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VOL. 3 No. 10

DECEMBER 2013 

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Inside this issue: Reverse Mortgage, Staffing Agencies, Bordentown Past & Present, The Amish Market, Beautiful Smiles, Winter Wonderland, Housing Rehabilitation, Christmas at Seasonal World, Count Basie Theater Past & Present, Winter Driving Safety, Food Labeling, Student of the Month, A Secure Home, Fall Networking Event, Five Senses of Christmas, Property Tax Rewards, Stay Healthy this Winter, Plumsted & New Egypt Bring Light to the Holidays, Cookies for a Cause, Cheer Team Going to Disney, Allentown Business Fighting Back



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Michele Obama's Let's Move! Child Care Initiative Recognizes Lake-view Hamilton for Meeting National Goals to Prevent Childhood Obesity

Lakeview Child Center Hamilton has been recognized for its efforts to prevent childhood obesity, receiving a designation as one of Michele Obama's Let's Move! Child Care facilities.

There are 4,300 childcare programs in New Jersey but only 20 have received the First Lady's recognition.

"This recognition solidifies Lakeview Hamilton as a model for building a healthier future for children and families across Mercer County," says LuAnn Wood, vice president of Lakeview Child Center. "Each of our six centers is working toward achieving Let's Move! Child Care Recognition in 2014."



Children learn about spaghetti squash during a cooking class at Lakeview Child Center Hamilton.

Lakeview Hamilton received recognition for its exceptional work promoting and implementing the goals of the First Lady's initiative, including adopting stronger healthy beverage standards, increasing physical activity, limiting screen time, serving fruits or vegetables at every meal, and supporting breastfeeding.

"Lakeview is determined to fight childhood obesity," says Wood. "We have a responsibility as a childcare provider to instill healthy habits in our children and help them and their families make positive lifestyle changes."

Continued on page 50

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EDUCATION:

Dr. Sulla graduated the NYU College of Dentistry with his D.D.S. and then received his Pediatric Dentistry degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

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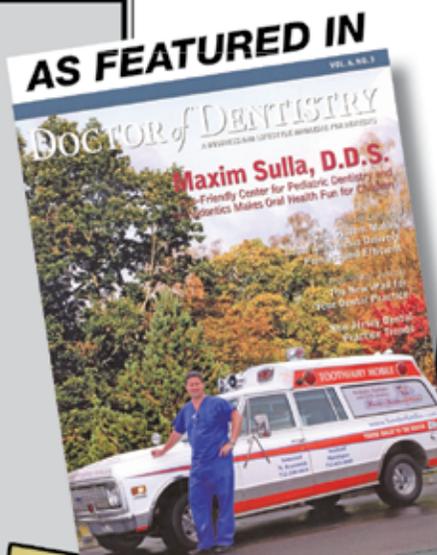
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TenderSmiles4Kids is a pediatric dentistry and orthodontic practice with offices in Freehold and Somerset, New Jersey. The dentists oversee children from infancy to college, while the orthodontic section of the practice cares for both children and adults.

Dr. Maxim Sulla and Dr. Liya Ostrow are the pediatric dentists working in the 5,000 square foot Freehold all green dental office, and Dr. John Butler is the orthodontist there.

Dr. Sulla graduated the NYU College of Dentistry with his D.D.S. and then received his Pediatric Dentistry degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Dr. Sulla is the President of the NJ Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and a council member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

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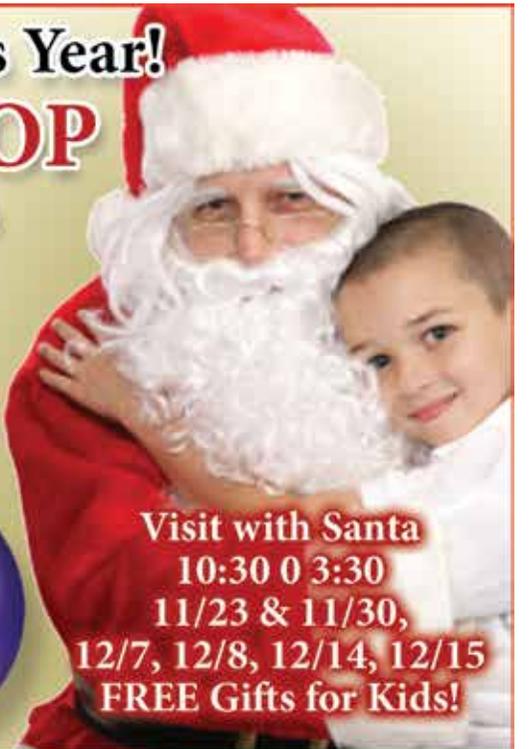
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Elder Care:

“Are you trying to take care of your parents, while raising your children?”

“Are you part of the sandwich generation?”

In memory of our mother, Lorraine Giordano, we would like to discuss important information on elder care and necessary precautions to take during a health crisis. With the assistance of an attorney and personal insight from our own experiences, we want to fulfill our mission of raising awareness and educating families by providing this monthly information. In addition, Lorraine's I Believe Foundation will spread awareness and options to choose from regarding brain radiation-www.LorraineIBelieveFoundation.com

The Suggestion of The Month – If you have your own foundation, you can dedicate the donations to be sent directly to your foundation /charity of your choice. For example, any money that is raised for our foundation www.LorrainesIBelieveFoundation.com is sent directly to Make- A- Wish New Jersey . Make-A-Wish will keep track of all the incoming money raised under your account. The goal would be to “fund a wish” for a child . For more information visit www.nj.wish.org or www.LorrainesIBelieveFoundation.com. ■



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rower will never owe more than the value of their home even if they outlive the loan and collect more in monthly payments than their house is worth. This means that your heirs will never owe anything but a reverse mortgage will decrease your home equity and this will reduce the amount left to your heirs, if you have spent the money you received.

The biggest negative is the cost of a reverse mortgage. They can include loan origination fees, mortgage insurance fees, appraisal fees and other costs that are extremely high when compared to a traditional mortgage. These costs are not paid out of pocket but are rolled into the loan. In addition, the borrower is still responsible for paying taxes, homeowners insurance, maintenance costs and other expenses. If these are not paid, the loan can go into default and called due immediately. Please do your due diligence before entering into a reverse mortgage. Call the area Office for Aging if you have questions and do not allow anyone to pressure you into taking out a reverse mortgage. ■

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Staffing Agencies Mean Business

By: Susan Heckler

In recent years with our teetering economy, many businesses have emerged or grown because of the uncertainty. One such business is staffing agencies.

Staffing or Recruiting Agencies came into full bloom during World War II in the 1940's. There was a need to fill the gap where employees left a job to serve in the military. At the end of the war, thousands of men and women came home with new skills added. The focus at that point was to place the employee.

With the strong economy of the 1970's, there was a shift from working for the employee to working for the employer. During this period of comparative prosperity and growth, large companies began outsourcing their hiring efforts to recruiting companies. Even companies with large Human Resources departments used recruiters, or headhunters, to streamline their hiring efforts.

Staffing agencies have many benefits to both the job hunter and the prospective employer. The agencies do an exhaustive search when trying to fill a job opening. According to the Erich Radlmann, Managing Partner of Spherion Staffing with offices in Tinton Falls, Princeton, Bridgewater and Bethlehem, PA, they have screened up to 1,800 appli-

cants to fill just one vacancy. Spherion uses 300 assessments to determine the fit for future employment. The employer can then interview the top three to five applicants who are best suited to fill the position. It is a time-saver and also more efficient, having someone with expertise evaluate resumes for you.

This also saves time for the employee, instead of wasting time and money going to interviews that are not a good fit. If the applicant is not a good fit for that one opening, they are on file for upcoming openings.

The Radlmann family has 25 years of experience in staffing, and own and operate the four Spherion franchises. A Netherlands based holding company owns Spherion and Randstad. Combined, they are the second largest staffing agency in the world with over 150 franchise locations. They have a good handle on the local employment situation as well as national.

Mr. Radlmann stated that while businesses had previously cut back on staff because of the economic downturn, slowly but surely the job market is improving. Even so, many employers are hesitant to go out and hire, especially full time staff. It is hard to find quality people so many companies are



hiring temporary employees with the intent-to-hire if the situation works out. Temporary employees give a company a chance to try a candidate out before committing. You get the help you need and some time to gage whether this person will be a good fit and if you want to keep the position part time or will full time suit your needs. Mr. Radlmann states that 80% of our openings with Monmouth County
Continued on page 50



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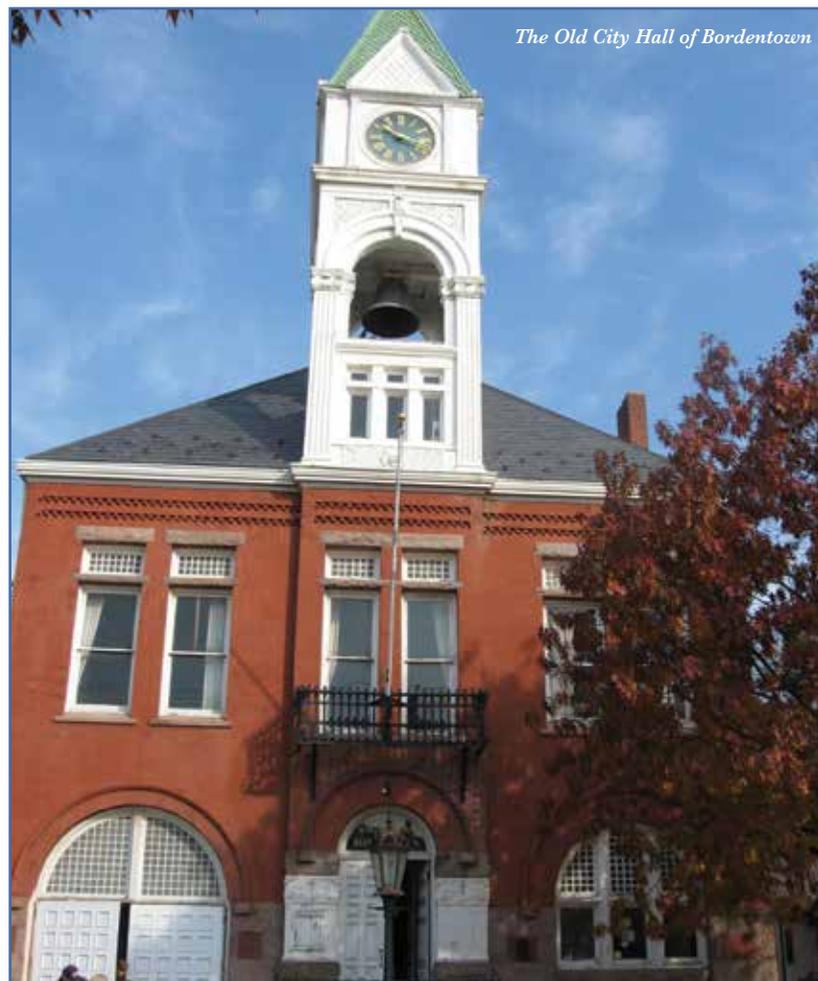
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An example of the different architectural styles in the city, an Italianate style home



The Old City Hall of Bordentown

BORDENTOWN

Past and the Present

By: Pam Teel

One of the nicest things about living in this area is that we have so many small, established towns to visit. Towns that have stores and restaurants and other activities, throughout the year, that keep you going back for more. One of those towns that I love is Bordentown, located in Burlington County, and a mere twenty-five minutes from the Millstone area (closer if you live in the Allentown area). Bordentown is the town that has everything to offer. The town is so rich in history; they can boast that many famous people once lived there. Joseph Bonaparte, ex-king of Spain and Naples, and brother of the famed Napoleon Bonaparte built a mansion by the river with underground tunnels that went directly to the river as an escape route. Some of the tunnel still exists today. He's not the only so called famous person to ever to live in the town. Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Paine, who authored the 1776 pamphlet "Common Sense" which helped ignite the Revolution, and Clara Barton who started the first public school in 1852, took up residence at one time or other in the town.

The city goes back to the 1600's when Thomas Farn-

sworth, an English Quaker, moved up the Delaware River from Burlington. In 1682, he built a home on a bluff overlooking the river. During this period there were only about 23 known families in the distant area settling around what is now Columbus, Chesterfield, and what became known as Farnsworth landing, which was located at the junction of Crosswicks Creek and the Delaware. To visit a neighbor meant a days trek through the thick woodlands; the same woodlands that were also frequented by Native American Indians.

