

OLD BRIDGE

ALL AROUND



**PET
PHOTO
CONTEST!**

See Page 19



VOL 1, NO 1

A Publication for the community of Old Bridge

OCTOBER 2016

ALL AROUND OLD BRIDGE LAUNCHES



Stephen Mamakas, Mayor Henry
and Jim Kroeze inspect print presses

IT is with great pride and honor to launch this inaugural publication of All Around Old Bridge for the Township of Old Bridge, New Jersey.

The publication was born from the idea of providing local coverage specific to our township. All too often publications focus on the bad and sensational headlines, not on the hard work by residents, businesses, teachers, and local officials. After seeing many other towns (much smaller than Old Bridge) with publications, I felt the need for Old Bridge to have its own publication to promote our great township.

The concept for All Around Old Bridge began over two years ago with conversations with Economic Development Director, Stephen Mamakas, and Leaders in the Old Bridge Business Alliance. The business climate and excitement generated by the Alliance re-emphasized to me what a great place Old Bridge is to work, live and invest

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BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD FOR RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER

By Joe Cooney Contributor, All Around Old Bridge



In January a merger between Meridian Health and Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy and Old Bridge was labeled a "home run" kind of deal, according to Raritan Bay's president Michael R. D'Agnes.

Six months later, the merger of Hackensack University Health Network and Meridian took place, which created Hackensack Meridian Health.

"That," D'Agnes exclaimed recently, "was a grand slam!"

"Hackensack and Meridian have a lot of recognition, a lot of accolades and strong brands. This merger will prove to be an unbelievable asset for our patients."

The union brought together two academic medical centers, two children's hospitals and nine community hospitals from Bergen County to Ocean County and gave Raritan Bay "a strong and growing future in Middlesex County," predicted D'Agnes, who has been at the helm of Raritan Bay since 2000.

Continued on page 8



OLD BRIDGE DAY DRAWS THOUSANDS

The Township celebrated its 21st Annual Old Bridge Day with an estimated 5,000 residents attending the event held on September 24 at the Municipal Complex. Early morning fog and clouds rolled away to reveal a blue sky and warm sun to allow residents and visitors to meet with over 150 vendors, ranging from local businesses, restaurants, government agencies, churches and charitable organizations.

The event, organized by the Township of Old Bridge Parks & Recreation Department, included live music, inflatables, games, prizes, food and refreshments, demonstrations, and giveaways.

The event began with the presentation of the United States Flag and National Anthem, followed by various musical selections played by the Old Bridge High School Marching Band. "We have

over 75 members in the band ranging from middle school students to seniors." Said Assistant Director Nick Ahr. Local band, Fit For the Weekend, comprising of Old Bridge High School alumni, continued the entertainment for the rest of the day playing favorite cover songs.

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@ a GLANCE INSIDE

**FLU VACCINE NOW AVAILABLE!
SEE PAGE 2**

**NEW COOKING SHOW ON OBTV
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**MSGR BEHL 50 YEARS IN
MINISTRY
SEE PAGE 19**

**REMEMBERING 9/11
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THE FLU VACCINE IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Every year in New Jersey as we welcome the new school year, we also brace ourselves for the Flu Season. Luckily, Flu Vaccine supplies are now available and they are here to save the season.

Did you know it is estimated that there are up to 49,000 flu-associated deaths annually? This is a pretty staggering statistic.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated. For people who have an increased risk for complications (young children, older adults, pregnant women), the flu vaccine is very highly recommended.

Although 'low risk' people who get the flu usually recover without any complications, we still recommend

that everyone get vaccinated. The flu virus infection can cause up to 2 weeks of misery, including muscle and body aches, fever, runny nose, vomiting, and diarrhea. Getting vaccinated does not guarantee you complete protection against the flu, but if you do contract it, the vaccine will reduce the severity of your symptoms and help you recover quicker. And as we all know, sickness may also lead to loss of productivity, loss of wages, and unexpected medical expenses.

Flu season starts in late fall and ends in early April. It is best to get vaccinated by the end of October to ensure enough time for the vaccine to take effect before exposure to the flu virus. The vaccine last for 6 to 8 months, so a dose in October would cover the entire flu season.



Achilles Alon PharmD RPh

Dr. Achilles Alon is the Director of Specialty Pharmacy and co-owner of ACE-Rx Specialty & Compounding. As the Director of Specialty Pharmacy, he serves as the head pharmacist and operations lead for all specialty pharmacy programs.

A registered pharmacist for 18 years, Achilles spent the initial part of his career working in retail pharmacy. For most of his career, Achilles lead clinical research at Merck, investigating experimental therapies and novel biomarkers across many disease areas, including Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), HIV, Psoriasis, Neuropathic Pain, Cardiovascular, and Respiratory diseases. For instance, Achilles lead clinical studies for Zepatier®, Merck's recently approved combination therapy for HCV. Some of Achilles' research is published in major journals such as Pain, Clinical Journal of Pain, Journal of American College of Cardiology, Journal of Urology, and Clinical Therapeutics.

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HENRY



Photo of Mayor Henry

Dear Residents,

It is my pleasure to present to you the premier issue of All Around Old Bridge. I am sure that you will agree that Old Bridge is one of the most exciting and diverse communities in New Jersey. We are surrounded by beautiful parks and peaceful, scenic views along the Raritan Bay. In this

publication, we will highlight the many positive and successful events that occur in our town each month.

A lot has definitely happened over the last few months. Most recently we welcomed home our Olympian Gold and Silver Medalist, Laurie Hernandez. As Mayor, I could not have been more proud and appreciative of all our res-

idents and local businesses that came out to support a local hero on this great occasion. I watched as children and adults lined the parade route to help celebrate the event with American flags waving and cheers as the motorcade passed by. The patriotism and enthusiasm of the people, both local and out of town, continued as Laurie entered Lombardi Field to a full stadium. It was one of Old Bridge's finest moments.

In an article published this June and written by The Safe Wise Report, Old Bridge Township was recognized and ranked #6, as one of the 30 Safest Cities to Raise a Child. Old Bridge Township runs programs that focus on their students and their families. The Before and After School Program is a non-profit group that provides families with affordable child care, and has been doing so for over 20 years. Working parents who utilize this service can trust that their children are learning, playing and getting homework done in a positive and safe environment.

As the summer season is now winding down, the school year is gearing up. I am looking forward to the fall and the start of the Old Bridge High School football

season. In conjunction with the Old Bridge Board of Education, we will also continue our ice skating school trips to the John Piccolo Ice Arena. Each year, I get a chance to lace up my skates and enjoy skating with the students of all grades and ages. For some students, it is their first time on skates. This year we have installed a synthetic ice surface at the John Piccolo Arena which will permit year-round recreational use of our arena. The new surface will offer training and off-season conditioning by our 11 Junior Knights Youth ice hockey teams, as well as all our summer camps including Camp R.O.B.I.N., our Therapeutic Recreation program.

My administration continues to work hard to bring in new services and programs to make living in Old Bridge safe and fun. This year, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development has secured the services of Uber, through a public private partnership, to get residents home safe from a night out in town.

The Think Old Bridge tax card is another program that was established to give residents some personal tax relief, while supporting all our local businesses in town. Both of these programs will

be explained in more detail in another section of this publication. The Township of Old Bridge is committed to keeping expenses down while giving residents the services they require.

All Township departments will be participating in this publication to keep you abreast of the new projects in town as well as the wonderful, family events that will occur throughout the year. We will also cover many other exciting topics for your reading pleasure; like highlighting our hometown heroes and much more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the development of this publication. Of course, without the support of our local advertisers this paper would not be possible, so I ask you to please keep them in mind while shopping Old Bridge. Please feel free to contact my office at 732-721-5600 ext. 2040, if you need assistance with any township issue.

Sincerely,

Mayor Owen Henry

TOWNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



COUNCIL UPDATE

By Christopher Marion, Business Administrator Township of Old Bridge



Photo of Steve Mamakas is the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office

Steve Mamakas is the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development. Steve's executive career ranges from worldwide operations to the boardroom. He has been successful in working with small businesses and fortune 500 companies, in the financial, private and public sectors, and assisting other municipalities with their economic strategies and tourism.

Steve provides all the right skills to assist local businesses to grow, develop

and compete in today's market. His primary role, coupled with his passion for the community, has been combining his business leadership experience, economic development and marketing talents to make Old Bridge a success. His efforts are taking Old Bridge Township to new heights by incorporating a variety of his business talents and branding techniques. Steve has been the promoter of the Old Bridge Business Alliance, catalyst of the Think Old Bridge Campaign and Uber program, all while attracting new business to the Township.

In a short amount of time, Steve has brought Old Bridge to forefront of business insight, investment, smart growth and strategic development.



