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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN PRINT SINCE 1822 • ON PAPER & ONLINE • NEW JERSEY'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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NJ Legislature Passes Minimum Wage Hike

Measure Awaits Action By Christie

TRENTON – The Assembly passed a bill championed by Democrats to raise New Jersey’s hourly minimum wage to \$8.50 and require the rate to then be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index by a vote of 44-31-1 on Monday.

With final legislative approval in hand, the bill now goes to the governor, who could sign it, veto it or attempt to modify it through a conditional veto. Gov.

Chris Christie opposes the provision for automatic increases, so some form of veto is likely.

Under this legislation, and based on projected trends in the CPI by nonpartisan legislative staff, the minimum wage would rise to \$9.49 in 2017.

During the Assembly reorganization ceremony in January, Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver

(D-Essex/Passaic) announced that increasing the minimum wage – which is now \$7.25 per hour – would be a Democratic priority this legislative session.

The bill (A-2162) specifically increases New Jersey’s hourly minimum wage rate to \$8.50 on and then requires it be adjusted annually based on any increase in the Consumer Price Index, with the adjustment taking effect on July 1 of each year.

“This is great progress for hard-working New Jersey fami-

lies struggling to make ends meet,” said Oliver.

Deputy Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco (R-Morris/Somerset) said the bill would “have a negative effect on a large segment of wage earners,” suggesting that employers would reduce their workforce. “At a time when a number of small businesses are trying to recover from October’s superstorm, this bill will not help them in that effort,” he said.

If someone making the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per

hour works 40 hours a week, every week, they earn only \$15,080 per year before taxes.

Republicans and other opponents of the minimum wage increase typically characterize minimum wage workers as teens making money to pay for gas or cell phone bills, but New Jersey Policy Perspective points out that 80.1% of those who would receive an immediate raise from the proposed bill are adults and 24.1% have children.

For more local news, visit NJTODAY.NET online.

Dec. 7 Is Pearl Harbor Day

STATE – Dec. 7 marks 71 years since anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii that drew the United States into World War II. More than 2,400 Americans were killed and more than 1,100 were injured in the surprise attack. Four U.S. Navy battleships, as well as several other smaller vessels were sunk.

President Franklin Roosevelt said that Dec. 7, 1941 “is a date which will live in infamy.”



In 1994, Congress designated Dec. 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and the U.S. flag is traditionally flown at half-staff, but it is not a federal holiday.

Grandparents Day At Franklin School



Students at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway recently invited their grandparents to come to their school. The grandparents were able to spend some time with their grandchild in their classroom. Afterwards, they were treated to light reception in the cafeteria. This is an annual event that is organized by the school's librarian, Margaret Cilia. **For more Rahway news, visit Rahway.NJTODAY.net online.** (Photo courtesy of Franklin School)

Starting Off The Holiday Season



Mayor Chris Bollwage and other elected officials participated in a tree lighting ceremony at the Elizabeth Train Station Plaza on Thursday, Nov. 29. The event was one of several tree lighting ceremonies planned in Elizabeth this holiday season. See page 2 for information about more upcoming holiday events in our area. **For more Elizabeth news, visit Elizabeth.NJTODAY.net online** (Photo credit: Paul Hadsall)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Would you like your event listed in the community calendar?

Email a brief description of your event, along with date, time, location, and a phone number people can call for more information to NEWS@NJTODAY.NET. (Please include "Calendar Listing" in the subject.) You may also fax your event information to 1-908-469-1210, Attn. Community Calendar. Event listings must be received by noon on Friday for consideration for next week's issue. Holiday deadlines may vary.



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Press Releases:
Press releases can be emailed to NEWS@NJTODAY.NET or mailed to CMD Media, 1139 East Jersey St., Suite 503, Elizabeth NJ, 07201. They must be received by noon Friday to receive consideration for next week's issue. Holiday deadlines vary.

Letters to the Editor:
Letters can be emailed to NEWS@NJTODAY.NET or mailed to CMD Media, 1139 East Jersey Street, Suite 503, Elizabeth NJ, 07201. Material published in this newspaper does not necessarily reflect the opinions of CMD Media, our employees, or our advertisers. Letters must contain a phone number for verification and may be edited for clarity and space.