Joseph Borden arrived in the area around 1717 and a mere six years later acquired most of the land that is now Bordentown City. He established a ferry service to cross the river and by 1740 had a line of stagecoaches and boats traveling between New York and Philadelphia. This area soon became the center of trade for the region. Thomas Borden was a liberal who envisioned a lot of things for his town. He was successful in the building up of the town, which at that time had 65 established homes. He had a nearby rival named William Trent who built up an area called Trent's Towne and by 1748 had built over 100 homes surpassing Borden's town (Trent's Towne later was renamed Trenton). As the colonies increased in population, Bordentown's crossroads location attracted many visitors as they traveled to and

Continued on page 44



The Clara Barton Schoolhouse



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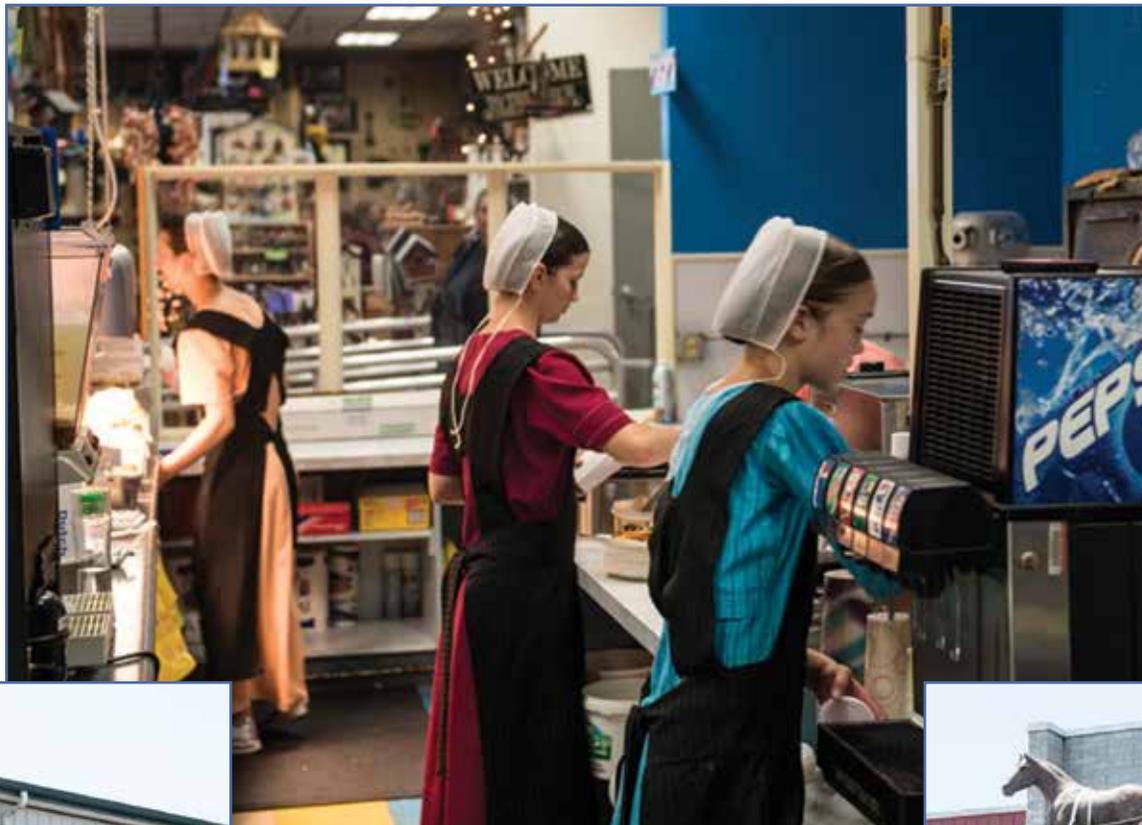
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The Amish Market- A Taste of Pennsylvania Dutch Close to Home

By: Susan Heckler



buy meals, sandwiches, drinks, ribs, and chicken to eat there or bring home. A business by the same name is nestled on the road between Lancaster and Intercourse, PA. Willow Valley Meats give a fresher twist to meats, poultry, and eggs, many prepared in the Amish tradition like their sausages.

Dutch Pretzel has amazing ice cream roll-ups and fresh soft pretzels, handmade all day. King's Crafts is a great place to find outdoor ornaments and novelties for the home. Dutch Bulk Dry Foods offers the jams, jellies, cereals, and baking needs you will find served on their tables. One of my favorite stops is Dutch Kountry Kitchen where they offer baked goods, donuts, and all kinds of pies. Just going there to inhale is such a treat.

We have recently published articles on Lancaster Pennsylvania and the Amish areas to visit. The "Amish Country" is scenic and exploring their culture is both fun and interesting. Some of the big perks of visiting "The Pennsylvania Dutch" is the wonderful food and great handmade items.

If you don't have time to visit them to sample their wares, they have brought them closer to your home. Amish Markets seem to have sprung up all over the place. There is even one in the heart of Manhattan! I find that interesting since I was under the impression that they do not drive cars.

I recently discovered the Amish Market at the Columbus Farmers Market near the Columbus Flea Market. The stores are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday only. They have brought authentic foods and retail items from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Amish Market draws hundreds of shoppers from all surrounding areas.

The vendors include Stoltzfus Bar-B-Que where you can

*The Amish Market
draws hundreds of shoppers from all
surrounding areas.*

Riehl's Deli & Subs is a great place to get soups, salads, cold cuts, cheese, and pies to enjoy there or in the comfort of your own home. J&L Candy sells candy, chocolates, gum, and edible novelties you find in Dutch Country. J&L Lawn Furniture & Crafts sells the sheds; furniture, tapestries, lawn furniture, linen, and crafts the Amish are known for.

Columbus Farmers Market Complex is Delaware Valley's oldest and largest flea market.

Inside and out, you will find fresh produce and seafood, excellent meats, delicious baked goods, household and dec-

orative items, clothing and accessories. The Outdoor Flea Market has new and used merchandise with many great food vendors located throughout the property. You can buy flowers, plants and garden ornaments at Stony Brook Garden Center.

The Columbus Farmers Market originally started in 1919 as a cattle and horse auction in the town of Columbus. In 1929, it moved to 30 acres at its present location on Route 206 and was then owned by three brothers, Irving, Harry and Frank Tallman as well as a fourth owner, Harry Rupp.

Over the years, a variety of farm animals were sold and auctioned including chickens, ducks, and cattle, milking cows, calves, sheep and hogs. Machinery auctions were conducted and fresh eggs were a big seller. This was rural America at its finest.

Two serious fires, one in 1968 and a second in 1972, destroyed several buildings. At one point in its long history, the site also included a diner, a bank and a carnival, which

Continued on page 50



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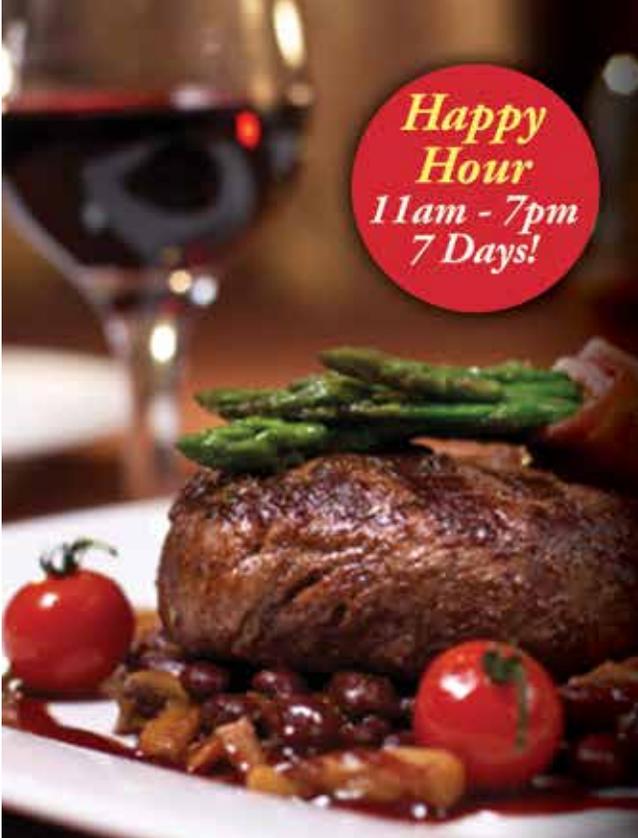


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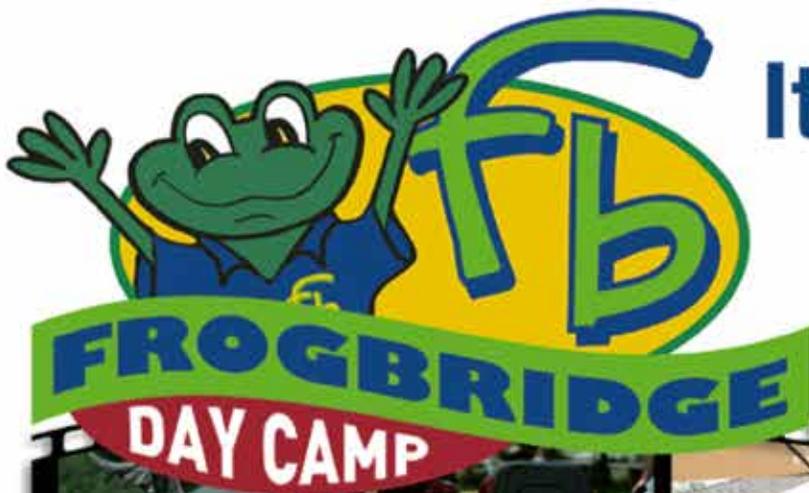
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PLEASE MENTION YOU SAW THIS AD IN THE MILLSTONE TIMES

Beautiful Smiles from Good Work and Good Deeds; Monroe Orthodontics

By: Susan Heckler

One of the first things someone will notice about you is your smile. A beautiful smile leaves a lasting impression on everyone you meet, at any age.

There are many dentists who will do orthodontic work on their patients, but an orthodontist is a dental specialist who has received two to three years of additional training and experience. Your orthodontist is able to straighten teeth, correct misaligned jaw structure, and improve the function of your smile.

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that children first visit an orthodontist around the age of seven; however, orthodontic treatment is not exclusive to children and teens. Approximately one in every five orthodontic patients is over the age of 21. Whether you have a bad bite, crowded teeth or spaced apart, abnormal pain or pressure, or are in search of a more confident smile, there are a variety of braces and appliances that are comfortable, aesthetic, and customized to meet your needs. Dr. Leiva is a Preferred Provider for Invisalign. Invisalign aligners are made of a virtually invisible plastic. That means not having to feel self-conscious about how you look while your smile is being corrected and perfected.

While Dr. Susan Leiva works in Monroe Township, she is a Jersey girl. She grew up in Bergen County, New Jersey and has made her home in Monroe Township. She and her eleven year old daughter, Izabella, "the light of her life" call Monroe Township home with a dog named Lola. The family enjoys dancing, shopping, theatre, and listening to all kinds of music. They also love watching football and baseball, and are huge Yankees fans.

Living and working in the same area thoroughly entrenches you in the local community. She and her team of dedicated office staff enjoy giving back to the area and encourage their patients and network to do the same. One of the causes that touch their hearts is helping children diagnosed with cancer. Each year they hold a Candy Buy-Back. This encourages their



patients to be kind to their own teeth and to think about others at the same time.

The practice buys back candy and pays the patient \$1/pound. The collected candy is shipped to troops overseas, a very sweet gesture. At the same time, they are matching the dollars given out to patients and sending the same amount to The Make a Wish Foundation.

Most practices do gifting to referring doctors. They make it a tradition to spend the gifting money with Cookies for Kids Cancer. Through this organization, 100% of the profits go to pediatric cancer research. They bake and ship delicious, all-natural cookies that are baked fresh and shipped with a special note explaining the significance of the gift. They say thank you in many ways.

In the community, Dr. Leiva donates bottled water to various sports teams in Monroe Township. The team then sells the water at events with the profits going to their team. They also contribute annually to the Millstone PTO for their Tricky Tray.

Dr. Leiva does yearly presentations for Children's Dental Health month each February. She always attends Career Day at the local middle school and volunteers for various activities at Nativity of Our Lord Church. She has been a volunteer with JDRF walk-a-thon for the past three years.

The practice is handicapped accessible and her staff is very experienced with Special Needs patients. Dr. Leiva's first language was Spanish, which helps with some of their international patients.

I asked Dr. Leiva what makes her smile; "Every moment of my life is spent with people I enjoy, and for that reason I consider myself incredibly lucky. I hope you'll come to meet me and join our family of patients!"

Check out Monroe Orthodontics at 2 Centre Drive, Suite 300 Monroe Township, call 609-409-1700 or view their website at www.monroorthollc.com. Your beautiful smile will bring a smile to many faces. ■



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Winter Wonderland Event At Vesuvio's Plaza

Friday, December 6th to help Local Causes

By: Pam Teel

Come as you are, wear your pajamas, and bring an extra pair for a child as a donation on December 6th at the PJ Holiday Party at the Vesuvio plaza. Winter Wonderland, sponsored by Blue Waters Boutique and Vesuvio's Restaurant, will be held on a Friday night from 5-8 to collect new pajamas for the Family and Children Services of Monmouth County's Operations Sleighbell campaign and the One Simple Wish Foundation. The pajama donations will be going to foster children to help them transition in on their first night away from home. Sisters, fourteen-year-old Julia and ten-year-old Emilia Cunningham will be on hand to collect the girls and boys pajamas.



Emilia and Julia Cunningham with their collection of purses they collected that went to the Family & Children Services Thrift Shop in Long Branch. Come join them on Dec. 6th as they collect Pj's for children in foster care!

This is their second year collecting items for local charities. Their goal for this event is to be able to provide some comfy pajamas to help children settle in their first night in the foster care system; a night that can be both confusing and scary to many children. For the past two years, these two young girls have devoted their time to helping many different causes. Realizing how lucky there were to have what they have, they wanted to do something positive for people in need. In such a short period of time, they have managed to collect many needed items for local organizations. They collected flip flops for the troops overseas, Halloween costumes for children in the foster care system, teamed up with Aeropostale Stores to collect jeans for teens and collected purses, shoes, etc. for the Family and Children's Services thrift shop in Long Branch. They will also be giving new pajamas to the One Simple Wish Organization, which was created to help brighten the lives of foster children and vulnerable families. Through their Wish Granting program they are able to serve thousands of foster children each year in many different ways by granting them their one wish. To find out more about this program and ways to donate and help out, you can check out their website at: www.onesimplewish.org You will have access to a list of hundreds of wishes from children in foster care. Perhaps you will be the one to grant them their wish this year!

