

# The Millstone Times<sup>TM</sup>

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*The Prospertown School House, now a museum,  
sits behind the Jackson Municipal Building.  
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FULL STORY ON PAGE 51*



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Readers A  
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July 4th



# New Egypt teen wins regional Kohl's Cares Scholarship

Dominic Esposito has been selected as a regional winner in the 2015 Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program. Dominic will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for higher education and is being recognized for his work with Scrap Hunger, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization that he founded in 2014. Scrap Hunger collects and recycles unwanted scrap metal and partners with New Jersey schools, workplaces, and organizations to organize scrap metal drives and collections. Proceeds benefit area food banks, including the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. To date, Scrap Hunger, Inc. has collected and recycled 29,775 pounds of scrap metal and raised \$4,100 to help feed the hungry in New Jersey. Dominic was selected from thousands of candidates as a Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program Regional Winner. To learn more about the winners, visit <https://kohls.scholarshipamerica.org/winners.php>. For more information about Scrap Hunger, Inc., please visit <http://www.scraphunger.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ScrapHungerNJ>.



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## Allentown High Schooler Makes Dean's List At Rutgers

Kelly Ann Baber, the daughter of Tom and Lisa Baber finished her first year at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Kelly Ann is majoring in Engineering and is pursuing a career as a Mechanical Engineer.

Kelly Ann has been named to the Dean's List both Fall and Spring Semesters 2014/2015 and graduated Allentown High School last June of 2014.

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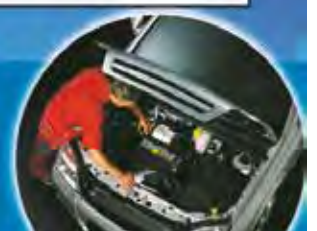
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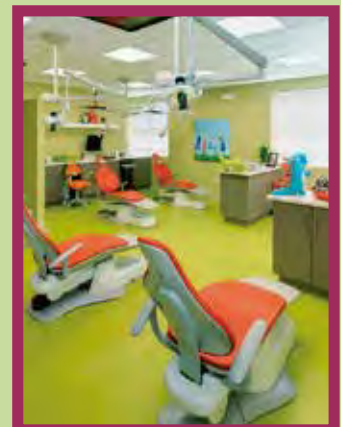


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# Millstone Township Foundation for Educational Excellence Awarded \$28,844.70 in Grants This School Year to Millstone Township Schools

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ, May 28, 2015 – Millstone Township Foundation for Educational Excellence (MTFEE) awarded seven grants today totaling \$15,253.30 to Millstone Township Schools. In January, MTFEE awarded three grants totaling \$13,591.40. Between its two grant cycles this school year, MTFEE awarded a total of \$28,844.70. Since 2002, MTFEE has awarded more than \$515,500 to its schools. There are currently more than 60 MTFEE-funded grant programs running in the Millstone Township School district. Every child that matriculates through the school district will in some way benefit from an MTFEE funded grant.

This grant cycle awards included a set of timpani drums, fitness equipment, professional development responsive classroom and language comprehension workshops, historical figures performances, mosaic garden of stepping stones, and fans to enhance the STEAM curriculum.

Following is a listing of the grants and recipients:

Timpani-A-Plenty (\$4,269.96) (Adam Gruber, Elementary School Band Director/Music Teacher) - The grant consists of a new set of timpani, large kettle shaped drums that have a defined, resonating tone and are tuned and pitched to match the rest of the ensemble. This grant will not only benefit the percussion section, it will also allow the ensemble, as a whole, to play the repertoire with more complex timpani parts. When educationally appropriate, the students will learn how to use, tune and play the instrument.

Millstone Planet Fitness (\$3,459.92) (Kelly Rossetto, Middle School Physical Education Teacher) - The grant consists of fitness equipment that will

be used by middle school students several times a week to give them a gym-like workout. The grant will expose, enlighten and encourage every student to be physically active. Some of the equipment includes stability balls, balance disks, agility ladders, training hurdles, plyo boxes, yoga mats, stabilizing blocks, dumbbells, resistance tubing, medicine balls, kettlebells and fitness exercise posters.

Responsive Classroom Four-Day Workshops for Elementary Educators (\$2,548.44) (Brittani Adams, First Grade Teacher; Jennifer Reed, Second Grade Teacher; Gloria Arevalo, Foreign Language) - The grant consists of a "Responsive Classroom Four-Day Workshop for Elementary Educators." These teachers will bring back new ideas to add to the school community and share findings with colleagues to improve classroom practice, student learning and overall performance.

Lives of Historical Figures Through Portrayals (\$2,000) (Dr. Christopher Huss, Middle School Principal, in Partnership with The Friends of Millstone Township Historical Registered Properties) - The grant consists of three half-day performances at the middle school (one for each grade level), by an actor portraying a historical figure, to enhance the social studies curriculum and bring history to life for students. Proposed figures include Abe Lincoln for sixth grade students, George Washington for seventh and Edgar Allan Poe for eighth. The Friends of Millstone Township Historical Registered Properties piloted the program in the middle school last year and it was very successful.

Stepping Stones: Creating Outdoor Inquiry Learning Spaces (\$1,439.80) (Shannon Bell, Primary

& Elementary School Art Teacher) - The grant consists of teachers and students planning, creating and installing a mosaic garden of stepping stones in the primary school. Students will not only learn a new art form: mosaics, but the project will also encourage numbers and letters recognition.

Workshop: Visualizing and Verbalizing® for Language Comprehension & Thinking (\$1,071.22) (Meredith Weibel, Elementary School Reading Specialist) - The grant consists of a Lindamood-Bell® Workshop on Visualizing & Verbalizing® (V/V) . Research suggests that mental imagery is strongly tied to comprehension and memory. Higher levels of mental imagery are correlated to greater recall and deeper comprehension. In addition to implementing it for her students in the fall, Mrs. Weibel will share findings from the workshop with colleagues to incorporate into their classrooms.

Winds of Change: Innovation and Exploration (\$463.96) (Beth Topinka, Elementary School Teacher) - With the purchase of two different fans, this grant will enhance the STEAM curriculum by offering students hands-on opportunities to design investigations and engineering challenges in a variety of fields including physical science, earth science and life science. Data generated through these investigations will be readily applicable for cross-curricular application in mathematics as well.

For more information about donating to MTFEE, becoming a trustee or its fundraising programs and events, please e-mail [info@mtfee.org](mailto:info@mtfee.org), visit [www.mtfee.org](http://www.mtfee.org) and like us on Facebook.



From left to right (Rossetto):  
Dr. Christopher Huss, Middle School Principal; Kelly Rossetto, Middle School Physical Education Teacher; Paul Baker, Middle School Assistant Principal



From left to right (Adams):  
Trisha Bogusz, Primary School Principal and Brittani Adams, First Grade Teacher



From left to right (Gruber):  
Michele Stillwell, MTFEE Trustee; Nicole Pyhel, MTFEE Trustee; Adam Gruber, Elementary School Band Director/Music Teacher; Beth Cotler, MTFEE Trustee



# The Millstone Times SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

By Pam Teel

## Are you a photo buff?

Are you a photo buff? Do you love taking pictures everywhere you go? Perhaps you have a favorite one that you would like to share? We want your pictures for our photo of the month section. You can send photo's to the following email: crescent671@yahoo.com

Include your name and a description of the photo. If you have a brief story that goes with it, send that to. You may send photo's more than one time.

(If you prefer to send anomalously, we will leave your name out.)

Make sure you put "Millstone Times Photo" in the subject area when emailing or it won't be opened.



**KEEP THOSE PHOTO'S COMING!  
WHO KNOWS, YOURS MIGHT MAKE THE NEXT ISSUE!**

# The Millstone Times PHOTO OF THE MONTH

By Pam Teel

While visiting her grandmother, Judy Barcellona of Millstone Township, on Mothers Day, 12 year old Julia Rose Fischer gave the sheep dog, Harley Joe, a great big show of affection!



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# Local Residents Receive Historic Preservation Award

By Pam Teel

Scott and Bonnie McFie of Millstone Township recently won the Historic Preservation Award from Monmouth County for the restoration of their old historic farmhouse on Agress Road. It was a joint nomination from the Historic Commission and from the Friends of MTHRP. The presentation ceremony took place on June 1st, at the Hall of Records in Freehold. The award was presented by Monmouth County Freeholder Lillian Burry. The McFies put in years of research and work to restore their property.

The house itself dates back to at least the early 1800's. The Hill Map from 1784 refers to the area as "Gastons" and it is known that there was a gristmill operating as early as 1750 in the area. During the early 1800's, the property had been divided up and was owned by the Perrines, Silvers, Thorns, and Allens. In 1912, Jake Agress bought the property from the Charles Allen Estate and the Agress family lived there for over 50 years. They farmed the property and took in summer boarders when the Perinneville Lake was once a popular summer destination. Agress Road was named for the Agress family but before that it was referred to as "the road over the hill."

According to Miss McFie, Agress Road was still a dirt road until sometime after 1973. The road did not go all the way through to Route 571. It became a through road sometime around 1984. The Perrineville area was a resort area where people from out of town would come to spend weekends and even weeks at the lake. There were cottages to rent out and people nearby the lake offered rooms for rent. Lillian Agress was quite an entrepreneur renting out rooms during the summer and Jacob grew vegetables and transported them by horse and wagon to sell in Trenton and Freehold.

Bonnie and her husband Scott started with a dream of purchasing an old house with some property. While the house was Bonnie's dream it was also Scott's nightmare when he realized all that he took on. They purchased the home in 1996

and immediately started renovations. First they tackled the septic, removed old out buildings that could not be saved, and dug out old farm equipment half buried in mud.

The home, circa 1830, was a working farm, nothing fancy but the structure according to Bonnie had good bones. After living in the home for two years, they began their plan to restore the inside. As Bonnie would tell you, "the home would tell us what it needed and where." They hired an engineer who knew about and liked old homes and found a contractor who understood post and beams. The restoration took 182 days; taxing days when the two lived in a recreation vehicle parked behind the house. "We finished the house in 1999," Bonnie exclaimed. "It was so worth it."

They then turned their attention on restoring the original 1830's barn. The oldest section of the barn had to be dismantled and removed because it was so far gone. A shed with a sloped roofline was added. The barns original stone foundation was crumbling in certain areas and a special cement mix was required because years ago they did not pour footings. Old foundations needed to be able to expand and contract with the seasons. They finished the barn off with cedar siding. It was completed in 2003. One last thing the Mcfies would do was to put an addition on in 2009. They made it so that the addition would look like it was always part of the house.

The McFies have both recently retired and are in the process of moving and beginning another journey out of state. They are happy to have sold their property to a couple who are just as appreciative of the history of the house as they have been. "I once heard a saying, don't just leave a property, leave it better," Ms. Mcfie concludes. That's precisely what the McFies have done.

Here's wishing you the best in your new home!



McFie homestead on Agress Road. Formerly the home of Jacob and Lillian Agress.



The McFies receive award from Freeholder Lillian Burry



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# DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES

## Checkups are a must, even if you think you're healthy

Your health is the most important thing that you have, and you should always do your best to protect it. This's why you should always schedule regular checkups with your doctor, even if you think that you're healthy.

A checkup is a great way to prevent or diagnose diseases that could have lasting, harmful effects on your body. Even if you exercise regularly and eat healthy, it may not be enough. You ultimately need to ensure that you have a clean bill of health every six months.

The Department of Health and Human Services reiterates this idea with the following explanation:

"By getting the right health services, screenings, and treatments, you are taking steps that help your chances for living a longer, healthier life. Your age, health and family history, lifestyle choices (i.e. what you eat, how active you are, whether you smoke), and other important factors impact what and how often you need services and screenings."

This is an important point to understand, as your life literally depends on it.

Regular doctor checkups are especially important if you are over the age of 60, as this is when the onset of many debilitating diseases occur.

It's not enough to visit the doctor only when you feel sick. You need to be regularly checked for cancer, diabetes or bone diseases that could ultimately affect the way that you live your life.

