

OLD BRIDGE

ALL AROUND



HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

see back page

VOL 1, NO 3

A Publication for the community of Old Bridge

DECEMBER 2016

OLD BRIDGE LEADERS INVITED TO NYU



On Tuesday, November 8th, Old Bridge Business leaders were invited to the Schack School of Real Estate of New York University to discuss real estate development, current economic trends facing developers, local government influence as well as private investors and businesses. Local Old Bridge property owner and developer, John Serruto is Professor of the course curriculum. "Having once taken the course, I know how valuable it has been in my career", said Professor Serruto. "I wanted to invite local business leaders to share their experiences with the students, to give them insight from real world experiences".

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CHAMBER RECOGNIZES LOCALS WITH AWARDS

BY MICHAEL V GRANDI

The Chamber of Commerce representing, Old Bridge, Sayreville and South Amboy, held its 2016 Business Leader of the Year Awards Dinner Honoring Old Bridges' own Ajay Barthwal and the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh. The event was held on October 25, 2016 at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. President Vincent Blasi, stated that "I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of the honorees. Each recipient represents successful

leadership and dedication to the town of Old Bridge" The honorees were specifically recognized for their contributions to the growth of business in the community as well as community service leaders who make the community a better place. "The residents of Old Bridge are fortunate to have dedicated individuals and organizations involved in and around their community" said Joseph DePasquale who is an advanced planner at the

Old Bridge Funeral Home and attended the event. Honoree and Business Leader of The Year Award recipient, Ajay Barthwal is a native of Old Bridge and went through the school system. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Rutgers University College of Pharmacy. He has been a Pharmacist for 15 years and own and operates Old Bridge Drugs and Surgical.

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BEGIN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH A DRIVE

One of New Jersey's most cherished holiday traditions, A Drive Through the Christmas Story, has been a central Jersey staple for the past 31 years. Over its three decades of operation, thousands

upon thousands of people have visited the program at Sayre Woods Bible Church from all across New Jersey and beyond. They have enjoyed seeing the Bible brought to life, hearing the Christmas

story presented while viewing live Bible scenes featuring costumed volunteers and live animals, all from the comfort of their car.

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ACNE, MORE THAN JUST UNPLEASANT BLEMISHES

Acne is the most common skin condition in the United States. Acne usually occurs when hair follicles become clogged with oil and dead skin cells. Not only is it a condition that strikes teens, acne also affects a growing number of adults, especially women. About 40 to 50 million Americans have acne at any one time. The signs and symptoms vary depending on the severity of your condition and can appear on your face, back, chest, neck, shoulders, upper arms and buttocks. Acne can appear in various forms:

- Whiteheads (closed plugged pores)
- Blackheads (open plugged pores – oily substance produced by body turns black when exposed to air)
- Small red, tender bumps (papules)
- Pimples (pustules), papules with pus at their tips
- Cysts
- Nodules

The four main factors that cause acne are:

- Oil production – (sebum)
- Dead skin cells
- Clogged pores
- Bacteria

In addition, there are four main factors that can trigger/exacerbate an acne condition:

- Hormonal changes during puberty, pregnancy, and menopause.
- Certain medications such as corticosteroids, androgens or lithium.
- Dietary factors such as dairy products and carbohydrate-rich foods.
- Stress.

Acne causes more than just unpleasant blemishes. Depending on its severity, acne can cause a host of distressful feelings such as low self-esteem, depression, and scarring. However, the earlier you seek treatment, the lower your risk of any potential long-lasting effects. The good news is that there are effective treatments available via prescription as well as over the counter.

ACNE: TIPS FOR MANAGING

- Make sure you wash your face at least twice a day
- Gently apply non-abrasive cleansers. Try to avoid washcloths or medium that can irritate your skin.
- Use products that are alcohol free and that will not dry out or

irritate your skin.

- Allow your skin to heal naturally. Avoid picking or popping your acne. This will ultimately result in permanent scarring.
- Avoid touching your face with your hands. Bacteria, dirt and grime can easily be transferred

OVER THE COUNTER TREATMENTS

- Gentle cleansing with warm water and a mild soap such as Cetaphil. Do not use harsh soaps or exfoliating scrubs as these can cause irritation.
- Acne washes containing benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid. These ingredients will be helpful in clearing oil from the skin and reducing bacteria.
- Multivitamin creams containing vitamins B3, B5, A and E provide skin lightening action and skin repair through antioxidant properties.

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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.

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HENRY



Photo of Mayor Henry

Hello - It's hard to believe that we are now at the end of another busy, successful calendar year and the holiday season is in full swing.

To kick-off this season at the Township, we will again be hosting our annual holiday celebration by lighting the Township Christmas tree and Menorah. I invite all our residents, along with family members and friends, to join us at the Municipal Complex on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will include holiday bless-

ings and the heartwarming sounds of the Old Bridge High School Choir singing some holiday classics. After we light the tree and menorah, everyone is invited to have some hot chocolate and cookies while the children can meet and take pictures with Santa.

Two days later on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the George Bush Senior Center, Old Bridge Township will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor with our annual wreath laying ceremony. All are welcome to join us as we lay a wreath and read a proclamation to honor and remember all our brave veterans.

This has been a very busy year and I am proud of everything we have been able to accomplish. I would like to first acknowledge and welcome our two new police officers, Matthew Walczak and

Peter Benedict, who were sworn in this year. We appreciate their service to our Township and wish them continued success with the Police Department.

This year, 2016, also had us holding several exciting events in town. The most memorable was the welcome home parade for Old Bridge's Olympic Gold medalist, gymnast Laurie Hernandez. I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and patriotism all our residents, our school district and our local businesses expressed: first by lining the parade route to show their support with decorations, signs and waving American Flags; and then with the cheering and excitement of all those who attended the event at Lombardi Field. It was a day which brought out the best of Old Bridge and made me very proud to be Mayor. And most recently, the Township partnered with

the Old Bridge School District to offer residents the First Annual WorldFest – a multi-cultural 3-day family fair offering multiple venues presenting talent, arts & crafts, food and rides. Great attendance plus volunteer time offered by school PTA and staff members resulted in revenue that the schools can now use for additional programs and resources.

My administration continues to work hard to find new ways to help our residents save them money. Steve Mamakas, Director of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development spearheaded the Think Old Bridge Property Tax Credit program allows residents to shop at our local businesses and then see a percentage of sales credited towards the yearly tax bill. It's a win-win for everyone involved. Another exciting and successful initiative for residents and businesses has been through our partnership with Uber offering residents

the opportunity to have a "free, safe ride home" after an evening out when they aren't comfortable driving home.

Best of all, the programs mentioned in this article are only a few examples of how we are always looking for ways to make Old Bridge a better place to live. Now, with a new National President-elect promising to create more jobs and improve healthcare, and an approved State constitutional amendment dedicating gas tax proceeds to much needed NJ Transportation projects, I'm looking forward to us all working together again to make 2017 an even more rewarding year for all of us.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in all Township events this year and wish all the people of Old Bridge a blessed and merry holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Photo of John Serruto

John Serruto has been in the real estate business for 35 years. A third generation developer, Serruto Properties owns and manages apartments and office buildings. He has experienced all aspect of the business; planning, developing and managing. He served 5 years on the Millburn Township Zoning Board of Adjustments, was a member of the township's Master Plan Committee, he attained his master's degree from NYU's Shack Institute of Real Estate where he is an Adjunct Professor and teaching the The Development Process to graduate students. John is an active member of the Old Bridge Business Alliance and owner of a number of properties in Old Bridge Township as well.