Corrections:
We strive for accuracy, but sometimes make mistakes. This newspaper will correct factual errors. To notify us, call 1-908-352-3100 or email NEWS@NJTODAY.NET

Classified Ads:
The deadline for classified ads is Monday by noon, the week of publication. Holiday deadlines may vary. Call 1-732-574-1200 for more information.

Public Notices:
The deadline for legal ads is Tuesday at 10 a.m. the week of publication. Notices that require extensive typing and proofreading need to be submitted in advance to meet the publication deadline stated above. Holiday deadlines may vary. For more information, call 1-908-352-3100.

This newspaper will not be liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error or omission of copy. Notifications must be made in writing within one week of publication. A fee of \$50 will be charged for any returned check.

Weight Loss Surgery Presentation • Dec. 10 from 7-8 p.m. – Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring a seminar, "Is Weight Loss Surgery Right For Me?" at its Old Bridge location in Auxiliary Hall B&C, located on the lower level of the Medical Arts Building, adjacent to RBMC Old Bridge on Ferry Rd. between Rts. 9 & 18. Info: 1-855-846-3463.

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers • Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. – Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold a business meeting at the Children's Room of the Main Library, George Frederick Plaza, Rte. 35, Woodbridge. All widows & widowers

PUBLIC NOTICE

Take Notice, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10A-8 et seq., application has been made to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, to receive title papers authorizing the sale of 1993 Lincoln Continental 1LNLM97646PY676054 on Dec. 22 2012 at 8:00 AM by means of a public/private sale. This described motor vehicle which came into possession of Bargain Auto Service And Collision through abandonment or failure of the owners to claim it may be examined at 140 E. St Georges Ave., Linden NJ 07036. Objections to this sale, if any, should be made immediately in writing to the following address: State of New Jersey, Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Titles Unit, 225 East State Street, P.O. Box 017 Trenton, NJ 08666. 3t...12/7, 12/14, 12/21/12 Fee:\$90.00

welcome. Info: 1-732-381-3255 or 1-908-757-0515.

Small Business Seminar • Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. – A representative of SCORE will present a free seminar on Small Business Opportunities at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Registration required; call John Malar at 1-908-709-7272 or email library@cranfordnj.org.

Pearl Harbor History • Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. – Dr. James Kane will present a program on the attack on Pearl Harbor that drew the United States into World War II at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Free admission. Info: 1-908-709-7272.

Blood Drive • Dec. 14 from 1 – 7 p.m. – Elizabeth PBA #4, One Police Plaza, Elizabeth, will host a blood drive. Info: 1-800-933-2566.

Blood Drive • Dec. 16 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. – St. Mary's Church, 256 Augusta St., South Amboy, will host a blood drive. Info: 1-800-933-2566.

Zumbathon® • Dec. 16 from noon – 3 p.m. – The Carteret Craftsmen Club will sponsor a Zumbathon® at the Theodore Roosevelt Lodge #219, 86 Elm St., Carteret to raise money for local families affected by Hurricane Sandy. Admission is \$17. There will be vendors, prizes & raffles. Info: 1-973-464-4660.



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PUBLIC NOTICES: NJTODAY.NET has been declared an official newspaper for legal purposes. Public notices are published at the rate of \$10 per column-inch. An additional fee is charged for a publisher's affidavit that will be provided unless the customer specifies one is not necessary at the time of ordering the ad. With the exception of municipal budget summaries (for which type sizes are specified by law) and camera-ready material that is properly set to our specifications, we print public notices in 9-point Times Roman with 10-point leading. Each column is two-inches wide. IMPORTANT: Please address all legal advertising to: LEGAL ADVERTISING, CMD Media, 1139 East Jersey St., Suite 503, Elizabeth NJ, 07201. Notices that require extensive typing and proofreading should be submitted in advance to meet all publication deadlines. The publisher reserves the right to not publish any submission. Deadline for legal ads: 10 a.m. Tuesday prior to day of publication. Holiday deadlines may vary. Call 1-908-352-3100 to arrange alternate methods of submission or to confirm that we received your ad.