People who get a diagnosis for their illnesses earlier in the process have a much better chance of beating them and returning to live the healthy lifestyle that they have grown accustomed to.

### Know your background

Take your family's history with medical problems into account as well when deciding how long to go between checkups. If there have been incidents with certain kinds of cancer, heart attacks, or blood diseases amongst your relatives in the past, your doctor needs to know about them so he can properly test for problems that might occur.

You must be especially cautious when there has been a history of chronic illness in your family because you have the predisposition towards acquiring harmful medical problems that could affect your process of aging.

### Lifestyle factors

If you frequently smoke tobacco or drink alcohol, it is imperative that you see your family physician at least every six months, if not more frequently. Tobacco and alcohol wreak havoc on your lungs, liver, heart, and many other vital organs that are very important to your health.

Lung or liver cancer are among the biggest repercussions that smoking or drinking can bring about. Short of quitting altogether, the next best thing that you can do for yourself is to visit your doctor on a regular basis to make sure that no problems have begun to arise.

Blood pressure and cholesterol are two other health problems that could arise out of not going to see your doctor on a regular basis. People with high blood pressure or high cholesterol don't even have to be living unhealthy lifestyles for a problem to arise. Your doctor can do tests and order blood to be drawn so that the determination can be reached regarding whether you have one of these debilitating illnesses or not.

There really are a great deal of benefits to seeing your family doctor at least once a year, even if you are healthy. The piece of mind and reassurance that you get is worth the cost of the visit alone.

In addition, you are able to more quickly start the treatment process if you do have some kind of problem. Doctors are trained to give you the best in quality healthcare, so you would be best advised to get regular checkups in order to ensure that you are completely healthy.





# Millstone Township's Affordable Housing Update

By Susan Heckler

The Council on Affordable Housing was created by the New Jersey Legislature in reaction to the Fair Housing Act of 1985, along with a series of New Jersey Supreme Court rulings known as the Mount Laurel decisions. It is COAH's responsibility to ensure that all 566 of New Jersey's municipalities provide their fair share of low and moderate income housing. There is an elaborate formula to determine the number of units each town must provide under the law. This basically assists people who do not qualify for public assistance because their income is too high yet they cannot qualify for a home purchase or rental for various reasons. These residences generally attract people who have existing ties to the community.

Millstone Township has been in compliance with the rules and was awarded 2014 Outstanding Municipal Partner Awards for their leadership and commitment to creating affordable homes in their neighborhoods. This is not an easy task for a township, which does not have city water and sewer service, making affordable residences on small lots or condensed housing unlikely. The third round of COAH numbers is being challenged.

Millstone Township is currently involved in a lawsuit. As explained in the minutes of their April 8, 2015 meeting, "Committeewoman Grbelja explained the lawsuit was filed initially due to changes in round three because COAH incorporated land into our numbers that was not available due to environmental constraints. We were one of the few communities to be included in that lawsuit." The future of COAH is also uncertain as there are claims that challenging exclusionary zoning laws may replace their need.

To date, according to the Affordable Housing Alliance, the completed project is Millstone House, which is an 11-unit rooming house that is part of the township's affordable housing plan. In the works are ten units of age restricted housing for low and moderate income residents. Novad Court is the site of a single family home owned by the Alliance and developed in partnership with Millstone Township and Novad Court Group Home, which will house six individuals. There is also the Burnt Tavern Group Home for six individuals.



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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Dancing with the Girl Scout's Stars**

By Susan Heckler



With so many worthy causes vying for our time and donation dollars, not-for-profit organizations are hard pressed to come up with new and unusual ways to attract a good turnout.

Leave it to the Girl Scouts to come up with something innovative. Their soon-to-be-named Dancing with the Monmouth & Ocean County Stars event will take place on Thursday, November 12th from 6-10:00 pm at Eagle Oaks Country Club in Farmingdale. Right now they have 10 Monmouth & Ocean county stars partnered with professional ballroom dancers from Shall We Dance ballroom studio in Toms River, their studio partner.

The dances will include the tango, salsa, cha-cha, waltz, rumba and hustle. Shall We Dance is also choreographing a routine for about 25 of their Girl Scouts. They will have three celebrity judges including Tom Hayes from New Jersey Natural Gas and two still to be named.

Shawn Michaels and Sue Moll from WOBN are emceeing the event. Included in the programming will be live music, a gift auction, 50/50 raffle and a sit down cocktail reception.

Tickets are \$75 per person. As more details become available, I'll certainly pass them along. For more information on participating, donating or attending, contact Danielle Bagdzinski, Distinguished Events & Fundraising Manager of Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore

Telephone: 732-349-4499 x240

Website: <http://www.girlscoutsjs.org>

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# Beyer Eye Associates

By Susan Heckler

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## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

By Pam Teel

Twelve-year-old Nicholas Meier is looking forward to the summer vacation when he can spend more time playing computer games and drumming on his new drum set. He's hoping that the summer goes by nice and slow. When he goes back to school, he will be in the seventh grade at the Millstone Township Middle School.

Nick is a great student and works hard for the good grades that he gets. He has a head for math. He is in the Honors Math class and loves doing math problems. He also likes Language Arts. During the summer break, Nick will miss hanging out with all of his school friends. Nick loves to read realistic fiction and he also likes to watch mysteries and action movies on television.

Nick lives with his parents and three brothers. He is also a twin. He has ten chickens, two frogs, two cats, two dogs, fish, and a bird. Nick's favorite place that he likes to visit is in Northern New Jersey. He loves to go to his grandparent's house up north and also to his cousins' house. He is hoping that he can spend more time with his cousins over the summer vacation. He also likes to visit his other grandparents, who live closer to him.

Nick's favorite holiday is Christmas, not just because of the gifts that he gets, but because he likes to hang out with his family, especially in the winter months when they all spend a nice morning together sitting by the fireplace. Nick's favorite sport is lacrosse. His favorite activity is playing computer games. He has a lot of brothers to play against. He loves to eat Japanese food. Sushi and Miso soup are two of his favorites. In the future, Nick would love to one day be able to develop his own computer games. Nick recently got a new drum set and is learning how to play on the set. He is very musically inclined.

When asked about being a twin, Nick stated that it is fun having someone close to share things with. They are each other's best friends, but they can still get mad at each other. He always has someone to do something with. They do share a lot, like when they go to the movie theatre, they usually share one big popcorn, or when they go out to dinner, they share a big dinner between the two of them. One thing that he doesn't like about being a twin is that when one gets in trouble, they usually both do.

Keep up the good grades in school Nick and keep on drumming! We're proud of all the effort you put into your schoolwork!



*Nick Meier getting ready to practice on his drums!*

### Attention Millstone, Creamridge and Allentown Parents

Allentown, Millstone, Creamridge, New Egypt, Upper Freehold, if you have a child that excels in school, loves doing extracurricular activities, (doesn't have to be a straight A student), please nominate him or her for our Millstone Times Student of the Month. Send me an email at [crescent671@gmail.com](mailto:crescent671@gmail.com).



# Did You Know That ...

By Pam Teel

A woman from New Egypt, NJ helped create the Ocean Spray Cranberry Company.

Elizabeth Lee was a cranberry grower back in the early 1900's. She is credited with making the first cranberry sauce in the area and also for selling a cranberry drink to the tourists who frequented the area vacationing around Oakford Lake in New Egypt. She would boil down the damaged cranberries and add sugar to make a sweet drink. She also started her own business making cranberry sauce in 1917. Her operation was called Bog Sweet Cranberry Sauce Company. In the beginning it was slow going to sell her cranberry sauce, but each year saw more and more sales. At about the same time in Massachusetts a company was also making and canning cranberry sauce, and the President had an idea to merge with the other two largest cranberry growers, possibly in a way to minimize the competition. Elizabeth Lee became co-owner of the newly named Oceanspray Cranberry Company.

Ninety percent of the NJ cranberries belong to Oceanspray, which has a large facility in Chatsworth NJ. If you take a ride through Chatsworth, you can see miles and miles of cranberry bogs alongside the main road. They also had a facility in Bordentown, NJ, which was operating since 1943, but unfortunately they relocated to Pennsylvania just last year. NJ is the third largest cranberry grower in America with Massachusetts coming in at number one and Wisconsin coming in at number two.

Cranberries were around in the 1840's. In fact all strains of cranberries today were developed from the wild cranberries. The Native Americans in NJ called the cranberries sasemineash. They made Pemmican cake from the cranberries and they also ate them raw for their medicinal purposes. They made paste and potions from them and used them to dye clothes. In Massachusetts cranberries were called ibimi, meaning bitter fruit.

In the 1840's, in the small Pine Barrens town of Cassville in Ocean County, NJ, lived a 50 year old, one legged school teacher who saw a great opportunity harvesting cranberries. His name was John "Peg Leg" Webb. Mr. Webb tamed the wild perennial vine creating one of the first commercial cranberry operations in America. Webb's fruit commanded top dollar, \$50.00 a barrel from whaling ships in Philadelphia. Sailing ships took cranberries out to sea so the crew could snack upon the Vitamin C laden berries helping to prevent the sailors from getting scurvy. Webb's barrels contained no bad berries because the one legged man was unable to carry the barrels of cranberries down from the storage attic, so he tipped the barrels and let the berries bounce down the stairs. He discovered that healthy cranberries bounced! Only the best cranberries made it to the bottom of the stairs. He had accidentally invented the "Bounce Board" still used today to determine Cranberries. Too bad he didn't think about boiling the damaged berries like Elizabeth Lee did.

Cranberries grow in sandy soil and bogs and are native to the Pine Barrens. The name came about from Dutch settlers who thought the blossoms resembled crane birds and originally named them craneberries. If you're interested in taking a tour this fall, check out: <http://www.pineypower.com/cranberries.htm>. Book now because the tours fill up fast.

The 32nd Annual Cranberry Festival in Chatsworth will be held on October 17th & 18th, 2015. The Cranberry Festival is a celebration of New Jersey's cranberry harvest, the 3rd largest in the United States, and offers a tribute to the Pine Barrens & local culture. The main attraction is the diverse showing of many artists & craftsmen, some of which will also be demonstrating their crafts as well as displaying them. Admission is free but a five-dollar donation will be accepted to go towards restoring the White Horse Inn. FESTIVAL HOURS: 9am to 4pm



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## Wright Fight

*By Susan Heckler*



**D**amien Wright, of Cream Ridge, NJ, has been teaching martial arts in his New Egypt dojo for about one year. What began with fencing and Japanese Swordsmanship (Iaido and Kendo) taught by his father, and youth karate lessons in reaction to being bullied became for Damien a lifelong passion and profession. He received his 5th degree black belt in Jujitsu in February of 2011.

Damien has been teaching martial arts to adults, teens, and children at various locations and to private students for over 14 years and in the community of New Egypt since October of 2008. He has also been consistently training in jujitsu and other arts for over 26 years. His dojo (school) offers unique, unparalleled instruction in the art of Japanese Jujitsu with practical and effective modern applications. They combine Mixed Martial Arts training and modern conditioning methods with this classical art in a safe, dynamic training environment suitable for all ages.

Wright Fight Concepts is celebrating their one year anniversary with a great offer to give back to help children. For any new enrollment from June 1st through the first week of July, the \$100 first month enrollment fee will be going to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. They will also be hosting two 3 hour seminars at the end of June, with all proceeds going to the same charity. They have titled this charity campaign event "June for St. Jude," with a goal of \$2,000 to go toward helping kids. Local businesses are also donating prizes. With success, they hope to make "June for St Jude" an annual event.

In addition, they have a special for the summer, only \$139 for the entire summer, with unlimited classes from July 1st through September 30th (must enroll in July). The savings for the 3 months is \$161!

Wright Fight Concepts is located at 126 Evergreen Road in New Egypt and can be reached at (732) 877-4041. You can also check out their website [www.wrightfight.com](http://www.wrightfight.com). If you were considering martial arts for your family, now would be a great time to help St. Jude's kids and get in on their amazing summer special!