The Winter Wonderland event will showcase The Allentown High School Woodwind Quartet, which will be playing an ensemble of songs from 5-7 pm. Local resident and artist, Neha Memom, will be on hand for face painting. Come by and join in with the Holiday Christmas Carolers singing your favorite Christmas songs, or stop by and grab a hot meal at Vesuvio's.

Blue Waters Boutique will be helping Julia and Emilia to collect pajamas for the children and they will also be collecting donations through the month of December to help sponsor a child through the local Make a Wish Foundation in Monroe Township. They will be setting up a fundraising page under their company name where people can go to on the Make a Wish website and donate money. All donations will go directly to help sponsor a child. The Boutique had special bracelets made from the "Celebration Boutique" which have been designed just for this event with five dollars from each bracelet sold going to the Foundation to help sponsor a child. They are also donating "Charm It" bracelets to young girls who are part of the Make a Wish Foundation. To donate to Make A Wish, go to: <http://wish.org>. To donate locally, go to: Direct my Donation to- then chose: local chapter. You will find the Monroe Organization under this.

There will be special surprise sales and raffles at Blue Waters Boutique, so be sure to stop in and buy some raffle tickets! Make sure you spend some time browsing the wonderful array of items in the store and do a little Christmas shopping, all at the same time!

If you can't attend the event and would still like to donate new children's pajamas, you can drop them off at Blue Waters Boutique at any time or email Maria Cunningham at anmaju30@aol.com. Help Julia and Emilia reach their goal! Pajamas from baby's to size 12 would be greatly appreciated. Stop in and get involved with your community businesses and become a part of their family in helping others in need!

There will be a special VIP guest in a bright red suit paying a special visit that night, so bring the kids on by! ■



Upper Freehold Township Housing Rehabilitation Program

By: Susan Heckler

If you live in Upper Freehold Township, you will be pleased to learn that a plan has been put in place to financially assist residents with needed home improvements. CGP&H administers municipality sponsored Housing Rehabilitation / Home Improvement Programs for many municipalities including the ones listed below in Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties. CGP&H (Community Grants Planning & Housing) is a consulting firm specializing in affordable housing programs. Similar programs are available for many other towns in other counties.

The beauty of this program is there is no cost to apply and it does not affect your credit score. All funds are provided as a no interest (0%) ten-year forgivable loan. There are no monthly payments and a professional program inspector oversees the process.

There is a catch though. The programs assist income eligible homeowners with eligible repairs or replacement of major systems. The funds can only be used for Heating and Electrical Systems, Roofs, Plumbing System Components, Foundations, Weatherization (windows, insulation, etc.).

This program is open to all income eligible homeowners in the municipality. The maximum allowable income in Monmouth and Ocean Counties ranges from \$51,864 for a one-person household to \$97,801 for an eight-person household as below. Your financial information is kept confidential. Funds are provided on a first-come first-served basis until all funds are expended.

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$51,864
2	\$59,273
3	\$66,682
4	\$74,091
5	\$80,019
6	\$85,946
7	\$91,873
8	\$97,801



According to Corinne Markulin, the programs administrator, "I have been administering these types of government funded home improvement/housing rehabilitation programs for 16 years. The programs are truly a great opportunity for homeowners who qualify. Where else can you get a 0% forgivable loan?" The loan converts into a grant if you maintain title and occupancy for the 10-year period.

If you live in Upper Freehold Township, own your home and your total gross annual household income falls below the income limit for your household size, you may qualify to participate in the program (Income limits updated annually).

Funding is also available for rental properties – Landlords to call for terms. Residents are encouraged to go to their municipal website or to www.cgph.net for more program information including income guidelines. If you have additional questions, or to get placed in the program applicant pool, email maryalice@cgph.net or call Mary Alice at 609-371-1968. ■



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas at Seasonal World

By: Susan Heckler

Holidays are so much fun and so festive. Everyone really went all out with their autumn and Halloween decorations, much of which will be displayed until Thanksgiving arrives. That weekend traditionally begins the start of the "Holiday Season."

I went into Seasonal World at 532 Monmouth Road in Clarksburg (Route 537) to check out their preparations for the Christmas season. Just a few days after Halloween, they are closed to the public and gearing up for their "Magic of Christmas" showrooms. They reopen on November 15 and let me tell you, you are in for a treat.

I really didn't know what to expect when I walked in there...after all, I know them for being an outstanding pool and backyard store. One step in and your eyes are hit with an amazing winter wonderland under construction. The atmosphere is what I would envision Santa's Workshop to be, smiling people (full size, not elves) hustling from here to there, professional decorators focused on their works of art (a.k.a. a Christmas tree), and displays being stocked with the colors of the season.

They don't just have Christmas trees on display; they have a forest of 300 of them, each one different. The green trees are very lifelike, made of polyethylene, which lasts longer and looks more natural than the typical PVC tree. You also have trees that look coated with snow, trees of every color, as well as pre-lit and stay-lit. Each tree is individually decorated so you can get some great ideas of what to do with your own tree.

There is a huge selection of ornaments made of glass or resin to fit any home décor. You can have them personalized, go the traditional route, or any other decorating route your heart and home desires. Their outstanding collection of indoor and outdoor lighting takes up an



entire room of the building. You can purchase ready to hang wreaths or customize your own for indoor or outdoor use.

I have never seen such a huge selection of beautiful nativity scenes, figurines and collectibles. There is a great selection of outdoor inflatables as well as centerpieces, wall hangings, stockings, ribbons, garlands and everything Christmas you can imagine. Their giftware selection should definitely make any recipient happy.

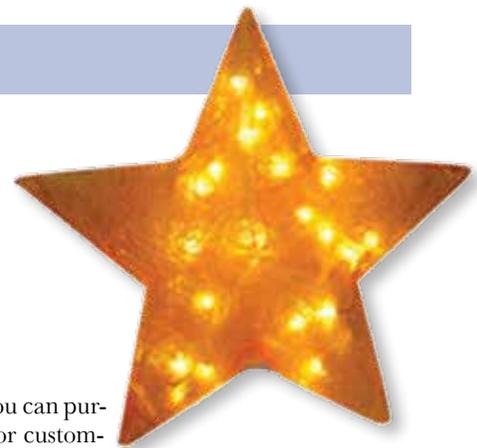
Unlike the big box stores, there are plenty of knowledgeable employees to walk you through like a personal shopper; making sure your holiday home is everything you could dream of. It has taken them 30 years to find the most amazing, beautiful, quality items to stock their showroom with. Your tree and home will be unique and personalized rather than the cookie cutter trees many of the competitors sell.

If you have the imagination but lack the decorating skills to pull it off, they offer a service where they will come in to your home and 'Christmas-ize' it for you.

If you are looking to make your business more festive for the holidays, check out their commercial decorations and wholesale area for business-to-business and municipal needs.

Check out their extensive website at njchristmasstore.com or stop in and get into the spirit of the season. Give them a call at 609.259.8330 for store hours and information.

I Ho-Ho-Hope this gives you some inspiration to make your home and holiday everything you wish for! ■



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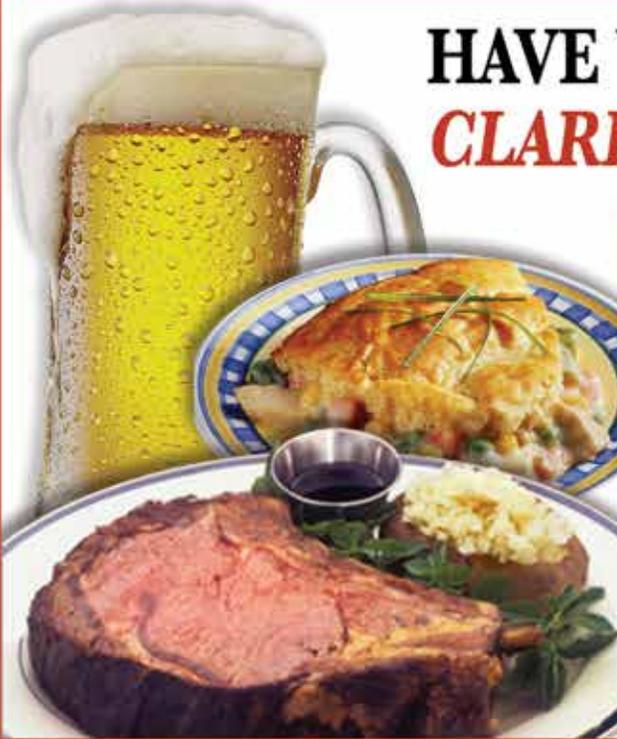
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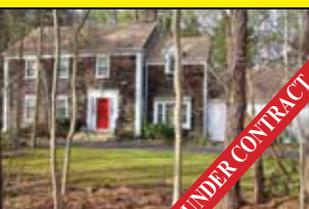
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In The Burbs Count Basie Theater; History and Culture under One Roof

By: Susan Heckler



Through the years, the beautiful building had to change with the times.

It's winter in New Jersey, so what is there to do for your family now that the weather isn't quite so cooperative?

According to their website, "The primary mission of the Count Basie Theatre is to serve the people of the State of New Jersey by providing a broad spectrum of quality entertainment and education programs that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the region; foster understanding and appreciation for the ennobling power of the performing arts; and create opportunity for cultural enrichment for people at all economic levels. It also is our mission to develop and maintain a world-class venue that enhances the enjoyment of these entertainment and education programs; contributes to the cultural and economic vitality of the community and the region; and honors the memory of Count Basie. The development arm of the theatre provides operating support and raises the capital needed to restore the facility and to create an endowment."

The result of their mission...in 2012 The Count Basie Theatre hosted 176 performances with 179,140 people coming to the theatre. The economic impact of the Basie's activity on the community is approximately \$13 million and supports over 300 full-time jobs. That is a lot of smiling faces that left the building a little more knowledgeable, possibly happier, and definitely entertained.

This little jewel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, recognized by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts as a Major Presenting Organization for the State of New Jersey, by Pollstar Magazine as one of the Top 100 Worldwide Theatre Venues, and by Contribute Magazine as one of their Top 200 Investor-Worthy Charities.

Opening night on Thursday, November 11, 1926 was a grand affair, attended by 4,000 people with many prominent persons invited, including well-known actors from the stage and screen, composers, vaudevillians, playwrights, elected officials and pretty much anyone who was anyone. The theater was equipped for moving pictures, vaudeville and dramatic shows so it hosted a wide variety of talent.

Through the years, the beautiful building had to change with the times. Music and theater had many transformations and the ups and downs of the economy and decentralizing the idea of a town center impacted the theater and its ability to support itself. After several name changes, in 1984 it was renamed The Count Basie Theater in honor of jazz pianist, composer and band leader William "Count" Basie (1904-1984), who died on April 26 of that year. Although mostly associated with Kansas City during his music career, Count Basie was, in fact, a Red Bank native. He was born in his parent's house on Mechanic Street on August 21, 1904, and lived here through his teen years.

The struggling theater was operated by a nonprofit arts organization since 1973. On June 30, 1999 the Count Basie Theatre, Inc. was established as its own independent nonprofit corporation to own, manage, program and preserve the theatre. "In 2002 the organization presented just 12 performances, attended by 9,200 people, and had an annual budget of just \$1.4 million with an annual operating deficit. The annual operating budget is now \$6 million a year with a solid history of profitability. The Basie now presents about 90-100 of its own performances a year, with attendance averaging over 70% of capacity, and continues to host

Continued on page 42



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47331

Winter Driving Safety

By: *Donn Sharer*



When the weather outside is frightful, the roads can be terrifying. Depending on where you live, winter can bring along a barrage of snow, sleet and ice, which make for some seriously unsafe driving conditions. The best way to stay safe from slick roads is to stay off of them. But if you can't, here are some winter driving safety tips to keep in mind before you get behind the wheel.

Safe Winter Driving Tips -

When it comes to winter weather safety tips, preparation is key.

- **Do a car maintenance check** - The Insurance Information Institute (III) says having a well-maintained vehicle is one of the first crucial winter driving tips.
 - Make sure the tread on your tires is in good shape and the tire pressure meets manufacturer's recommendations
 - Check your brakes, battery, hoses, defroster/heater
 - Make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition and your fluid reservoirs are full
 - Keep gas tank at least half full
- **Carry a winter emergency kit** - Stash a small shovel, rock salt, ice scraper, snowbrush, flashlight, blanket, first aid kit and jumper cables in your trunk all winter long
- **Drive with headlights on** - While you may be driving in daytime, headlights do wonders for helping you see and be seen. Some people aren't privy to winter driving tips, so anything you can do proactively will help everyone on the road.
- **Clear snow and ice from your vehicle** - You've probably been stuck behind someone who didn't bother to clear the snow off their roof and ends up leaving a trail of blizzard-like conditions behind them. Don't be one of them. Clear snow and ice from windows, lights, mirrors and roof before you get on the road.
- **Manage your time** - When going out for a drive in the winter, leave adequate time for your travels and make sure your cell phone is completely charged. Depending on where you are traveling, consider taking along tire chains, which will help you better navigate the dangerous road conditions.
- **Protect teen drivers** - New drivers need extra help when it comes to winter driving safety. Make sure teen motorists are exposed to the snow and ice driving experience before they go out on their own. Practice with them in a safe environment like an empty parking lot.

Still have questions? You're not alone. According to NJ insurance agency Sharer and Associates, motorists often ask the following questions regarding safe winter driving tips:

Do snow tires make a difference? Absolutely. Putting snow tires on your vehicle could very well be the single most important recommendation for winter driving safety. Not only will they help your vehicle perform better in snowy conditions, they will transform a rear wheel drive car into a veritable snow mobile that stops, corners and changes lanes without the back end sliding. Typically lasting about three seasons, snow tires usually cost less than an insurance deductible, and using them will help your summer tires last longer. In fact, your local repair shop will likely store your summer tires for you over the winter months!