Edison: The Township Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration will be at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Rd., Edison on Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Info: 1-732-494-3232 x621.

Elizabeth: Join Councilman Carlos Ceden, Mayor Chris Bollwage and Santa for the tree lighting at L Ron Hubbard Park at the intersection of Salem & North Broad St. on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Info: 1-908-353-1231.

On Thursday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m., Councilman William Gallman Jr., Mayor Bollwage and Santa Claus will light the holiday tree at the intersection of Catherine and William streets.

Mayor Bollwage, the City Council and the Office of Youth Services will present the Citywide Winterfest at AMC Theater at The Outlet Collection: Jersey Gardens, 651 Kapkowski Road, on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. – noon. Open to all residents: enjoy a holiday movie, picture with Santa and free gifts for children 12 and under while supplies last. Advance registration required. Info: 1-908-820-4051.

Linden: Santa Claus will visit Linden children ages 10 and younger on the third floor of the Linden Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Free tickets are available at the library's main desk.

Parents may bring a camera to take a photo of their child with Santa.

Perth Amboy: The Proprietary House, 149 Kearny Ave., will hold open house events on Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16 from 1-4 p.m. The free events will offer the opportunity to see the former Royal Governor's home decorated for the holidays. Info: 1-732-826-5527.

Perth Amboy will hold a Celebration of Chanukah in City Hall Council Chambers, 260 High St., on Thursday, Dec. 13 from 6-7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Info: 1-732-826-2600.

The Proprietary House will hold its annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 1-4 p.m. A choir will sing holiday songs. Tickets are \$30. Reservations required; call 1-732-500-2081.

Rahway: On Saturday, Dec. 15, from 8 a.m. – noon, the Rahway High School Bands and Band Booster Association will hold a Pancake Breakfast with Santa in the cafeteria of Rahway High School, 1012 Madison Ave. There will be live holiday music and a chance to take photos with Santa.

Woodbridge: The Barron Arts Center's holiday train show will be open from Dec. 1-28, Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and weekends from 2-4 p.m. It will be closed Christmas Day. Free admission, but donations are welcome. Info: 1-732-634-0413.

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Sheriff’s Officers Seek “Tree Of Hope” Donations For Kids In Need

UNION COUNTY — Every holiday season for 15 years, Union County Sheriff’s Officers have set up their “Tree of Hope” in the courthouse seeking donations of toys and clothing for needy children throughout the county. Each year the response has been overwhelming.

The “Tree of Hope” was first planted in 1997 when officers approached Sheriff Ralph

Froehlich and related troubling stories of children who were going to experience a less than happy holiday season. The children the officers encountered were homeless or living in shelters, were victims of domestic violence or medically fragile. Their parents or guardians did not have the financial ability to provide holiday gifts.

Every year since the Sheriff

(continued on page...5)

Officials Urge Sandy Survivors: Ask Questions About Letters From FEMA

TRENTON – Survivors who received letters from the Federal Emergency Management Agency after contacting FEMA for assistance should ask for help if they have questions, agency officials say.

FEMA sends every applicant a letter explaining the status of their application.

Sometimes a letter from FEMA indicates a status of ineligibility. This may simply mean that more information or documents are needed to better help FEMA process your application.

Eligibility statuses can change when new information is provided. Survivors may need to:

- Provide records that showed the damaged property was the primary residence at the time of the disaster.
- Give their insurance or other documentation to FEMA.
- Provide proof of ownership or residence.
- Return the Small Business Administration disaster loan application.
- Sign all essential documents.

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Homeless Man In Famous Photo Grew Up In South Plainfield

SOUTH PLAINFIELD – You’ve probably seen his photo on Facebook. A tourist snapped the picture of a New York City police officer giving a pair of boots to a shoeless, homeless man in Times Square last month, and that image has been shared among hundreds of thousands of people through the internet.

The homeless man in the photo has been identified as Jeffrey Hillman, 54, a former South Plainfield resident who joined the Army after he graduated from high school. After leaving the Army, he reportedly worked in kitchens in New

Jersey before he became homeless.

According to the New York Daily News, Hillman has had an apartment in the Bronx paid for with a combination of federal Section 8 rent vouchers, Social Security disability and veterans benefits.