1. ANNUAL ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM. The 2016 Annual Road Resurfacing Program began in July. To date, Meco, Inc. has completed milling and resurfacing on Biondi Avenue (W1), Cardinal Court (W2), Daniel Place (W1), Disbrow Road (W1), Falcon Court (W2), Furman Boulevard (W1), Hampton Court (W1), Longview Road (W6), North Street (W6), Ocean Boulevard (W1), Rosewood Drive (W1), Seneca Street (W5), Tuscorora Circle (W5) and Westley Road (W2). The contractor is scheduled to perform milling and resurfacing work on Amara Court (W3), Amherst Court (W3), Cheesquake Road (W3), Karen Court (W3), Rutgers Road (W3) and Temple Road (W3) next week, weather permitting.

2. JCP&L FALL ROUTINE AERIAL INSPECTIONS. On August 25, 2016, the Township received notification from JCP&L that routine aerial inspections of transmission lines would begin on August 27, 2016 and be performed until mid to late September,

weather permitting. A black Hughes MD500 helicopter with a tail registration number N1097J may be seen flying slowly along the lines and may hover at times for closer inspections.

3. ANNUAL CURB REPLACEMENT PROGRAM. Lancha Construction Corporation is scheduled to begin the 2016 Annual Curb Replacement Program on September 12, 2016. The contract completion date is December 10, 2016 which is ninety calendar days from the commencement date.

4. INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY. On September 17, 2016, the Township will be participating in International Coastal Clean-Up Day by hosting beach cleanups at Cliffwood Beach Pirate's Cove and the Laurence Harbor Beachfront between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. For additional information or to register, residents should contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (732) 721-5600 ext. 6107.

5. OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (OBMUA) FALL FLUSHING PROGRAM. The OBMUA has notified customers that the Fall Flushing Program will begin on September 19, 2016 and be in effect for approximately seven weeks. Flushing will be done daily between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. During this time, the water may show a slight and temporary discoloration. For additional information, residents should contact the OBMUA at (732) 566-2534 or visit the OBMUA Website at obmua.com.

6. ANNUAL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. The bid opening for the 2016 Annual Drainage Improvement Program is scheduled for September 21, 2016 at 12:00 PM in the Municipal Administration Building.

THINK OLD BRIDGE

by Economic Development Dept.



Photo of Steve Mamakas is the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office

Mayor Owen Henry and Steve Mamakas the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development have been busy welcoming many new businesses to the Township Old Bridge during this past year. The launching of this publication is an example of how a local business gives back to the town and engages with the community. Mr. David Hernandez, owner of Old Bridge Funeral Home's, commitment is commendable. He has created this innovated hyper local publication that highlights community events, spotlights local businesses and shares human interest stories fo-

cusing on all the positive people and happenings "All Around Old Bridge."

Last month Mayor Henry and Mr. Mamakas celebrated the one year anniversary of the Old Bridge Business Alliance. The event was hosted by Raritan Bay Medical Center at Old Bridge, which is now part of the Hackensack Meridian Health family. The Business Alliance is a free formed networking group that has grown tremendously since its inception in 2015. It is free to join and its members include business owners, developers, professionals and non-profit organizations currently operating or who have a future interest in conducting business in the Township of Old Bridge. The Mayor's Office of Economic Development has created this forum in order to provide a communication platform for businesses to freely share ideas, experiences, resources and information for the purpose of making each organization stronger. By creating a direct link for local businesses to foster new relationships and opportunities, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development has encouraged local economic growth in

the Township of Old Bridge. Business Alliance members open their doors to host monthly meetings and events that contribute to the success of this group.

The concept of the Business Alliance has won the Mayor's Office of Economic Development accolades. Mayor Henry and Mr. Mamakas were honored by NJBIZ, for a Public-Private Partnership Awards on September 21, 2016. They were recognized for their innovated approach to Community Development with the launching of the "THINK OLD BRIDGE" Property Tax Reward Program and UBER "Safe Ride". These programs focus on saving taxpayer's money, promoting continuing local business growth and keeping our community safe. They were introduced to the public at the April 2016 Business Alliance Leadership Forum: "Focused on the Future." that was hosted by The Grand Marquis and was attended by hundreds of businesses. Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno had addressed the Alliance as the Key Note Speaker.

"THINK OLD BRIDGE" Property Tax Reward Program strengthens Old Bridges' economy by offering residents

and non-residents incentives to shop locally at participating businesses. As they shop, a percentage of the bill will be held in their personal "THINK OLD BRIDGE" account, accumulate throughout the year and be automatically credited on their third-quarter property taxes. Renters and non-residents will receive their earnings in a rebate check. Cardholders may easily track their account online through the Property Tax Card website and keep up to date with current participating establishments. The "THINK OLD BRIDGE" Property Tax Reward Program cards were sponsored by Excel Urgent Care, Ace Pharmacy and Amboy Bank. Residents and non-residents who shop in Old Bridge are encouraged to enroll in this program. Pick up your free "Think Old Bridge" card at the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, The Old Bridge Public Library, George Bush Senior Center or one of the following participating businesses: ACE Pharmacy; Amboy Bank; All About Fun; Angelotti's Pizzeria; Bensi of Old Bridge; Pomodoro Pizza; Brainiac Math & English Centers; Buy Rite Liquor; Cardsmart & Gifts; Carlos Gourmet Pizza; Cross Cut KO; Dresses; EXCEL Urgent Care;

Giusseppe's Pizzeria; Golden Bagel ; In Sync 34 Hair & Nails ; Old Bridge Pizza; Pietra Bella ;Tuscany Italian Market; We Fitness and Wonder Subs.

The Uber Program was created in an effort to combat alcohol-related incidents and provide incentives for residents to dine in Town. The Old Bridge Business Community and UBER have partnered together to pilot the "Safe Ride" program, which is a pioneering program. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 9pm and 2am, free UBER rides will be offered from participating locations to a resident's home within Old Bridge Township. The Pilot Program was funded by lifelong resident and local developer, John Parmer of Nanak Construction. He generously donated the funding to kick-off this program.

All of these initiatives are the reason why businesses and residents "THINK OLD BRIDGE". For further information on how to become a member of the Old Bridge Business Alliance visit the Townships website: www.oldbridge.com or call the Mayor's Office of Economic Development 721-721-5600 x7920.



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picture is Dr. Leung with his patient Jackie

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BOOKS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

THE OLD BRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Photo of Nancy Cohen
Library Director

Everyone knows you can find thousands of books in the Library, but are you aware that you can also have your passport processed, learn about 3D printing, search your heritage with Ancestry.com, download free movies, or search for a job using

one of our 25 public computers?

The Old Bridge Public Library is truly a vital component to the community and we look forward to sharing and discussing all of our many resources in this, and future issues of, "All-Around Old Bridge."

With the new school year just underway, we would like to focus now on one of our very valuable resources, Tutor.com.

Tutor.com is the world's largest online tutoring company. It has more than 3,000 expert tutors and has done over 11 million one-to-one tutoring sessions. Help is available for basic elementary school level classes all the way through advanced high school

courses. Studies show that 90 percent of students who use the site get better grades, feel more confident and complete their homework on time. Users normally have to pay a fee to access this valuable resource, but Library card holders can benefit from this for free!

Accessing Tutor.com is simple. Just go to the Library's web site -- www.oldbridgelibrary.org and click on the Tutor.com link. You are then instructed to enter your library card number and will be directed to a wide array of services. Free assistance is available in 40 different areas, including math, science, literature, essay writing and history. Tutors can also help with SAT and ACT preparation. A free phone app can also be downloaded from the site.

Users have 24-hour access to the SkillsCenter Resource Library where they have thousands of worksheets, videos and lessons to work on independently.

If additional assistance is needed, live tutors are available from 4-11pm. Students choose their subject, answer a few questions about the lesson they are working on, and the lesson is quickly underway. Students work on line with their tutor using an easy-to-use interactive whiteboard. They can share files and pictures, and write and draw on the whiteboard. There is also a downloadable app available.

We have gotten great feedback from our patrons who have used Tutor.com. Some comments include: "My tutor

was so good he helped me understand a problem that my teacher could not get me to understand." "A life saver!" "Great job! I really feel more confident in my homework. Thanks." We hope more students will log on and find out what a terrific -- and free -- resource it is. In addition, patrons can view all the Library's many parent resources on our web site, at <http://www.oldbridgelibrary.org/database/>. Best wishes for a great new school year everyone -- and hope to see you at the Library!