It's our **FIRST ANNIVERSARY** and it has been an **AMAZING YEAR!**  
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## The Voices of Barnegat Bay Comes to Monroe Schools

*By Susan Heckler*

The Woodland School in Monroe collaborated with The Tuckerton Seaport through a grant provided by The New Jersey Arts Council to have a Folk Art Festival which took place June 2-4th.

The festival was designed to introduce students to the history, occupations and traditions of Southern New Jersey. Students learned how traditions have changed over time from occupational or functional traditions to decorative traditions. The mastery of how academic disciplines impact on the successful implementation of the traditions was taught and the students experienced the creative process of making various representations of the folk art traditions.

The art classes have been studying American folk Art all school year to prepare for the festival. They made quilt squares, weather vanes and learned about American folk artists such as Grandma Moses and Jacob Lawrence. They learned about the Barnegat Bay environment in library through literature and books. Classroom teachers used folk art across the curriculum with science, social studies and math.

Each day of the three day festival was different for each grade level. Both the artists and the students had a great time sharing the day and the experiences in The Voices of Barnegat Bay. Thanks go to Jennifer Hyer (Visual Arts Teacher) and Joan Kofke (Media Specialist) at Woodland School in Monroe Township as well as the school board for understanding the importance of art education!





# Wishing Everyone a Safe & Happy 4th of July!

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# PET PAGES



## Training Your Dog

*Millions of dog owners every year decide to have their pets professionally trained. The benefits to having a well-trained dog are endless. Better behavior, attention and overall health just to name a few.*

But with so many trainers claiming to be the best, how do you know you're choosing the right one?

Doing your homework is critical to finding the perfect dog-trainer situation. Start by asking friends and family members, and search online for certified trainers in your local areas. Many K-9 police officers spend their weekends training dogs and can be excellent sources for quickly improving an errant dog's behavior.

### *Preparing Your Dog*

Before you even walk into the doors at your local dog-training facility, there are a few things that Fido should do:

- Eat only a light meal before training to ensure maximum energy and mobility.
- Make sure he is wearing the type of collar and leash specified by the trainer.
- Take care of any potty breaks so he doesn't need one during his course.

If you choose a group class instead of a private one, take the time to prepare your dog for interaction with peers and people. One of the most valuable aspects of working in groups is that doing so will help strengthen your dog's focus and ability to overcome distractions.

### *Prepare Yourself*

Be ready to answer basic questions about your dog and what you hope to accomplish during the training sessions. Are you simply seeking a better-behaved dog or do you have more advanced goals such as competitive obedience or therapy work?

Knowing this information before you start the vetting process will tell you if trainers have the professional experience specific to your needs.

Be sure to understand the training fees and payment, as well as any documentation or proof of vaccinations you may have to provide prior to the classes.

What you wear to a training class is also important to consider. Go with tennis shoes and comfortable clothing instead of sandals or high heels.





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## Lost Your Dog?

*There are few things worse to dog owners than losing their beloved pet. Many pet owners rely on a collar with tags that contain contact information in the case of a dog wandering off a bit too far.*

But what if your dog's collar breaks? What if he somehow chews it off? This can be a common occurrence that makes a separation between owner and dog challenging.

Whether your dog runs away or is picked up by a well-meaning stranger trying to take care of what looks to be a stray, you can do certain things to improve the chances of bringing home man's best friend.

### Make a Sign

Making a sign for your front yard, nearby trees or electric poles will help announce your missing-dog situation to your neighbors. Be sure to check in with city hall to make sure you're not breaking any local ordinances on where to hang signs.

Be sure to include this key information on your sign:

- The words, 'LOST DOG' in big, bold letters.
- The words, 'Family Pet' somewhere on the sign will.
- Your dog's breed, age and color.
- Your phone number.

### Call Local Shelters

Picture your dog dirty, limping along the road and without a collar. A passer-by may become concerned with your dog's health and decide to take matters into their own hands. This usually means picking up the dog and taking it to a local animal shelter.

Once you realize your dog is missing, call local shelters to check on recent drop-offs. Be ready with a detailed description of your dog and the day he went missing. Shelter staff will be able to match the two together and tell you if any of their dogs match what you're describing.

### Publicize a Reward

If you're willing and able, a financial reward can be a big incentive for prompting your neighbors to keep their eyes open for your dog. Put this information on your sign or publicize it with an advertisement in the local newspaper.

Be specific on what will actually earn a reward, whether it is for information leading to the return of your dog or an actual drop-off. Neighbors, family or friends may end up turning down your reward, but your effort in making one available can end up making a big difference.



## The Millstone Times BEST PET PHOTO CONTEST



**Do you think you have the most adorable pet?**

If so, send in your pet's photo by July 10<sup>th</sup> for the chance to win \$100

Gift Certificate to a locally owned pet store!

Send in your photo to:  
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Include a high resolution photo, your pet's name and town.

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Izzy ~ Cream Ridge



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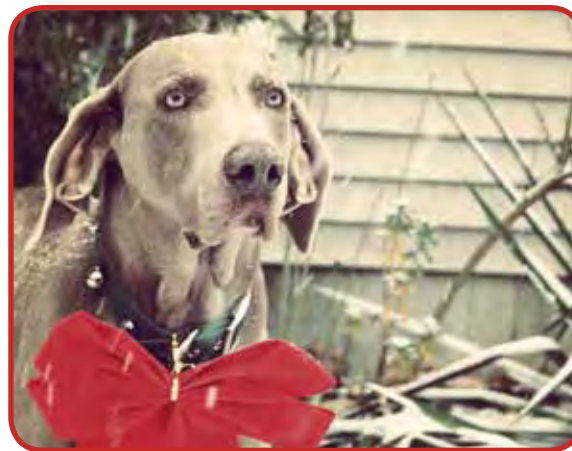
Carena Grace ~ Millstone



Casanova~ Millstone



Murphy ~ Cream Ridge



Mr Banks ~ New Egyt



Uncle Si ~ Cream Ridge



Buddy ~ Millstone



Meatball ~ New Egypt



Chloe ~ Millstone





Tig ~ New Egypt



Daisy ~ Cream Ridge



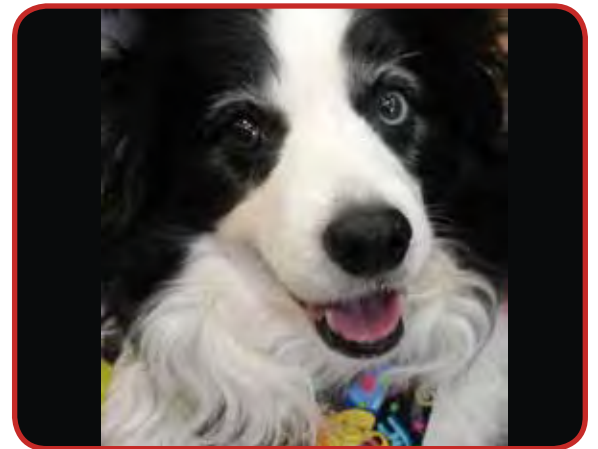
Molly ~ Cream Ridge



Cocoa ~ Millstone



Rose ~ New Egypt



Lucy ~ Millstone



Oscar ~ Allentown



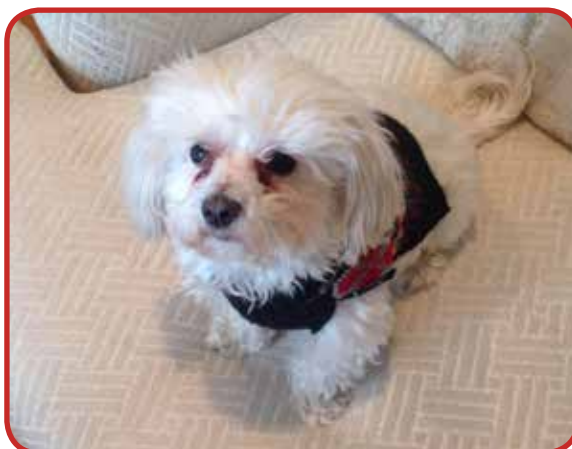
Butch & Einstein ~ Cream Ridge



Bella ~ New Egypt



Sammy ~ Millstone



Toi ~ East Windsor



Casanova ~ Millstone



# WANTED

## A LOVING FAMILY

By Pam Teel

If you're looking for an addition to your family, why not adopt a homeless pet first. Each month we will showcase one or more pets for adoption at Animals Assistance in East Brunswick and other nearby shelters. Please take a look at their website and the animals up for adoption and give these animals a chance at living a long and loving life as part of your household. Many of these dogs and cats were born locally and brought to Animal Assistance. Some were even spared from being euthanized in hopes of finding a good home for them.

Animal Assistance, located in East Brunswick, a 501c3 Organization, is a perpetual, lifetime animal care, pet adoption, and pet boarding facility in a peaceful country atmosphere. The family oriented animal center has a purpose to provide a home for animals whose guardians can no longer care for them, or animals down on their luck, on a case-to-case basis. They are one of the few animal facilities in the area that are actually located on a farm in a country setting with over 60 year's experience. They are all about the animals. Their strays are LOCAL abandoned dogs and cats, with complete health and medical support. You get an animal that is ready to go, crated trained and socialized. Animal Assistance is also there for you once you leave with your pet. If you need help with trainers and vet care, they will provide someone for you.

Meet Johnny Boy. He is neutered and has a clean bill of health from the vet. Johnny Boy is about one year old. He's a friendly little guy. He is playful and likes to play with other dogs. He looks like he may be part Tibetan terrier. He's about the size of a cocker spaniel. He's up for adoption and looking for a forever home.

The second dog featured is Noodle. He has been at the shelter almost one year. He is part pit-bull, but his temperament is friendly and thoughtful. He weighs around 60 pounds. We offer free training classes, in Freehold at the Enchanted Paw, and we cover all medical costs for him. Noodles want someone special to love.

Mimi is our third dog of the month. Mimi is a Lurcher. The lurcher is a type of dog originating in England and Ireland. While not a pure breed, it is generally a cross between a sighthound and any other non-sighthound breed, usually a pastoral dog or terrier. She was tied to a tree in Stokes State Forest and left there. She is 4-5 years old, a settled dog. She could do a work schedule. She's very friendly. Lessons are also available for her. Won't you be the one to take her home?

To read up more about Animals Assistance and their policies for adoption, go to: [animalassistance.org](http://animalassistance.org).

To view their pets for adoption on petfinder - please visit them at PetFinder.com: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NJ538.html>

If you are interested in adopting any of these homeless, sweet, lovable pets, please call Linda at 732.251.3210. Our phones are answered during open doors hours or email us at [linda@animalassistance.org](mailto:linda@animalassistance.org). Phone conversations are preferred to email. Should you wish to sponsor a specific pet until they find a safe and loving home, please call between 7-10am Monday through Thursday, Friday 7-10am, or Sunday 8:30-10:30am to make arrangements.

Facility hours are 7-10am Monday through Thursday, Friday from 7am-3pm, and Sunday 8:30am-10:30am. You do not need an appointment, just drop in. We accept donations during those hours also. A tax receipt can be provided. All proceeds are for the animal's medical fund; we do not take salaries. We are looking for a used SUV or small pickup truck that can be modified to transport our search and rescue dogs and the animals going to the hospital. KMR Kitten Replacer, dry adult dog and cat food, Purina kitten chow, canned dog food, canned cat food, dog toys, cat toys, catnip, pig ear chews, bleach, laundry detergent, Pine sol, Shampoo, paper towels, trash bags, blankets, towels, and sheets (new or used) and pet items new or used, are appreciated, and can always be used. Can you help?



*Noodle- has a great temperament and personality*



*Meet Johnny Boy - friendly and loves other dogs*



*Mimi- sweet and loving and looking for a permanent place to call home*



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## FINDING A GOOD VET

*Every quality dog-owner relationship also includes the guidance and advice from an expert veterinarian. You will rely on your vet for regular checkups, as well as any questions or concerns that arise during your time as a dog owner.*

It is important to find a practice you can feel comfortable bringing your pets to for years to come.

Your first step in ensuring this is visiting the various vet offices within your area. Come prepared with specific questions and any critical information regarding your pet's health history.