Hillman has been seen on the streets barefoot again, and he told a New York Times reporter that his shoes were “hidden” because “they are worth a lot of money.”

According to published reports, Hillman has two adult children, but has had little contact with them.

For more local news, visit NJTODAY.NET online.

BoE Replacement Expected Before Christmas

PERTH AMBOY — The Board of Education is expected to appoint a city resident to replace Kurt Rebovich, Jr. as a school board member when the panel convenes at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20 at the Perth Amboy High School Auditorium.

Rebovich was forced to resign because he accepted a job with the New Jersey School Boards Association, a taxpayer funded organization that created an ethical conflict with his service on the Board of Education.

According to the resolution approved at a special meeting on Monday, Board Secretary Derek Jess received correspondence from Rebovich resigning on Nov. 16, but he failed to notified the other school board members until Nov. 27, causing a delay in the appointment of a replacement.

Sources in the school district say Jess intentionally delayed the process because the current majority of mem-

bers wants to fire Superintendent Janine Caffrey and he hoped to hold out for newly-elected William Ortiz to take office in January.

The board directed Jess to publish advertisements in two newspapers, *El Diario/La Prensa* and the *Home News Tribune*, requesting qualified candidates to file letters of interest along with their credentials.

Rebovich has been among the minority of board members who support Caffrey, an ideology motivated steward who has sought to fire tenured teachers, change policies that insulate school staff from political influences and turn over more public money to private business interests.

School privatization is a highly controversial component of the Republican Party’s agenda that has been embraced by some neo-liberal Democrats. Critics says every child deserves a quality education and Perth Amboy is the benefi-

ciary of \$180 million a year in state funding due to the Supreme Court’s endorsement of that approach in the series of decisions handed down since the original *Abbott v. Burke* ruling in 1985.

At least one observer who believes Jess violated his duty by failing to inform members about the vacancy said the Board Secretary should be fired along with Caffrey.

“The administration of Republican Gov. Chris Christie intervened three times to overturn board votes to fire Caffrey and Derek Jess acted against the public interest by failing to notify elected members of this vacancy on a timely basis,” said James J. Devine, a Democratic strategist who has advised numerous candidates in the city.

“Action is required to remove the taint of politics from Perth Amboy classrooms.”

For more Perth Amboy news, visit PerthAmboy.NJTODAY.net



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DECEMBER EVENTS



One-day Childbirth Education Class

Facilitated by a registered nurse with special training in labor, delivery and childcare. Cost is \$125 per couple.

Saturday, December 8 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Raritan Bay Area YMCA

357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy

Registration required, call 732-324-5300.



Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?

Monday, December 10 - 7 to 8 p.m.

with Dr. Oluseun A. Sowemimo

Wednesday, December 26 - 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

with Dr. Ayotunde Adeyeri

Institute for Weight Loss

3 Hospital Plaza, off of Ferry Rd., Old Bridge

Registration required, call 855.TIME.4.ME.



Maternity Pavilion Tour and Family Health Open House

Information about child car seat safety, guided imagery and body mechanics for use during labor, how to pick a pediatrician and an infant CPR demonstration.

Wednesday, December 12 - 7 p.m.

RBMC Perth Amboy, 530 New Brunswick Ave.

Registration suggested, call 732-324-5300.



Annual Public Meeting

Topics include RBMC’s contribution to the community and the latest developments in its growth and renewal plan.

Wednesday, December 12 - 4 p.m.

RBMC Perth Amboy, 530 New Brunswick Ave.

Registration suggested, call 732-324-5300.



The Holiday Weight Creep: Eating Healthy Through the Season

A registered dietician will discuss how to avoid weight gain.

Thursday, December 13 - 7 to 8 p.m.

RBMC Old Bridge, 3 Hospital Plaza, off of Ferry Rd.

Registration required, call 732.442.3700, ext. 5861.



Visit rbmc.org for information about services and a complete schedule of events.