Old Bridge Public Library
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www.oldbridgelibrary.org

**HALLOWEEN
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Come spend a great family day with
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Detailed list of events available at www.oldbridge.com

UPCOMING EVENTS: OCTOBER

5TH:
CITIZENSHIP CLASSES 10-WEEKS,
BEGINNING 10/5 WEDNESDAYS AT
10:30AM

6TH:
MAD HATTER TEA PARTY 11AM

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
PROGRAM 6:30-8PM

8TH:
MASTER'S OF SWING GORDON
JAMES TRIO CONCERT 2:30PM

11TH:
WILLS, ESTATES, TRUSTS 1PM

15TH:
WILD NJ – NATURE ADVENTURES
IN
THE GARDEN STATE 2-4PM

25TH:
TWEEN BUBBLE WRAP ART 7PM



28TH:
KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY AND
PARADE 11AM

29TH:
PLAY: TALES OF
EDGAR ALLEN POE: 2PM

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FOR MORE DETAILS AND
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

OLD BRIDGE PARKS & RECREATION IS HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL SPOOKTAKULAR

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH

Old Bridge Parks & Recreation is hosting their annual Spooktakular, on Saturday October 29, 2016 from 11am-2pm at the Old Bridge Municipal Complex. Come to enjoy a day full of free family fun! There will be multiple arts & crafts booths, games, prizes, hayrides with pumpkin picking, science booths and so much more. Whether you

want your face painted like a cat or to get your hands messy with some slime, there are activities for all ages. DJ Billy will be on cranking out that monster mash and keeping the party alive with a day full of group dances. The OBEA & School PTAs will be hosting a trunk or treat to fill all the kids' tummies with

yummy treats. The Old Bridge Library's children section will be hosting a story craft event. New this year we will also be have a presentation by the Mad Science program of "What goes boom in the Day". Wear your costumes and enjoy a day full of so much Halloween fun!!

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Contact:

Jennifer D'Antuono memorialpta@outlook.com

Laurence Harbor, NJ September 12, 2016—National PTA® has recognized Memorial Elementary School and Memorial PTA as a National PTA School of Excellence for their achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. Research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement increases, schools improve and communities grow stronger. Being recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence demonstrates Memorial Elementary School and Memorial PTA's leadership and commitment to supporting student success and continuous school improvement.

"The partnership between Memorial Elementary School and Memorial PTA is a true example of what can be accomplished when schools and families work

together," said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. "Memorial Elementary School and Memorial PTA have put strong practices into place that involve families in the life of the school, and we are pleased to recognize them as a National PTA School of Excellence."

National PTA launched its National PTA School of Excellence program to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety and arts and cultural exploration. As a National PTA School of Excellence, families at Memorial Elementary School feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

To be recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence, PTAs evaluate their current family engagement strategies and submit a goal for school improvement that families, teachers and

administrators have set together. They improve upon their family engagement strategies throughout the year, while focusing on their goal. The National PTA School of Excellence designation is awarded to those schools that have demonstrated improvement in the family-school partnership and significant progress toward their goal.

"Here at Memorial School, not only do we embrace but we also actively solicit engagement of students' families. When schools and families work together to support learning, children tend to succeed- not just in school, but also throughout life" Raymond Payton, Principal

"To be one of only two schools in the state of NJ is an honor and encourages our hard work at Memorial, Elementary School. The PTA, staff, and students believe there is no line where family ends and school begins, we all work together to better the stu-

dents and the community as a whole" Jennifer D'Antuono, PTA President

To celebrate their achievements, National PTA presented Memorial Elementary School and Memorial PTA with a National PTA School of Excellence banner. For more information about the National PTA School of Excellence program, visit PTA.org/Excellence.

About National PTA

National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to

anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth



Kids

PARENTS,



AS PART OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, your child has been learning about smoke alarms. Having smoke alarms in your home is very important. Smoke alarms let you know there is a fire. Working smoke alarms also give you time to get outside and stay outside if there is a fire.

Smoke alarms don't last forever. Every 10 years you need new ones. When they are 10 years old, they don't sense smoke as well. With your child, look at the date on the back of all the smoke alarms in your home. This is also a good time to push the test button on all smoke alarms, and make sure they are working.



Smoke Alarm Challenge

KEEP TRACK OF HOW OLD YOUR SMOKE ALARMS ARE HERE

Take Sparky's Smoke Alarm Challenge. With a grown-up, look at the date on the back of all the smoke alarms in your home. If they are older than 10 years, you need a new one.

This is also a good time to push the test button on all smoke alarms, and make sure they are working.

Smoke alarm	Date on back	How old	Need a new one	Working
living room	2007 Nov. 27	8 years	No	Yes



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MERGER BETWEEN

MERIDIAN HEALTH AND RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER



Photo of Mike D'Agnes, President
Raritan Bay Medical Centers

Continued from page 1

A New York native who served in the Army before joining the world of public accounting in 1972, D'Agnes has a work history with hospitals that spans more than four decades.

The hospitals of Hackensack Meridian Health include: Hackensack University Medical Center in Hackensack; Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune; Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital in Hackensack; K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital in Neptune; Ocean Medical Center in Brick; Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank; HackensackUMC Mountaintop in Montclair; HackensackUMC

Palisades in North Bergen; Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy; Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin; Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel; Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge; and HackensackUMC at Pascack Valley in Westwood.

Raritan Bay – Perth Amboy and Raritan Bay – Old Bridge has 501 licensed beds and share a medical staff of more than 600. The sites provide medical-surgical, maternity, pediatric, diagnostic imaging, laboratory and general and critical care, as well as adult behavioral health, emergency and interventional cardiac and outpatient surgery services.

There are plans aplenty for expansion and increased services at both sites, D'Agnes noted.

"Think about the resources we're bringing to the community now that we're part of Hackensack Meridian – we never could have done that before," he said.

Hackensack Meridian Health Co-CEO John K. Lloyd said in January,

"We are looking at ways we can expand the clinical programs (at Raritan Bay).

"All of these things take capital... (And) when you are part of the (Hackensack) Meridian family, you will get the resources."

It's been a long while coming. Since D'Agnes came to Raritan Bay at the turn of the century, his road to success has often been a bumpy one.

"For people to understand what we went through – it's very complicated – but having gone through what we went through, now we're looking at a lot of positives.

"These are exciting times."

There were moments, D'Agnes recalled, when team members suffered through challenging times.

"But that shows you the kind of employees we have. How decent they were – and are. The mood was, 'Let's keep trying to improve ourselves, grow and control expenses.'"

The goal was to become attrac-

tive to potential buyers, and in 2007 when Raritan Bay was losing cash, D'Agnes said, "we began the process (to seek a purchaser)."

Many deals fell through along the way, and by 2013 into 2014 the ledgers had been stabilized, according to D'Agnes. "We weren't making a lot but we weren't losing a lot. And everyone – doctors and nurses, staff and executive team – were living in uncertainty."

D'Agnes said he then approached Meridian. He had worked with John Lloyd for several years earlier in his career. "We had a history."

In late 2014 and early 2015, Meridian agreed to consider the merger, and after a months-long review by the state Health Department and the Attorney General's Office, the deal was approved.

"One of the first things we're working on is getting all key Meridian doctors in needed specialties credentialed for Old Bridge and Perth Amboy," D'Agnes said.

"We'll now have a thoracic oncologist and gynecological oncologist, a female

breast surgeon, endocrine surgeon and other specialists. Before, we never could have recruited physicians of this caliber. These specialists attract patients we heretofore were losing."

D'Agnes said there is also a renewed emphasis on patient satisfaction, as well as the implementation of techniques and strategies to keep people healthy.

"Hackensack Meridian has really put an effort into training and educating our employees. We're doing everything possible to make sure patients take their medications as prescribed, we manage each case individually, and we'll even go into a patient's home to make sure they are safe."

D'Agnes acknowledges that such changes may take time. Be he does see a future that includes an expanded emergency room and increased services on many levels. Especially at Old Bridge.

"We're dealing with a very promising and exciting future in Old Bridge," he noted. "I'd say that in three years you won't even recognize that campus because of all the great changes."

COULD YOU BE ON YOUR WAY TO TYPE 2 DIABETES?

By: Reema Patel, M.D.

Tom Hanks revealed in 2013 that he had been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. In a recent interview, the 59-year-old actor said that it was possibly a combination of his genetics and lifestyle, including an unhealthy diet, which led to him becoming a diabetic.

It's true that being overweight or obese is a leading risk factor for type 2 diabetes. Obesity can hinder your body from making and using insulin properly, and can also cause high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Years of poor choices in diet, overeating and lack of exercise can creep up on any of us. People with blood glucose levels that are higher than normal but not yet in the diabetic range are said to have "Prediabetes."

Prediabetes can include either impaired fasting glucose (IFG) or impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), depending on which blood sugars are abnormal. Prediabetes usually does not have any symptoms. You may have prediabetes

for several years without noticing anything. In 2012, 29.1 million Americans had diabetes, of which 8.1 million were undiagnosed. 1.4 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year. People with prediabetes are at an increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes and for heart disease and stroke. Diabetes remained the 7th leading cause of death in the United States in 2010.

Fortunately, progression to diabetes among those with prediabetes is not inevitable. Studies have found that moderate weight loss and exercise can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes among adults at high risk of diabetes. This can be accomplished through 30 minutes of physical activity five days a week combined with healthier eating. Signs and symptoms of type 2 diabetes often develop slowly.