COUNCIL UPDATE

By Christopher Marion, Business Administrator Township of Old Bridge



Photo of Christopher R. Marion,
Business Administrator

1. NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NJDEP) BLUE ACRES PROGRAM. The NJDEP Super Storm Sandy Blue Acres Team began extending buyout offers to homeowners in Old Bridge

Township in April of 2015. A total of twenty-nine buyout offers have been extended to date. Twenty-four out of the twenty-nine offers have been accepted. Hard copies of the November 9, 2016 NJDEP Old Bridge Buyout Status Summary Report have been forwarded to the Township Clerk's Office for distribution to Council.

2. OLD BRIDGE FOOD BANK HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS. Anyone wishing to contribute to the food bank this holiday season can drop off donations at the Old Bridge Food Bank or the Senior Center. For additional information and/or a list of needed items, residents should contact the Senior Center at (732) 721-5600 ext. 6625 or visit the Township Web Site at oldbridge.com.

3. THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY. On November 24, 2016 and November 25, 2016, all municipal offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

4. "SHOP SMALL" ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY! On November 26, 2016, the Township will be participating in Small Business Saturday. American Express founded this special event in 2010 to help local businesses with their most pressing need – getting more customers! For additional information on Small Business Saturday, residents and local business owners should contact the Mayor's Office of Economic Development at (732) 721-5600 ext. 7920, e-mail obedo@oldbridge.com or visit americanexpress.com.

5. FALL CURBSIDE LEAF COL-

LECTION. The Department of Public Works is scheduled to complete the second round of leaf collection during the week of November 28, 2016. The third (and final) round of leaf collection is scheduled to begin on December 1, 2016 in Ward 1. For additional information, residents should contact the Department of Public Works at (732) 721-5600 ext. 6140 or visit the Township Web Site at oldbridge.com.

6. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND MENORAH LIGHTING EVENT. The Township will hold the Annual Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting Event on December 5, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the Old Bridge Civic Center Courtyard. For additional information about the Annual Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting Event, or other upcoming activities and programs, residents should contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at (732) 721-5600 ext. 4999 or visit the Township Web Site at oldbridge.com.

7. ANNUAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY. On December 7, 2016, the Township will be remembering Pearl Harbor with a wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial located next to the Old Bridge Civic Center. The event will start at 10:30 AM. For additional information, residents should contact the Mayor's Office at (732) 721-5600 ext. 2040.

8. OLD BRIDGE BUSINESS ALLIANCE. The Old Bridge Business Alliance is actively seeking members to join this dynamic business networking group.

The next Business Alliance Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2016 at 6:00 PM at Café Luna. For additional information on local businesses and related opportunities, residents should contact the Mayor's Office of Economic Development at (732) 721-5600 ext. 7920 or e-mail obedo@oldbridge.com.

9. 2016 TAX SALE. The Annual Tax Sale is scheduled for December 14, 2016. For additional information, residents should contact the Office of the Tax Collector at (732) 721-5600 ext. 2999.

10. AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS. The Old Bridge Police Department (OBPD) is currently seeking volunteers to serve as auxiliary police officers. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2016. For additional information, residents should contact OBPD Administration at (732) 721-5600 ext. 3150 or visit the Township Website at oldbridge.com.



THINK OLD BRIDGE

by Economic Development Dept.



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

Utilize the great programs in place for our residents From the Mayor's Office of Economic Development

Steve Mamakas, Executive Officer of The Mayor's Office of Economic Development has implemented two great programs working with local businesses.

1) THINK OLD BRIDGE PROPERTY TAX CARD PROGRAM

Together with the support of Mayor Owen Henry and local businesses, they implemented the Think Old Bridge Property Tax Card program. The program is specifically designed to bring property tax relief to Old

Bridge residents and used for the purpose of saving money in Town while supporting local businesses. We thank **Ace Pharmacy, Amboy Bank, and Excel Urgent Care** for funding 20,000 cards for our residents and for their focus on a strong community.

Here's how it works:

Old Bridge residents may pick up a card at the **Mayor's Office, The Old Bridge Public Library, The Senior Center and at all participating merchants.** Then go online to sign up at no cost by visiting www.propertytaxcard.com/ThinkOldbridge.

All participating Old Bridge businesses provide a discounted amount, of their choosing, on purchases with the property tax credit card. When the card is presented, by a homeowner or renter, the participating business will swipe the card and the refund is applied and deposited into the individuals account.

The Township then applies the accumulated rebate amount to the homeowner's property tax account on their third quarter tax bill. If you are a renter, you will receive a check for that amount from the company administering the third party program during that time.

What are the benefits?

1) Business growth in Old Bridge Township. 2) Residents will be more inclined to spend money in Town. 3) Participating homeowners build tax credits for a reduction in their property tax. Renters will get a check back from the company managing the program. 4) The Township will have another powerful tool to attract new business.

Visit www.propertytaxcard.com/thinkoldbridge/participants to see all the participating merchants.

Property Tax Card Customer Service (732) 946-0919.

2) OLD BRIDGE UBER SAFE RIDE PROGRAM

Mr. Mamakas has worked diligently to bring the ground breaking Uber Safe Ride program to Old Bridge Township and working through the Old Bridge Business Alliance. In an effort to reduce drunk driving, the Uber service will provide a safe and free ride home to local residents from participating restaurants that serve alcohol or are BYOB.

Free "Requested" rides are from local locations, between the hours of 9pm and 2am, on Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights only.

While working with Uber, Mr. Mamakas met with John Parmer of

Nanak Construction. John Parmer is not only a local business owner, but a long-time resident, who generously offered the funds to kick-off this program. Mr. Mamakas has other businesses ready to fund more rides.

Mayor Henry believes this program will save lives. Mr. Mamakas also hopes that our police officers will be able to respond to other matters rather than pulling over dangerous drivers, keeping them safe as well.

So after a night out on the town in Old Bridge or at a Holiday Party, residents can now "tap the app" on their smart phone, let Uber take the wheel, get a free safe ride home. It's easy to make the SMART and SAFE choice.

How does Uber work?

Download the app today and use our own promo code OLDBRIDGE20.

Don't have the APP Download it at: get.uber.com/go/OLDBRIDGE20

1. Open the app
2. Select OLD BRIDGE from the bottom bar
3. Tap 'Set Pickup Location'
4. Tap 'Request'

As a promo Uber also offers \$20 off your first ride anywhere courtesy of The Old Bridge Business Alliance and the Mayor's

Office of Economic Development.

For more information or interest in sponsoring contact Steve Mamakas of The Mayor's Office of Economic Development

732- 721-5600 Ext. 7920

** Rides must end within Old Bridge city limits **

Note: there is no affiliation with either company administering these programs or out of pocket expense for the Township

Below are the some locations in Town that support the program:

- General Saloon: 1194 E glishtown Road
- T.G.I Fridays: 1001 US Highway 9 North
- The Grand Marquis: 1550 Route 9 South
- Big Ed's BBQ: 305 Highway 34
- Café Luna: 3679 Route 9 North
- Texas Roadhouse: 1000 US Highway 9
- Pine Tavern: 151 Route 34 & Dock Road
- Bensi Restaurant Italiano: 3899 US Highway 9Shop
- Palms Plaza Caterers: 343 Rt. 34
- Outback Steakhouse: 1398 U.S. Route 9 North

THINK OLD BRIDGE



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**For more information
visit www.Glenwoodmews.com, or stop by the Glenwood
Apartments leasing office (Route 9 to Old Bridge Exit Route 516)**

732•727•0300

BOOKS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

THE OLD BRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Photo of Nancy Cohen
Library Director

LYNDA.COM ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM IS HERE!