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Principal Of The Day



Alejandro Vargas, a fifth grade student at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, was recently chosen to be November’s ‘Principal for the Day’. Each month, the school recognizes one student that demonstrates outstanding character traits and academic excellence. Vargas had a busy day checking emails and making rounds throughout the building. He also was treated to lunch by the school’s principal, Arina Robinson. He proudly wore a shirt that read, “Today the Principal - Tomorrow the President.” **For more Rahway news, visit Rahway.NJTODAY.net online.** (Photo courtesy of Franklin Elementary School)

Linden P.A.L. Holds Holiday Book Collection

LINDEN — The Linden Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) is collecting new (or like-new) books to give as holiday presents to the children in their programs. They would like to see every child own a book for the holiday season. If you are able to donate a book for a child, bring it (or them) to the Linden Free Public Library. There is a collection box in the main hall where peo-

ple may drop off donations. The library is located at 31 East Henry Street, just off Wood Avenue, at the junction of the 7-11 Store, and Dunkin’ Donuts. Books will be collected through Wednesday, Dec. 21. For more information, e-mail the Children’s Librarian Karen Gray at kgray@lindenpl.org **For moreLinden news, visit Linden.NJTODAY.net online.**

Linden NJROTC Raises \$1,500 With Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser



NJROTC Regimental Commanding Officer Cadet Milena Drozd and Operations Officer Cadet Kinga Zebracka watch as Linden High School Principal Mrs. Antoinette Modrak signs a \$1,500 check made out to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The check represents the proceeds from a Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser conducted by the NJROTC unit in honor of high school family members and friends who have struggled with cancer. **For more Linden news, visit Linden.NJTODAY.net online.** (Photo by Linden Public Schools)

Middle School Choir Performs At Clark Winter Festival



Students in the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School choir, under the direction of music teacher Flora Alexander, performed at the Clark Winter Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 25. The choir, along with the Arthur L. Johnson Marching Band and Choir, performed several holiday-themed selections for a large audience at the Clark Municipal Building. Pictured above, students in the Carl H. Kumpf choir sing “Hine Ma Tov”, a Hebrew song of celebration, at the Clark Winter Festival. The Carl H. Kumpf Winter Concert, with performances by the choir, band, chorale, and jazz band, will take place on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. at ALJ High School. Admission is free of charge and all are welcome. **For more Clark news, visit Clark.NJTODAY.net online.** (Photo courtesy of Clark Public Schools)

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Sheriff's Officers Seek "Tree Of Hope" Donations For Kids In Need

(continued from page...3)

and the "Tree of Hope" committee have erected a tree in the Union County Courthouse featuring paper ornaments. Volunteers make the ornaments and write a particular gift on each one.

"These caring officers do a tremendous job in helping these children," Froehlich said. "Even during tough economic and personal times, it is important not to forget those kids who are less fortunate."

Monetary donations to help provide additional gifts are also being sought.

Contributions of money (tax-deductible), toys and clothing can be sent to: Union County Sheriff's Officers Tree of Hope, Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, N.J., 07207. For more information, call the "Tree of Hope" hotline at 1-908-629-2158.

For more local news, visit NJTODAY.NET online.

ALJ Presents Fall Athletic Awards

CLARK – The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department presented its 2012 Fall Athletic Awards on Monday, Dec. 3, during a program sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club that was held in the school auditorium.

The coaches of all the fall athletic teams highlighted their seasons as they handed out awards and more than 160 varsity letters to the student athletes. Principal Rick Delmonaco presented Bianca Briscese with the Student Athlete Award, which is given to a student athlete who is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Cross Country – Dan Mooney and Jessica Vaccaro; Field Hockey – Jackie Calo; Football – Anthony Trivisano; Gymnastics – Bianca Briscese; Boys Soccer - Nick Stolarz; Girls Soccer – Samantha Rodrigues; Tennis – Annabella Ross; Volleyball – Erin Roach and Cheerleading – Amanda Ciccone.



The ALJ Athletic Department recognized its top student athletes during the 2012 Fall Athletic Awards on Monday, Dec. 3. (Photo courtesy of Clark Public Schools)

The Supervisor of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education, Gus Kalikas, said, "Once again, our Fall Awards Program was a successful evening as it allows the district, administration, and coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful fall sports season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."

For more Clark news, visit Clark.NJTODAY.net online.