What should I do if my car starts skidding on a slippery road? First off, go a slower speed on winter roads. If your vehicle begins to skid, look where you want your car to go, not where you are heading, and turn your steering wheel toward that area. Don't over-steer your vehicle.

What is the best way to drive uphill in wintery weather? While you should drive slower in winter weather, it's easy to get stuck spinning your wheels on a hill when you drive too slowly. Maintaining momentum is key. Approach the hill with enough speed, and keep light and balanced pressure on the gas pedal. Once you reach the top of the hill, slow your speed and descend as slowly as possible.

Do I need additional insurance for winter? No extra insurance is required for the winter months. Quality car insurance covers you all year round. However, winter safety tips include making sure your policy has "Loss of use" coverage so you can get a rental car if you get into an accident.

Protection and defensive driving techniques are crucial to winter driving safety. Before you hit the road this winter, be sure to follow the winter weather safety tips above. No matter how old you are when you are behind the wheel, the unexpected can happen in a split second. Knowing the facts about safe winter driving can help prevent an accident.

We hope you find this information useful and feel compelled to share it with your neighbors, friends and colleagues. As always, my agency is available as a resource so please let us know if we can be of assistance. Call us at 732-446-6739, visit us online at www.sharerandassociates.com, or send us an e-mail at donnsharer@allstate.com. ■



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Twelve Things that you probably didn't Know about Food Labeling

By: Pam Teel

So you're trying to eat healthier and you're actually looking at the ingredients in the food and vitamins supplements that you are consuming, but it is not always easy to decipher what is really good for you and what isn't. With 95 per cent of our food supply now coming from a GMO source, we are really beginning to wonder if there is anything out there that hasn't been tampered with. Our milks and meats are full of antibiotics, our poultry, though it might say all natural on the wrappings, comes from poultry fed with GMO corns and grains, and our produce is infused with the DNA of deadly pesticides. There is only one word that can serve as the solution to eating healthy and that is NATURE. We need to get back to nature and get all of the chemicals and pollutants out of our foods. We don't need all the antibiotics or GMO's in our food.

Unless people here in America stand up and take notice of what is happening to our food supply, nothing will change. Europe has literally kicked out the number one food supplier of GMO foods this past year after Monsanto literally tried to buy their way in to their Countries, as have many South American Countries who have turned Monsanto away. Through demonstrations and ballot voting on the use of GMO's, these countries were able to keep Monsanto out of their lives. Why is it that our demonstrations to rid the U.S. of GMO's fall on Deaf ears here in America. I believe it is because not everyone is educated on what a GMO is. We the people need to be able to decide on whether we want to eat products that are laced with Pesticides in the very DNA of the seeds. Why is it that all of the newer research on long-term effects of GMO foods is being dismissed by our very own Government? I guess that could be because the heads of our USDA and FDA are run by ex- Monsanto CEO's and Presidents appointed by President Obama himself. Talk about a conflict of interest. I urge you, if you don't know what a GMO is; it's in the best interest of your families' prolonged health to look it up. You won't see it on the news; guess who has control of your airwaves!

Even if you think you are eating healthier, there are many hidden meanings behind false advertising. Reading food labels and ingredients can be confusing. Don't you know that these big Companies want to confuse you, to the point of you not knowing which end is up? That's part of the strategy of the global giants to confuse you so much that you give up trying to follow it. Kosher, non-GMO, gluten free, natural and organic, what about them and what do their labels really mean?

You need to start somewhere. First do a little research on GMO's in our foods. It will open your eyes as to how many products and things that we consume are made with GMO corn. You'll be surprised to find out that nearly everything you pick up on the supermarket shelf has a GMO source in it and how our government is allowing us to be guinea pigs for these big corporations with no long run studies on our health effects after years of consuming GMO products. Don't think that if it is ok with the USDA and FDA that it is good for you. They are not watching out for your health interests but catering to these large money corporations that continue to put out products that are beneficial only to making them richer and more powerful.



Listed below are 12 things that can help you sort out the truths between food labeling.

- Kosher food does not mean non-Gmo. Genetically engineered ingredients are openly allowed in kosher certified foods. The kosher certification does not involve testing for GMO's. Kosher certifications are routinely found on foods containing GMO's.
- Organic doesn't mean that it is low in heavy metals. The USDA certified organic certification process does not test for heavy metals. Foods that are very high in lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury and even aluminum are openly allowed to be labeled USDA certified organic.
- Non-GMO does not mean organic- Just because a food is certified as non-Gmo doesn't mean that it's organic. Even conventional raised crops such as corn, soy, and canola can be certified non-Gmo if they are grown without GMO seeds. There are several snack chips on the market that use non-Gmo ingredients but they are grown with chemical pesticides.
- All natural does not mean anything at all- it is not regulated by the FDA. Food with artificial colors, chemical sweeteners, chemical preservatives, and GMO's can be labeled, "All Natural." This is a trick used by large food corporations to mislead consumers into thinking they are buying organic. You see it a lot on chicken products. Free of antibiotics, growth hormones, but if you call the companies you will find out that the chickens were fed GMO corns and grains. You might want to check out local turkey farms too and ask them first before buying if their poultry is being fed GMO corn and grains. You'll be surprised at the answers I got!
- Trans Fat-free doesn't mean free from Trans fat. The FDA currently allows food containing up to 0.5g of Trans fat per serving to claim 0 grams of Trans fat per serving. Everywhere else in the world, 0.5 does not equal zero.
- Non-GMO does not mean certified non-GMO. There are many foods, super foods and nutritional products claiming to be non-Gmo but fail to show any certification. Only certified non-Gmo means something.
- Gluten free foods are often GMO's- gluten free foods are often based on corn. They are usually made with genetically modified corn that contains BT toxin, a deadly insecticide. Avoid gluten free unless it says certified non-Gmo.
- Organic foods can still contain a small amount of GMO's. GMO's are so widespread that they have now contaminated virtually the entire food supply. According to the USDA, there aren't any specific tolerance levels in the USDA organic regulations for Gmo's. (I wonder why) Even though certified organic foods can contain a small trace of GMO's they are still healthier for you in the long run. Contamination is due to cross-pollination of GMO crops polluting organic fields.
- Organic foods are now being grown in over polluted countries such as China. An increasing amount of organic foods, super foods, and raw materials used in nutritional supplements such as vitamins are being imported from China. They contain a high amount of heavy metals. Organic certification standards openly allow organic farms in China to grow produce in fields that are heavily polluted with cadmium, lead and mercury. There is no limit on the heavy metals level in soils used to produce USDA certified organic foods.
- The FDA currently has no limit on the amount of heavy metals allowed in foods either. Usually when they do occasionally tests for metals in foods, such as the level of arsenic in rice, it's declared to low to cause short term health results while ignoring the long term health results.
- The use of organic ingredients doesn't automatically make the whole product organic. Some products today are being sold as organic when only a fraction of their ingredients are organic. The term organic is highly regulated by the federal government and carries a specific meaning. The mere presence of organic ingredients in a product does not make it sufficient to be able to claim it organic.
- Low calorie almost always means that it is sweetened with a chemical sweetener. It doesn't mean that it is healthier for you. Look at the labels. You will always find sucralose, acesulfame potassium, aspartame, or other chemical sweeteners. Low calorie foods, such as diet sodas, can still contain damaging ingredients such as phosphoric acid, a potent that can eat away at teeth and bones.

So that's left you wondering what you can eat that Monsanto and other large corporations haven't already destroyed. Try to find certified organic, certified non-Gmo is getting scarcer each day. Ask your local farmers if their corn is non-Gmo before you buy it. There are still places that sell non-GMO seed. One such place is John Sheepers, which has an

Continued on page 28

Food Labeling

Continued from page 27

extensive seed catalog you can access on line. Think about getting your seed there if you want to grow non-Gmo crops. Not all farmers have gone over to the GMO corn, even though they might still spray pesticides on their products. Did you know that Monsanto is trying to take over all the seeds sold here in America? They want to be the number one supplier of GMO foods to consumers. They want us to only eat foods with DNA laced pesticides. Where is the logic in this and why is it that no one is listening to our outcries?

(Excerpts for this article were taken from Mike Adams, the Health Ranger. If you would like to read more articles written by Mike and other health conscious people go to: naturalnews.com.)

Try to avoid foods made in China, which has little regulations on what they can put in their foods. Why we are even still importing foods for consumption from there is beyond me. Their products should be banned as they are in other European countries. Try to avoid produce from Mexico, even if you go to a local farm market and think you are getting a bargain. Mexican products are not GMO free and due to little restrictions, they are allowed to get a double and triple dose of pesticides sprayed onto their fields.

Cut this out and keep it with you when shopping

HOW TO READ BAR CODES... (Everyone must know)
ALWAYS READ THE LABELS ON THE FOODS YOU BUY--NO MATTER WHAT THE FRONT OF THE BOX OR PACKAGE SAYS, TURN IT OVER AND READ THE BACK CAREFULLY!

With all the food and pet products now coming from China, it is best to make sure you read label at the super-market and especially when buying food products. Many products no longer show where they were made, only give where the distributor is located. The whole world is concerned about China-made "black-hearted goods."

Can you differentiate which one is made in Taiwan or China? The world is also concerned about GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) foods; steroid fed animals (ex: 45 days old broiler chicken).



- It is important to read the bar code to track its origin. How to read Bar Codes...interesting!
- If the first 3 digits of the bar code are 690, 691 or 692, the product is MADE IN CHINA.
- 471 is Made in Taiwan.
- If the first 3 digits of the bar code are 00-09 then it's made or sourced in USA.

This is our right to know, but the government and related departments never educate the public, therefore we have to RESCUE ourselves. Nowadays, Chinese businessmen

know that consumers do not prefer products "MADE IN CHINA," so they don't show from which country it is made. However, you may now refer to the barcode -

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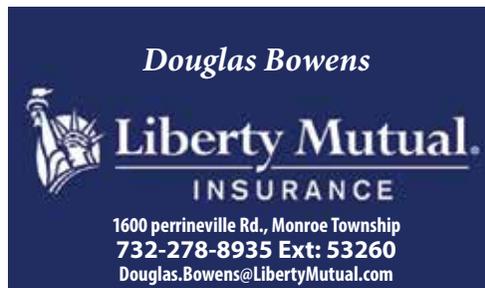
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November's STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Presented by



In this issue, we focus on twins, Katie and Nick Marques, who live in Upper Freehold Township. Katie and Nick just turned nine in September and they are both third graders at the Newell Elementary School. Katie loves her third grade teacher and her favorite subject is math. She also loves reading and her favorite books at this time are the Ramona Quimby and Wayside School series. Katie just received a soaring high Redbird, a certificate given out to children who exhibit exceptional behavior. Katie received hers for her cooperation in the classroom and was honored by her principal for helping out her teacher with whatever things that she needed to get done. Katie studies hard and likes to do her best with everything that she attempts. She is a helpful student and a good friend to everyone around her.

Her favorite TV show is Good Luck Charlie. Katie loves to draw and she loves playing with her American Girl dolls. She also loves playing with her friends and shopping at the Justice Store at the mall.

Katie loves going to Disneyworld and she visiting South Carolina where her best friends live. Katie and Nick live with their mom and dad and big sister Sarah. They also have two dogs called Bingo and Abby. Katie has been dancing since she was three years old. She goes the Simone Dance School and she is hoping to try out for the competition team next season. She takes jazz, tap, and ballet and loves the holiday and end of season recitals.

Her favorite holiday is Christmas because she gets to spend



By: Pam Teel

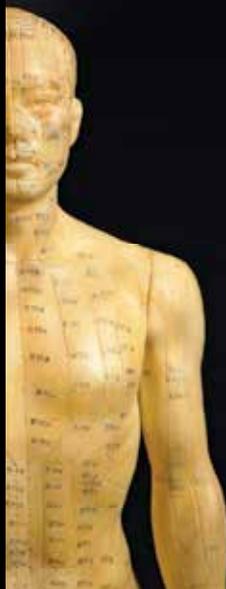
time with her close-knit family. She gets to see her grandparents, aunts, uncles and her cousins. She loves to get presents but also loves to give them out to others. Katie's favorite thing to eat is pasta and meatballs and Chinese food.

Nicky loves his teacher and is so happy he got her this year. She makes learning fun by making up songs for everything and she makes him smile every day. He loves the subjects of spelling and math the best. His favorite books to date are the Diary of a Wimpy Kid and A-Z mystery series books. His favorite show is Chopped on the food network channel. He already knows that he wants to be a master chef one day.

Nick loves to build Lego sets; the harder and more challenging, the better. He loves playing games on the computer and playing with his friends. He also loves visiting Disneyworld and visiting his best friend's in South Carolina.

Nicks favorite holiday is also Christmas. He loves to be around all of his relatives, just like his sister does. He likes to play baseball and recently started playing soccer and he loves all the running around. He plans on signing up for basketball and loves the fact that his dad will help to coach him. Nicks favorite food is steak and pasta with butter!

Together, the two like to play board games and they like to watch the same TV shows. Even though they are not in the same class, it's comforting for both to know that they are close by in case one needs the other. They sometimes have twin telepathy and answer random questions with the same answers whether the answers are right or wrong. They are, however, in the same ALM math class and love to help each other out when they get stumped on a question. When asked about what they like about being twins, Katie likes the fact that she has Nick around to play board games and cards with her whenever she wants. Nick likes to have someone to share his birthday with and have their birthday parties together. Congratulations to the two of you, Katie and Nick, for being such great students, great friends to everyone and for being this issue's Students of the Month! ■



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A Secure Home Is As Good As Gold

By: Susan Heckler

We have done a lot of stories highlighting how bad times bring out the good in people. Unfortunately, it doesn't have that effect on all people. Given the current fiscal crisis, many people have resorted to illegal means of obtaining the funds to maintain their lifestyle.