### Staff Courtesy

You should be able to tell just minutes into your visit if you can expect quality, personalized service from your prospective vets. Do the front-desk receptionists greet you with a smile and friendly dispositions? Do they make eye contact with you and seem to genuinely care about your pet?

While visiting, try to meet as many vets, technicians and other staff members as possible. The more you know about who makes up the team of employees, the more comfortable you can feel in bringing your dog in for care.

### Pricing

Ask your potential vets about costs for specific services, such as well-checks, flea treatments or basic surgery. Having a list of pricing information can help you determine if your budgetary requirements will be met, or if you need to do

a bit more shopping around.

Some practices offer discounts for senior citizens or military veterans, so be sure to ask about any breaks you may receive. Families with multiple pets may also receive discounted pricing because of the extra business they bring in.



### 24/7 Care

Many vet offices feature 24/7 care for their clients, which can help give dog owners peace of mind in the face of an emergency. Ask your prospective vet the practice's policy on after-hour care, as well as extra charges that may come along with it.

Also be sure to ask their processes for an emergency call. Do you call the regular office's phone number or an emergency one? Will your vet make emergency house calls or do you bring your dog into the office in an emergency?

Be clear on all processes to weigh their 24/7 services while making your decision.



# Sparks fly in July in Monmouth County!

*Fireworks, festivals, fairs and concerts head the bill*

There is no better place to be than in Monmouth County this summer. The weather is hot and so is the entertainment. Outdoor concerts, festivals, fairs, fireworks shows and more are all presented along a beautiful coastline.

"The Monmouth County July tourism calendar does not leave even one day with nothing to do," said Freeholder Thomas A. Arnone. "Frankly, it is hard to see why anyone would want to be anywhere else."

Fireworks paint the skies red, white and blue as July kicks off with the celebration of America's independence. July 4 falls on a Saturday this year, so enjoy the many weekend festivities and fireworks shows going on throughout the area.

One of the most popular Fourth of July celebrations is Long Branch's annual OceanFest. Stop by the Oceanfront Promenade for food, vendors, bands and exhibits during the day, and enjoy one of the state's largest fireworks displays at night.

The Independence Day celebration begins even before July 4 at the Atlantic Highlands Fireman's Fair from June 30 to July 4, with fireworks on July 3.

The excitement just keeps on going: fireworks and festivities are at Keansburg Amusement Park July 3 and 4; in Bradley Beach and Manasquan on July 3 and Asbury Park and Freehold on July 4. In Ocean Grove there is an Independence Day parade on July 4 and head to Monmouth Park Racetrack on July 5 for the Red, White and Blue Party.

The fun continues with the popular Downtown Tuesday Night concerts located on Broadway in Long Branch on July 7, 14 and 21.

The Monmouth County Fair is being held at East Freehold Park from July 22 through July 26. The event boasts animal shows and exhibits, rides and amusements,

stage entertainment, a home and garden competition and opening night fireworks.

The Red Bank Food and Wine Walk will be held July 19. Also in Red Bank is the Annual Sidewalk Sale July 24 through July 26.

Outdoor activities continue to be the theme of the summer. You can find a farm market, flea market or craft show almost every weekend throughout the County. Activities on the beach and in the sand include the Songwriters on the Beach in Belmar on July 9, 16, 23 and 30 and the Annual NJ Sandcastle Contest on 18th Avenue in Belmar on July 15.

Finally, never disappointing our music and theater enthusiasts, the list of live concerts and shows in July is impressive. Highlights include Kenny Rogers, Rob Thomas, Idina Menzel, Kelly Clarkson, Def Leppard and Rascal Flatts. There also are weekly free concert series in Belmar, Keyport, Long Branch, Red Bank and Sandy Hook, as well as weekly free movie series in various locations throughout the area.

As always, Monmouth County's Calendar of Events will provide you with even more July entertainment. For a complete listing of events, go to [www.visitmonmouth.com](http://www.visitmonmouth.com) and click on the Tourism tab to find the Calendar of Events. Compiled by the Monmouth County Department of Public Information and Tourism, it is a comprehensive source for things to do and places to go and is updated regularly. You can also call 1-800-523-2587 to have a packet of information mailed to you, or stop by 3 East Main St., Freehold to browse the extensive literature between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

The next time you are on Facebook be sure to "like" the Monmouth County Tourism page. If you use Twitter, follow us on there, too.



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# MAKE A PLAN

## Talk to your doctor to chart your path to a healthier future

*There are many different parts in making up a good health plan. Whether you are looking to lose weight, lower your blood pressure or deal with issues of anxiety that you have been suffering from, it is essential that you include your doctor in any kind of planning that you do to taking care of your health problems.*

The importance of developing a succinct, thorough plan of action for getting yourself to feel better is not complete if your family doctor is not fully on board. In fact, trying to improve your health without talking to a professional can be downright dangerous if you rely too much on advice from friends and family.

### Communicate

One of the main things that you want to make sure is occurring when you visit your family doctor is that they are listening to the concerns that you have about your health.

You are not helping yourself when you don't tell your physician everything that is occurring in your life.

Mack Lipkin, founding president of the American Academy on Physician and Patient, a New York-based non-profit organization whose mission is to improve outcomes through education and research on doctor-patient interaction, said that "An activated patient who asks questions and negotiates with the doctor has better outcomes. The most important predictor of compliance is trust in the doctor; that begins with communication."

The communication that you have with your doctor when planning out major changes in how you care for your body is essential to recognizing the maximum benefit that arises from your modifications.

If your doctor does not fully understand what you are looking for or what you would like to change, there is no way that they can accurately diagnose the problems that you are having.

### Checkups

If nothing else, it is important to see your doctor because they go through and check your vital signs frequently to make sure that everything with your mind and body are OK. Through regular checkups, you are able to get a better feel for what areas you need to concentrate on in order to improve your overall health and well-being.

If something is amiss with your vital signs, then you and your doctor can formulate an effective plan that designates exactly what needs to be done so that everyone involved understands what needs to be done.

You also want to ensure that you are taking an active role in determining exactly what problems you are having. It is important that you understand exactly what the doctor is saying and why they are prescribing the treatments that they are.

If you aren't understanding or they are using too much medical jargon, do not feel sheepish about asking them to repeat what they were discussing with you. This will make it much easier to follow their instructions and get you back to feeling your best.

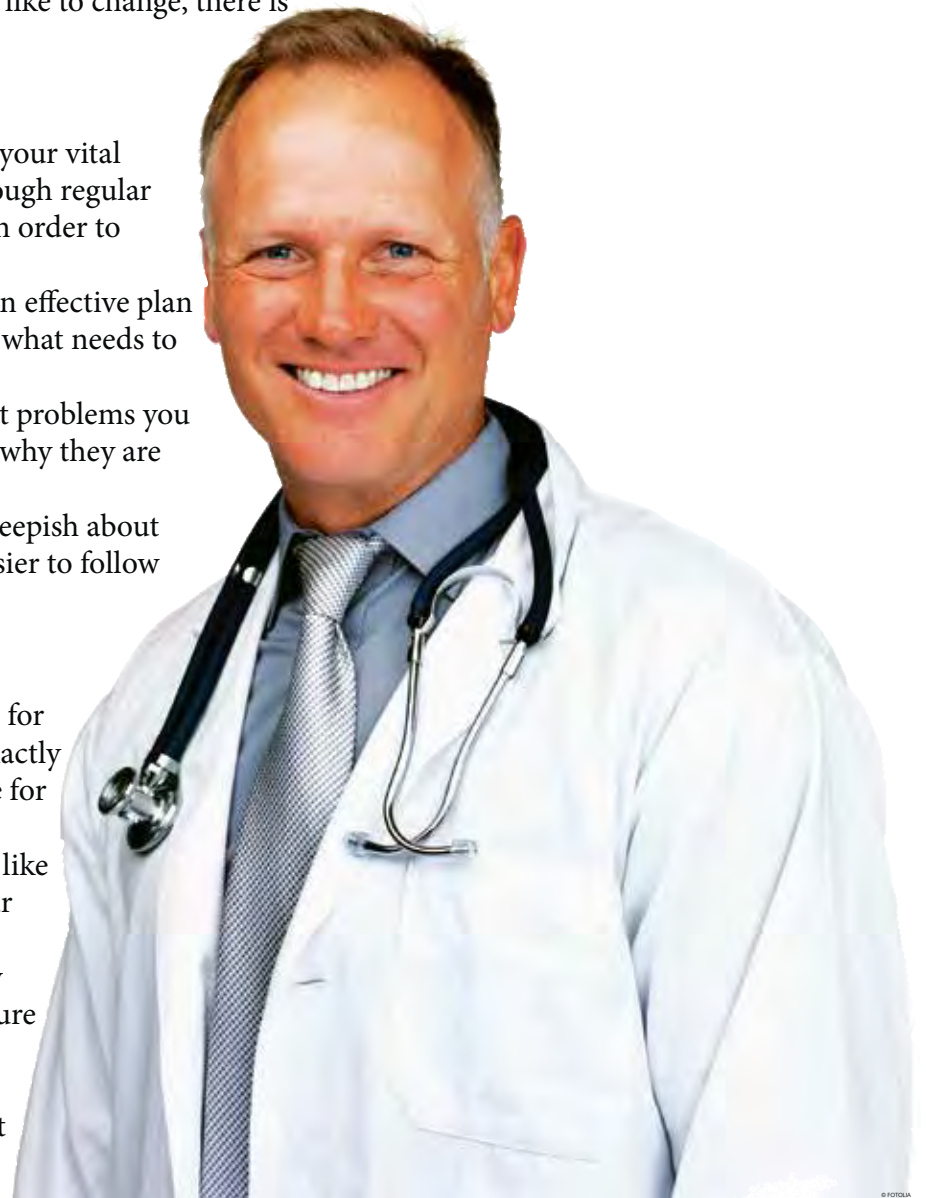
### Teamwork

If you are looking to lose weight and want to start some type of program or diet plan, for example, it is always important to ensure that your doctor knows and understands exactly what you plan on doing so they can better evaluate whether you are a good candidate for your chosen weight loss method.

Be truthful and forthcoming about what you are planning to do and what you would like to achieve, as this will be the only way to know if you can begin working towards your health goals.

There are definite advantages involved in making sure that your doctor is thoroughly included in any health-related planning that you are doing. This will only help to ensure that whatever procedure you are planning on using is going to be a safe and effective means to helping you feel better.

Heed the advice of your family physician and follow their specific instructions so that you can begin to lead a healthier lifestyle.





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# HANDLING STRANGER DANGER

*By Susan Heckler*

**I**t's that time of year again; the sun is out and  
so are the kids. Youngsters have a bit more  
freedom to be out and about when the  
weather is mild. They are playing with friends,  
walking home from the bus or a neighbor and  
a myriad of great reasons to be a kid in central  
New Jersey.

Unfortunately, there are times when it is not  
all fun and games. We had a recent reminder  
of that on Sunday May 31st when a white male  
in his late 50's attempted to lure three boys  
between the ages of 10 and 13 into his car. The  
man approached the boys with an old trick,  
asking for help to find his missing cat. A similar  
incident happened the day before in Jackson  
with a man searching for his dog.

Our children are being brought up to respect  
their elders and to lend a helping hand when

they can. It is only natural for them to react to  
help an adult find his beloved pet. As parents,  
we need to sit down and discuss the possibility  
that not all people who look like nice people are  
well intended. This is called the Stranger Danger  
conversation and, while uncomfortable, can  
save your child from untold harm.

According to the Manalapan police (where  
the incident occurred), the male is described  
as a white male, approximate age late 50s, with  
brown shoulder length hair with some graying.  
He also has a mustache and bags under his  
eyes. He was operating a 4 door silver sedan  
with unknown New Jersey license plates. This  
happened on Lambs Lane in Manalapan but,  
we all know, it can happen anywhere.

It is essential that your child understands  
that it is okay for them to tell you when

something like this happens so you can alert the  
authorities. Ask them to pay careful attention  
to the person's features, car, license plates,  
height, clothing and any other details that may  
be helpful in apprehension.