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PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR - HIGHLAND PARK BOROUGH is seeking a part-time Communications Editor. The successful candidate should be able to Write, prepare, and/or review articles to be used in Borough publications and write press releases. Make sure all work follows editorial policies and standards. Experience in updating web-sites is also desired. This position will work closely with the production staff. Salary \$15 - \$20/hour. Interested candidates should mail or email a sample of writing, salary requirements and resume by December 15, 2012 to the Borough Administrator, Borough of Highland Park, 221 So 5th Ave Highland Park, NJ 08904, or email kkovach@hpboro.com ¹²¹⁴

PART- TIME (25-30 HRS PER WEEK) MUNICIPAL ASSISTANT - HIGHLAND PARK BOROUGH is seeking a part-time (25-30 hrs per week) Municipal Assistant. The successful candidate should be detail oriented, have strong organizational skills, a great work ethic and be self-motivated. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office, customer service, accounting and finance office procedures and work well with others. This position reports to the Borough Administrator. Salary \$15 - \$20/hour. Interested candidates should mail or email letter of interest, salary requirements and resume by December 15, 2012 to the Borough Administrator, Borough of Highland Park, 221 So 5th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904 or email kkovach@hpboro.com ¹²¹⁴

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ASSESSING AIDE (PART-TIME) FINANCE DEPARTMENT - NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP. Hourly Range: \$10.00 - \$17.00 Work Week: Monday – Friday Work Week Hours: 20 hrs. (AS ASSIGNED) Responsibilities: Under direction, independently conducts physical inspections of properties and buildings in the field; gathers and compiles information to be of use to the Assessor; does related work as required. Requirements: one (1) year of experience in the field investigations which shall have included gathering of significant data. Appointees will be required to possess a drivers' license valid in the state of New Jersey. Closing Date: December 17, 2012. Contact Information: Township of North Brunswick Attn: Sonia Brown, 710 Hermann Rpad, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. Tel: 732-247-0922 Etx.435. ¹²¹⁴

PART- TIME (25-30 HRS PER WEEK) MUNICIPAL ASSISTANT - HIGHLAND PARK BOROUGH is seeking a part-time (25-30 hrs per week) Municipal Assistant. The successful candidate should be detail oriented, have strong organizational skills, a great work ethic and be self-motivated. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office, customer service, accounting and finance office procedures and work well with others. This position reports to the Borough Administrator. Salary \$15 - \$20/hour. Interested candidates should mail or email letter of interest, salary requirements and resume by December 15, 2012 to the Borough Administrator, Borough of Highland Park, 221 So 5th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904 or email kkovach@hpboro.com ¹²¹⁴



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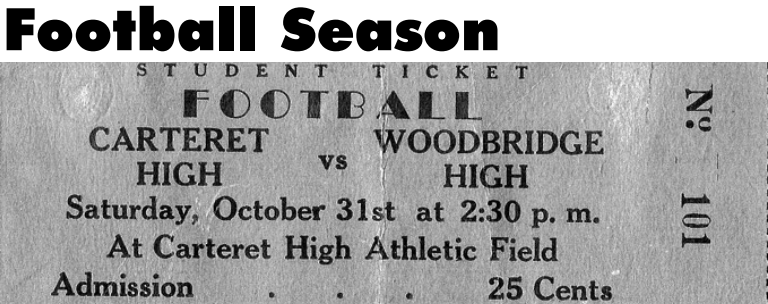
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Remembering
The **PAST**
by Diane Norek Harrison



CARTERET-The October 3, 1931 Carteret High School-Woodbridge High School football game ended with Carteret as the winners with a score of 7-2.

The players for Carteret were: D’Zurilla, Galvanek, Szulimowski, Essig, R. Grutza, Carlisle, Schein, Poll, Kleban, Coughlin and Stutzke. The players for Woodbridge were: Pomeroy, Markatta, Aquilla, Lee Booze, Nelson, Barna, Parsons, Raka and Gerek.



This student ticket from 1931 was given to me for my column.

Gerek had the only touch-down in the game.

Please send your own memories or past material from any sport to me to be used in my column! Have memories or past material from bad storms in the past? Please send for my 2013 columns!