Anyone aged 45 years or older should consider getting tested for diabetes. If you are younger than 45, but are overweight or obese, have somebody in the family with diabetes or have polycystic ovarian syndrome and other risk factors,

and experience the above signs, talk to your doctor and consider getting tested.

Reema Patel, M.D., is the medical director of the Joslin Diabetes Center, Affiliate at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family. She is board certified in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism and Internal Medicine. As an affiliate of the center, located in Old Bridge, N.J., provides the latest advances in diabetes treatment, patient education and support services. The center is recognized with the American Diabetes Association Education Recognition Certificate. Dr. Patel also treats conditions such as thyroid diseases including hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, thyroid cancer, osteoporosis, menopause, low testosterone, polycystic ovarian syndrome, hirsutism, pituitary and adrenal disorders and a variety of other hormonal problems. She is fluent in English, Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi and Urdu. To make an appointment, call 732-360-4070.

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Photo of Reema Patel, M.D.



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To learn more, visit **HackensackMeridianHealth.org**.

THE SENIOR SCENE



Photo of Diane Amabile
Manager/ Assistant Director

My name is Diane Amabile. For eleven years now I have been the Manager/ Asst. Director of the Old Bridge Senior Center and I am very proud of what we have to offer to our senior citizens in town as well as our achievements.

Our primary mission is to provide information, referral and social services for senior citizens 60 years of age and older. We strive to create a caring and nurturing environment.

We encourage interests, creativity and artistic expressions. We offer support systems for seniors to lead active and independent lives and we promote the celebration of life through physical and mental well-being.

Well, what does that mean? Simply stated, it means we have fun. We enjoy each other's company, we dance together, we laugh together, we cry together, we exercise together and we make friends.

Our senior center is a Nationally Accredited Senior Center, the 5th in the State of New Jersey and the

1st in Middlesex County. This means, we are recognized as a "center of excellence" in providing innovative programs and services for the seniors in our community. We strive to increase public awareness of the senior center and to promote active participation for our senior population. We listen with respect, we serve with compassion and commitment, and we respond in a timely and professional manner to the current and future needs of the Old Bridge Township senior community.

We provide a variety of social services including State Health Insurance Plan counseling covering all aspects of Medicare, supplemental policies and Part D. Assistance is also provided for (PAAD) Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, Lifeline, Senior Gold programs as well as Home Energy Application assistance.

We also provide transportation services within Old Bridge Township including daily transport to and from the senior center, shopping to supermarkets, medical appointments and special trips.

Our fun includes a variety of arts and crafts, bingo, billiards, cards, choral group, exercise, health screenings, mental

health counseling, trips, socials and parties, just to name a few.

So if you are an Old Bridge senior age 60+ and are interested in joining the fun Monday through Friday, give us a call or visit us on the web at www.old-bridge.com/seniorcenter.

Our monthly schedule of events can be found there as well as other useful information. Hope to see you soon.

Contact info: Old Bridge Plaza
Hours 7:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday
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DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR ESTATE PLAN NOW?

YOU BET! AND HERE ARE REASONS WHY!

Written by: Roger N. Levine, J.D., LL.M. Taxation, CPA

Estate planning is for "now". It probably will never be permanent since the planning reflects accumulations of a person's life. Therefore, as your life changes, so should your Estate Plan. Since we do not enjoy thinking about death and taxes, making an appointment with a qualified Estate Planning attorney will force you to consider what should be done as things change. We never know when this plan will be called into action.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS YOUR ESTATE PLAN NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION. HERE ARE JUST A FEW:

1. Estate tax planning. The Federal Estate Tax Law has been changing over the last few years and it is possible that there will be some changes in the New Jersey Estate Tax Law. These changes should certainly be incorporated into your plan, whether the changes are positive or negative.

2. Protecting young children. In the event both parents are no longer available to care for minor children, who would you want to fill in as guardians. The caretaker need not be the money manager and the best people to care for your children may not be available or capable any longer. These choices may need to be changed periodically.

3. Have you come into money lately? Although the lottery is a longshot, you may have inherited assets from a family member. In such case, there are numerous decisions to be made in addition to the income and Estate Tax ramifications.

4. Where do you live? In our mobile society, many of us find we no longer live in the state where prior Estate Planning was done. Although we live in the United States of America, states do have different rules regarding taxes, medical issues, control of your assets and other concerns that may affect your Estate Plan.

5. Selling your home to your children. Very often you hear about neighbors selling or transferring their home to their children, while they continue to live there. This transfer will have significant effects on your future, not only about how you feel about no longer owning the home that you have lived in for fifty years, but also potential capital gains on the sale, as well as complications if you apply for Medicaid benefits. This transaction should clearly be discussed in full with the Estate Planning attorney before the decision is made.

6. Medicaid for loved ones. You may have a relative you care for who may have qualified for Medicaid or other governmental assistance. Leaving them a bequest will make you feel good, but may disqualify them from the assistance they obviously need.

7. Nuptials. As we live longer and there's no reason to live alone, many of us have married or remarried. This creates the need to consider the original

families as well as the new family upon either party passing. Not only does a Will or a Trust have to take this into consideration, but beneficiary designations for retirement plan assets, annuities, and life insurance must also be coordinated.

8. Anti-nuptials. We are all aware of the extremely large divorce rate for first marriages today. However, there is an even greater divorce rate for second marriages, and an even larger for third marriages. Many of these second and third marriages (and divorces) are based solely on economics, but as they occur, the Estate Plan must be amended.

9. Good news-arrival of grandchildren. This blessed event brings joy into our lives and this joy should be reflected in your Estate Plan. You can consider long-term objectives, such as increasing college tuitions, or more immediate thoughts.

10. Life. Things change, people change, laws change. Sometimes we simply change our minds.

It is virtually certain that you will have additional reasons to review your Estate Plan. Once you have done so and have made any necessary changes, you will feel a great peace of mind. This is a great time to meet with your Estate Planning attorney to be sure that you will be in control of your estate even when you are no longer available.

The information in this article is not intended to and does not offer legal advice, legal recommendations or legal representation on any matter. Hiring an attorney is an important decision, which should not be based on advertising. You need to consult an attorney in person for legal advice regarding your individual situation.

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Radisson Hotel
50 Gibson Place
Wednesday, Oct. 19th
10am – 12noon

MONROE
Crowne Plaza Hotel
390 Forsgate Drive
Thursday, Oct. 20th
2pm – 4pm
7pm – 9pm

PRINCETON
Westin Princeton
201 Village Boulevard
Tuesday, Nov. 15th
10am – 12noon

November

MONROE
Crowne Plaza Hotel
390 Forsgate Drive
Wednesday, Nov. 16th
10am – 12noon

EAST BRUNSWICK
Days Hotel
195 Route 18 South
Thursday Nov. 17th
2pm – 4pm
7pm – 9pm

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*Refreshments will be served at all seminars!

LIVING STONES

A NEW MONTHLY FEATURE BY LLOYD PULLEY
SENIOR PASTOR, CALVARY CHAPEL OLD BRIDGE



Photo of Pastor Lloyd

The Township of Old Bridge, along the banks of the Raritan, was once a prized summer destination. It's true!

The first residents of Old Bridge, the Lenni Lenape Native Americans, came

to Old Bridge from the north each summer to fish and hunt. Over the centuries, countless others, including the British and the Dutch, have been drawn to this area for agricultural, commercial, and recreational pursuits.

A different sort of pursuit prompted my wife Karen and I and our two young children to move from Southern California to Old Bridge in June of 1984. What drew us here wasn't so much a sense of summer adventure or the promise of a better life, but rather these words from the book of Isaiah in the Bible:

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall

be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

We had learned of a small group of Christians in the area who wanted to closely study the Bible, and so in 1984 we began gathering in our apartment in Parkwood Village on Sunday mornings. With our Bibles open and my five feeble chords on the guitar, Calvary Chapel Old Bridge began. Over the next few years and much to our amazement, the study began to grow, moving from Parkwood Village to Cheesequake School, then to what was then the Carl Sandberg Middle School and ultimately to our current location on White Oak Lane.

Today we stand in awe of the community God has created here at Calvary Chapel. A church of nearly 4,000 people, Calvary is home to dozens of effective ministries, including Broken Loaves, our local food bank, and Calvary Christian School, a vibrant pre-K through 12th grade accredited school right here in Old Bridge.

Calvary is also home to The Bridge Christian Radio, which broadcasts some of the finest Bible teachers and Christian programming in the nation on 91.9 FM in Middlesex County and via other frequencies throughout the area. What's more – The Bridge will soon be

broadcasting directly from New York City. Our beloved hometown here in Old Bridge, NJ, is reaching into one of the greatest cities in the entire world!!