The Old Bridge Public Library has always prided itself on providing the latest online resources to patrons. Now,

right after the recent addition of the Lumos Learning and Muzzy educational resources for children, we are pleased to announce the arrival of Lynda.com, a leading learning platform for adults that offers online instruction in business, software, technology and creative skills. Users will have access to the lynda.com video library of over 130,000 engaging, high-quality videos and 4,500 courses taught by recognized industry experts. The resource is available on a computer or mobile device with a WiFi connection.

Old Bridge Public Library patrons simply need to log on to the Library's website – www.oldbridgelibrary.org – and click on the Lynda.com button. Once they enter their library card

number, they can easily access classes in web design, photography, animation, audio/visual, computer programming, marketing, project management, software development and applications. They currently offer over 1,700 courses in photography, 900 in business, 600 in design, 400 in software, and 100 in web development. For 20 years, lynda.com has helped students, leaders, IT and design professionals and project managers build their software, creative, and business skills. Part of LinkedIn, Lynda.com offers tutorials in five languages: English, German, French, Spanish, and Japanese. More information can be found at www.lynda.com.

This valuable new resource complements the Library's other online learning

program --Universal Class -- which offers over 500 online continuing education courses taught by instructors with remote, 24/7 access so students can study at their convenience. Each course has a live instructor whom students may communicate with through email. Courses are available in a wide variety of areas including business-related topics such as bookkeeping, real estate and web development. There are also numerous classes in areas of personal development such as parenting, home schooling, psychology, crafts, beauty, cooking and nutrition. These are non-credit courses which are offered for personal enrichment. To access Universal Class, patrons just log on to the Library's website and type

"Universal Class" in the search box, and they will be instructed to enter their library card number once on the site.

These resources are further examples of how at the Old Bridge Public Library, "books are just the beginning." Happy Holidays everyone!

Old Bridge Public Library
1 Old Bridge Plaza, Municipal
Center
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
732-721-5600 x5033
www.oldbridgelibrary.org



UPCOMING EVENTS: DECEMBER

DEC-2ND:

RUBIK'S CUBE CLUB 4:30PM
(GRADES 4-12)

DEC-6TH:

TWEENS CANDY CONSTRUCTION
7PM

DEC-7TH:

MEDITATION WITH LEAH 6:30PM

DEC-8TH:

UGLY SWEATER DECORATING
7:00PM

DEC-10TH:

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
ENROLLMENT SESSION

11AM – 4PM

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT:

DEC-14TH:

SENSORY TIME FOR ADULTS
10:30AM

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD
7:30PM

DEC-17TH:

AMERICAN SEWING GUILD
1-4:00PM **

DEC-28TH:

BLOOD DRIVE 12 - 6:00PM

DEC-29TH:

WINTER CARNIVAL 11-3PM

**** THESE EVENTS REQUIRE
REGISTRATION. PLEASE CHECK
OUR WEB SITE:**

**WWW.OLDBRIDGELIBRARY.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS AND
REGISTRATION INFORMATION
ABOUT THESE AND OTHER
PROGRAMS.**

MILITARY VETERANS ICE SKATING TRIPS

The Old Bridge Township Department of Parks, Recreation & Social Services has been scheduling monthly ice skating trips during the Fall/Winter season at the John Piccolo Arena, for military veterans and their families, for the past three years.

These trips are coordinated through "Operation Beachhead," a Monmouth County based non-profit organization which provides year round recreational opportunities to veterans and their families. Old Bridge Township provides complimentary ice skating and refreshments to these American Patriots as a small token of our appreciation for their sacrifices and service to our country. Many of these veterans are wheelchair bound para and quadriplegics who are still able to enjoy being on the ice thanks to customized ice sleds

provided by "Operation Beachhead" and pushed by volunteers.

Our many volunteers include Mayor Owen Henry, coaches from our Junior Knights Youth Ice Hockey program, current New Jersey and New York police officers and firefighters, and current and former Junior Knights ice hockey players.

We have been honored to host veterans from central Jersey as well as from Lyons Veterans Hospital, Bernards Township, East Orange Veterans Hospital and the Bronx, New York Veterans Hospital. As stated by Old Bridge Township Mayor Owen Henry, "It is an honor to provide these recreation and socialization events for our Military Veterans to thank them for their sacrifices and outstanding service to the United States of America."

SHOPPING TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Lots of store's Christmas displays are up already and you have begun to hear about the big sale on Black Friday. If holiday shopping is on your itinerary, you will need every bit of help you can get so you can survive the gift-buying craze still feeling jolly and merry.

Here are some shopping tips to help you during your holiday shopping and make it a lot easier;

• MAKE A LIST

When you know the exact items you are looking for when you move into a store, you are unlikely to be tempted by all the flashy displays or low sale prices for products you are not searching for. Having an already drawn up list keeps you focused only on the items you have already chosen to buy, and

this will make your shopping quicker and a lot less stressful.

• CHECK ONLINE SALES

Check online first before you visit the physical store. The selection may be higher and the prices lower. And if the shipping is free, you've probably saved yourself a trip to the store. Just be sure to confirm delivery dates so you'll get your item in time to wrap and distribute. Many online stores have their own app that can be downloaded to your smartphone. Within that app are barcode scanners, so that you can scan a particular item in the store and see if there is a better deal online.

• COMPARISON SHOP

While you're online, comparison shop to check prices at various retailers, especially if you're making a big purchase. The difference in price can be substantial, and you could earn reward points from certain retailers as a bonus you can keep!

• GIFT CARD DIFFERENCES

If a cash alternative is on your shopping list, remember that not all gift cards are the same. Gift cards that carry the logo of a payment card network such as VISA, MasterCard, and American Express

can be used where those brands are accepted. But retail gift cards such as Target, Starbucks, and iTunes can only be used with those merchants.

• L A Y A W A Y S

Old fashion but a great option. If cash is tight right now but will improve in a few weeks, consider layaway programs offered by some retailers. Typically, when you layaway something, you'll put down a deposit that is a percentage of the purchase price and pay the rest over time. The merchant will hold the item for you in reserve until you can pay it off in full. Layaways allow you to reserve items that may not be available when you actually have the funds to buy them outright.

• KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS

Remember to save all of your receipts from your holiday shopping. It may be helpful to ask retailers for gift receipts that you can include with your gifts so they may be returned or exchanged more easily. Keeping all these receipts also helps quicken refunds and returns, and is also used to help validate the warranties. This way, your friends and family can easily change the gift items for more essential items.

AFTER 31 YEARS, CHRISTMAS DRIVE THROUGH IS REINVENTED

Continued from page 1

Now, for its 32nd year, the Drive Through is getting an overhaul. Pastor Angelo Palma says that "it was time to take it to the next level to make it more engaging, compelling, and personal." Pastor Palma has written a brand new script, which features live performers



narrating the scenes from a first-person perspective. Visitors will be excited to meet Reuben the Shepherd, a man who was present for the events leading up to and including the birth of baby Jesus. Then, Reuben will pass visitors off to the apostle John, a disciple of Jesus who was known as the "beloved disciple." He will take visitors through the ministry of Jesus, share about Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for our sins, and His subsequent resurrection from the dead. Palma says, "John does a great job of reminding visitors that the greatest gift ever given was Jesus, the Son of God. As he writes in John 3:16, 'God so loved the world

that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'"

Not only are their new live narrators, but the characters in the scenes will no longer hold a single pose for the duration of the scene, as they have in the past. Rather, they will be acting out events in character, truly bringing the events of Scripture to life.

As one can imagine, the Drive Through is certainly a large undertaking, requiring approximately 70 volunteers per night in total to run smoothly. Many of the performers have been rehearsing for weeks, memorizing lines and practicing their acting. Pastor Palma

has enjoyed using his theater background to coach his team of volunteers in this area. "I am so excited for people to see this," said Palma.

After completing the Drive Through, visitors are invited inside, where there are children's crafts, a Jesus film, and a prayer team available.