If you have your own memories of the past in Middlesex or Union counties, email me at dianenorekharrison@verizon.net or send copies of your material to me c/o CMD Media, 1139 East Jersey St., Suite 503, Elizabeth NJ 07201

Officials Urge Sandy Survivors: Ask Questions About Letters From FEMA
(continued from page...3)

FEMA cannot duplicate any aid that may have come from other government sources or insurance.

Answers to questions about the letter can be found by:

- Visiting a Disaster Recovery Center. To find a center near you, use the online locator at www.fema.gov/drc. You may also text DRC and a ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) For example, if you lived in Atlantic City, you would text: DRC 08401.
- Calling the FEMA Helpline by phone or 711/VRS at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), TTY 1-800-7585.
- Reviewing the “Help After Disaster” guide mailed to each applicant. The information also is available online in many languages at <http://www.fema.gov/help-after-disaster>

FEMA advises, “Don’t be discouraged: read the letter, ask questions, and ask for help.”

Ten Year-End Tax Moves To Consider

- by Thomas Ploskonka, C.P.A.*
- Hear those holiday bells? Soon they’ll be ringing in the new year. But before the clock strikes 2013, you have opportunities to reduce your 2012 federal income tax bill. Here’s a grab-bag of suggestions.
1. **Plan for the AMT.** The annual exemption may change, but the usual triggers – items that can create alternative minimum tax liability such as certain large deductions – are the same.
 2. **Education incentives.** Pre-paying qualifying expenses for the first semester of 2013 can get you a larger credit or deduction this year.
 3. **Family gifts.** Take advantage of the expiring \$5.12 million lifetime gift exclusion by sharing the wealth – and the tax burden – with lower-bracket family members.
 4. **Deferred plans.** Maximize contributions to retirement plans such as your 401(k) or IRA, and fund other tax-favored accounts, such as health savings accounts.
 5. **Charitable contributions.** Gifts to qualified charities made on your credit card by December 31 qualify for a deduction this year, even though you’ll receive the credit card statement in January.
 6. **Itemized vs. standard deduction.** Shift expenses such as property taxes between years to “bunch” deductions and get the most tax benefit.
 7. **Disaster relief.** Check for a potential refund, and consider amending your 2011 return to claim your loss if you live in a federally declared disaster area.
 8. **Investment cost basis.** Understand your cost basis choices before capturing capital

- gains or losses, especially when selling mutual funds.
9. **Temporary depreciation deductions.** Assets purchased for your business or rental property before year-end may qualify for accelerated depreciation methods that are scheduled to expire on December 31.
 10. **Kiddie tax.** Instead of transferring assets to your children to save for future education expenses, consider contributing to a 529 plan, which can limit exposure to “kiddie” tax on unearned income.
- Contact us to discuss these and other tax-saving and planning ideas suited to your particular situation.
- Thomas Ploskonka operates a total service C.P.A. firm at 1149 Green St., Iselin. For more information, visit www.ploskonka-cpa.com or call 1-732-283-0114.*

Advent & Christmas Worship At Willow Grove Church

SCOTCH PLAINS — In the season of Advent when Christians prepare their hearts and homes for Christmas, Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites the community to worship and to adult classes during the month of December. Sunday morning worship services at 10 a.m. include Christmas carols, a time for children, lighting the Advent wreath, classes for all ages and special music. Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney will be preaching a series of sermons based on the book “God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Childcare is provided for young children. After worship there is a time for refreshments.

On Sunday, Dec. 16, the children and youth of the church will present a modern Christmas

mas pageant at 10 a.m. The story of Jesus’ birth will be told with a modern twist. In addition, the choir will be singing special anthems, including “O Holy Night.” The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Monday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is located in Scotch Plains at 1961 Raritan Road, across the street from the Scotch Plains Southside Firehouse and Southside Soccer Field, and near the corner of South Martine Avenue. All our facilities are handicap-accessible. For more information, visit www.willowgrovechurch.org or call the church at 1-908-232-5678.

For more local news, visit NJTODAY.NET online.