Property crimes seem to be up, although it is very difficult to find current statistics. Just as a reference, see the Data Universe report from 2011 on Millstone Township alone.

NEW JERSEY CRIME REPORTS

County	Monmouth County	Town	Millstone Twp.
Year	2011	Total crimes	97
Violent crimes	7	Nonviolent crimes	90
Crime rate*	9.2		
Violent rate*	0.7	Nonviolent rate*	8.5
Murder	0	Burglary	37
Rape	1	Larceny	53
Robbery	0	MV theft	0
Assault	6		
Arson	0		
Domestic violence**	0		
Bias crime**	0		
Population	10,566	Square miles	37.4
Density per sq. mile	282.7	Character	Rural
Male officers	0	Female officers	0
Civilian employees	0	Total police force	0

* Crimes per 1,000 residents

According to Stanley Goldstein of Gold Protective Systems, which operates in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, our local law enforcement does a great job in responding to police calls. The average response time in New Jersey is 4 minutes. The problem is if a home owner does not have an alarm system or does not activate the system they have, an alarm call is never sent. If you are not home to make that call yourself, no one else will.

The property crime trend seems to be that these types of crimes occur between the hours of 9am and 3pm from Monday to Friday when it is assumed most people are at work or school. The culprits will come to a home, ring your doorbell and make lots of noise to determine if anyone is home. If the coast is clear, they will go around to the back of the house where fewer eyes can see them, break in, and go straight to the master bedroom in search of jewelry and cash.

Understand that an alarm system, no matter how elaborate, will not prevent a crime from occurring. It is absolutely a deterrent and a means for detection of a crime happening.

If a thief has a choice of a home without an alarm and a home with an alarm, you can bet they will choose the easier target. No sirens will alert neighbors and no calls will go out to police or fire. No security cameras will catch their faces either.

While many people assume an alarm system is out of their budget, Stanley said Gold Protective Systems will install a free security system consisting of a control panel, a digipad, 1 motion detector, a siren, a battery backup and securing 3 openings. The cost will be \$24.95/month for the central monitoring. They provide anything from a basic security system to a state-of-the-art system using the latest technology. They will come and determine the best security solutions for your family. Today, there is a home security system for any household, lifestyle and budget. Gold also offers similar protection for businesses.

The latest technology is an Ibridge smart home system where cameras monitor your property, which can be viewed from any smartphone, iPad or computer around the world. These use ZWave technology and allow you to lock doors, turn on lights and control your home from anywhere in the world.

In addition to preventing crime, today's security systems may also integrate fire protection, environmental issues like gas leaks and carbon monoxide, and personal alert systems for the individual family members and corporate executives.

Gold Protective Systems has been operating since 1990. Give Stanley Goldstein a call and let his years of experience determine if you are taking the best action to protect your family and your home or business. Call 800-700-6400, email stanley@goldprotective.com or check them out on the web at www.goldprotective.com. ■

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The Millstone Times Fall Networking Event

By: Pam Teel



left to right- Sunset owner Bob Kraft, Chris Post, Lisa Post, Jolene Conoscenti, Cami Gunther, Matthew Merritt, Donald Albach, Michael Russo

The Millstone Times Networking Event seems to grow more and more with each passing month, with many new and old faces from area businesses joining in for the meet and greet. Last month's event was held at the newly opened restaurant Sunsets, located at the Creamridge Golf Course in Creamridge.

Cami Gunther, owner of Gunther Enterprises, Inc., which consists of six different newspaper publications, and Account Executive, Jolene Conoscenti, served as the hosts for the event.

Sponsors were Matthew Merritt- Broker-Associate at Prudential NJ Properties in Millstone Township, Michael T. Russo and Donald M. Albach from the Millstone Financial Group on Route 33 in Millstone Township.

This free wine and dine event not only serves as a meet and greet and a chance to network for business owners, but it also serves as a fundraiser for local organizations. Last month's fundraiser went to help the Helping Hearts Rescue, which was established in 2008 by Lisa and Chris Post of Perrineville. Helping Hearts Equine Rescue is a nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and placing abused and neglected equines into loving families. Over the past five years, they have saved over 120 horses from going to slaughter. Aside from horses, they also help save donkeys and mules all over the State of New Jersey. Their mission is to educate the public regarding the standards of care required to maintain an equine as a riding partner and/or companion animal in a humane

manner. The organization is always looking for volunteers to help out with the horses. If you would like to donate to Helping Hearts or if you want to volunteer to work with the horses, you can reach Lisa and Chris at: www.hher.webs.com or email: hheartsequine@op-tonline.net.

A special thank goes out to the owners of Sunsets of Creamridge, Linda and Bob Kraft, who donated 100% of the food for the networking event. This beautiful restaurant and sports bar has a cozy family atmosphere and great food. They serve up breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant is open to the public, so come on down and dine overlooking the Creamridge golf course. They also offer live music on Friday and Saturday nights. Thank you to the manager, Michael Holland, for all of your hard work coordinating the food and drinks for the event. You can call Michael to book all of your private parties and holiday events at: 609-208-2500. For more information about Sunsets, go to: www.sunsetsatcreamridge.com

To reach Matthew Merritt: office 732-792-0352 ext. 113/ cell 609-658-5916- mattthew.merritt@prudentialnj.com

Michael T. Russo: office 732-385-8544/ cell 908-217-8751 michael_t_russo@ca-strategy.com

Donald Albach: office 732-385-8544/ cell 908 770-8040 Donald_albach@ca-strategy.com

To reach Jolene Conoscenti for all your advertising needs call: cell- 917-697-3377 or email jolenechr@verizon.net ■



Mayor Nancy Grbelja, Diane Blackwell, Debbie Novellino/ Right- Pat Butch, Mary Lepping, Carol Wingeter, Diane Morelli



Members of Helping Hearts Equine Rescue in white shirts telling audience about their mission. Left- Mary Gianneli, Lisa Post, Ida Howe



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Morganville, New Jersey
Contact: (732) 591-9600

DECEMBER 8

CJL Farm Inc Hunter Horse Show
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Jackson, New Jersey
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DECEMBER 14

Luck of the Draw Presents
Bulls & Barrels
Gloucester County Dream Park
400 Route 130
South Logan Twp., New Jersey
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DECEMBER 21

Luck of the Draw Presents
Bulls & Barrels
Gloucester County Dream Park
400 Route 130
South Logan Twp., New Jersey
Contact: (856) 241-1415

DECEMBER 22

CJL Farm Inc Hunter Horse Show
353 Cedar Swamp Road
Jackson, New Jersey
Contact: (917) 371-4551

DECEMBER 28

Dream Park Holiday Show
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Contact: (856) 241-1415

DECEMBER 29

Hunter Jumper Show
Gloucester County Dream Park
400 Route 130
South Logan Twp., New Jersey
Contact: (856) 241-1415

DECEMBER 29

Mane Events Horse Show
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maneeventshorsesows.com

DECEMBER 31

Luck of the Draw Presents
Bulls & Barrels
Gloucester County Dream Park
400 Route 130
South Logan Twp., New Jersey
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Cami Gunther

HORSE FACTS:

- Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up.
- Horses can run shortly after birth.
- Domestic horses have a lifespan of around 25 years.
- A 19th century horse named 'Old Billy' is said to have lived 62 years.
- Horses have around 205 bones in their skeleton.
- Horses have been domesticated for over 5000 years.
- Horses are herbivores (plant eaters).
- Horses have bigger eyes than any other mammal that lives on land.
- Because horse's eyes are on the side of their head they are capable of seeing nearly 360 degrees at one time.
- Horses gallop at around 44 kph (27 mph).
- The fastest recorded sprinting speed of a horse was 88 kph (55 mph).
- Estimates suggest that there are around 60 million horses in the world.
- Scientists believe that horses have evolved over the past 50 million years from much smaller creatures.
- A male horse is called a stallion.
- A female horse is called a mare.
- A young male horse is called a colt

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Driving Without Miss Daisy; Competitive Combined Driving at The Horse Park of New Jersey

By: Susan Heckler

One of the “Must See” places literally down the road is The Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern. Equestrian fans were thrilled when The Horse Park opened in 1987. The 185 acres were initially purchased by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with Green Acres funding.

While the mailing address is Allentown, it is actually located in Upper Freehold Township on Route 524 (Stagecoach Road). Check out their website to see the myriad of events coming up at www.horseparkofnewjersey.com.

Something fairly new is the competitive Combined Driving or Carriage Driving. Think back to your favorite episode of Little House on the Prairie when Ma and Pa hooked up the team to the hitch and drove into town. What use to be a means of transportation is now a spectator sport, and a fun one at that.

Combined driving is an Equestrian sport similar to Eventing, also known as Horse Trials. Also known as horse driving trials, it is an equestrian sport involving carriage driving. According to the United States Equestrian Federation's website, “Although they share essentially the same heritage, combined driving differs significantly from carriage pleasure driving. Instead of placing emphasis on the style, authenticity, and pleasurable performance of a hitch, a combined driving event is rigorously performance-based and is actually modeled after the mounted equestrian test of three-day eventing. Combined driving is designed to test a horse's or a team's speed, stamina, obedience and athleticism, in three distinct and demanding phases usually held over the course of three days. Competitors can consist of a single horse, a pair of horses or a team of four horses, and they are tested in three phases: dressage, marathon and obstacle driving.”

The driver sits on a vehicle drawn by a single horse, a pair or a team of four. The sport has three segments: dressage, cross-country marathon and obstacle cone driving. It is one of the ten international equestrian sport horse disciplines recognized by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI); combined driving became an FEI discipline in 1970. There are different levels; Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, and Advanced level, for Singles, Pairs, and Four-in-Hand



Combined driving is designed to test a horse's or a team's speed, stamina, obedience and athleticism, in three distinct and demanding phases usually held over the course of three days.

ers' judgment and skill. The Cones portion is a test of precision driving against the clock through a pattern of narrow “gates” made by pairs of traffic cones with tennis balls placed on top. Toppling the cone or the ball falling off is a penalty and time is ticking.

Typically you have the driver and groom with a varying number of horses. Your groom helps you navigate, keeps track of your time and helps balance the carriage by throwing their weight from one side to the other to prevent capsizing, similar to the crew of a sailboat. A typical carriage with a team of horses can weigh 1,320 lbs. before a human steps on board.

This sport has been the rage in Europe for over 40 years and is catching on quickly throughout the United States. Many local horse enthusiasts are getting involved as a competitor or a spectator. Families are involved, with some working the competition and some having their involvement behind the scenes, with the care of the horses or equipment. Families love to come and watch the beautiful animals and skilled drivers.

According to Chet Halka, owner of Halka Nurseries, his hobby became a passion over the four years he has been competing. Between the horse, groom and driver, you have three personalities that have to come together on the same day to win as a team. He said there is no end to what he can learn.

The Combined Driving community is very close knit. Many travel from state to state to compete with others who share the hobby.

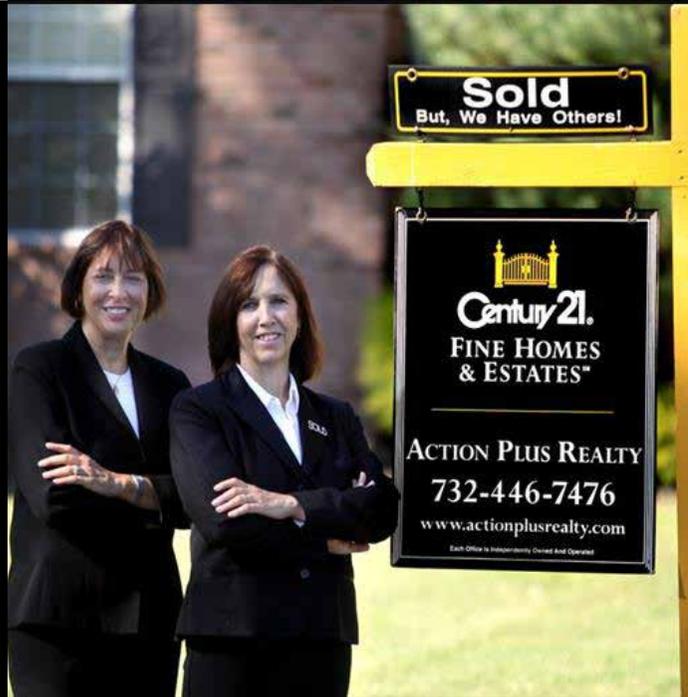
Check out this video to see what Combined Driving is and how much fun it can be: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StkM4LDBepo&feature=youtu.be> ■

divisions -- blends three competitions.

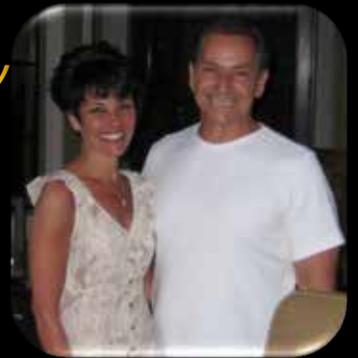
The search for the perfect carriage alone is a hobby. Many use restore antique carriages and like other racing sports, many are in search of a carriage with a competitive edge.