It is okay to let kids be kids, but a wiser  
version of it is best.





# JIM THORPE PENNSYLVANIA

## The Switzerland of America

### PART ONE

By Pam Teel

Many towns take their name from prominent citizens who helped make the town what it is, but this town, which was once called Mauch Chunk, was renamed after Native American Athlete Jim Thorpe, who died in 1953. Township officials took on the new name in an effort to boost the economy of a struggling town. Whether the name change was the reason for the success of the town or the ingenuity of the town to make good use of its natural resources, Jim Thorpe remains to be one of the most must see towns in Pennsylvania. Once just as popular as visiting Niagara Falls, Jim Thorpe is a pleasant experience with its quaint old Pennsylvania streets, Victorian and stone architecture and eclectic shops dotting the landscape of a town squeezed between two mountain ranges. Mauch Chunk, (Mountain of the Sleeping Bear) was changed to “Jim Thorpe” after Mr. Thorpe’s third wife made a bargain with the local governing bodies. In exchange for making his final resting place in their town, officials agreed to rename the town after the athlete. (Irony since Thorpe never set foot in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania.) Thorpe’s wife, angry that Oklahoma rejected a memorial to Thorpe, struck a deal to sell his remains to the towns of Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk. In return the two municipalities merged under the new name and erected a monument to the athletic hero. The monument however does not contain his remains. His remains are in a mausoleum in the old Cemetery on top of the hill.

There is much controversy over where Mr. Thorpe’s final resting place should be. The children of the late athlete want his remains brought back to his hometown in Oklahoma. It has been a decades old battle by his children to bring his remains home; one that is still going on in the courts today. The principal Chief of the Sac and Fox Nation says the tribe is also relaunching a campaign aimed at moving Jim Thorpe’s remains back to Indian land in Oklahoma.

A two hour drive makes Jim Thorpe a great destination to

spend a long weekend, but make sure you book early because the Inns and Bed and Breakfasts book quickly leaving your only choice a hotel by the highway in nearby Lehighton four miles away. It’s just not the same experience as finding a place in town.

What a feeling when you walk out of your room onto the streets of Jim Thorpe. Surrounded on both sides by the Appalachian Mountains you get a sense of empowerment as you take in the heavenly view. With the Lehigh River running alongside the town, there is easy access to whitewater rafting, kayaking, and biking. The old train station once a part of the Jersey Central Railroad that ran up and down the east coast now serves as a visitor center and main platform for the Lehigh Valley Scenic Railways train rides that take both passengers and bikers through the nearby Lehigh Gorge State Park. Bikes can be rented directly across from the train depot. A large parking lot is convenient for the entire town with just five dollars a day parking behind the train depot. The fall foliage is spectacular and again lodging sells out

early so make sure you book way ahead of time.

The town gained notoriety in 1877 when they held executions at the old jail in town. They hung four Molly McGuire members, an alleged secret society of Irish mineworkers, for violent crimes against coal industry. Sixteen others were also executed in nearby towns. You can take a tour of the old jailhouse. Other tours in town include the Asa & Harry Packer Mansions, St. Marks Church, Mauch Chunk Opera House and Mauch Chunk Museum and Cultural Center: all within walking distance.

The town offers events for all seasons. Known as the Switzerland of America, church steeples stand amidst the full green mountains making it a spectacle not soon forgotten.

Get familiar with Jim Thorpe. Go to: [www.JimThorpe.org](http://www.JimThorpe.org) for a detailed guide.

In the next issue we will talk about Asa Packer and all the wonderful things to do in and around Jim Thorpe, PA.



*View of St. Marks Church with mountain range in background.*



*Fabulous Inn at Jim Thorpe on Broadway.*



*Train depot and visitor center.  
The tower is referred to as the Witches Hat.*





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# Millstone Township Staying in the Zone

*By Susan Heckler*

Millstone Township recently introduced some ordinance changes that may be of interest to residents. Ordinances are discussed at scheduled meetings, which can be found on the township website, in addition to the minutes of previous meetings. Below is a brief synopsis. For additional details, call the Zoning Board.

Ordinance 15-04: amends Section 4-9.11 regarding accessory building size restrictions. The ordinance places an allowable size restriction on accessory structures. Larger acreage lots could have a larger structure but the ordinance limits the total square footage of lot coverage for such structures. There is a possibility of additional amendments concerning architectural elements for accessory buildings adjacent to the homes.

Ordinance 15-05 amends Sections 5-11.1 and 5-12.1 regarding permitted principal uses in the HC (highway commercial zone) and HC-1 zones.

Ordinance 15-06 Amends Article 15 regarding signs. The ordinance amends the sign requirements, places restrictions on the size, and dimensions. There are now window sign limits. Where the Planned Commercial Development (PCD) Zone had no sign ordinance, there is one now. The Business Park (BP) Zone and Recreation Camp (RC) Zone also have a sign ordinance.

This Ordinance 15-07 amends Section 4-2.1 regarding nonconforming structures and undersized developed lots. In 2003 when there was a re-zoning, many lots were soon undersized for their respective zones. When residents came to the zoning office, the lot owners found it difficult to comply with 10-acre zoning when they had 2-acre lots. This provides relief to existing undersized developed lots without the necessity of seeking that relief by appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Ordinance 15-08 amends Sections 5-6.2, 5-6A.2, 5-6B.2, 5-7.2 and 5-9.2 regarding permitted accessory uses. Size inconsistencies are cleared up and the ordinances were amended to be consistent with accessory uses in a residential zone such as a tennis court.

Ordinance 15-09 amend footnotes for Section 5-5 regarding projections from a building into yard areas. The ordinance allows for ordinary projections from a principal building including cornices, eaves, gutters, sills, chimneys and ornamental architectural features may project no more than two (2) feet into any required yard area.

Ordinance 15-10 amends Section 6-2.4 regarding gasoline service station signs. The ordinance addresses conditional uses such as gasoline services stations and sets signage requirements including height.





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# PROTECT YOUR HOME

*Count to 13. ... In that short time span at least one home burglary likely occurred in the United States, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.*

*The FBI says burglaries are the most common threat to our homes and are most likely to occur during the summer months.*

Long vacations and family get-togethers that take us away from home are two of the main reasons police report an uptick of summertime stealing.

Here are more burglary-related statistics from the FBI:

- More than 2.5 million home invasions occur every year;
- July and August are the most frequent months for break-ins;
- Only 17 percent of U.S. homes have a security system; and
- 1 out of 3 residential assaults are a result of burglary.

We can all agree that those numbers are alarming. So what will you do about it?

## Know the Enemy

The most common perpetrator of home invasion is a male under the age of 25, reports the FBI. Crooks may choose an unoccupied home with easy access and accessible escape routes. Be watchful of your surroundings and pay attention to any suspicious behavior in your area.

Be sure to report any such incidents to your local authorities, who may be able to increase their patrol frequencies. You can never be too mindful of what may pose a threat to you and your family.



## Weaknesses

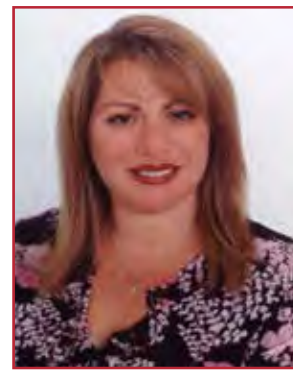
The FBI warns citizens that windows are the most frequent points of entry during the warm weather months. An open window that can be seen from the street may give a criminal an easy target.

Be sure your windows have latches and even secondary locking devices. If sleeping or leaving the house with your windows open, make sure that the opening is not large enough to allow someone to reach through to remove any locks.



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# Benefits of an Escrow Account

By ALEX MASON | Green Shoot Media

*An escrow account helps ensure monthly mortgage and housing expenses get paid and your property is safe from foreclosure.*

The mortgage escrow account was created to give peace of mind to the borrower that all insurance and taxes are accounted for and sent in on time. The result of letting a payment slide can bring serious and unexpected consequences to the borrower, no matter if he or she is a seasoned pro at handling a mortgage or a first-time buyer struggling to understand mortgages.

## Taxes And Insurance

Your money is safe and sound when handled by an escrow company, and you may rest assured that your lender is under strict scrutiny and authority to discourage the misappropriation of funds.

The Real Estate Settlement Procedure Act, or RESPA, was established by the U.S. Department of Urban Development, or HUD, to bring all lending institutions into governmental account when handling and dispersing funds for their clients.

If a homeowner so chooses, the escrow company is responsible to collect sufficient funds from the borrower to cover the cost of property taxes and insurance fees that may or may not be mandatory for the sale of the property.

## Paying Insurance

Natural and man-made disasters often come without warning, and you want to be sure your real estate investment is protected.

In some property zones, flood and fire insurance is mandatory, and the mortgage company may insist that the premiums are paid on condition of the loan.

However, if the property is not located in a designated flood zone, where flood insurance is not required, that does not mean that the home is going to be free and clear of property damage. Broken water heaters, rogue weather conditions and a myriad of other turmoil can strike, causing severe property damage and dangerous mold conditions that could destroy a home.

A wise home buyer should be sure to cover all of the bases with the maximum coverage he can afford.

## Paying Taxes

Having your escrow company take a small monthly stipend throughout the year to pay your property taxes at the designated time is a relief on the financial strain and makes a budget more manageable.

As a borrower, you are not compelled by law to have your money managed, but the system

is ideal to reduce the risk of getting behind in your local taxes, an ordeal that could start the home confiscation process in motion.

Unpaid property taxes can result in the county seizing the property, and the process to regain the home is a long and difficult climb. The distressed taxpayer has only two options: either to pay the lump sum of back taxes due, which could be astronomical, or concede the property to county possession and watch it hit the courthouse steps at auction.

To remedy these serious consequences and keep control over your insurance and taxes, the escrow account policies and procedures offer freedom and flexibility with your budget and ensures everyone is paid is time.

You may, by law, do it yourself, but most borrowers elect to have this sometimes complicated service performed for them by the experts at escrow to boost their confidence that all bills are paid on time. Talk with your escrow professional about the numerous services and advantages to using their system, and the decision should be an an easy one to follow through on their recommendations.

*Alex Mason is a former real estate agent and mortgage broker living in Los Angeles.*





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## MAKE SOME CHECKLISTS

*Buying a home for the first time can be intimidating, but it's much easier if you break it down into small parts.*

**W**hen shopping for a home, make a list of all the features you're looking for. You can mark them off and keep track your favorite parts of all the different houses you see.

And after you make an offer, work with your agent to make a checklist of all the steps you need to take before closing. Not only will it help you stay organized, but it also makes the whole process feel more doable.

### REAL ESTATE GLOSSARY

**PITI** — Principal, interest, taxes and insurance. This refers to the entire house payment, which includes more than just the loan payment.

**EARNEST MONEY** — A deposit made by the home buyer to prove they have serious interest in buying the home.

Pride of ownership

Home feels better when it's actually yours

They're just three words, but they carry a lot of swagger.

"It's my house."

That simple phrase has come to mean so much more as Americans have adopted home ownership as a national dream. It's what we strive for and how we set our goals, giving us a tremendous sense of accomplishment when we're handed the keys to our very own home.

We know it's not just a piece of property. When someone buys a home, it becomes their own personal sanctuary, an oasis where they can let life's troubles melt away. Any home can feel good, but it's a far better feeling when the home actually belongs to you.

### THE PRIDE SHOWS

You can tell when you're driving through a neighborhood with a lot of owner-occupied homes. They're generally kept up better than neighborhoods with more rentals because people take pride in the property they own as opposed to property they're temporarily leasing.

Homeowners do simple repairs as they're needed, not letting unsightly problems go long without being fixed. They keep their property neat and clean because it belongs to them and they have their own personal money at stake. They keep their lawn and landscaping in good shape so their home will leave a positive impression.

That all helps a home's value, but there's also a deeper reason for it. It's the intrinsic value people find in owning their own piece of America.