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Museum Offers An Early American Holiday Celebration

RAHWAY—The Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum Association will be hosting their annual Holiday Candlelight Evening, Saturday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the museum building located on the corner of St. Georges and Westfield Avenues in Rahway.

The 215-year-old tavern building, housing the museum, will be decorated for the holidays as it might have been circa 1800. All the rooms will be aglow in candlelight, and live period music will entertain the evening’s guests with 19th century holiday carols. This program is open to the public and all ages are welcome. Directions to the Museum can be found on the website: www.merchantsanddrovers.org.

This year’s celebration will once again feature the holiday music of nationally renowned musician and singer, Linda Russell. She will entertain the audience with ancient carols, interwoven with Yuletide poems, folklore and even recipes.

Alex Shipley, Museum Director noted, “It’s a wonderful evening for families and individuals of all ages, and Linda’s music sets the perfect tone and mood. She always manages to get everyone to sing along and thoroughly enjoy the evening.”

Current day visitors can relax and enjoy the music, the food, the holiday atmosphere and feel as if they had stepped back in time to a Rahway of 200 years ago. Visitors are

also welcome to explore the 13 period-furnished rooms, plus a unique, interactive exhibit on the history of transportation in New Jersey. The Museum Gift Shop will be open for the evening and visitors will find items including the latest edition of the Lloyd Garrison’s Rahway series of Christmas cards.

Admission is \$10 for members and seniors, \$12 for non-members, \$5 for students and children under 5 are free. All tickets can be purchased at the door. The price includes hearty appetizers, beer, wine, cider and soft drinks. For more information, call the Museum at 1-732-381-0441.

For more Rahway news, visit Rahway.NJTODAY.net online.

Sayreville Pet Adoption Center To Close Dec. 31

SAYREVILLE – The Sayreville Pet Adoption Center announced that it will close as of Dec. 31. This year, the adoption center has found homes for 450 pets, and still has 80 dogs and cats awaiting their “forever homes.”

Adoption center officials blamed the effects of Hurricane Sandy, the loss of municipal contracts, and rising costs for the need to close. They thanked supporters for their kindness and generosity, noting that the Saybrook Veterinary Hospital has supported the Sayreville Pet Adoption Center since it opened.

The adoption center will offer “no fee adoptions” during

December. All pets are spayed/neutered, up to date with vaccines, dewormed and all bloodwork done, and are ready for adoption. The adoption center will offer extended hours: Monday through Friday, noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. The adoption center is located next to the Sayreville Police Station, at 1400 Main Street in Sayreville.

For more information on pets available for adoption, visit <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/sayreville.html> or call 1-732-727-3895.

For more local news, visit NJTODAY.NET online.

“Angel Tree” Toy & Gift Drive To Help Needy Children

CARTERET — Mayor Daniel J. Reiman’s Charity Trust Fund will host its annual “Angel Tree” toy and gift drive this holiday season. Through the program, area residents and businesses are able to provide clothing and toys for area children who may be in need by “adopting” a recipient according to gender and age. This year, Reiman has emphasized that the need for donations will be much greater in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

“Our charity has done a lot over the past 10 years to raise funds for children’s programs and scholarships,” Reiman added. “None of our achievements would be possible without the selfless commitment of community and business leaders, who go the extra mile to help ensure that our children recognize and reach their full potential. This year we recognize that our children will likely be in more need than in previous years, and expect a great deal of participation and generosity on the part of the businesses and residents who donate.”

Each year the Angel Tree program enables the Charity Trust Fund to work with Carteret schools to provide new clothing, coats and toys to children from families who are in need. Reiman and the non-profit organization’s volunteers have asked residents and businesses for help to ensure that area children, who in many cases have lost much due to the storm, are able to experience the joy of the holiday season.

The Charity Trust Fund raises tens of thousands of dollars each year in support of educational programs, athletics, medical services, and scholarships. Funding is made possible through the many fundraisers it hosts annually, and the commitment and energy of volunteers and donors who understand the value of this resource to Carteret’s residents.

If you would like to donate toys or clothing in support of the Angel Tree program, contact Taqualla Lowman by Dec. 13 at 1-732-541-3801.

For more Carteret news, visit Carteret.NJTODAY.net online.

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