For the Dressage portion, horses are judged on forwardness, responsiveness, elasticity, and grace while completing a set pattern of movements in a 40- by 100- meter arena. In the Marathon portion, six complicated obstacles requiring advance planning plus split-second reactions testing a horses' obedience, courage, and agility -- and driv-

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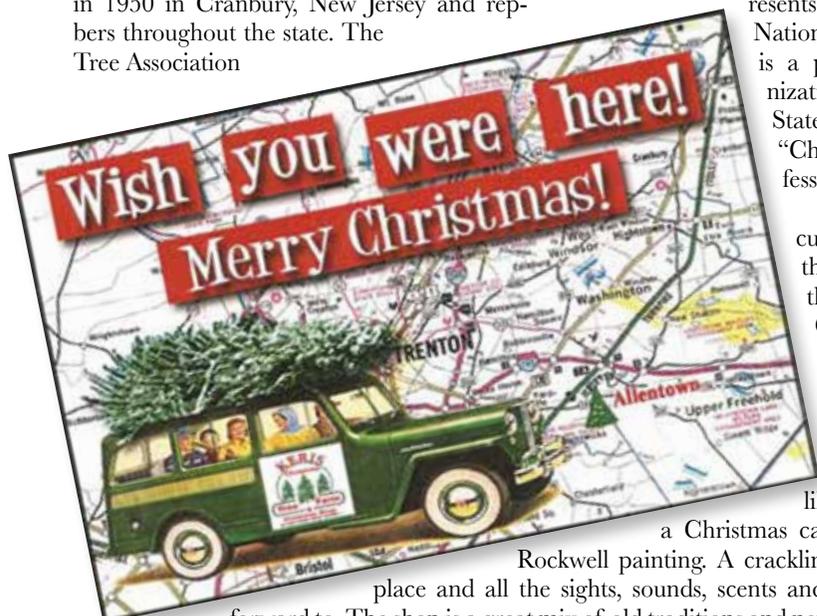
Keris Tree Farm; The Five Senses of Christmas

By: Susan Heckler

Holidays explore each and every one of our five senses. The visuals are amazing with winter wonderlands inside and outside. The taste of holiday treats is always a real treat! The warmth of the fireplace and family hugs makes for warm memories. Children's voices in song and your favorite tunes playing on the radio, day in and day out, from the start of Thanksgiving all the way through the holiday season. The fragrances are so meaningful and memorable, candle makers and room freshener manufacturers try to duplicate it to be used year round.

One very popular family tradition is to go to a local tree farm and pick your own live tree. You have a beautiful tree farm just down the road in Allentown. Keris Tree Farm is family owned and operated since 1977. The property has been in the family since 1934. The first trees were harvested in 1990 after years of care and growth. Their personal satisfaction comes in planting a small seedling, nurturing it during the years of growth until it becomes a majestic Christmas tree.

This family is serious about their trees. Keris Tree Farm is a member of the New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association and the National Christmas Tree Growers Association. The New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association was organized in 1950 in Cranbury, New Jersey and represents throughout the state. The Tree Association



resents over 200 members. National Christmas is a professional organization in the United States of over 5,100 "Christmas tree professionals."

This year, by customer request, they are doubling the size of the Christmas Shop. Stepping through their door, you walk into such a homey atmosphere. It is like stepping into

a Christmas card or a Norman

Rockwell painting. A crackling fire in the fireplace and all the sights, sounds, scents and flavors you look

forward to. The shop is a great mix of old traditions and new trends. Much of what they show brings the Christmas of your childhood into your home. They have Christmas quilts, handmade ornaments, wreaths, fragrant balsam pillows, wall art, book art, and mesmerizing jeweled trees. The Christmas tree and Nativity scene are the most recognizable Christmas symbols. These warm and cozy sights will be treasured by your family for many years to come.

Beginning Saturday, November 23th, you can begin your own family tradition and join them at their 24-acre farm. You have a choice of selecting and cutting your own tree, buying a pre-cut tree, or bringing home a live tree, balled and burlapped, and ready to be planted in your yard once the season is over.

Once again Keris is participating in the TREES FOR TROOPS program. They will donate 100 trees to families living on Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio Texas. Between December 6 and December 8, you too can purchase a tree at a reduced price to be delivered to the base to be enjoyed by military families. Lackland is the Air Force's only site for enlisted basic military training for all non-prior service Airmen of the regular Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve. The tree of your choice will be FedExed to a family on the base with a personal message from you. What a great way to spread the love of the holidays!

Trees for Troops is a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation. Through the program, free, farm-grown Christmas Trees are delivered to United States armed forces members in all branches of the military and their families, through donations, sponsorships, grants



and the work of many volunteers. Since 2005, more than 122,000 Christmas Trees have been provided to troops and military families in the United States and overseas through Trees for Troops. Thousands of trees are donated by American farm families and the public, and FedEx delivers these trees to more than 60 military bases in the U.S. and overseas. FedEx has logged more than 419,000 ground miles for the Trees for Troops program.

Bring a little Christmas spirit to deserving military families whose loved ones are away from home. This year get involved by

purchasing a tree for a military family at Keris Tree Farm or make a donation.

Keris has trees of various sizes to fit all homes and many types including Douglas Fir, Blue Spruce, White Pine, Concolor Fir, or Norway Spruce.

Keris welcomes the community to join in their celebrations and festivities. They have scheduled two Family Day Weekends, November 30 and December 1 and the weekend of December 7 and 8. Special guests will be dropping in to join in the fun; the Allentown High School Woodwind Group will perform, the Monmouth County Livestock 4H and the Mercer County Clever Clovers 4H will be paying a visit. Come see the Windy Farm Alpacas. Santa will be joining them in front of the fireplace the weekends of November 30, December 7 and December 14. There are other attractions and special guests coming so check out their Facebook page for updates.

Start building your own family traditions and give your family memories for a lifetime. Support your local business and join your community in celebrating the holiday season. ■

Come enjoy our new Christmas Shop featuring finely crafted trimmings and decorative accessories.

Plumsted and New Egypt Residents Join to Bring Light to the Holidays

By: Susan Heckler

The holiday season should be filled with love, happiness, hope and light for everyone. Toward the end of the year, especially in the northern hemisphere, the daylight gets shorter and it is the very darkest time of the year. We all need hope and light. It is no accident that the end-of-the-year holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's all have a light theme to some degree. Holiday decorations emphasize the light; lighting candles is very much part of the tradition for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Cities, towns, and homes are so often full of festive lighting for all to enjoy.

All of those burning bulbs can burn through the funds for many towns. According to Plumsted Township Committeeman Herb Marinari, the cost of Snowflake holiday lighting is roughly \$900. The Plumsted Business and Merchants Association (PBMA) is holding a 50/50 fundraiser with the help of Reindancer Therapeutic Riding Center, to offset the cost of the holiday lighting.

1,000 tickets are available for sale at \$5 each. Tickets are sold at businesses all over town; Agway, New Egypt Market Place, and Big Woods Farm are just a few locations. They will also be sold at the Christmas tree lighting December 7.

The way a 50/50 works is whoever wins, will win 50% of the money collected. If all 1,000 tickets are sold, the winner may win \$2,500!!! Should that lucky winner wish to donate all or part of the prize back, the town would be ecstatic as the excess money raised after the electric bill gets paid will go to another community-minded, holiday-spirited program.



Each year for the past 9 or 10 years, the PBMA has organized a food drive. This originated as The Giving Tree through the public school system. Local families in need of a helping hand are given a "food basket" of non-perishable food for their holiday meal and then some. While not technically a basket, reusable grocery store shopping bags are filled to the brim with food for a holiday dinner and possibly a few meals afterward. Donations of food and money are accepted gratefully by the PBMA and anonymous families will enjoy their holiday with full hearts and full tummies. Last year, roughly \$4,000 in food and dollars went into 175 holiday meals.

According to Mr. Marinari, the PBMA wants the town to know that their local businesses and merchants truly appreciate the town's support of their businesses, and want the town to know that they are there to support the town in times of need and celebration.

If you are looking to share a little love and light for the holiday season, you can contact the PBMA (609) 758-8002. The Plumsted Business & Merchants Association has worked to support a vibrant economy and an improved quality of life in your community for over 18 years. The PBMA is a member of Main Street New Egypt and is united with the Neighborhood Preservation Program and the Plumsted Township Council of the Arts and has partnered with your local schools and government to form a more powerful voice for business development and advocacy while maintaining your rural community. ■



From small town Monte Di Procida, Italy, two families left their fishing poles and nets for pizza paddles. A father, two sons and a son-in-law set out on a journey to provide their soon to be extended families (the customers) a taste of true Authentic Italian food. With that in mind, 2 restaurants flourished, feeding military troops, local charities and families in most areas. 28 years later, the dream still lives on in Italian Villa as well as through the children of those four dreamers. We created old family dishes, served in a rustic atmosphere & served on red checked tablecloths. Fresh food, love and passion are the main ingredients to all our dishes. Food is always made on request and make sure to leave room for at least one of our homemade desserts.

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Owner/Chef, Biagio Scotto
Owner/Pastry Chef, Raffaella Scotto
Daughter and Son, Lucia & Ciro Scotto

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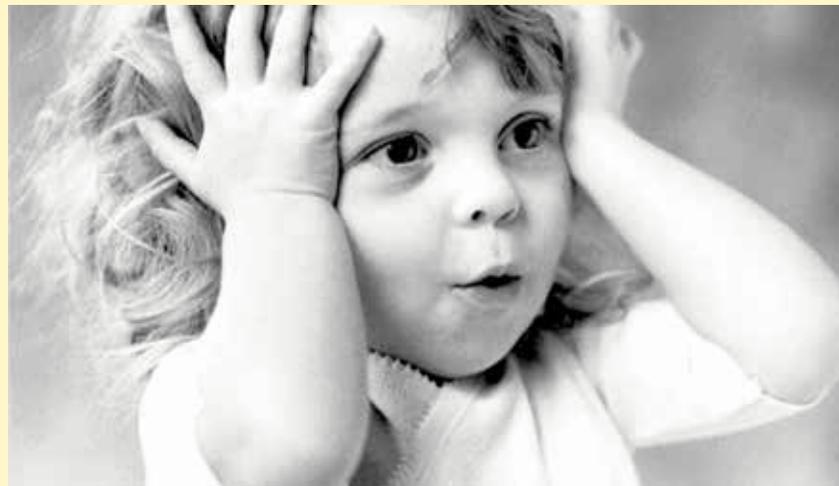
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Let Me Shake Your Hand Samantha Kandell; Cookies for a Cause

By: Susan Heckler



In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Freehold resident Samantha Kandell was looking for a way for a 16 year old to help.

She didn't have a lot of money to spend but she had a really big heart and great cookie recipes. Samantha started Cookies for a Cause, baking homemade cookies and delivering them to shelters housing people who were unable to go back to their homes. Their basic needs were met by other charities, but she gave them that extra-added touch of kindness. Samantha's cookies were delivered to Staten Island and the New Jersey shore area.

The needs of Sandy victims are fairly settled, so her attention has been on the local shelters and food pantries. Samantha has worked closely with members of her synagogue, Congregation Shaari Emeth in Manalapan and has rallied 20 volunteers in 8 high schools to meet the growing needs on a local level. Students at Freehold Borough HS, Freehold Township HS, Manalapan HS, Marlboro HS, Howell HS, BioTech HS, Allied HS, Marlboro Middle School and Eisenhower Middle School in Freehold have volunteered to purchase the supplies and bake yummy cookies to benefit Open Door on Throckmorton Street in Freehold and The Freehold Clergy Association's Emergency Housing Program. This program provides food and shelter to homeless men during the coldest months of the year. Each winter for the past nine years, the clergy association has housed up to 15 homeless men a night in houses of worship across Western Monmouth County.

All of the local organizations do an amazing job to care to the needs of our residents in distress. Cookies for a Cause takes it to another level, a few bites of sweetness and a gift straight from the heart. Samantha estimates she has baked and delivered over 5,000 cookies.

Keep up the great work Samantha and let me shake your hand! Should anyone be interested in donating money, supplies or baking, you can contact Samantha at srk3215@aol.com. ■

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Property Tax Rewards, Are They Right for Your Town?

By: Susan Heckler

If they are doing it, maybe it's a great idea. If it's a great idea, let's join in on it!

Back in September 2012, Marlboro Township launched the "Shop Marlboro Campaign." This innovative effort allows local businesses to

offer shoppers a chance to have a percentage of their purchase go toward their property tax bill. This has been done in conjunction with FinCorp and a local bank, Investors Bank. This allows the 41,000 residents in Marlboro to support their local businesses and save on their own property taxes.

The participating businesses can choose whatever percent discount they choose to offer shoppers with the reward cards. They have offered property tax credits from 2 to 16 percent off shopping bills. While the program does cut into stores' profit margins, the hope is that the store may gain a customer who will choose to shop locally, and the shopper saves at tax time. Registration is free so there really is no downside to try it.

The example given on the town's website is "The price of your dinner for four people at a restaurant that is participating in the Shop Marlboro program with a 20% program rebate is \$200. When paying the bill (either cash or credit card), just present your Shop Marlboro card, which is then swiped. Thereafter, \$40 (less third-party program management and processing fees) will be applied as a credit against your annual property tax bill. Annually, when the Township issues its next property tax bill the cumulative transactions will show up as a tax credit, thereby reducing your tax due."

Our own Plumsted recently hosted a meeting to discuss implementation there too. Businesses have all been hit by the economic conditions, but the small local businesses took the

hardest hits. This proposed program would encourage the township's 8,000 residents to increase sales by shopping locally.