All that has happened is rooted in one – and only one – critical component, the Bible. The best-selling book in all of history, the Bible has directed kings, nations, and individuals. Put simply, the Bible changes lives.

Taught faithfully, it reminds us of our purpose. We are created in the image of God, for His glory.

Read daily, it gives us a roadmap for joyful living. Reading the Bible isn't drudgery or some mundane religious activity. It gives us hope!

Over more than 30 years, I have witnessed tens of thousands of people come through the doors of Calvary Chapel and leave changed, because God's Word, as it says, is living and powerful.

That's why Calvary Chapel in Old Bridge stands on the Bible, and why teaching the Word is the focal point of each service, of our radio station, and each ministry work.

You may be surprised to learn that I wasn't always of this opinion when

it comes to the Bible and Christianity. For years, I believed that church was an irrelevant relic, a dead place where devout people gathered to act holy. But I came to learn that quite the opposite is true. God's Word turns anyone, even those gathering in a converted warehouse on White Oak Lane, into a living, breathing community.

In fact, the Bible describes the church as place built by "living stones," people who do much more than gather on Sundays to be religious. As a church community, we turn to the Bible for direction, as my wife Karen and I did all those years ago. As a church, we are empowered to do the impossible, even to obey the immortal words of Jesus to "love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us."

People are the church. People are these living stones, studying God's living and powerful Word and serving a living and powerful God, right here in Old Bridge.

Pastor Lloyd Pulley, Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Old Bridge, 123 White Oak Ln, Old Bridge, NJ. Phone 732-679-9222 email: info@ccob.org



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IN MEMORIAM

ADELE J. ROZYCKIE

Adele J. Rozyckie, 90, of Old Bridge went home to be with the Lord on September 3rd at Golden Living Care Center in Old Bridge. Born in Shamokin, PA to the late Andrew and Agnes Karasewich, she moved to Old Bridge with her husband Jay to raise their family. She was a homemaker and resident of Old Bridge for over 62 years. She was active in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in the choir and altar rosary society for over 40 years. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 66 years Walter "Jay" Rozyckie, Old Bridge, her children Carol Rozyckie of Old Bridge, Barry

Rozyckie of Old Bridge, Shirlee McGimpsey and husband Charles, of Old Bridge, her three loving grandchildren Matthew, Michael and Andrew, her sisters, Theresa and Rosemary Krushinski and their spouses, as well as a sister in law Dot Klimowicz.

Family and friends celebrated her life with a funeral mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Old Bridge. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Adele's name to St. Thomas School Endowment Fund, 333 Rt 18, Old Bridge NJ 08857. Online condolences may be sent to the family via, www.oldbridgefh.com

Arrangements under the care of Old Bridge Funeral Home

CONSTANCE "CONNIE" SCHEICHER

Constance "Connie" Scheicher, 63 of Old Bridge and formerly of Spotswood, passed away in the early hours of Tuesday September 6th, while surrounded by her loving family. A fighter to the very end, Connie endured a courageous battle against ovarian cancer. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Connie was born in New Brunswick, NJ to her late parents, Eugene and Joan (Oliver) Scheicher and was a graduate of South River High School. Connie was a woman of many passions. Whether she was in the garden planting and giving new life to flowers and vegetables, hanging with her close group of friends at the Birchwood Community, relaxing with her family, especially her beloved grandchildren, cooking up a delicious meal in the kitchen, expertly fishing and crabbing while on a camping trip, or simply just kicking back on the beach, you could be assured that whatever Connie was doing, she put her heart and soul into it. When Connie wasn't enjoying one of her many hobbies, she was driving buses for handicapped children. You see, that's the kind of woman Connie Scheicher will be remembered as: a courageous, kind spirited woman whom was well loved by everyone; a sweet woman with a heart and a

personality bigger than life. A true testament to her family first attitude, Connie always said that her favorite memories were of Thanksgiving dinners with the whole family gathered around the table. Connie may be gone, but the indelible mark she left on all those she came into contact with will make sure her memory and spirit live forever through those she loved so much.

Connie is predeceased by her adoring son, Craig Scheicher. She is survived by her two sisters, Debbie Newman and Gail Florek; her brother, Gene Scheicher and his wife Diane; her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Camp; her two grandsons, Dominick and Jaxon; and many (great) nieces and nephews. Friends and family gathered at the Old Bridge Funeral Home for a celebration of Connie's Life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations

be made in Connie's name to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, by visiting www.stjude.org/donate

Arrangements under the care of Old Bridge Funeral Home.

To submit Obituaries
email
Editor@AllaroundOB.com

PATRICIA LABEL LANG

Patricia Lebel Lang, 67, of Laurence Harbor, NJ, passed away on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at home. She was born in Hyannis, Massachusetts and had resided in Summit, NJ before moving to Laurence Harbor in 2001. She earned a Bachelors Degree in Nursing and aside from being a Registered Nurse she was currently working as a Case Manager for Bayonne Medical Center. Patricia had a care for others and when the World Trade Center was attacked she was a first responder to care for those who were injured. She was an avid gardener and enjoyed sewing and knitting. Her memory will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of those who knew her.

She leaves behind a son and daughter-in-law Matthew and Ashley Lang, two

daughters, Annie Lang and Kim Stewart, two brothers and a sister-in-law Greg Lebel, and Steve and Jane Lebel, a sister Taf Schaeffer, and four grandchildren, Preston, Addison, Dillon and Nevada. Relatives and friends held a memorial gathering Waitt Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 501 Highway 79, Morganville, NJ. In lieu of flowers the family request donations to Www.theanswertocancer.org/donate-to-cancer-immunotherapy which was the treatment Patricia started but never got to finish. To share stories, photos or to send an online condolence, please visit www.waittfh.com.

Arrangements under the care of Waitt Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Morganville

DANIEL (DUNDE) C. BELLI


Daniel (Dunde) C. Belli passed away September 3rd, 2016 in Old Bridge, NJ. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Dan and his wife moved to NJ 4 years ago to be closer to family. He was the devoted husband of 59 years to his loving wife Joy who predeceased him in 2014; loving father to three children Dan (Anita), Susan, and Joya (Joe) and several nieces and nephews. Dan had 3 grandchildren, Evan, Taylor and Marta and 3 step grandchildren, Joe, Chad and Gregg. Dan also had 4 great grandchildren, Isabella, Calavia, Evonne and Keira with a fifth grandchild on the way. Dan graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania after serving as a Corporal in the US Army. He was a respected schoolteacher in Allegheny County prior to being a Vice President at Easley and Rivers. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation. Dan enjoyed playing golf

and poker with friends and family as well as doing crossword puzzles.

Dan will be remembered as loyal, kind and generous to all he met. His laugh, sense of humor and stories will be missed.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Most Holy Redeemer Church, Matawan, N.J., followed by burial in Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Montclair, N.J. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the Double H Ranch at 97 Hidden Valley Road, Lake Luzerne NY 12846, please include in memory of Dan Belli. For more information or to leave an online condolence message to the family, please visit our website www.oldbridgefh.com

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**To reach a family service counselor, please call (1-888-Peace-Of-Mind) or (732) 970-9000.
Marlboro Memorial Cemetery is located at 361 Highway 79 in Morganville New Jersey.
Visit us online at www.marlbormemorial.com**

*It's Not Just What Your
Legacy Will Be. It's Where.*



OLD BRIDGE DAY

By David L. Hernandez Jr.

Continued from page 1

Many businesses supported the event by exhibiting their products and services. One of the vendors, Route 516 Animal Hospital, provided information about their services and doctors, "It's a great way to network with the community" replied Nancy Cohen, Hospital Manager, when asked about Old Bridge Day, she continued, "We've been a part of the community for over 23 years, it's good exposure." Similar businesses echoed that sentiment, Nicole Allegro, Owner and Operator of Nikki Snips Hair Salon located on 343 Route 34, Matawan, replied, "I love to connect with my clients outside of the salon, and also meet new people". One of the benefits to being a vendor is to introduce yourself to the community. New business owner, Brooke Warley, a life long resident of Old Bridge, and owner of Old Bridge Candle showcased her assortment of hand crafted soy wax candles. "It's a good place to sell and network with other vendors", she said.

It wasn't only businesses getting in on the action, but many local charities and churches. Cheer Dream Scoliosis Foundation, a local not-for-profit charity was on hand informing visitors of their worthy cause. "The foundation was started for my daughter," Said Lucia Millan, President of the Foundation. "We raise funds to help

support children with recovery after Spinal Fusion Surgery by providing support, encouragement, care packages and scholarships". Standing with her greeting hundreds of people was a number of volunteers and cheerleaders all passionate about their cause.

On the other side of the Municipal Complex was Calvary Chapel Old Bridge (CCOB), with what seemed to be scores of volunteers. They provided bounce houses, games, crafts, and a display of vintage and new Harley Davidsons. One particular booth, allowed children to write and decorate thank you cards to our men and women serving overseas. "It's important to show that our church and school support the community" said Jim Dunne, Principal of Calvary Christian School.