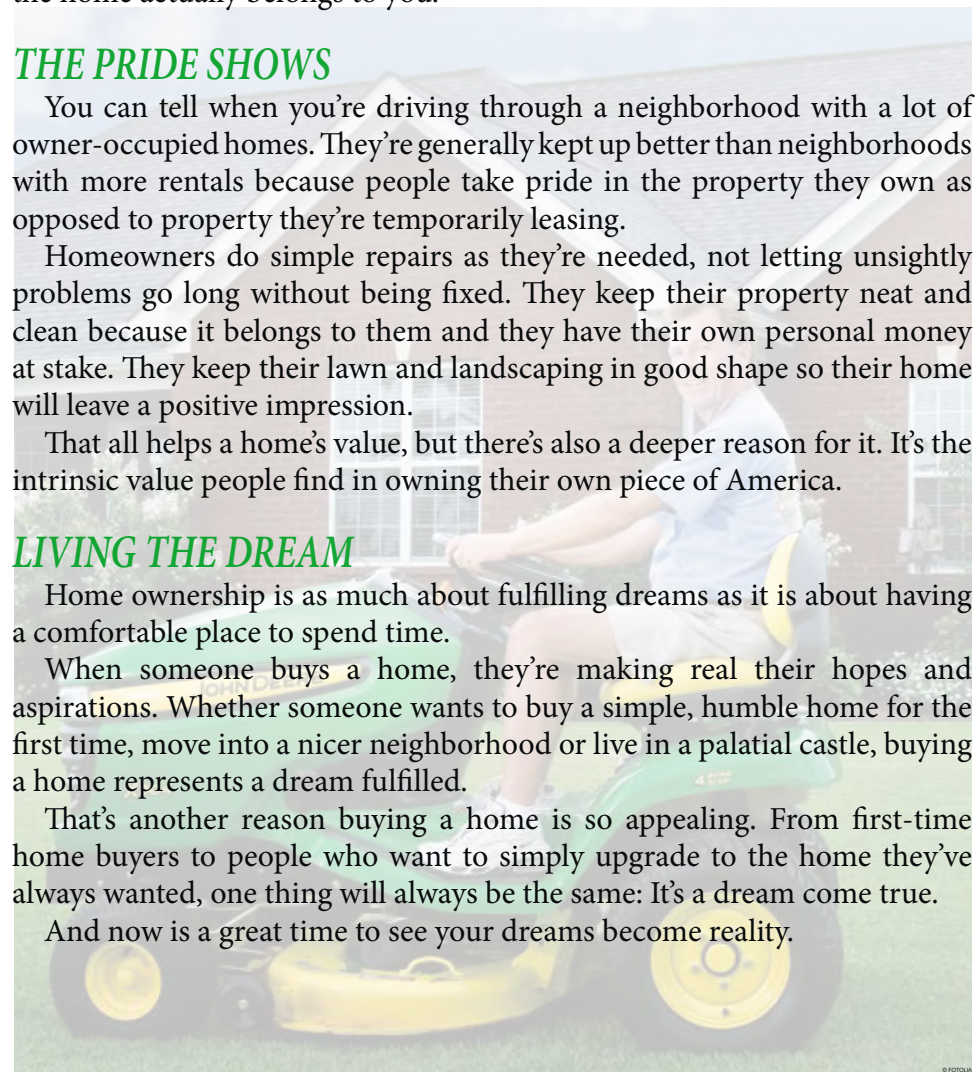
### LIVING THE DREAM

Home ownership is as much about fulfilling dreams as it is about having a comfortable place to spend time.

When someone buys a home, they're making real their hopes and aspirations. Whether someone wants to buy a simple, humble home for the first time, move into a nicer neighborhood or live in a palatial castle, buying a home represents a dream fulfilled.

That's another reason buying a home is so appealing. From first-time home buyers to people who want to simply upgrade to the home they've always wanted, one thing will always be the same: It's a dream come true.

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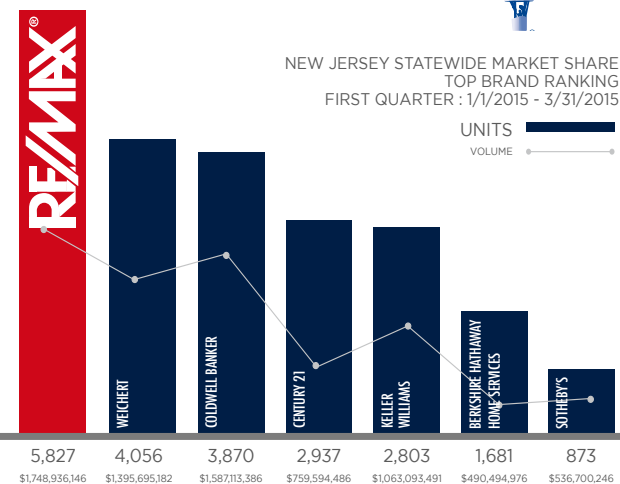
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**Mark Merritt - Sales Associate:**  
Over 30 years of management and real estate buying, selling and investing behind him, Mark knows how to make sure our clients get top notch service and the deal that they deserve in today's market.



**Michael Genovese - Sales Associate:** With over 10 years of sales, marketing and management experience, Michael understands the importance of the details that go into every clients transaction. His vast knowledge of the Central NJ market makes him invaluable to our clients. Michael also served our country in the US Army for 8 years.



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*A good real estate agent makes a big difference with any home purchase, but especially for a first-time homebuyer.*

Look for an agent who is not only well qualified and knowledgeable about the area you want to live in, but also one who is patient and takes the time to really get to know your needs. After all, an important role of an agent — especially for inexperienced buyers — is that of a teacher.

## REAL ESTATE GLOSSARY

**BIWEEKLY MORTGAGE** — A home loan that lets you make payments every two weeks, which can help you pay off your home faster over time.

**SURVEY** — A map or drawing that shows the exact legal dimensions of a property.

**COLLATERAL** — Property used to secure a loan. In the case of a mortgage, the home itself is the collateral.

Slash your tax bill

Buyers can get big tax breaks from Uncle Sam

For years, the federal government has considered it important for Americans to own houses. Home ownership helps families build wealth, gives them a safe and stable place to stay, and creates communities of stakeholders who pull together to meet each other's needs.

Home ownership is so important, in fact, that the government does something exceptional to encourage people to own a house.

It gives a big tax break.

Generally, the interest someone pays on their home loan is deducted on their federal income tax filings. Depending on a person's income and how much they deduct, the savings can be substantial. It's another reason why owning a home is one of the greatest wealth-building tools a person can have.

## TAX DEDUCTIONS

The United States Tax Code uses a lot of big words — it's one of the most complicated parts of our legal system, after all — but the logic behind the mortgage interest deduction is simple: If you're working to pay off a home, the government wants to give you a financial break.

For most people, interest paid on a home mortgage loan is deducted from their income so that they pay taxes as if they earned less money. If someone makes \$50,000 per year, for example, and pay \$5,000 in mortgage interest, they would only pay taxes on \$45,000 of income.

That example may be overly simplified, and you should consult a tax professional to see how it would impact your specific situation. But's safe to say the mortgage interest tax deduction is used by millions of Americans to reduce the amount of money they pay to the IRS. It's a powerful incentive to buy a home and one that first-time homebuyers need to know about.

## TAX FACTS:

- 42 million taxpayers in the United States claimed a deduction for real estate taxes in 2008, deducting a total of \$172 billion.
- The average taxpayer claiming the real estate tax deduction subtracted \$4,090 from taxable income in 2008.
- Therefore the average taxpayer saved \$1,020 in taxes as a result of the real estate tax deduction..
- The total savings from the real estate tax deduction in the United States in 2008 was \$43 billion.

SOURCE: REALTOR.COM



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Their ability to fly makes it harder to catch them, but fortunately you are smarter than a wasp. Your ability to spot a wasp nest from a distance gives you a distinct advantage in the fight for your yard, but you must make sure to approach or treat one carefully.

If you are allergic to wasp stings, it is not worth the risk to treat a nest yourself. Call in your local exterminator to handle the project for you.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers up these tips to protect yourself from wasp stings:

- Wear light-colored, smooth-finished clothing;
- Avoid perfumed soaps, shampoos, and deodorants;
- Do not wear cologne or perfume;
- Wear clean clothing and bathe daily;
- Wear clothing to cover as much of the body as possible;
- Avoid flowering plants when possible;
- Keep work areas clean;
- Remain calm and still if a single stinging insect is flying around; and
- If attacked by several stinging insects, run to get away; and
- Go indoors.

## Using Pesticides

Before deciding to use pesticides for your wasp problem, consider that if any of your pets were to ingest a wasp sprayed with pesticide, it could become poisoned. Some pesticides also can damage your grass or plants.

If you choose to use pesticide, be sure to treat according to the manufacturer's specifications. You may be surprised how little is actually recommended to destroy the nests of flying insects such as wasps.

Also, be sure to find and discard any dead wasps that may have landed in your yard, barn or patio area. This will keep your pets from happening upon a potentially dangerous situation.



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## WEEDING TIPS

*It's hot and muggy and bugs surround you. The last thing you may want to do today is weed the garden. But what about all of the hard work you did to get your plants in the ground?*

**A**re you willing to let invasive weeds take over the space and stunt your plants' growth?

Weeding may not be your favorite activity, but there are steps you can take to make the process more enjoyable, if not a little more friendly on your back.

### IMPORTANCE

Weeds will still win some of their battles against you. The sooner you realize and accept this, the less stressed you will be when it comes to working to eradicate them. One single weed plant can produce thousands of seeds, many of which can survive for multiple years.

That's why it is so important to understand that you can't completely stop weeds; you can only hope to contain their impact on your lawn and garden.

### AVOID HERBICIDES

The easy way to kill weeds is by applying synthetic herbicides. But you should think twice before going this route. These chemical weed killers can be dangerous to people, pets and your grass. According to the National Gardening Association, the best way to control weeds in your yard is to grow a thick, vigorous lawn. This dense grass takes away resources such as sunlight and water that weeds depend on to germinate.

### STAY MOTIVATED

Spending a Saturday on all fours with the afternoon sun beating down on your back may not be the ideal start to your weekend. Space out your weeding efforts. Don't pull weeds every Saturday. Start with every other. Work a little here and there during the week to minimize the amount of time you'll need to devote when Saturday comes around.

This lighter workload will help keep you motivated when the time comes to tackle the weeds. Other ways to stay invested include inviting friends over or enlisting the help of older children in your household. The more hands and laughter the better for monotonous projects such as weeding.