According to Carmine DeFalco, Managing Director for FinCredit Inc., "To date we have over 3,000 families registered in Marlboro. For the current fiscal year (5/1/13-4/30/14) we are on track to achieve over \$1Million in purchases utilizing the Shop Marlboro card. We estimate \$60-70K in property tax savings for the community." FinCredit oversees other similar programs currently, Shop Bayonne and Pick Pequannock. In the next couple of weeks they will launch Shop West Orange, Shop Voorhees and Shop Highland Park.

"The more you shop locally, the more your property taxes will go down," said state Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer. Dancer, a Republican who lives in Plumsted, also serves as the township's business administrator. In a recent press release, Assemblyman Dancer has introduced a bill permitting municipalities to authorize property tax reward programs in which residents who patronize businesses in their towns receive property tax credits on their tax bills. Renters are also eligible and would receive a cash rebate instead of a tax credit. "It has the potential to measurably reduce a homeowner's property tax bill while bringing increased business to local shops without cost to the property taxpayer or the municipality. It's a win-win for everyone and will, I believe, serve as a model for towns throughout the U.S."

In the proposal for Plumsted Township, FinCredit Inc. of Hamilton would administer the program, issue the rebate cards to enrolled Plumsted residents and manage the monetary transactions. The idea has been met with mixed reviews. Residents seem to be in favor of this, but there is skepticism in the business community.

Plumsted Township is doing their due diligence and researching the idea and whether or not it will be in their town's best interest. The other towns participating in these programs have a larger population and a larger business base. ■



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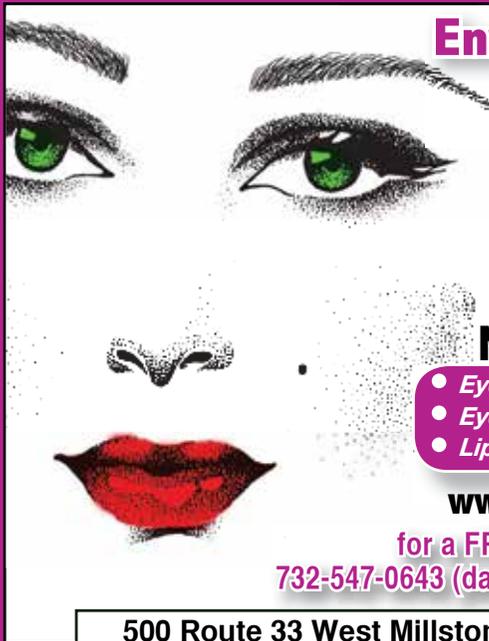
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Count Basie Theater

Continued from 25

another 100 or so rentals each year by nonprofit arts organizations and concert promoters. Total attendance for all events is 200,000 a year, and increasing every year."

Check out their expansive website and see for yourself, their schedule offers something for everyone and everything for someone. Below is the listing for December 2013 alone!

DATE	TIME	PERFORMANCE
Tuesday, December 31, 2013	11:45 PM	RAFFLE TICKETS - WIN TWO TICKETS TO EVERY SHOW IN 2014!
Tuesday, December 31, 2013	9:00 PM	SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY AND THE ASBURY JUKES 15th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Saturday, December 28, 2013	4:00 PM	BLACK NATIVITY
Saturday, December 21, 2013	7:00 PM	A 'SOULED OUT CHRISTMAS' STARRING MISS DARLENE LOVE FEATURING GARY U.S. BONDS,
Friday, December 20, 2013	7:30 PM	RYAN BEATTY - CANCELLED
Thursday, December 19, 2013	7:30 PM	HOLIDAY EXPRESS BENEFIT CONCERT
Wednesday, December 18, 2013	8:00 PM	FIFTY LICKS: THE BIRTHDAY CONCERT RE-CREATING 50 YEARS OF MUSIC OF THE ROLLING STONES
Tuesday, December 17, 2013	7:00 PM	SLEEPING BEAUTY BALLET
Tuesday, December 17, 2013	11:00 AM	SLEEPING BEAUTY BALLET (School Show)
Sunday, December 15, 2013	5:00 PM	THE NUTCRACKER
Sunday, December 15, 2013	1:00 PM	THE NUTCRACKER
Saturday, December 14, 2013	5:00 PM	THE NUTCRACKER
Saturday, December 14, 2013	1:00 PM	THE NUTCRACKER
Friday, December 13, 2013	8:00 PM	DANU: A CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND
Friday, December 13, 2013	10:00 AM	THE NUTCRACKER - SCHOOL SHOW
Thursday, December 12, 2013	10:00 AM	THE NUTCRACKER - SCHOOL SHOW
Sunday, December 8, 2013	8:00 PM	JIM BRICKMAN THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 8, 2013	3:00 PM	MESSIAH AND MORE
Saturday, December 7, 2013	7:30 PM	A NIGHT OF OLDTIME ROCK 'N ROLL VOL. 3
Friday, December 6, 2013	8:00 PM	THE 7TH ANNUAL SINATRA TRIBUTE
Thursday, December 5, 2013	8:00 PM	LEWIS BLACK: THE RANT IS DUE
Wednesday, December 4, 2013	8:00 PM	LEWIS BLACK: THE RANT IS DUE
Tuesday, December 3, 2013	8:00 PM	CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER
Sunday, December 1, 2013	3:00 PM	ROCKIT! PERFORMING DARK SIDE OF THE MOON & A TRIBUTE TO BRITISH ROCKERS

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Education is an important part of their mission. "Our educational mission as an arts organization is to instill the concepts of creative thinking and effective reasoning, and to inspire out of the box thinking and appreciation of the process as well as the product, while fostering an understanding and appreciation for cultural enrichment for people at all economic levels." They offer workshops and outreach programs year-round on various subjects in performing arts and self-improvement.

One of my personal favorite offerings at the theater are the shows produced by Phoenix Productions. There is so much to say about this, it will have to wait to for them to have their own article!

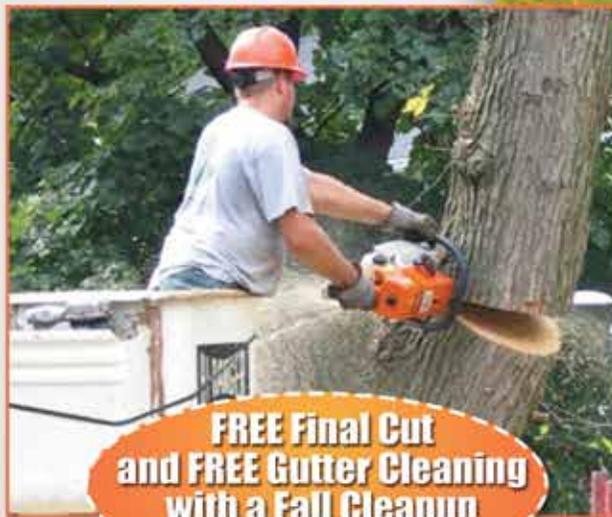
Check out their website www.CountBasieTheater.org or call them for more information (732)-842-9000. They are located at 99 Monmouth Street in Red Bank. ■

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Bordentown

Continued from page 11



Statue of Thomas Paine

from New York and Philadelphia. Some became permanent residents and others maintained summer homes near the Delaware River.

Bordentown did not escape the wraths of war. During the 1770's the area became embroiled in the revolution. The town was occupied by the Hessians in 1776 and pillaged and partly burned by the British in 1778. After the Battle of the Kegs in 1778, the British plundered the town and burned many homes including the entire block from Park Street to the river west of Farnsworth. Francis Hopkinson, Colonel Kirkbride, Thomas Paine, Joseph Borden the second, and Colonel Hoagland were very active in the War for Independence.

In 1816, Joseph Bonaparte purchased 211 acres on the east side of town. After being displaced and harassed in Europe, Joseph and his male secretary booked a passage to America under an assumed name. He took with him only a suitcase of jewels and buried the rest of his fortune on the grounds of his Swiss hideaway. He settled in New Jersey

under the name of Count de Surveilliers where he eventually bought up over 1000 more acres of land in Bordentown close to the river. He built an elaborate Mansion called Breeze Point where he went on to create an English looking country estate with winding carriage drives and planted trees and shrubs. He built a lake 200 yards wide and a half-mile long and erected his home on the embankment overlooking the lake and the river. There was an underground tunnel that led from his home to the bank of the river. He was always in fear of attacks by agents of France's enemies, England, Spain, and even unfriendly Americans who were unsympathetic to him. He also built a home close by for one of his daughters and for his secretary. Today part of the tunnel still exists though it is broken in different places and the secretary's house still stands on Park Street.

Joseph sent his trusted secretary back to retrieve the rest of his gold and jewelry so he could finish building his mansion and though proven to be a risky endeavor, his secretary survived a ship wreck off the coast of Ireland and others perils, but he managed to eventually make his way into Switzerland and dig up Napoleons hidden treasure in the middle of the night and return safely back to America with the treasure intact. Before returning to America though he stopped off to see Joseph's wife who was living in Belgium. She decided to stay on in Brussels due to her ill health. Joseph's two daughters returned with the secretary back to New Jersey to live with their father. It was a five-month journey before Joseph was reunited with the rest of his fortune and his daughters. He was quite the socialite and entertained many famous people at his mansion. He stayed in the area from 1816 to 1839. For more information on Joseph Bonaparte and his time in New Jersey go to: http://flatrock.org.nz/topics/new_jersey/new_jerseys_ex_king.htm (See New Jersey's ex-king and his crowned jewels article).

By 1831, the steam Engine the "John Bull" came to town and by 1834 the Delaware Raritan Canal had opened. There was much progress as far as products and people coming to and from the area. There was prosperity for all, but in 1871 the Pennsylvania Railroad leased the railroad and canal and gradually closed the shops and eliminated most of the canal's traffic in an effort to get rid of its rival route. Most of the canal's traffic was stopped except for a seasonal parade of yachts and the town stores suffered a severe blow because of it.

Bordentown Township was created from Chesterfield Township in 1852. The Borough of Bordentown was established in 1825 and separated from the Township when it was chartered in 1867.

The Clara Barton first public free schoolhouse is still located at Crosswicks and Burlington Streets. It is now a museum and still has many original items in it. Bordentown is rich with beautiful old well kept homes, many dating back to the early eighteen hundreds, some earlier. One can see the many different styles of architecture by just taking a stroll down one of the streets.

You can pick up a self-guided brochure for just three dollars from the Bordentown Historical society at the Old City Hall, which houses a visitor's center. You can also download the same brochure online at: <http://downtownbordentown.com/guided-tour.php> and take your own self guided walking tour.

Bordentown's architecture dates back from the 1600's through the early 1900's. Earlier structures were simple and primitive wood structures reflected the life of the Quakers who first settled here. As the town grew in both prosperity and wealth, so did the homes. People coming from larger cities such as New York and Philadelphia brought the popular style architecture with them as they helped build the city of Bordentown. There were grand houses built in the Italian Villa, Italianate shingle, and Queen Anne styles. Public buildings, halls, churches, and banks were also built in grand style. You can still see hitching posts, brick walkways and various old hand forged door treatments as well as original cast wrought iron gates popular in the 19th century. One thing for sure, the people of Bordentown are proud of their heritage and it shows in the immaculate care of these old preserved homes and properties.

There are so many homes worth seeing. I have included a few that you don't want to miss like the Old City Hall located at 11 Crosswicks Street. This is a Romanesque building, which is a historic landmark with its Queen Anne clock tower and Seth Thomas Clock.

The Clara Barton School, which was in use in 1852 when Clara demonstrated that free public schools would work. It's a simple gabled building on Crosswicks and Burlington Street.

Farnsworth Landing on the corner of Prince and Park Street. This is where the original Thomas Farnsworth cabin was erected in 1682. The present home's architecture is Greek portico.

The Swift Mansion, on 2 Prince Street, is a late Victoria Italian Revival home overlooking the Delaware and was owned by inventor George W. Swift Jr. It has an elevator between floors.

Bonaparte's Park Garden House on Park Street is now part of the Divine Word Mission. There is a beautiful Iron Gate entrance. There are many other large homes overlooking the Delaware on Park Street.



First National Bank in Bordentown with its large columns reminiscent of a Roman or Greek structure

The Patience Wright House is the home of the first woman sculptress who was also an American Spy in London during the Revolution. The home is located at 100 Farnsworth Avenue.

The First National State Bank, which was built in 1914, is of the temple front style. It's a large granite structure with large columns out front. It looks like Rome or Greek origin.

There are so many more homes and sights to see and visit. If you want to purchase the self guided home tour by mail, write to: Bordentown Historical Society- P.O. Box 182, Bordentown NJ, 08505. The back page will provide you with a map of house locations. There are many that are within walking distance.

You can get to Bordentown via Route 130 South, turn right onto Farnsworth Ave or take route 195 West. Get off at South Broad Street/Arena Drive exit- take the furthest exit on ramp and go straight to the circle. Turn left and follow the Route 206 sign and then turn right on Amboy Ave, which turns into Park Street. Go straight on Park Street. This will take you right down to the river and boat ramp. The train station is on the left. You can also view the large old homes on the right on Park Street that overlook the river. If you make a left at the end of Park Street it will lead you into town. Look for Farnsworth Avenue!