The Township also joined in with a number of departments and agencies taking part in the day. The Old Bridge MUA showcased various vehicles, equipment and information for residents. Old Bridge Fire districts were also there promoting Fire Safety Month beginning in October and handing out brochure and bracelets. One of the busiest tables was the Economic Development table, enrolling residents in the Think Old Bridge property tax rebate and UBER Safe Ride program. "I had no idea that I could save money on my taxes," said Mary Jacobsen a long time resident who enrolled.

Food trucks, water ice vendors, local restaurants stepped up to create the "food court" for Old Bridge Day.

The 21st Old Bridge Day was a huge success. Not just because of the weather and the thousands of people but because Old Bridge Day is more than just vendors, food and music. It's about an old fashioned sense of community, enabling people to engage and interact in meaningful ways.



Photos by David L. Hernandez Jr.



OLD BRIDGE AND WAITT FUNERAL HOMES RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING, OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Old Bridge Funeral Home (Old Bridge) and Waitt Funeral Home & Cremation Service (Morganville) have been honored by the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) with the 2016 Pursuit of Excellence Award. Just over 160 firms from around 22,000 in the world received this prestigious recognition, placing Old Bridge and Waitt Funeral Homes among an elite group of funeral service providers. Pursuit of Excellence Award recipients raise the bar on funeral service excellence by adhering to the highest ethical and professional standards and providing unsurpassed service to families and communities.

To earn an NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Award, a participating funeral home must meet or exceed business standards set forth by the program and demonstrate proficiency in key areas of funeral service, such as compliance with state and federal regulations; providing

ongoing education and professional development opportunities for staff; offering outstanding programs and resources to bereaved families; maintaining an active level of involvement within the community; participating and actively serving in the funeral service profession; and promoting funeral home services through a variety of marketing, advertising and public relations programs. Participants are also required to adhere to a Pledge of Ethical Practices.

Old Bridge and Waitt were honored for conducting a special trip to wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery. "It was an honor to represent our firms and New Jersey," said Ronald Principie Jr, Funeral Director.

"Old Bridge and Waitt Funeral Home's voluntary participation in the Pursuit of Excellence Award program



reflects a clear determination to exceed the expectations of those they serve," said NFDA Chief Executive Officer Christine Pepper, CAE. "This prestigious recognition assures families of the high-quality, compassionate service they will receive the moment they walk through the funeral home's front door."

"This award is special because it evaluates our funeral homes and directors on so many different levels,

and to be recognized for this hard work, provides motivation to continue", replied David L. Hernandez, Jr., Owner and Director of Old Bridge and Waitt Funeral Homes. "This award is dedicated to the families that have placed their loved ones in our care."

More information about the NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Award program can be found on the association's website, www.nfda.org/pursuitofexcellence.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving 19,700 individual members who represent more than 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and 39 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.nfda.org.

WORLDFEST

The Old Bridge Cultural Arts Committee in partnership with the Old Bridge Public Schools are proud to present WORLDFEST. The three day street festival is October 14th - October 16th at the Old Bridge High School Parking Lot, 4209 Route 516, Matawan, New Jersey. Rain or shine, parking and admission are free!

Opening night, Friday evening, October 14th, the rides and carnival games will open at 5pm. Come help raise breast cancer awareness by wearing something pink and receive a discount off your admission for the rides. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to OBHS Annual Pink Out. Rides close at 10pm.

Saturday, October 15th; join us at 10am for the opening ceremonies of WORLDFEST. In addition to the rides and games, WORLDFEST is a community celebration of all the wonder-

ful traditions from around the world. A variety of food vendors, merchants, organizations, performers, artists, crafters and many of the children from our community will be highlighted throughout the day. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about and share the different customs through song, dance, reenactments and presentations. In addition, one of our featured contests will be Voci del Mondo (the Voice of the World). The singing contest is for teens and adults. The audience will vote via text for the two winners. There will be a winner from each age category. Winners will be announced on Sunday during the closing ceremonies.

Sunday, October 16th, the hours are 12:00pm - 6:00pm. Come see a live taping of the new community television cooking show. The show is presented by Mayor Owen Henry's Wellness program in conjunction

with Raritan Bay Medical Center. The goal is to bring community awareness to healthy living. This segment will feature Chef Eric Levin. He is a restaurateur, cookbook author and Multi-Award winning Chef and Food Network "Chopped" Champion. Chef Eric is the owner of Paragon Tap and Table in Clark, NJ. He will be available to sign autographs after the taping.

As you enter the fair, please be sure to take a schedule listing the times of events and performances that will lead you through the many cultures of the world. The proceeds from this event will benefit the students of the Old Bridge Public Schools.

By Rosemarie Rivoli

Flower Cart Florist

of OLD BRIDGE

Supports October
as Breast Cancer
Awareness Month



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to put on your
mailbox or tree



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The Old Bridge Cultural Arts Committee
in partnership with the
Old Bridge Township Public Schools
presents



THIS IS A RAIN or SHINE EVENT!

Old Bridge High School Parking Lot
4209 Route 516 • Matawan, New Jersey

★ **FREE ADMISSION** ★

DATES!

Friday

October 14th RIDES &
GAMES only
5:00 p.m. to
10:00 p.m.

Saturday

October 15th
10:00 a.m. to
10:00 p.m.

Sunday

October 16, 2016
12:00 a.m. to
6:00 p.m.

Bring the entire family for fun-filled day!
**FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, CRAFTS, SPECIALTY ITEMS
& RIDES!**



Visit www.oldbridge.com for Schedule of Events
Questions? Email: Cultural_Arts@oldbridge.com

ALL AROUND OLD BRIDGE LAUNCHES

By David L. Hernandez, Jr., Publisher, AAOB



Mayor Henry, Steve Mamakas plus Jim Kroeze inspect paper rolls,
Photos by David L Hernandez Jr.

Continued from page 1

in. My goal was to create a publication that covered local events, provided township information to residents, and a conduit to highlight our businesses and to provide information on their products and services at no cost to our

residents and tax payers. All Around Old Bridge is a privately funded publication written here in town by residents, students, officials and business leaders.

One key feature is to highlight various departments within Old Bridge Township and to introduce you to the officials and leaders running the town. Each month will feature columns from the Mayor's Office, Economic Development's Think Old Bridge, Old Bridge



Jim Kroeze, Steve Mamakas, Mayor Henry and David Hernandez Jr.,
Stand in AAOB Distribution

Library, Senior Center, Parks and Recreation, local high school writers, sports, as well as local contributors.

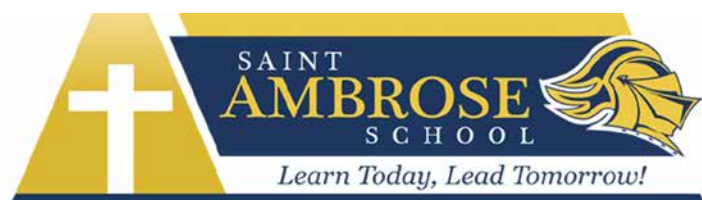
Strong community engagement allows residents to participate in the decisions made by local government and stay informed about upcoming projects and policies. Reaching the most residents possible is always challenging and communities are constantly experimenting with new methods to reach residents. This publication will be delivered every month to your home or business, and will also include many calendars, events and business coupons for savings directly for Township residents.

I am extremely proud to be a part of this exciting new endeavor and am confident that it will become a highly respected and trusted resource of res-

idents and businesses in our township. We trust that the information presented in this publication will serve to highlight our town and its people.



David L. Hernandez, Jr.,
Publisher, AAOB



You're Invited!

TOURING TUESDAYS

Experience the nurturing environment and academic excellence at St. Ambrose

Please join us for refreshments
any Tuesday from 9:30 am until 11:30 am

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Talk to Teachers



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(732) 679-4700 www.stambroseschool.net

NEW COOKING SHOW COMING TO OBTV



Production meeting at Raritan Bay's Studio Kitchen

A new cooking show, Healthy Kitchen will be coming to your television sets on OBTv.

Cooking healthy food doesn't have to be a hassle, it can be quick, easy, but most of all, delicious. With local nutritionists of the Raritan Bay Medical Center as well as local chefs from Old Bridge and the surrounding area, to-

gether they have created fast, simple and healthy recipes for everyday life. Together, they will show you how easy it can be to stay on a healthy track, no matter how busy and stressful your life is. The hosts also have strategies for eating well in the most challenging situations: at the office, at restaurants, or even on vacation. Healthy Kitchen will show you easy ways to eat better, live healthier, have more energy and feel great!

Healthy Kitchen is filmed in the active demonstration kitchens of the Joselin Diabetes Clinic located on the new campus of Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge.

Here you can see some of the behind the scenes footage from the first. The first chef experts are Sammy Demiri,

Owner and Benito Linares, Chef, from Café Luna located in Old Bridge.