The New

Drive Through the Christmas Story runs Friday through Sunday, December 2, 3, and 4, as well as December 9, 10, and 11, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM every night, at Sayre Woods Bible Church, 2290 Route 9 South, Old Bridge. Visitors who are in the church parking lot by 9 PM get to go through. The full 'journey' through the Christmas Story will last visitors about 15 minutes. The event is completely free, but visitors may bring a canned food donation for the church's food bin ministry.

For more information, visit www.sayrewoods.org or call Sayre Woods Bible Church at 732-679-5989.

SECURING YOUR HOME THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

In November, it starts to get dark much earlier, which seems to be an opportune time for burglars to have more time for practicing their various crimes due to the darkness that hides them well. Also, they love the nearing of the holiday season and they know that now people likely have many gifts in their homes ready for them to steal.

Most people take the necessary precautions regarding preventing fires related to Christmas lights. But it seems that these same folks do not think much about the needful extra safety things they can do to help prevent their home from being invaded by an unwanted burglar. Though being on target with caring to prevent fires over the holidays is very important, the reality is that homes are more likely to be invaded by burglars than to burn down to the ground from an unforeseen holiday fire.

The good news is that if you take the time, there are some really practical

and helpful things that you can do to aid in keeping away unwanted burglars.

- Be sure that your doors are kept locked all the time. Even if you are home, this is necessary and also when it is still daylight.

- Make sure to lock all of your windows. It is best advised to lock windows even on upper levels of your home, since burglars are quite ambidextrous and know how to climb well to get what they want.

- Door reinforcements along with top flight locks should be used for all the doors of your home.

- When you are careful to keep your curtains and blinds closed, then burglars are not able to see what types of valuables you have in your home. This makes them less likely to think about targeting your home to steal your stuff.

- By installing security films on your windows, you will have the protection that you need to keep objects from break-

ing the windows, which will help to ultimately keep burglars out of your home.

- It is wise to have a home automation technology system. This will give your home a lived in look, so that people will think you are home when you actually may not be. You can control the system with a device or you can schedule the lights to turn on and off at your preferred time.

- Get the mail and newspaper regularly, so that these items are not piling up. When there is a lot of mail or when there are a lot of newspapers, a burglar thinks people are away and will try to target those homes.

These are some useful tips that are very easy to implement during the holiday season. And they really should be practiced all of the time to optimize your home's safety

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THANKFUL LETTER



Mason and Tyler Grippe

We are thankful for our family because they love us and take care of us. We always have a lot of fun together. We are also grateful for our school, McDivitt. We're learning so much everyday. We love our teachers and made great friends!!

HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY AND HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH EXPAND NETWORK AGREEMENT AND INCREASE OMNIA TIER 1 OPTIONS

EDISON, N.J., November 16, 2016 – Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (Horizon BCBSNJ) and Hackensack Meridian Health announced that effective January 1, 2017, Raritan Bay Medical Center and Palisades Medical Center will both be Tier 1 hospitals for OMNIA health plan members. As a result, every Hackensack Meridian Health hospital will be an OMNIA Tier 1 hospital beginning in 2017. Raritan Bay Medical Center is currently in Horizon's network, but has been participating

in OMNIA Health Plans as a Tier 2 hospital. Palisades Medical Center is both joining Horizon's network and becoming an OMNIA Tier 1 hospital.

"Providing our communities with patient-centered, affordable, quality care has always been the goal of Hackensack Meridian Health," said Patrick Young, president of Population Health for Hackensack Meridian Health. "By broadening our collaboration with Horizon, we're able to further advance our mission of delivering integrated

care while providing affordable access to more OMNIA health plan members."

"Horizon and Hackensack Meridian Health share a commitment to working collaboratively to transform the delivery of health care to lower costs, improve quality outcomes, and enhance the patient experience. These changes build on our already strong relationship to promote our shared priorities of delivering coordinated, patient-centered care at a lower cost," said Allen Karp, Horizon BCBSNJ's senior vice president for Healthcare Management.

OMNIA Health Plan premiums are 15 to 20 percent lower than Horizon's broad network plans and OMNIA members who receive care from Tier 1 providers or at Tier 1 hospitals save more through lower out-of-pocket costs.

ABOUT HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, the state's oldest and largest health insurer is a tax-paying, not-for-profit health service corporation, providing a wide array of medical,

dental, and prescription insurance products and services. Horizon BCBSNJ is leading the transformation of health care in New Jersey by working with doctors and hospitals to deliver innovative, patient-centered programs that reward the quality, not quantity, of care patients receive. Learn more at www.HorizonBlue.com. Horizon BCBSNJ is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association serving more than 3.8 million members.

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DECEMBER 2016

December 1, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is providing a Grandparents Newborn Care Class Thursday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Instruction is provided to help in your grandbaby's growth and development. The latest research in baby care will be discussed. Cost is \$50 per couple. Make checks payable to RBMC. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS (1.800.362.8677).

December 2, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is sponsoring a free "We Keep You Moving" Total Joint Replacement Education session Friday, December 2, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at the medical center's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. The session is intended for patients who have been scheduled for joint replacement surgery or for those who would like to learn more about joint replacement. Registration required, call Nurse Navigator Clare Schuld, R.N., at 732-535-4746.

December 2, 2016

SAYREVILLE... Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is sponsoring a healthy heart event providing free education about chronic heart conditions and medication

management as well as blood pressure screenings and heart testing Friday, December 2, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Sayreville Borough Hall, 167 Main St., Sayreville, NJ. High blood pressure and irregular heart rate is associated with stroke, heart failure, heart attack and other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of these screenings and education to maintain a healthy heart.

December 6, 2016

OLD BRIDGE... The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family is sponsoring a free "We Keep You Moving" Total Joint Replacement Education session Tuesday, December 6, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., in the Patient Education Center, 1st Floor, Medical and Surgical Pavilion, 2 Hospital Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. The session is intended for patients who have been scheduled for joint replacement surgery or for those who would like to learn more about joint replacement. Registration required, call Nurse Navigator Clare Schuld, R.N., at 732.535.4746.

December 6, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... The EMS Training Department at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family is holding a Pediatric Advanced Life Support Full Class, Tuesday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Call 732-324-5393 or email EMSTraining@hackensackmeridian.org for more information. Register online at <https://trainingcentertechologies.com/RaritanBayMC/CourseEnrollment.aspx>.

December 7, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... The EMS Training Department at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family is holding a Pediatric Advanced Life Support Full Class, Wednesday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Call 732-324-5393 or email EMSTraining@hackensackmeridian.org for more information. Register online at <https://trainingcentertechologies.com/RaritanBayMC/CourseEnrollment.aspx>.

December 7, 2016

SOUTH AMBOY... Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is sponsoring a healthy heart event providing free education about chronic heart conditions, medication management, blood pressure screenings and heart rate testing Wednesday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at South Amboy YMCA, 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd. High blood pressure and irregular heart rate is associated with stroke, heart failure, heart attack and other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of these screenings and education to maintain a healthy heart.

December 7, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, monthly tour of The Berkow Maternity Pavilion and family health information open house will be held Wednesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. Newly expectant parents are invited to tour and learn about the maternity unit's modern

comforts, designed to provide a calm and relaxing birthing experience. Participants are asked to meet in the main lobby of Raritan Bay - Perth Amboy, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677) and reference zip code 08861.

December 8, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is holding an Accelerated Childbirth Education class, Thursday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The class is designed to help expectant parents better understand the childbearing process and is intended for those with limited time. A registered nurse with special training in labor, delivery and infant care facilitates the class. It will be held at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Lower Level, Perth Amboy, NJ. The fee for the class is \$75 per couple. Registration required, call 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677) and reference zip code 08861.