Stay tuned for next month's Issue- Bordentown in the Present! ■

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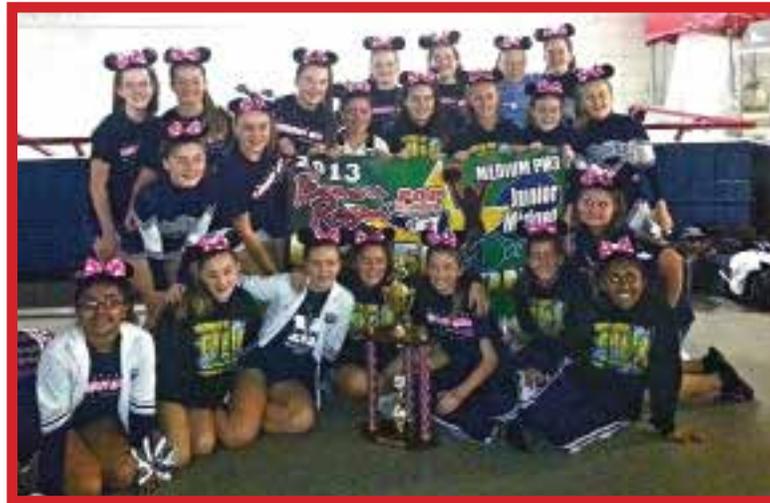
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MILLSTONE JR. MIDGET CHEER TEAM IS GOING TO DISNEY!!!

By: Pam Teel



The Millstone Jr. Midget cheer team traveled up to Albany, NY to compete in the Eastern Region Championship on Saturday 11/16. Competition was tough, but Millstone came out on top. 1st place Eastern Region Champions! This team has taken the championship title at every event so far this year. Now they are on a quest for gold at Nationals in Orlando Florida. The Jr. Midgets will compete with the best of the best from across the country.

The team is made up of 22 girls varying in age from 6th grade to 8th grade. This year the team graduates 9 girls, so to spend their finale in Orlando, Florida is a great send off. 22 girls can bring with it a lot of drama, but not on this team. These girls are ONE COHESIVE UNIT. They work well together and look out for one another. These girls are focused and determined to bring their best to nationals. They want to continue on their winning streak and take home that NATIONAL TITLE

that hasn't been brought back to Millstone since 2004. Another winning attribute this team has, is its parents. The parents are extremely supportive and spirited; this makes for a winning combination. Wednesday, December 11th is the day the Jr. Midgets will compete. The Millstone community has been so supportive of this team along the way. These girls are champions to all that watch them!

Fundraising has been underway for this team and it continues. This Jr. Midget team is hoping to find as much sponsorship as they can to help them with their travel to Disney. If you can help in any way, donations can be sent to MEF-CBC PO Box 457 Millstone Twp. NJ 08535. Please contact Sharon Peake or John Kuchar/ Millstone Pop Warner with any questions. Stpeake@optonline.net or John Kuchar kuchman@optonline.net

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Allentown Businesses Fighting Back

By: Pam Teel



Bruno's "One Sweet Ride" Bike Shop



Historic Old Mill is brought back to life with many new stores and a restaurant.



Melted wine bottle cheese and cracker holder, glass fusion wind chime, recycled wine bottle candle and jewelry. Some of the many things to do and buy at the store!

Despite the fact that Allentown has been dealt some mighty blows over the past few years, it always seems to find a way to rise from the ashes, so to speak. With Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy soon to follow in 2012, the town has withstood flooded roadways, damage to businesses and homes and a long delayed bridge reconstruction at the Mill Pond. It was a period that shut off the town from frequent travelers passing back and forth from work and potential shoppers stopping by to visit their favorite shops.

A period where many businesses suffered, barely holding on, and sadly some that didn't make it, but Allentown is a town with a backbone and that backbone is made up of many business owners who never gave up on ways of reinventing their town and bringing the people back into it.



Stop in for a quick hot chocolate, coffee or a smoothie and some homemade candy.

with Kari Chilleri, who helps her run the store. The store serves as a full service Florist catering to weddings, funerals, parties and all other events. They also carry balloons, gourmet baskets, and handmade items such as candles and jewelry made by recycled wine bottles. (A portion of the candle sales goes to help local dog rescues). Weddings are a specialty of theirs. They were even showcased in the Knot, a Premiere wedding website book. They are open seven days a week and deliver. They cover Ocean, Monmouth and Burlington County. They also have a Paint your own Pottery Studio, with many pieces of pre-fired bisque on their stocked shelves to pick from. You can also make glass fusion plates, have a special wine bottle melted down to be made into a cheese and cracker tray, paint Me-T-shirts, mosaics, canvas painting, and more. There are tables to do your work



Come and visit. Heather has a great array of candies for all occasions!



Come on in and pick your own pottery to work on.

Allentown is looking up with many new businesses coming in and many established businesses beckoning you to come on in and rediscover their charm. One such business is Bloomers N Things at 24 South Main Street. Owner Debbie Personette has been in town for thirteen years along



Bloomers N' Things Store Front at 24 South Main Street

on and the atmosphere is very relaxing. If you're a Scout troop or are having a Birthday party, this is the place to be with so many hands on activities to keep the youngsters busy. You can order in food and drinks and have a great time. This is also a great place to hold a fundraiser especially since there is no studio fee. Bloomers also carries cash and carry bouquets. If you need flowers in a hurry, just stop in. You can get a bouquet of a dozen roses for \$25.00. Debbie also offers a summer camp for children with many different crafts on hand for them to explore! Call or email Debbie for information about the summer camp for children or any other inquiries at: BloomersN'things.net or 609 259-3792.

Debbie also has Ladies Night. If you have six friends who want to come in one night and work on a craft, she will even keep the store open late for you. What makes it even more fun is that you can bring your own wine and snacks to eat! You can stop in any time during the day too if you just want some time for yourself. There's plenty to keep you coming back for more!

Diagonally across the street and new to the town is Bruno's Bike shop. The store moved from Globus Plaza to Main Street in September. Owner, Jim Bruno, has a large array of bikes, from children to adults, and skateboards to choose from. He also has repair mechanics on duty full time. The store motto is, "One Sweet Ride," appropriately named because Jim's daughter Heather has a sweet shop in the rear of the store. Heather makes all of the homemade chocolates. There are chocolate gift boxes, chocolate cornucopias, chocolate football lollipops, and much more. Heather also carries novelty candy! There are cute tables in the candy shop where you can sit and have coffee, hot chocolate or a smoothie (Free Wi-Fi service available). Heather and her father host many events. One is on the first Friday of the month showcasing Artist on the Avenue, where local musicians entertain in front of their store. For those biking enthusiasts, there are organized bike rides at every level, so if you haven't ridden in a while, not to worry, the pace will be at your discretion. There are novice and intermediate levels too. You can reach Jim at Brunosbicycles.com or call 609 208-0544.

New stores at the Mill include: The Green Lace Lion. They sell vintage and handmade home décor and furniture. They also reupholster and refinish pieces. Gypsies is an eclectic boutique featuring local artist. There are also sewing classes available. Opening soon is Costello's- an Italian Restaurant on the main floor of the mill. Make sure you visit the Copper frog, a nature inspired fine arts store that has been open for a year now adjacent to the mill. Here you'll find local and regional artists works which include jewelry, pottery, stained glass, photography, and unique gifts.

Other shops in town include: Necessities' of the Heart -which sells Vera Bradley, Brighton accessories, Trollbeads, Camilia and other accessories, Earth Goddess Jewelry and Gifts, and more. Stop by one of the stores or eateries and pick up the newest town brochure showcasing all of the wonderful things Allentown has to offer. Spend a day out and support your local businesses. These shops need the support of the community in order to survive. Need a cool Christmas gift, why not check out your local stores first before heading to the mall.

Join the people of Allentown on December 7th for their annual Holiday Celebration. Go to www.allentownnj.com for future events. (Allentown Business Association- ABCA website) Let's all give back to our local communities. We wouldn't want to lose these wonderful businesses! ■







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The Amish Market

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included a Ferris wheel, merry-go-round and train. The Tallman family increased the size and variety of the flea market and inside stores.

In 1988 they sold the business and property to the current Columbus Farmers Market, LLC. Under the new ownership, the size of the acreage increased from 30 acres to 200 acres. Additionally, the Produce Row building, the All-Weather Outdoor Flea Market Pavilions, the Columbus Self Storage facility and the four Flex buildings were built, which today house Central Jersey Equipment (John Deere), J&L Furniture and Sheds and Columbus Antique Mall.

They have recently opened four new buildings at the southern entrance to the market, as well as the self-storage center.

These stores include:

- The Central Jersey Equipment store with a selection of John Deere tractors, mowers and utility vehicles, as well as STIHL handheld product line. They carry HONDA Power Equipment, which includes Generators, Pumps, Walk Behind Lawnmowers, and Tillers. And of course, Central Jersey Equipment provides Parts and Service for everything that they sell.
- The Columbus Antiques Mall, two buildings filled with fine antiques and collectibles.
- J&L Sheds and Furniture have a great selection of indoor and outdoor furniture, sheds, play equipment and gazebos.
- Store it all at the state of the art Columbus Self-Storage with 24-hour access for all units.

During my last visit, I solved the mystery. I asked one of the many Amish that work at the market (tactfully) how they get there. I didn't see a parking lot filled with black buggies and horses so I realized there must be a different mode of transportation. Apparently you are allowed to ride a private taxi or bus when the opportunity is important. ■

Michele Obama's Let's Move!

Continued from page 1

As an affiliate of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton, Lakeview Child Center has the unique ability to coordinate hands-on learning activities with hospital providers. Registered dietitians from the hospital's SHAPEDOWN program – a 10-week weight management program for children and teens – teach monthly nutrition education at the Hamilton location.

"Landmark studies are demonstrating that dietary habits are impressionable at a very young age," says Barbara Weber Berry, a registered nurse and the coordinator of RWJ Hamilton's SHAPEDOWN program. "Lakeview's efforts to instill healthy nutrition awareness at the preschool level are significant because they are helping to turn things around before it's too late."

According to The White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, more than half of obese children become overweight

Local Facebook Pages a Virtual Bulletin Board

By: Susan Heckler

Angela Anthony, local realtor and elected official for Allentown Borough has taken her jobs to new heights. She has created Facebook pages for Millstone Township, Plumsted, Hamilton and, of course, her hometown Allentown Borough along with Upper Freehold Township.

As a realtor, Angela has her finger on the pulse of her part of Western Monmouth. She has made a commitment to know the comings and goings in the towns she lists and sells. Add to that her position of Councilwoman for Allentown Borough, Youth Leader for Crossroads Youth Center, and you have one very informed lady.

Her Facebook pages post upcoming events, share links for local businesses, postings for lost pets, yard sales, and just about anything else a local resident may want or need to know. Her sites are virtual bulletin boards.

According to Angela, "I created the page, along with other pages, to bring the community together. I consider the page "our" page." When she initially ran for public office, her platform was about communication. True to her word, the Facebook pages are a great effort to spread the good word for the Betterment of our communities.

She welcomes members and visitors to her sites. Feel free to email her at: MoveWithAngela@gmail.com. ■



Staffing Agencies

Continued from page 8

businesses are 'intent to hire'. This can reduce the overall outlays of the employee as the business does not have to provide benefits to a temporary staff member. Additionally, bringing in temporary staff may reduce other overhead costs such as the need for overtime for regular, full-time employees. While the cost per-hour may be more than the per-hour cost of a full-time employee, temporary staff can be used as needed without an obligation of a 40-hour workweek irrespective of if the work exists.

Temporary staff can be used as needed. A short term project needing extra hands or someone out on sick leave is just two of the many reasons to use a 'temp.'

In a study done this year by Spherion in conjunction with Ernst & Young, it was determined that the administrative cost of the Affordable Care Act for businesses employing 50 or more people will be \$500 per employee. No matter the size of your business, that is going to be painful. This applies to temporary workers as well but that administrative burden would be handled by the agency.

Temporary workers can also reduce overall operating costs for the business as the unemployment claims rate of the business will not be raised due to letting go of temporary. Reductions to other costs such as business insurance and workers compensation insurance are another nice perk.

Employment in Monmouth County had not been as hard hit as in many other areas.

While Hurricane Sandy forced many businesses to close either temporarily or permanently, the employment surge she caused has made up for it. The cleanup and rebuilding efforts have made for many new jobs in our area.

Staffing agencies offer contenders, from all levels, the opportunity to gain access to companies on a temporary or temporary-to-hire basis on assignments that can last anywhere from one day to six months or longer; or on a full-time basis. Many major companies use staffing agencies. They fill positions from administrative assistants up through the Chief Executive Officer.

In many cases, staffing agencies will offer health benefits to a temp employee with them for over 60 days. This is a great benefit to the employee who may not get this benefit as a temporary worker hired directly without the use of an agency.

The staffing agency absorbs the payroll on the temporary employees and oft times allow the employer to use a credit card for the expense. This is a great cash flow aid. Spherion offers full payroll service to clients. For companies who do their own payroll, this could save you hefty bookkeeping expenses. To those who use payroll services, it may be more convenient to have the hiring and payroll under one roof.

According to The American Staffing Association, "Staffing firms nationwide collectively employ an average of 2 million workers daily across all industries, providing work force flexibility and access to talent to businesses like yours. They also offer competitive wages and benefits to attract the best talent, and provide free training to millions of temporary, contract, and permanent employees each year."

Whether you are searching for your perfect career move or hiring staff, a staffing agency seems like a wise investment in your time and money. ■



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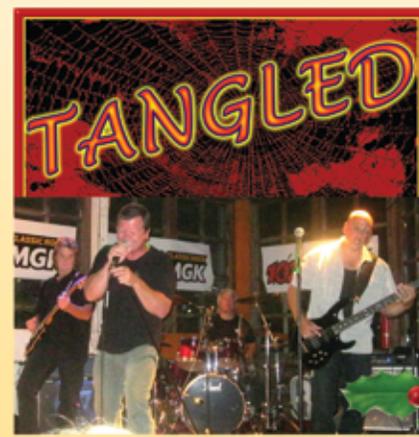
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