By David L. Hernandez Jr, AAOB



Chef Benito Linares



Chef Linares and Sammy Demiri
in front of the camera

HARBOR LIGHTS BALL

Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation's 32nd Annual Harbor Lights Ball, held on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ attracted nearly 300 guests and raised over \$175,000. The event, chaired by Dr. George and Jessica Smith, supported Raritan Bay Medical Center's Integrative Health Program while honoring special members of the community who have been valued partners of the hospital.

Constance and James J. Elek, Foundation Trustee, received the Norman Tanzman Award. Joseph H. Davi, president and CEO, Med-Metrix, was presented with the Executive of the Year Award. Verasoni Worldwide was the recipient of the Business of the Year Award.

At Raritan Bay, Integrative Health treats the whole person, not just the disease, and gives patients more opportunities to participate in their care, enriching their health and well-being.

State-of-the-art health care has been re-defined by combining the latest medical advances with complementary therapies. This approach to health care is rapidly becoming the new standard, introducing broader possibilities for healing and nurturing the body, mind and spirit. In 2015 alone, the Integrative Health Program provided over 2,200 inpatient visits at no charge for treatments such as guided imagery, music therapy, Reiki, Qigong and Tai Chi.

By David L. Hernandez Jr., AAOB



Photos by Bill Denver



50 YEARS IN MINISTRY

MSGR. RICHARD A. BEHL



Photo of Msgr. Richard A. Behl

When Msgr. Richard A. Behl is greeted by former parishioners, they frequently thank him for building community in the half-dozen parishes where he ministered prior to becoming pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Old Bridge.

Msgr. Behl was the only child of the later Harold and Mae Lillian Behl. He attended St. Joseph's School in Bound Brook and St. Peter's High School in New Brunswick.

"I was blessed with a great Catholic education," Msgr. Behl said. "I had a great time; I loved high school."

While growing up, his paternal grandmother recounted memories of earlier days when she and her parents dealt with "intense prejudice" against Catholics in a mostly Protestant neighborhood. These stories, along with his father's emphasis on explain Catholic teachings, helped him to feel proud to be Catholic.

He never experienced any pressure from his family to pursue priesthood. "It was just, you do what you think the Lord wants you to do, to be happy," he said.

His uncle, a third order Franciscan priest "was rather influential in my desire to become a priest."

He first thought about it in first or second grade. In high school, he considered becoming a lawyer or professor before finally deciding his calling was to the priesthood.

Msgr. Behl entered minor seminary immediately after high school, studying at the historic St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., for two years. He spent the next two years at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, where he received his bachelor's degree. Bishop George Ahr encouraged him to attend North America College in Rome, Italy to complete his studies for the priesthood at Gregorian University.

"The experience there was, in my opinion, invaluable," Msgr. Behl said.

He graduated from Gregorian with his doctorate in sacred theology, and was ordained on Dec. 17, 1966, at St. Peter's Basilica.

"I was honored, really, and overjoyed, to be ordained at St. Peter's," he said.

He celebrated his first Mass the following day, at the motherhouse of the Divine Word Missionaries outside the city.

He was assigned to St. James Parish in Red Bank, where he taught at the Catholic high school. For the next few years, he commuted to Trenton a few days a week to work as an assistant to the director for the Trenton diocese's Society for the Propagation of the Faith. As part of his work, he spoke at many schools and other parishes on weekends.

He was assigned to the Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven, Conn., where he remained for seven years. In 1971, he was appointed the Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies for Trenton diocese, and continued commuting to the diocesan offices several times each week. He took courses during this time, earning a doctorate in ministry at Princeton University in 1975.

In 1977, he received his first pastorate, Our Lady of the Mount Parish in Warren. "That was a big change," Msgr. Behl recalled. "I had a memorable, won-

derful eight years there as pastor."

At the same time, he was named a chaplain to the holy Father with the title "monsignor."

In 1985, he was made a pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bernardsville. While there, he began formation of the parish's ministry to Spanish-speaking parishioners, which Msgr. Behl noted is "thriving today."

In 1995, he was appointed rector of the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi. Msgr. Behl spearheaded several updates to the cathedral parish's property, including a new pastoral center and space for religious education. He worked with the late Bishop Edward Hughes to arrange for a cemetery on cathedral grounds for the bishops of Metuchen.

In 2007, Msgr. Behl was named pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Old Bridge, the position he continues to hold. He is also on the national board of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

In each of the parishes where Msgr. Behl has served, he has acquired "life long friends" he said. "To shows God's goodness to me."

He added, "I look forward to serving God's people for as long as I have good health."

-Teresa Murphy

HALLOWEEN

PET COSTUME CONTEST!



Do you dress up for Halloween?

What about your pet?

We would love to see it! We're looking for the best photos of you and your pets decked out for Halloween. To enter the contest, send your best costume photo with you and your pet to editor@allaroundob.com. Please include your name, the name of the pet, your city of residence, and what the costume is supposed to be (just in case we can't guess it) by noon Monday, Oct. 24.

Photos must be original work taken by you. One submission per family. The winner's picture will run in the November edition of All Around Old Bridge. The winner will be chosen by our staff, and will be judged based on both photo quality and costume creativity.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER CARLO CASTRONOVO

STANDS AS ONE OF BIGGEST SUPPORTERS OF JAR OF HOPE



Photo of Carlo Castronovo with family

Owner of Giuseppe's Pizza in Old Bridge Supports Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Fighting Foundation and is Dedicated to Helping Raise Awareness

Old Bridge, NJ (September 22, 2016) – JAR of Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funding for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) recognizes the sponsorship and support of Carlo Castronovo, owner of Giuseppe's Pizza & Fine Italian Food in Old Bridge, NJ. Mr. Castronovo has served as a JAR of Hope ambassador and recently assisted the organization in its "Delivery of Hope" day, in which a new world-record was set for the longest LEGO® chain in history.

Mr. Castronovo joined JAR of Hope's increasing list of supporters after hearing about the inspiring story of founder Jim Raffone's ongoing mission to save his ailing son, Jamesy, who was diagnosed with DMD three years ago. Since its 2013 inception, JAR of Hope has organized a plethora of campaigns and events to generate awareness for a disease which affects one in every 3,600 predominately male infants, and without a cure, is 100 percent fatal. "The Raffone story is so touching, that it's impossible not to get involved," remarked Mr. Castronovo. "I'm a father myself, and faced with same circumstances as Jim Raffone, I'd be willing to do anything as well. I commend the daily bravery that Jim and Jamesy Raffone exhibit in battling Duchenne, and will continue to support JAR of Hope in any possible capacity."

To mark the three-year anniversary of Jamesy's DMD diagnosis, JAR of Hope decided to do something positive to offset the negative anniversary. In doing so, the organization, partnered with Clark Mills and Milford Brook elementary schools in Manalapan, set a world-record for the longest LEGO ever, which spans 947 meters in length.

Castronovo stood as a strong proponent for the event. "Carlo's support for our cause has nothing short of astounding," stated Jim Raffone, president of JAR of Hope. "He's one of the local business leaders who has support us from the start. His efforts and kind gestures as a JAR of Hope ambassador are much appreciated, and he's become a dear friend"

Castronovo will continue his support of JAR of Hope by participating in the World's Toughest Mudder 24-Hour Race, taking place November 13-14 in Las Vegas. This grueling competition will involve running a 5-mile looping for 24 consecutive hours, totaling 50 intense miles. "The World's Toughest Mudder won't be easy, but it's not nearly as difficult as the fight Jamesy Raffone faces every day. I'll battle with JAR of Hope every inch of the way through this competition, and all others in our ultimate goal of a cure are eventually realized." Castronovo will be joined in the competition by his Shore Elite Training Studio (SETs) OCR Team members Anthony Kapasakis, Joe Castellano, and Rob Kraus.

For additional information on The World's Toughest Mudder Competition or to donate to SETs OCR Team, and for information on all other upcoming JAR of Hope events, please visit, www.jarofhope.org.

For more information about Giuseppe's Pizza & Fine Italian Food, which specializes in "clean eating," visit www.giuseppespizzaoldbridge.com

About JAR of Hope:

JAR of Hope was founded in 2013 by James Raffone, after his young son, Jamesy, was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Duchenne is form of muscular dystrophy that is caused by a mutation in the dystrophin gene. The absence of dystrophin results in muscle deterioration—leading to paralysis, decreased cardiac function, and eventual death. Duchenne affects about 300,000 young males worldwide with approximately 20,000 cases in the United States. Currently, Duchenne has no cure and the average life expectancy of those affected is 25 years. However, JAR of Hope is devoted to eliminating the disease by bringing awareness and raising funds directed to ongoing research.

NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN

SUPERCUTS, LOCATED AT 2321 ROUTE 516 IN JAKE BROWN PLAZA, IS NOW OPEN! TO THANK RESIDENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING, THE SALON IS OFFERING \$10.00 HAIRCUTS.