December 8, 2016

OLD BRIDGE... The Joslin Diabetes Center, Affiliate at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is providing an educational workshop "First Steps" Thursday, December 8, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Suite 420, Medical and Surgical Pavilion, 2 Hospital Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. "First Steps" reviews the basics of diabetes self-management, including; blood sugar, hypo- and hyperglycemia and target ranges, foot care, medication and nutrition. Registration and insurance verifica-

tion is required; call 732-360-4070.

December 9, 2016

PERTH AMBOY... The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is sponsoring a free "We Keep You Moving" Total Joint Replacement Education session Friday, December 9, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at the medical center's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. The session is intended for patients who have been scheduled for joint replacement surgery or for those who would like to learn more about joint replacement. Registration required, call Nurse Navigator Clare Schuld, R.N., at 732-535-4746.

December 12, 2016

OLD BRIDGE... The Institute of Weight Loss at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is sponsoring an "Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?" seminar Monday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at its Old Bridge location. The informative event will focus on weight loss surgery including discussion on Roux-En-Y Gastric Bypass, Adjustable Gastric Banding, and Gastric Sleeve and concerns surrounding weight loss surgery as well as its successes. Family and friends are welcome. The meeting will be held in Suite 404, Medical Arts Building, 3 Hospital Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. Registration required, call 1-855-TIME-4-ME (1.855.846.3463).

other life threatening conditions. Take advantage of these screenings and education to maintain a healthy heart. Registration required, call Nurse Navigator Clare Schuld, R.N., at 732-535-4746.



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At Hackensack Meridian Health, providing exceptional care and experiences is only part of our story. We're defining the future of medicine — bringing together academics and scientific discovery in bold new ways. By partnering with Seton Hall University, we're building the medical school of tomorrow...a place where an emphasis on team-based clinical care will underscore the roles of research and discovery. As part of our commitment to humanize health, we've launched an Office of Experience and are already *heartwiring* the new standards for linking safety, quality, empathy and respect. And to keep our communities healthy and vibrant, we're partnering with innovative companies to change and simplify health care delivery — at the speed of life.

To learn more, visit [**HackensackMeridianHealth.org**](https://HackensackMeridianHealth.org).

THE SENIOR SCENE

If you haven't had the opportunity to stop by our senior center yet, please make sure you find some time during the month of December. We have a variety of programs and activities for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're into crafts, exercise, or just socializing, you can find it here.

Do you like to draw, sketch or paint? If so, please join us for one of our classes with our hands-on art instructor, Stacey. Our friends are creating the most beautiful artwork which will be displayed at our first Annual Art Exhibit and Gallery coming this January. Please register with us so that you can showcase your hidden talent.

We will again host our Spa Day for our registered seniors (so make sure to stop in and get your senior ID!) with the students of the Old Bridge High School Cosmetology classes on Friday, December 9 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. The students will be here to style your hair, polish your nails, perform manicures and make you feel like a "star" when you leave. It is also a great intergenerational program for the students and seniors alike. Please

be sure to come with clean, dry hair if you are interested in participating.

The senior center will be hosting our Annual Holiday Concert with the Two County Symphonic Band on Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. Bring the whole family for a beautiful night of seasonal music and song. This event is free and open to the public.

Come ring in the New Year with us on Thursday, December 29, 2016 from 11 am to 3 pm for our Annual New Year's Eve party at Palm's Plaza with a delicious buffet luncheon. The cost is only \$25 per person and advance registration and payment at the senior center is required. Dress to impress and don't forget your dancing shoes as we dance the day away with live entertainment by singer/performer Leonardo. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Seniors Give Back to the Community
"Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference."

For the last several months, the ladies in our craft room have been hard at work making beautiful book covers to donate to a local non-profit organization. This is our second year making these book covers and the organization that we have

donated them to is so thankful to our crafters for giving their time and sharing their talent with making the covers. Let's take a moment to thank them and acknowledge them for their hard work: Sushila Amin, Mariela Arango, Doris Cammotto, Eufracia Go, Comfort Ijomah, Ann Moriarty, Asmita Parikh, Luz Rabah, Vijaya Ravikumar, Elba Resnick, Juantia Rhodes, Indiraben Shah and Isabella DeCrescenzo. Staff helpers included: Diane Amabile, Terry Sporer, Anahita Feltz and Mary Giessuebel.



Contact info: Old Bridge Plaza
 Hours 7:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday
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WHEN YOUR PARENTS NEED YOUR HELP: ULTIMATE ROLE REVERSAL

COMPLIMENTS OF OUR LAW FIRM

Written By: Roger N. Levine, JD, LL.M., CPA



*Photo of Partners
Adam Rubin and Roger Levine*

Our average life expectancies have almost doubled from the beginning of the last century. Of course, this is due to advances in science and medicine, which has also created a better overall quality of life. Although aging is still in our genes, and death is inevitable, we are creating ways to prolong our lives. Many of us think of our parents the way we did as we grew up. However,

when we take a close look, we can see that they are getting older and will not live forever. It may be difficult to believe that they may need your help.

In our mobile society, we may not see our parents as often as we would like and the changes in health may become quite apparent between visits. You may not even know how to help or what is necessary for their wellbeing. Often we see that parents require assistance in daily living which you may not be able to provide and ultimately they may need to consider options regarding living in a facility-type environment. This decision may be something they don't want to make and perhaps you must force the issue to provide for the best care for your parents. It is best to have a plan that addresses these issues before the need arises but that is seldom the case.

What can you do? Certainly, meeting with an experienced Estate/Elder Law attorney in your parents' area would be a very good first step. Creating an Estate Plan that takes into account aging, dependency, and incapacity could facil-

itate the next steps as they are needed.

Strategies should be incorporated and would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Revocable Living Trust – The parent(s) will act as Trustees as long as they are able and will appoint you as Successor Trustee. Perhaps the parent(s) will appoint you as Co-Trustee immediately so that there will be no delay in the event of an emergency. You will of course be obligated to use their assets solely for their benefit.

- Durable Power of Attorney – The assets in a Revocable Living Trust will be controlled by the Successor Trustee and used for the benefit of the parent(s) in the event the parent(s) are unable to manage. However, although most assets should be transferred to the Trust, IRAs and other retirement plans will stay in the name of the parent(s). The Power of Attorney will allow you, as agent, to manage those assets including assets which may have inadvertently not been transferred to the Trust for your parent(s)' benefit.

- Advanced Directives – This allows your parent(s) to give specific instructions regarding the termination of artificial life support. The appointment of a medical proxy is often included with the advanced directive and your parent(s) may appoint you to be the agent who will make all other medical decisions and perhaps even the decision to terminate life support.

- "HIPAA" Authorization Form – The HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) form will allow your parent(s) to name the parties who may receive information regarding their health status. This will allow for those geographically far away to be informed of the status of your parent(s) when they are otherwise unable to communicate.

- Medicaid Planning – This of course is the most difficult component of the plan. It would entail anticipation of future needs of the parent(s) and incorporating steps to allow the parent(s) to qualify for Medicaid which will cover long term care needs. Often this part of the plan requires the parent(s) giving

up control of assets which they have always maintained and perhaps cause them to feel dependent upon you for the first time in their lives. This may be especially true regarding a home which they have owned for years and in which they have raised their children.

Peace of mind should be the highest priority. This applies to both you and your parents especially with a nursing home possibility. Although this would be a last option in terms of choice, the fact that the legal and financial aspects have been set will ease this burden. Of course, choosing a nursing home or a continuing care facility requires much thought, not the least of which is where it should be located. The Medicare website offers a "Nursing Home Compare" tool that allows you to compare nursing homes using various factors.

It is never too late to consult with an experienced Estate Planning attorney to allow you choices and to explore opportunities without being pressured and making a potential wrong decision.