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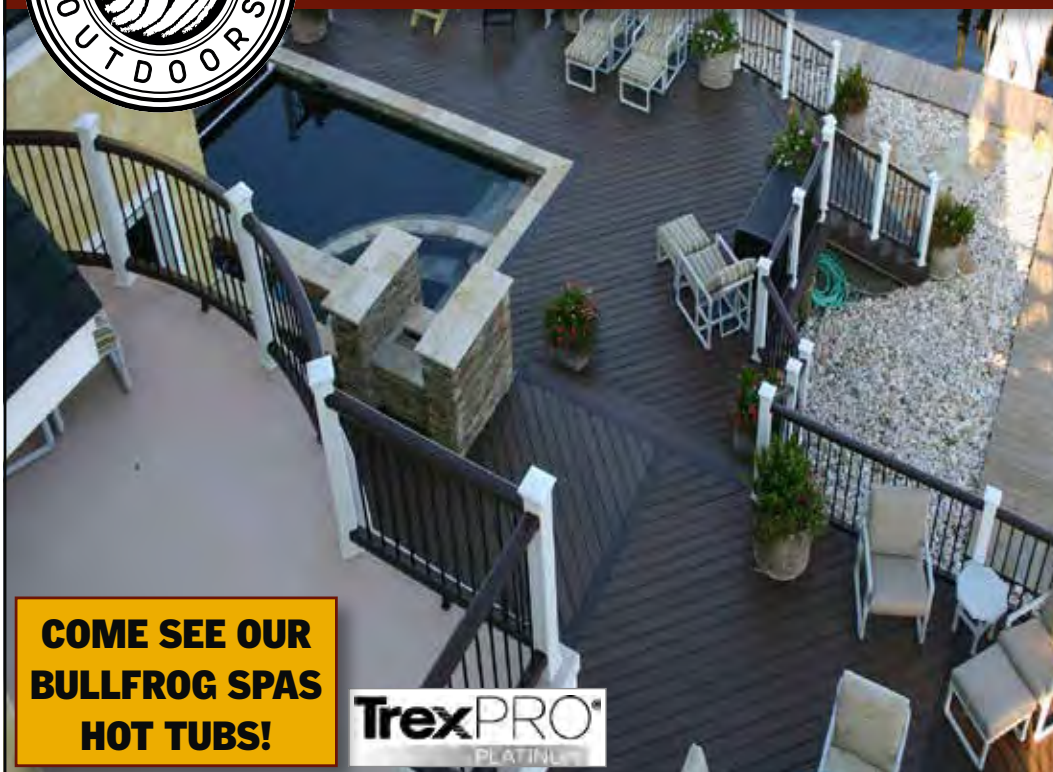


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# PROSPERTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE

## *Part 1*

*By Pam Teel*

**B**uilt in the mid 1800's, the Prospertown Schoolhouse once stood on land between Great Adventure and Hawkins Rd. in New Egypt. The dirt road that led to the schoolhouse still exists. It's marked with warning/keep out signs put there by Great Adventure, who now owns the property. In 1976, the schoolhouse was offered to the Jackson Heritage Preservation Society. It was removed from the Route 537 location and relocated behind the Jackson Township Municipal Building where it sits as a museum and a remembrance of a time gone by. It served the area well as a school from the mid 1860's until 1923, and then served as a community hall and Sunday school for many years afterwards. Religious meetings were also held in the little school in the pinewoods. Other early schoolhouses in the Jackson/ New Egypt area included Cassville, Cranbury, Holmansville, Jackson Mills, Leesville, Midwood, New Prospect, Pleasant Grove, Davisville, Webbville, and Whitesville.

Records indicate a school was in operation from as far back as 1835 in the same area. The school even had their own lunch program because many of the children came from poor homes and often went days without eating very much. They would cook soup or oatmeal on coal stoves during midday and bake some kind of bread to go with it. The Board of Education acquired the schoolhouse in 1858 and eventually built the bigger schoolhouse on the premises. (The school appears under both Jackson and Plumstead Township.) Children from both Monmouth and Ocean County attended the school, some coming from miles away by horse and buggy, and some walking to school. Drivers were contracted to pick students up at certain stop points and take them to school. Train fares were even paid to make sure the students got to the schoolhouse. The conditions were primitive. The teacher usually had to come in early to light the wood stove so there would be heat. Two outhouses had to be dug out, one for the boys and one for the girls.

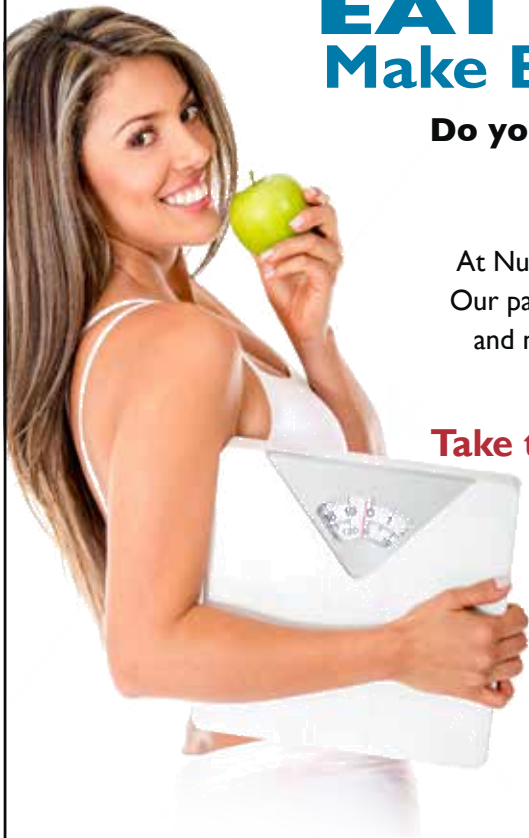
Between 1903 and 1927, there was a lot of legislation being passed to help improve health standards at the schools. Physical Education, proper hygiene, good health habits, and health education were all entered in the curriculum in an effort to help the students fare better in life. By 1927, two nurses were

employed to cover 16 different districts as they traveled from one school to the other. The districts even employed truant officers. Children between ages seven to sixteen were required to attend school. Mrs. Sarah Meirs, from the Prospertown-Creamridge area, was one of the truant officers in the early 1900's. (There are still Meir descendants living in the area.) One way she would get children to come to school was to offer a hot breakfast to the students. The meals would entice them to come to school. At around that time, Prospertown had its own functioning town with many sawmills, a post office, a hotel, one or two general stores, a gristmill, and more. The Horner family had a successful basket making business with baskets made from shaved wood that lasted a lifetime. The business died when baskets could be made by machines for cheaper prices. The name Prospertown was found on an 1814 map. A note saying, "Many of the early settlers were prosperous enough to have mills built," could very well have been how the town got its name. Other noteworthy businesses in the area were an Apple Jack distillery and iron mining. The bogs of the Lahaway were mined for its famous iron. Prospectors walked through the marshy land thrusting long iron rods into the soil looking for large boulders of bog iron ore. They dug the rocks out and smelted them down. The iron was used in the building of the first railroads. Old houses in the area used nails from the melted down iron. The stagecoach from Trenton to Toms River and Atlantic City passed through Prospertown. A main stop was at the Prospertown Hotel where people would eat and drink at the bar and book a room for the night. The prosperity of the area died down when the railroads came. Eventually a railroad line was built across the state, the seashore and the Atlantic coast. One of the railroads ran 25 miles across agricultural country from Hightstown, through New Egypt, and into Pemberton with a junction point going to Philadelphia and the seashore line. Traces of the old railroad line can still be seen in the area. In New Egypt the old track line is now used as a hiking walking trail. In the next issue we will talk about Myrtle Moore, a prominent schoolteacher at the Prospertown School.

Once again, a special thank you to Glen Burns for sharing all of your wonderful research about the area with me!







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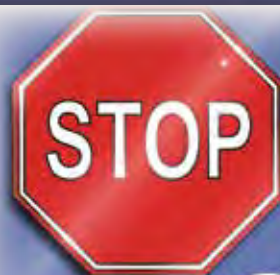
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# KOMEN CENTRAL AND SOUTH JERSEY ANNUAL GALA RAISES OVER \$100K

Lawrenceville, N.J, March 25, 2015 – The Central and South Jersey Affiliate of Susan G. Komen honored two community leaders and raised over \$100,000 at their annual gala, PINK! a night to celebrate on May 14. This year's elegant evening was held at the Hamilton Manor and attended by 200 guests who celebrated in style with music provided by Xtreme Entertainment Group, a spectacular silent auction and delicious food and drinks. Corporate sponsors included Navigant Consulting, TD Bank, AtlantiCare Medical Center and On Target Staffing.



*Nancy Young and David Young, DMD*

The Affiliate was honored to recognize the following individuals:

- Robert A. Herbstman, MD, FACS, Corporate Leadership Award
- Nancy K. Healey, Spirit of Jane Rodney Award

"I had the distinct privilege to present the Spirit of Jane Rodney Individual Leadership Award to my predecessor Nancy Healey who served the Affiliate for over 21 years and left a legacy of leadership passion and success," said Sally Sheperdson, Susan G. Komen Central and South Jersey Executive Director. "We also honored Dr. Robert Herbstman with the Corporate Leadership Award, who is not only a leader in the field of breast reconstruction, he is a highly valued longtime supporter of our Affiliate."

## About the Honorees

Robert A. Herbstman is a plastic surgeon from East Brunswick, New Jersey and has supported the efforts of Komen Central and South Jersey since 2000. Dr. Herbstman has been extremely involved in the Susan G. Komen Central and South Jersey Race for the Cure. He recruits and encourages his fellow employees, friends, family members and patients to



*Celia Moncholi, Event Co-Chair and Susan G. Komen Central and South Jersey board member and Head of Retail Sales Strategy and Effectiveness at TD Bank, Marta Petrocelli and Gina Nisbet*



*Dr. Susan McManus, Dr. Robert Herbstman (recipient of Corporate Leadership Award at PINK! gala), Linda Demski and Scarlett Szymanski from Saint Peter's University Hospital*

fundraise and come out on Race Day year after year. Dr. Herbstman and his team, the Contemporary Plastic Surgeon Race Team, have raised over \$100,000 for the fight against breast cancer.

Nancy K. Healey is the former Executive Director of the Central and South Jersey Affiliate. Nancy herself is a two-time breast cancer survivor and she invested years of energy and dedication into finding a cure with Komen. Over her 20 year career with Komen, Nancy has helped raise millions of dollars that have helped finance thousands of local programs to educate and serve women in 13 counties. Nancy is the first recipient of the Spirit of Jane Rodney Award, an honor given to individuals who exemplify Jane's passion for the Komen mission a world without breast cancer.

Seventy-five percent of the proceeds from the event will fund breast cancer screening and education programs in the Affiliate's 13 county footprint. The remaining 25% supports innovative national research initiatives to find the cures.



*Cami Gunther, owner of Gunther Publications (left) and Maria Tilton of Cruise Planners of Millstone enjoyed the evening*

## About Susan G. Komen

Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. The Central and South Jersey Komen Affiliate serves women in 13 counties of New Jersey from Somerset to Cape May. In 2014 the Affiliate invested \$1 Million in Central and South Jersey providing 8,000 free mammograms to underserved women and reaching 25,000 women with breast cancer education. For more information on how to help locally, visit [www.komencsnj.org](http://www.komencsnj.org) or call (609) 896-1201.



# NOTRE DAME HS ANNOUNCES VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Congratulations to the Notre Dame High School Class of 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Juliette Garcia-Flahaut, of West Windsor, New Jersey, has been named Valedictorian of the Class of 2015. Kiera Harrison of Jackson Township, New Jersey, has been chosen as the 2015 Class Salutatorian.

By achieving the highest Grade Point Average in the senior class, Juliette was named Valedictorian. Academically, she is a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. She has also excelled in many of her honors and advanced placement classes, earning various academic awards throughout her high school career.

In addition to her academics, Juliette has dedicated much of her time to the performing arts and various clubs. She is a member of concert band, jazz band, pit orchestra, and chamber orchestra, and has danced in the Intermediate Dance group since sophomore year. Out of the clubs Juliette participates in, her favorite is Model United Nations. She joined this club her freshman year and was given the opportunity to be an officer her senior year.

Outside of school, Juliette spends a majority of her time ballet dancing and volunteering with various groups. She has been dancing for about ten years, is a member of the professional training program at her studio, and has performed in many recitals. Juliette especially enjoyed dancing in showcases that helped raise money for causes such as finding a cure for breast cancer and helping war veterans. Her most memorable volunteering experience was helping out at HomeFront's Camp Mercer over the summer.

Juliette will attend the University of Notre Dame in the Fall. Her parents are Catherine Flahaut and Luis Garcia-Pinto. Her older sister is Camille Garcia-Flahaut, ND Class of 2013. They attend the Queenship of Mary Church in Plainsboro.

Kiera's successful academic career at Notre Dame is evidenced by her membership in the National Honor Society and in the Latin Honor Society. She has carried a schedule of Honors and AP courses.

Committed to service to the community, she has completed many more hours than the required hours of service during her four years at Notre Dame. A four year member of Model United Nations, she served as officer her senior year. Also, as school leader, Kiera has been a Student Government Representative for three years and has been a Peer Leader. Most notably, Kiera adds with pride that for two years, she was the Notre Dame Open House Leprechaun.

Active in Athletics, Kiera has run Cross Country since Freshman year, serving as Co-captain her senior year. She also has competed in Spring and Winter Track.

Kiera's parents are Maureen and John Harrison, and they attend St. Aloysius Parish. She has received and accepted an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy, with plans to leave June 29, for "Swab Summer."