SUPERCUTS®



Locally owned and operated by Anthony Martino & Angela Ryan, guests will be happy to know that the talented team has more than 20 years of combined experience. Offering much more than just a haircut, the stylists are passionate about delivering an exceptional guest experience and ongoing training allows them to stay

current on the latest looks. Supercuts, ranked the top haircare franchise in the U.S. in Entrepreneur Magazine's 2015 Franchise 500, offers professional haircuts, color services and facial waxing options to keep guests looking sharp.

Download the Supercuts mobile app for iOS or Android or visit

Supercuts.com to check-in for a same-day haircut, or simply walk in when it's convenient for you.

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OLD BRIDGE REMEMBERS THOSE LOST ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

By Michael V. Grandi, Correspondent AAOB



On September 11, 2016 Old Bridge Township held its annual September 11 Memorial Service in honor of the Old Bridge residents who perished on that fateful day. Friends, neighbors, dignitaries, clergy and relatives gathered at the September 11th Memorial that was erected at the Old Bridge Township Municipal Complex in memory of the 15 lives lost on September 11, 2001. The weather was perfect as the sun was setting and all guests arriving were treated to performances by the Old Bridge High School Chamber Ensemble, directed by Bernard Mathews as well as the Old Bridge Friendly Sons of Shillelagh Pipes and Drums Band.

The service began with the presentation of the colors from Old Bridge High School AFJROTC led by Lt. Col Robert Doolittle followed by the

"Pledge of Allegiance" and "National Anthem" which was led by the Old Bridge High School Woman's Recital Choir directed by Steven Updegraff. Mayor Owen Henry welcomed family and friends and Father James Hagerman from St. Bernadette Roman Catholic Church conducted the invocation. Senator Samuel Thompson was invited to speak and shared his experience on September 11th, remembering those lives lost as well as the significance of gathering at such a beautiful memorial remembering the residents of Old Bridge who lost their lives. To honor the 15 individuals, each family was called forward to carry a flower, and place the flowers on the granite block that marked their loved ones name.

Those names were called one by one; James P. Berger, Krystine Bordenabe,

Mark F. Broderick, Steven P. Chucknick, Charles G. Costello, Jr., Michael Davidson, Joseph Farrelly, Gary J. Frank, Joseph Howard, Jose J. Marrero, William E. Micciulli, Robert Miller, Bernard Pietronico, Elvin Romero, and Mark Shulman. After the family had placed their flowers at the memorial, Mayor Owen Henry and the members of the town Council conducted the laying of the wreath at the base on the memorial.

The ceremony couldn't have been more fitting with the playing of "Taps" by Christopher Duffett of the Old Bridge High School Band and God Bless



America performed by the Old Bridge High School Woman's Recital Choir. The service was closed out by the Old Bridge High School Chamber Ensemble, benediction by Rabbi Joel Mishkin from Congregation Beth Ohr and "Amazing Grace" played by the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh Pipes and Drums Band.



Photos by Michael V Grandi

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OLD BRIDGE

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA OF WESTERN MONMOUTH COUNTY'S
14th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016
at
Battleground Country Club
1 Covenhoven Road, Manalapan, NJ 07726
Register online at www.ymcanj.org

DISCONNECT TO RECONNECT



Photo of David Cittadino, Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Announces 2016-2017 Theme: Disconnect to Reconnect

Old Bridge Superintendent of Schools David Cittadino opened the 2016-2017

school year offering administrators, teachers, and staff an upbeat presentation and announced this year's theme will be "disconnect to reconnect".

Cittadino's presentation made members of the audience laugh, when they watched a video created by him and Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Hoeker. The two were videotaped in a car traveling through the township, visiting with administrators and staff while singing a variety of oldies tunes. The video mimics James Corden's "Carpool Karaoke" video that airs on the "Late Late Show".

In his opening remarks, Cittadino emphasized the importance of connecting through songs and having a good time. He added it also is important to "disconnect to reconnect" with family, friends, and nature and to de-stress. He also asked for volunteers from the audience to suggest ways to connect with students and families. Suggestions included holding weekly student-teacher lunches and holding monthly parent-teacher meetings.

Hoeker set goals and asked every elementary school teacher to "make an extra connection" with one student and secondary teachers to connect with two students.

"Find these students who need strong school relationships, make the connection, and get to know them and their families," she said, adding teachers should then contact administration to let them know how they accomplished this.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the teachers and staff watched a video, from Olympic gold medal winner Laurie

Hernandez, who attended Voorhees School up to grade three and whose brother graduated from Old Bridge High School. The video was taped at the township's August celebration honoring the teenager, who is currently competing on this season's "Dancing with the Stars".

"Hope you have an amazing year," Hernandez said. "You all deserve a gold medal."

SCHOOL KNIGHTS

Students enrolled in the Journalism II program at Old Bridge High School plan to contribute to the township publication, "All Around Old Bridge", beginning next month. The teenagers have studied journalism under teacher Lori Luicci, and together they produce a 12-page publication, "Knight Life", five times during the school year.

The newspaper and its staff have won several awards over the past five years at the Garden State Scholastic Press Association's Annual Fall Conference in New Brunswick. The publication has been honored for its Overall Excellence as well as the writing (on deadline) of individual students.

"Knight Life" is printed in hard copy and also appears on the district's high school web page at www.oldbridgead-min.org/highschool.cfm. Visitors to the site can find a recent copy by clicking on students and then publications.

Local businessman David Hernandez, who is helping to spearhead the publication, which eventually will be delivered to every home in the township, visited the Journalism II class

recently. He offered the sophomores, juniors, and seniors the opportunity to write, submit photographs, and help edit stories for the publication.

The students expressed excitement for the opportunities he offered and already are thinking about stories they want to contribute, including sports, fashion, and features about their peers, teachers, and administrators.

"The inclusion of stories written by the teens will not only bolster their resumes, but also give township residents a chance to see the talent attending Old Bridge High School, one of the larger in the Garden State," Luicci said. "The students are very excited to utilize their skills."

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo of David Cittadino, Superintendent

Old Bridge Township Public Schools is a 42-square mile suburban school district located at the southern end of Middlesex County, in central New Jersey. The district has a total daytime student

enrollment of just over 9,000 pupils, and students are housed in a pre-kindergarten annex, twelve elementary schools grades K-5, two middle schools grades 6-8, and a single campus high school with a separate facility for 9th graders. The population, exceeding three thousand students, makes it the third largest high school in the state.

In recent years, our school district has witnessed remarkable growth in student programs and recognizable achievements in school performance indicators. We have experienced an increase in collaboration amongst staff, across grade levels, departments, buildings, and district wide. This team approach has increased our expertise and spread this knowledge exponentially, reaching more

students, therefore providing greater opportunity for success on all levels.

Our in house leadership model has provided powerful professional development which has allowed us to adopt a culture of positivity in Old Bridge Schools, and transfer those feelings into trust with our community. Old Bridge Public Schools has forged a strong relationship with Character.org, which focuses on defining and encouraging effective practices and approaches for quality character education, and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. In recent years, Character.org has bestowed the following recognition upon our schools:

- 14 State Schools of Character
- 14 National Schools of Character
- 1 National Model School of Character
- Old Bridge Township Public Schools was selected as NATIONAL District of Character

Additionally, in June 2016 Safewise.com listed Old Bridge as the 6th Safest Place to Raise Children in the NATION!

That is a remarkable accomplishment for our schools and community. I feel strongly that all of the recent recognition is based upon our commitment to ensuring our students comprehend the value of civ-mindedness. Likewise, the community plays a valuable role in the success of our schools. During the 2016-2017 school year, the Old Bridge Township School District will embark on a strategic planning process collecting feedback from ALL community stakeholders. I implore you to be part of this process as dates and information becomes available. Your contributions to the strategic planning process will safeguard the district's path towards positive outcomes.

Old Bridge Township was founded upon rich family traditions and a commitment to community values. Our schools are a reflection of those founding pillars. Through a character driven fabric that is generously woven through our programs in the academics, athletics, and the arts; Old Bridge Township Schools will always be a tremendous source of local pride and global impact!

Yours for the sake of our children,
David Cittadino, Superintendent



2016 OLD BRIDGE KNIGHTS FOOTBALL

All Games at 7:00 PM Unless Noted

10-8	BYE WEEK	
Fri, 10-14	PISCATAWAY	HOME
Fri, 10-21	New Brunswick	Away
Fri, 10-28	Jackson Memorial	Away
Fri, 11-4	SAYREVILLE	HOME
11-11/12	Central Jersey Group V Quarter-Finals	TBA
11-18/19	Central Jersey Group V Semi-Finals	TBA
Thur, 11/24	EAST BRUNSWICK	HOME
12-2/3/4	Central Jersey Group V Finals	TBA

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