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Season's Greetings from the Levine, Furman & Rubin family!

If you found our article interesting, you can visit our website or follow us on Facebook to learn more about Estate Planning, Medicaid Planning and Estate Administration.

LIVING STONES

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE



By Lloyd Pulley
Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel
Old Bridge

"I am looking for a great warrior!"

Addressing an odd-looking, sickly green and wrinkled creature, Luke Skywalker announced his quest to find the mighty leader of the Jedi.

Never in that galaxy far, far away did Skywalker imagine that the very same puppet-like creature *was* the mighty Yoda of the Jedi. Luke's notion of what greatness looked like simply did not match up with this little green Yoda!

Stories of heroes and villains, of underdogs overcoming mighty opponents, have always intrigued us. Whether it's a tale of Spiderman,

Batman, or some other comic book or film hero, we are drawn to accounts of seeming nobodies rising up and saving the day. Perhaps this fascination is built into our very genes. We relate to the weak and want to be strong.

Consider the Christmas story as a perfect example. Here's a poor, no-account, unwed teenage mother, her humble carpenter fiancé, and a newborn baby in swaddling clothes huddled in a barn. From all outward appearances, nothing great was happening here.

Born amidst the stench of farm animals to a nameless family of possibly questionable morals, this baby probably wouldn't amount to much. And yet, according to the Bible, this very same frail baby was the mighty savior of the world.

In the Bible, heroes often come from the most unexpected places.

David was the smallest and youngest in his father's house. The prophet Samuel was impressed by his older and bigger brothers until God Himself reminded Samuel, "For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." David, a mere shepherd boy, was anointed king!

Consider the Bible character Gideon. The Angel of God found Gideon fearful, hiding from the enemy of their nation, and yet the Angel addresses him as "a mighty man of valor." To that, Gideon must have thought, "Who me?" Still, God called terrified Gideon to rise up and deliver the nation.

According to the Bible, God sees greatness man does not see and chooses the foolish ones of the world to put to shame those who think they are better and wiser.

This is the account to ponder at Christmastime. This newborn baby was actually a king who traded His throne in Heaven for a barnyard-feeding trough (that's what a manger is, by the way).

The era into which Jesus was born was a dark time for Israel. They were oppressed under Roman rule and many looked forward to the coming of the Promised One who would set them free.

The problem was, the Promised One did not come as they expected. They imagined a mighty warrior, like Luke Skywalker did, but got a poor baby in a manger instead.

And yet, this little light began to shine. We are told, "In Him was life,

and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... (Jesus) was the true light which gives light to every man coming to the world."

As Jesus grew and shined brighter, many did not accept him as the anticipated Messiah because he was not what they expected. They were unimpressed and underwhelmed by this weak Man claiming to be the Deliverer.

On the other hand, kings overreacted to Him. For fear of losing his kingdom, the proud King Herod ordered all male babies near Bethlehem killed. The light that came in the darkness simply was not understood or received. Christ's birth and life was a tiny little light, nearly snuffed out.

The entire scene reminds me of the song "This Little Light of Mine" that I grew up singing in church as a child. I was raised in a broken home, troubled growing up, disappointed and severely depressed in my first term of college and yet, something began to shine in me once again. I began to read the Bible, learning about incredible heroes who all began with so little, and yet amounted to so, so very much.

Have you ever seen what happens when you light a match in pitch-black darkness? One tiny little match can create a whole lot of light. One little match can kindle one incredibly strong fire.

This Christmas season, let's take that truth to heart. The world around you may see you, or perhaps you see yourself, as not amounting to much. Maybe you don't have an important job, lots of money, strong relationships, or great success.

But consider how God might see you, how much He thinks of one person, how much your life does matter. The classic film *It's a Wonderful Life* depicts the story. A deeply depressed man whose career was failing was reminded how much his life mattered, how much darkness his little light had dispelled.

That's how God sees you. That's how He saw these Bible greats I have mentioned, like David, Gideon, and greatest of all Jesus.

One little baby changed everything. One tiny little light became the very light of the entire world

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Happy GOODYEAR

Happy GOODYEAR

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HOLDS AWARDS DINNER



Continued from page 1

Ajay continues to live and work in Old Bridge and provides personal and caring service to his community. Also honored that evening and receiving the community service award was the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh which is a non-profit Irish American Social Organization Located in Old Bridge. Current President Jim Hartwyk described the organization as being one which "supports various charities and causes including youth sports, veterans organization, Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P) scholarship programs and the Old Bridge Food Bank to name a few". Their annual and biggest charitable event is the Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive which provides Thanksgiving Dinner and a week to

ten days of groceries to 48 families in need. During Christmastime, they revisit these families with gifts for their children. The awards dinner was a great way for the community to rally around these well deserving individuals and organizations and was sponsored by Old Bridge Drugs and Surgical and Jersey Central Power and Light. United States Senator Cory A. Booker who was not in attendance but acknowledged the honorees with a letter extending his congratulations to the community leaders who were honored that evening.

Correspondent
Michael V. Grandi



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ST. AMBROSE PARISH

St. Ambrose Parish, Old Bridge, celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday evening, October 24, 2016, and was honored to have Bishop James Checchio of the Diocese of Metuchen, as principal celebrant. Concelebrating along with Bishop Checchio was Rev. Jack Grimes, Pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, and Associate Pastor, Rev. Jack O'Kane. Also in attendance was St. Ambrose Deacon Tom Yondolino, emcee Deacon Sam Costantino, and J.J. Alquiros, a seminarian from St. Ambrose Parish who is studying for the priesthood at Seton Hall University, along with Joseph Grande, Eucharistic Minister. Pic-

tured is confirmandi Cassidy James and her sponsor Thomas Cody, along with Bishop Checchio. Cassidy joined 100 other young adults receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from St. Ambrose School, along with students from the Parish Religious Education Program, under the direction of Kathy Abair, Director of Religious Education for St. Ambrose. The Bishop anointed the forehead of each confirmandi with holy chrism, in the shape of a cross, which is an indelible mark of Christ's sacrifice, symbolizing their willingness to practice and profess their faith.



ST AMBROSE EVENTS

ST. AMBROSE CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
8:00AM-2:00PM

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

MANY DIRECT SALES COMPANIES
WILL BE FEATURED - YOUNIQUE,
THIRTY-ONE GIFTS, PAMPERED
CHEF, ARBONNE, AND MANY MORE!

BREAKFAST WITH SAINT NICHOLAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
8:00AM-12:00NOON

ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

\$10 ADULTS, \$6 CHILDREN, UNDER
3 YEARS OLD FREE

IN MEMORIAM

BRUNILDA R. HERNANDEZ

89, of Old Bridge, NJ, passed away on Thursday November 10, 2016 at the Reformed Church Home, Old Bridge, NJ.

Born in Morovis, PR, Brunilda moved to the US by way of Brooklyn, NY in 1957 before settling in Old Bridge, NJ in 1997.

Brunilda went to school while working nights to become a nurses aid, she was a fierce protector for her family, a tough lady with a lot of spunk and passion. She loved to cook, enjoyed having friends and family over but most important to her was spending time with

ROBERT REMEDIOS

77, of Old Bridge, NJ, passed away on Friday, November 11, 2016 at the Atrium Post Acute Care Home, Matawan, NJ surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Mumbai, India, Robert was a civil engineer and moved to the US in 1969 to pursue his American dream. He lived in Queens, NY for four years and then settled in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

Robert enjoyed playing poker on the computer, loved to go to the race track as well as watch horse racing on TV. He found passion in traveling around the world and delighted in great food. He loved to read and do crossword puzzles. He was a very social person who loved to entertain and live life to the fullest.

