, January 15 - 5:30 p.m.*

*CASA SHaW office (150 Boulevard, Washington, NJ 07882)*

*Wednesday, January 22 - Noon*

*PeopleCare Center*

*(120 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ)*

If you are interested in attending one of these information sessions, registration is required. Please contact Volunteer Trainer, Karen Cassano, at [karen@casashaw.org](mailto:karen@casashaw.org) or by phone at 908-689-5515 if you plan to attend on either date.

For more information about CASA visit [casaofnj.org](http://casaofnj.org).

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# NORTH PLAINFIELD WELCOMED IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

On Sunday, December 1, 2019, two annual North Plainfield traditions were held together at the Vermeule Community Center - the Recreation Department's Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa's visit to the borough. Everyone enjoyed holiday music, balloon caricatures, hot chocolate (donated by the North Plainfield Marching Band parents), cookies, other refreshments, and more!



(above) Santa Ed Schaffer and Elf Jenna Lanzone listens to the wishes of the DiScala Family, Mike, Alizza and son and daughter Dominic and Ella.



(above) The Tree lighting ceremony was produced by the North Plainfield Recreation Committee. The event featured the Washington Park Singers singing Christmas Carols. Unity Bank brought Frosty the Snow man and handed out soccer balls

## THE GRADUATES VIEWPOINT

North Plainfield School District

### CALLING ALL GRADUATES Class of 2017, 2018, 2019

Dear Graduates,

We hope things have come your way since your graduation from North Plainfield High School. Feedback from our alumni would serve as a strong resource to our vision of meeting students where they are, and helping them to be successful when they leave our doors.

Graduates from the classes of 2017, 2018 and 2019 are invited to take part in a survey and interview to discuss the level of preparedness felt as they pursue their post-high school goals.

Alumni are asked to set up an on-site appointment by:

Calling (908) 769-6060 ext. 6104

or emailing directly to

[michelle\\_aquino@nplainfield.org](mailto:michelle_aquino@nplainfield.org)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Michelle Aquino**

Superintendent of Schools



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## ALL AGES

Saturday, January 25, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Drop-In Activity - Indoor Snowman.

**CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN**  
YA Monthly Challenge - Crossword Challenge  
(grades 5-12):

Thursday, January 2, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Toddler/Preschool Storytime - Rhyme and Play  
(ages 18 months - 5 years):

Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22;  
10 - 11 a.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Discover Stories  
(ages birth - 3 years):

Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23; 10 - 11 a.m.

Kids in the Kitchen (grades 2-5):

Thursday, January 9, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Family Day - Pinecone Gnomes  
(families with children):

Saturday, January 11, 11 a.m. - Noon  
LEGO® Club (grades 2-5):

Monday, January 13, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Family Storytime - Pajamarama  
(families with children):

Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Learning Lab - Genetics (grades K-5):

Thursday, January 16, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Teen Movie Screenings - "Twilight"  
(grades 7-12):

Wednesday, January 22, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Friday DIY - Make Your Own Game  
(grades 3-6):

Friday, January 24, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

## Homework Help (grades 3-6):

Monday, January 27, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Teen Volunteer Opportunity - Homework  
Helpers (grades 9-12):

Monday, January 27, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Feeling Hygge (grades 5-12):

Tuesday, January 28, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Game Time (grades 5-12):

Wednesday, January 29, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Get Moving with MyPlate (grades K-4):

Thursday, January 30, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

Celebrate the New Year With Meditation:

Monday, January 6, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

English Conversation Group:

Mondays, January 6, 13, 27; 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Writer's Group:

Tuesdays, January 7, 21; 6 - 8 p.m.

Book Discussion - "A Gentleman in Moscow"  
by Amor Toyles

Thursday, January 9, 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, January 16, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Django, Jazz, and Bluegrass - Featuring Blue  
Jersey Band:

Tuesday, January 14, 7 - 8:15 p.m.

Resume and Job Search Assistance:

Wednesday, January 22, 11 a.m. - Noon

Special Needs Social Hour:

Friday, January 24, 11 a.m. - Noon



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