Notre Dame High School Graduation was held Sunday, June 14, 10 a.m., at Sun National Bank Center, Trenton, New Jersey.



PICTURED: (l to r), Kiera Harrison, ND Salutatorian; Juliette Garcia-Flahaut, ND Valedictorian



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For individuals recovering from injuries or illnesses, our weekly Yoga Therapeutics class, which focuses on each individual's limitations during the session, allows yoga accessibility to everyone.

Never practiced yoga and uncomfortable walking into a group setting without prior instruction? Honor Yoga offers a Beginners Series, which is one hour per week for four weeks for \$65. The next two sessions available in Millstone start on Tuesday, June 30th and Tuesday, August 4th.

For those already practicing, our current special is 30 days for \$30 of unlimited yoga, which is honored at both our Millstone and Manalapan locations. If you'd like to speak personally, please call Judy at 732-851-7800 or email [judy@honoryoga.com](mailto:judy@honoryoga.com).

## Local Resident Receives Pain Relief With a Pair Of New Shoes From The Shoe Buckle in Hightstown, NJ

For those who struggle with problems in their feet, knees, or ankles, and often have to deal with discomfort and pain, the solution could be found by investing in a new pair of shoes. Jolene Conoscenti, a resident of Millstone Township, NJ, suffers from chronic pain in her feet and ankles due to severe scoliosis. She has been struggling to buy shoes that keep her comfortable for many years, unfortunately not finding much relief in most of the shoes she has purchased. Sometimes, the pain is so overwhelming in her feet that she has trouble walking and standing. But, luckily for her and many others who suffer from similar pain, to fix the problem is simple. The right pair of supportive, comfortable shoes can be found from The Shoe Buckle shoe store in Hightstown, NJ. The assistance Jolene receives from the staff at The Shoe Buckle has helped her to relieve her pain and feel more confident that she can walk safely. A professional staff with years of experience creates a great experience for the customer. "The staff will work with you and guide you to find exactly what you need," she says, "the owners and staff will greet you when you walk in and will go out of their way to make sure you are taken care of." They carry great imported brands, such as Arche, Mephisto, Beautifeel, and more, and currently have great promotions going on in store and online. Find your comfort today at The Shoe Buckle!

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# MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS GET CREATIVE

By Susan Heckler

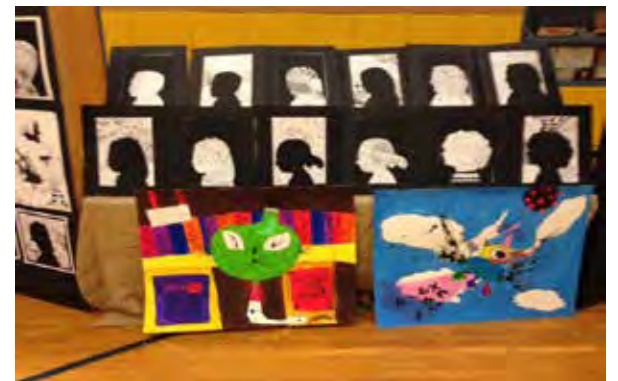
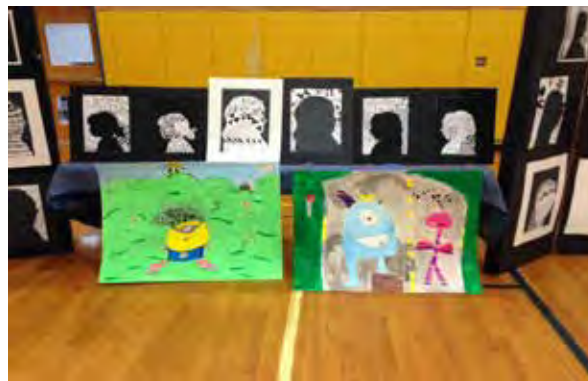
Monroe Township Schools offers a very unique program for its gifted and talented students. Many districts offer these types of programs to their academic achievers, but Monroe has acknowledged their artistically gifted children, Monroe Township Gifted and Talented program for Art- (ART TAG).

The program is open to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students in Monroe Township. The students participating in this program are from Woodland, Brookside, Applegarth and the Middle school. In order to be considered, students must meet various requirements; maintain a high grade point average (98 points or higher) in Art, must score a high

number on the evaluation rubric used by the districts that measures, work habits, creativity, use of media and completion of projects. The program is run for 24 weeks for 1 hour after school. The outstanding instructors for the program are for the Woodland school, Jennifer Hyer- 4th grade, Christina Perrine- 5th Grade, The Applegarth school 4th/5th grade- Colin Temple, the Brookside school- Marie-Lucille Strano - 4th grade, David Virelles - 5th Grade and the Middle school (6th grade) - Maria Naumik, and David Virelles.

The level of creativity and the degree of talent for these youngsters is impressive and inspirational. It is hopeful that with budget cuts for the arts in schools across the country, that a wonderful program like this will be continued and adopted by other schools.

Congratulations to the students and the proud parents as well as their mentors/teachers. I look forward to enjoying next year's creations!






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# Kellan Lutz takes Gunther Publishing's Intern 2014-2015 to Prom

By Brianna Siciliano

On Friday, June 5, actor and model Kellan Lutz escorted me to my senior prom, proving to me that every dream can become a reality if you never give up on them. As a little girl, I was always daydreaming about what my future held. Some days I hoped to become a singer or actress, others a lawyer, veterinarian, or writer. In middle school, my dreams started to become more clear, even though many of them were far-fetched.

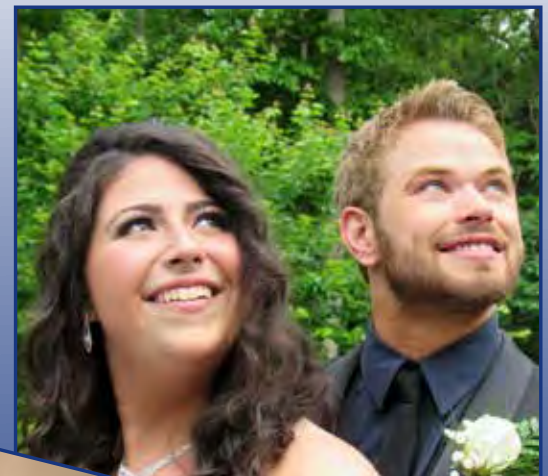
Middle school is a very confusing and challenging time for teens. Kids are struggling to learn who they are as individuals, who their friends are, and what they might want to do with their lives. I personally struggled a lot with finding and keeping friends, and at one point I felt very, very alone. While I was trying to make sense of this confusing time period, Kellan's movies--films like the Twilight films, A Warrior's Heart, Love, Wedding, Marriage, etc-- were being filmed and released. Kellan became my healthy distraction; watching him take on different roles was exciting.

At the end of the day, I knew he would always be the same kind, charitable man who I looked up to and adored.

My grandmother once told me that if you let the universe know what you want, you can make your aspirations and dreams your reality. To let the universe know how badly I wanted to thank Kellan for being my distraction and inspiration, I taped pictures of him on my bedroom wall. Everyday for four years I would look at those pictures and remind myself and the universe of my dream. By my junior year of high school, half of my dream became my reality: I was able to thank Kellan via video chat for being a healthy distraction. That was not enough for me, however. I needed to meet him in person!

Senior year was flying by, and before I knew it, my peers were purchasing prom gowns. The big day was six months away, but it seemed like some of my classmates were already prepared. My friends encouraged me to ask Kellan to be

prom date because of my lack of guy friends, but my fear of being declined was holding me back. Thankfully my friend Nikki took charge and created a six-second video, asking Kellan to escort me to prom. Six months later Kellan showed up at my doorstep, but not before he parked a beautiful black Bentley convertible in my driveway. My senior prom was the best day of my life. I felt and looked beautiful, I danced the night away with my dream date, and I learned that I could make any and every dream become my reality. With dedication and persistence, anything is possible. Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Anything is possible. I will never stop chasing my dreams, and I hope you never stop chasing yours. Dream big; you never know what can happen.





# 10 UNDERRATED ROM-COMS YOU HAVE TO WATCH

By Krusha Vaidya

## 1) *Just Friends* (2005)

Romantic comedies have long been preoccupied with nerdy girls turn hot but this Ryan Reynolds movie flips that idea. Reynolds endured horrible teenage years and went on to have good looks even better charm. Forced back to his hometown after establishing himself as a successful grown-up, Reynolds character decides to reenact revenge on the girl who did him wrong, (Amy Smart) who actually well, didn't. Along the rocky road to love Chris learns some valuable lessons about love, life, and friendships. Anna Faris, Julie Hagerty, Chris Klein, and Chris Marquette all co-star.

## 2) *Along Came Polly* (2004)

In this doofy-dude film, Ben Stiller stars as Reuben Feffer. Feffer's entire life is about avoiding risk, it's even part of his job. That lifestyle doesn't help him much when he's reunited with his wild old classmate Polly Prince (Jennifer Aniston). In this light hearted film, Stiller learns a few lessons on how things like "risk" and "caution" don't matter much and love takes center stage. Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Debra Messing, Alec Baldwin, and Kevin Hart all co-star.

## 3) *Fever Pitch* (2005)

Love is about compromise, but Drew Barrymore's character, Lindsay, is probably more generous with her compromises than we can reasonably expect from most people. When Lindsey falls for Ben (Jimmy Fallon), everything is great at first... But then baseball season starts and her new beau spends more time with his first love: the Boston Red Sox. How do you compromise on whom or what is someone's true love? KaDee Strickland and Jack Kehler also co-star.

## 4) *Just Like Heaven* (2005)

A "girl in a coma" storyline might sound like the kind of thing better suited to soap operas but Oscar-winner Rees Witherspoon and future Oscar nominee Mark Ruffalo star in this generally sweet film about lonely people looking for a connection. Witherspoon plays a workaholic and Ruffalo stars as a pained divorcee. This film teaches the audience about family, love, and happiness. Jon Heder, Donal Logue, Dina Spybey all co-star.

## 5) *Picture Perfect* (1997)

Aniston stars in the film as go getter Kate, a career girl who finds her big job plans derailed because her boss thinks her single status makes Kate somehow unstable. Kate's brilliant idea - to make up a fake fiancé based loosely on a guy she met at a wedding- backfires when she needs introduce him! Kevin Bacon, Jay Mohr, Olympia Dukakis, and Ileana Douglas all co-star.

## 6) *America's Sweethearts* (2001)

This movie is a hilarious and lovable romance between Kiki (Roberts) and Eddie (John Cusack) a world-class star who also happens to be her ex brother-in-law. Catherine Zeta-Jones, Bill Crystal, and Christopher Walken all co-star.

## 7) *Nine Months* (1995)

When Samuel (Hugh Grant) finds his longtime girlfriend, Rebecca (Julianne Moore), is pregnant, a commitment phobic realizes he might have to change his lifestyle for better or much much worse. Robin Williams, Joan Cusack, and Tom Arnold all co-star.

## 8) *Never Been Kissed*

Josie Geller (Drew Barrymore), a baby-faced junior copyright at the Chicago Sun-Times, must pose as a student at her former high school to research contemporary teenage culture. With the help of her brother, Rob (David Arquette), Josie becomes part of the most popular clique in school. But she hits a roadblock when she falls for her dreamy English teacher, Sam Coulson (Michael Vartan). Jessica Alba, James Franco, and Leelee Sobieski all co-star.

## 9) *One Fine Day* (1996)

George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer star in this film as hurried single parents who are tossed together after they both miss sending off the kids on a day-long field trip suddenly making childcare a huge priority on what is an otherwise big work day for both of them. Forced to trade off kids as the hours wide down, the pair zips around Manhattan all while finding their affection and respect for each other building into something more.

## 10) *Friends with Kids*

Adam Scott and Jennifer Westfeldt pair up in this film as the only two friends in a close-knit group who don't have kids yet. They're not even romantically involved, which makes their decision to have a baby together that much bolder. Of course their feelings change as they and their baby grow up, but is it too late for these best friends to admit it was possibly always been there?





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