He is predeceased by his parents Nicholas and Florie Remedios, as well as his mother-in-law Mabel De Sales.

RALPH E. BERNTSEN

65 of Old Bridge passed away surrounded by his family on Saturday, November 12, 2016. He was born and raised in Brooklyn by his late parents Einar and Angela Berntsen but was most recently a resident of both Matawan and Old Bridge. He loved music and was a professional drummer throughout his life. Early on he toured and performed with many different bands, most notably "The Happenings", and opened for many well known acts such as Aerosmith. But eventually he created his own band "The Hank B Show" which embraced his true love of country music and gave him the opportunity to charm audiences with his comedic persona and incredible talent. Also the ability to stay in his hometown area of New York. When he and his wife Ann Marie decided to raise a family, Ralph got into the car business and worked his way up to become the best Sales Manager Bay Ridge Honda ever knew and brought the most repeat customers into that dealership because of his great personality and concern for providing

her family especially her grandchildren.

Surviving is her two sons Anthony J. Hernandez and wife Wanda, Albert Hernandez, four grandchildren Jelysa Marcus, Lauren, Angelina, a sister Carmen Rivera, as well as two brothers Andres Rivera and Ismael Rivera.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit remembered her at Old Bridge Funeral Home on Wednesday November, 16 interment was in Forest Green Cemetery, Morganville, NJ

Surviving is his loving wife of 43 years Beulah, daughter Tamara and husband Kai Campbell, daughter Jessica and husband Juan Santiago, two sisters Nancy Ferns and Joyce Remedios, four grandchildren Sofia, Max, Reine and Quincy, father-in-law Abel De Sales, brother-in-law Keith and wife Mercia De Sales, and brother-in-law Nigel and wife Judith De Sales.

Relatives and friends are celebrated a funeral Mass will on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at Most Holy Redeemer Church, Matawan, NJ followed by burial in the Holy Cross cemetery in Jamesburg. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Robert's memory to the Michael J. Fox foundation. <https://www.michaeljfox.org/get-involved/donation2.php>. Arrangements under the care of Old Bridge Funeral Home.

the best service to all his customers. In his leisure time he was able to enjoy spending time on his boat and fishing. He also was an avid horse lover and passed that passion on to his two daughters, who each have their own horse and are both accomplished riders. His beloved Granddaughter Skylar is destined to continue in the same tradition.

Surviving Ralph are his wife of 33 years Ann Marie Giambattista, daughters Shaina Mueller and husband Gary, Crysta Berntsen, granddaughter Skylar Mueller, his sister Marie Ingrisano and husband Bob and nephew Paul Ingrisano.

Family and friends are invited to remember Ralph during hours of visitation at Old Bridge Funeral Home, 2350 Rt 516, Old Bridge, on Tuesday, November 15 from 2-4 & 7-9 P.M. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, November 16 at 10:30 AM in St. Ambrose Church, followed by entombment in Marlboro Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family via www.oldbridgefh.com

To submit
Obituaries email
Editor@
AllaroundOB.com

JENNIFER LYNN FELICETTI

46, of Matawan, passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. She was born in Red Bank, New Jersey and had lived in West Long Branch before moving to Matawan 17 years ago. Jennifer had a successful career working for Prudential as a project manager. She loved country music and attended the CMA festival for 10 years. Her family describes her as someone who was absolutely devoted to her family, loved going to concerts and enjoyed baking. Her

memory will continue to live on in the hearts of minds of those who knew her.

She leaves behind her husband of two years John Felicetti, a son Alex Roberto, a daughter Natalie Roberto, her parents David William and Janice Barbara Keetley, a sister and brother-in-law Meredith Anne and Jim Marsh, three stepchildren Melissa, Johnny, and Juliann Felicetti, and one step grandchild Toriana Oettinger and her beloved dog Sable.

Relatives and friends gathered for visitation on Sunday, November 12,

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to your bucket list.**

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— FUNERAL HOME —

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David L. Hernandez Jr., Manager Lic. No. 4626

How will you be remembered?

Marlboro Memorial emphasizes the benefits of planning ahead for cemetery property

Planning ahead for cemetery property at The Marlboro Memorial Cemetery, enables you and your loved ones to take full advantage of the cemetery's personal consultation and to thoughtfully choose the burial, and/ or cremation options that are just right for you. "Pre-Planning ahead before one's own passing or that of a relative is an important aspect of the cemetery planning process" says Vice President Anthony J. Spalliero. Our Family Service Counselors will help you to create an affordable burial arrangement with flexible payment plans. Anthony notes that by planning ahead, it gives families peace of mind that their final wishes will be heard and carried out. It also means that their families will not have the financial hardship and be forced to make difficult decisions at a time of need. Marlboro Memorial Park is actively planning for the years ahead, sitting on one of the most beautiful pieces of land in the heart of Monmouth County. Founded in 1997, it is one of the newest cemeteries to be approved in New Jersey in over 30 years. More than 2,500 trees and 150 native woody plants grace the 110 verdant acres of land. Our mission is to provide the most efficient and sincere care to all our families during their difficult time of loss. With four breathtaking indoor and outdoor Mausoleums, and sections of traditional In- Ground burials, Marlboro Memorial cemetery proves to be New Jersey's premier cemetery.

**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.*



THE VALUE OF GIVING BACK THROUGH TEACHING

OLD BRIDGE LEADERS INVITED TO NYU, MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 25



Continued from page 1

Invited to speak were Stephen Mamakas, Old Bridge Economic Development Director, John Parmar, Owner of Nanak Development, and David Hernandez, Executive Director of Old Bridge Funeral Home and Publisher of All Around Old Bridge.

Each participant spoke about their experiences in the field of real estate. Mr. Mamakas shared with the students the value of local government working alongside with the business and residents to create a thriving economy. Mamakas said, "I work with everyone from the local small business owner to Fortune 500's to ensure each company's needs are met, and how to help attract businesses to our Township."

Mr Parmar discussed the importance of due diligence in a property, and his experience in site selection and analysis. "Understanding the entire

process will only help you, you need to have a great team from land and site infrastructure, to construction and architectural design". He continued, "Your team is vital to your success".

Each presenter was given an opportunity to present to the class as well as allow students time for Q & A sessions. Mr. Hernandez described the real estate process from an entrepreneur's point of view. "You have to be willing to take a chance" he said. Hernandez also emphasized the importance of community involvement as a successful indicator. "You have to be involved, your customers like to know who they are doing business with".

The NYU School of Professional Studies Schack Institute of Real Estate offers master's degrees and graduate certificates in partnership with the NYU School of Professional Studies. These programs empower

you to become an innovative leader in your area of specialization.

The Value of Giving Back Through Teaching-My Experience at NYU

Having spent time in the classroom with graduate level students at NYU, I realized what a special gift and responsibility teaching can be. In its simplest form, teaching is the art of sharing one's knowledge, experience and other information. The values of teaching are numerous. Teaching his beneficial to the learners, to the teacher himself and to the society at large. Some of the important values of giving back through teaching have been enumerated below.

Sharing your knowledge improves turnaround time. This is applicable to business owners. The more knowledge you share about your business the faster the turnaround time. This is because your employees or subordinates will be able to handle a lot of issues without coming to you every minute.

Teaching increases efficiency. The more information you share among your team the more efficient your team will be. Everyone will be on the same page at all times. This also enhances unity among your team mates.

Teaching enhances creativity and innovation. You can only improve on certain process and procedure if you know the nitty-gritty of how it works. If you are taught how to do something, you can only come up with a better idea if you have all the necessary

information. So, teaching promotes innovation and creativity among your kids and also among your subordinates.

Teaching promotes better decision making. Your decisions are always as good as the information at your disposal. Teaching real life scenarios can help others from previous failings.

Preservation of knowledge-this is the most important value of giving back through teaching. When you teach, you pass some knowledge down to another generation. They will now build on this knowledge. Imagine what would have happened if doctors, nurses, lawyers and engineers had stopped imparting their knowledge about half a century ago. It would have been disastrous?

Sometimes you also benefit from sharing your knowledge. Some people taught Bill Gates about computers and how they work. He built on the knowledge by creating the

most user friend operating system.

Replication of values-teaching people is a way of instilling your opinions, ideas and beliefs into people, especially kids because they are still highly impressionable. It is a way of replicating yourself in people

While teaching has so many benefits, it also has a little downside. Not all teaching is based on facts. Sometimes people are misled through teaching. A very good example of the offshoot of wrong teaching is Islamic extremism. Suicide bombers think they are being smart and stepping higher when they blow themselves up.

Another downside is that every teaching has both negative and positive application. You can only teach. The learner determines their own application.

By David Hernandez



*On Behalf of
Carlo of
Giusseppe's Pizza
and his team*

**they want to express the deepest
gratitude to Old Bridge for everyone's
support and love for JAR of Hope!**

"These incredible men raised over \$11,000.00 in just a few weeks. The four men operated as a unit for 24 hours to run 50 miles. They overcame remarkable obstacles to support James Anthony Raffone and this fight against Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy," stated Jim Raffone of JAR of Hope.



**Let's Keep This Fight Going! Your continued
support is always appreciated.
jarofhope.org/campaign/worlds-toughest-mudder**

the **YMCA**

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Holiday events

AROUND OB 2016

A Christmas Carol
Friday December 2, 2016
8:00PM
Count Basie Theatre
Red Bank, NJ

Holiday Doo Wop
Saturday December 3, 2016
7:00PM
Count Basie Theatre
Red Bank, NJ

Celtic Woman
December 6, 7, 2016
State Theatre - NJ
New Brunswick, NJ

**23rd Holiday Express
Concert, Tree Lighting, &
Activities**
From November 25 until
December 24, 2016
Red Bank, NJ

**Holiday Horse & Carriage
Rides**
Saturdays, November 25
through December 24th;
1:00pm - 5:00pm
Classic Horse & Carriage
rides through the Red Bank
business district.
Two locations: 26 Broad
Street (The Robinson
Ale House) and 11
Bridge Avenue (Danny's
Steakhouse).

Holiday Harmonies
Saturdays, November 25
through December 24th;
from 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Musical entertainment on
the sidewalk at various l
ocations in the Red Bank
Business District.

**Christmas Spectacular on
Main Street**
November 26th, 27th
December 2nd, 3rd, 4th and

9th, 10th, 11th and 15th,
16th, 17th, 18th, and 21st,
22nd, 23rd and 25th and
28th, 29th, 30th with the last
night 31st, 2016
128 North Main Street
Cranbury, NJ 08512

**Come and see the 100,000
lights Dance!** The shows are
approximately 45 minutes
long followed by all the lights
on the last 15 minutes. Shows
run every night through
December 31st. Along with
over 100,000 Lights, On 20
nights, Except Christmas
Eve, you can watch them as
they are choreographed to
over 15 songs.

**Spring Lake Holiday/
Christmas Kick-off**
Saturday, November 26, 2016
An event for the whole
family. There will be tons
of activities for kids and
adults to enjoy. Join in all
the fun with a visit to Santa's
Workshop and hayrides
around Spring Lake
Christmas at Allaire
December 4, 2016 @
11:00 am - 4:00 pm The
Historic Village at Allaire
4263 Atlantic Avenue
Farmingdale, NJ This event
is a celebration of the joys of
Christmas past. Experience
the sights and smells of an
early American Christmas
with hearth cooking,
singing, dancing, wagon
rides and St Nicholas! This is
a day full of fun interactive
programs. You can also
bring your holiday cards to
be sent from our historic
post office located in the
General Store. Bring your
addressed envelopes with a

stamp

The Christmas Light Show
Saturday, December 10th,
Sunday, December 11th, and
Saturday, December 17th,
2016: 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM
Parking Address: 2744
Belmar Blvd Wall Township,
NJ (Parking located at the
North Wall Little League
Field) This Christmas Light
Show is a family tradition
at the Jersey Shore. The
show is an impressive
displays of lighting, fog, and
pyrotechnics synchronized
to powerful concert quality
sound! The event is free
but raises money for local
charities through donations
from visitors. No ticket or
fee is required for admission,
however donations of \$25
for a family of 4. and \$10
for individual adults and
couples are suggested. Free
food and drink are available
and Santa usually makes
an appearance! Visitors are
advised to come 40 minutes
before the show to allow
time to park and walk to the
venue. Dress warm and bring
a flashlight. show status
information is available at
the shows. Please plan on
arriving about 35-45 minutes
prior to show time! Ample
time is needed to park and
walk to the show.

**Ocean Grove Victorian
Holiday Festival & House
Tour**
December 10th & 11th, 2016
Ocean Grove, NJ Step back
in time in Historic Ocean
Grove for this special two-
day Holiday event. Children
under 12 not admitted to the

House & Inn Tours.

The Christmas Light Show
Saturday, December 10th,
Sunday, December 11th, and
Saturday, December 17th,
2016: 6:30 PM and 8:30
PM, Parking Address: 2744
Belmar Blvd Wall Township,
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a flashlight. show status
information is available at
the shows. Please plan on
arriving about 35-45 minutes
prior to show time! Ample
time is needed to park and
walk to the show.

Breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 11,
2016; two seating times
at 9:00am and 11:00am
iPlay America 110 Schank
Road Freehold, NJ Website
This event features a hot
breakfast buffet that includes
an omelet station, assorted

breakfast breads, yogurt
and granola, pancakes, and
fresh fruit, while Santa walks
around and visits with guests
at their tables. Then, gather
the whole family together for
a picture with Santa Claus
taken by their professional
photographer.
Christmas tree farms with
events for families

Barclay's Tree Farm
609-799-1855
35 Orchardside Drive
Cranbury, NJ
Open 9am-5pm, Saturdays
and Sundays (including
Black Friday) from
Thanksgiving through
Christmas.
They have: Douglas Fir,
Fraser Fir, Canaan Fir, Blue
Spruce, Norway Spruce

Simonson Farms
Two locations
260 Dey Rd
Cranbury, NJ 08512
120 Cranbury Neck Road
Cranbury, NJ 08512
609-799-0140
Opening Friday November
27, 2015
They have over 3,000 trees
including: Blue Spruce,
Norway Spruce, White
Spruce, White Pine,
Douglas-fir, Concolor Fir,
Fraser Fir, Canaan Fir
They have two farms where
you can cut your own tree.
One is located on George
Davison road in Cranbury
and the other on Dey Road
in Cranbury. Trees in these
fields are U-cut... that means
you have the pleasure of
cutting down your own tree.
Saws are available if needed.
They supply twine and trees

can be wrapped for ease of
transport

Giamarese Farms
155 Fresh Pond Rd
East Brunswick, NJ
732-821-9494
They are open from Friday
after Thanksgiving to
December 24th, 10am
until dusk. They have over
300 trees including; Blue
Spruce, Norway Spruce,
White Spruce, Douglas-fir,
Concolor Fir, Fraser Fir, and
Canaan Fir

Kavett Christmas tree Farm
471 Casino Drive (1.5 miles
east of Rt 9)
Howell Township
732-431-2152
Open Weekends only,
Thanksgiving until
Christmas. Choose from
over 3000 trees, including a
large selection of Blue and
Norway Spruce between 3'
and 12' tall. All natural trees
- no herbicides or pesticides
are used. Tag a tree for later
pick-up (deposit required).
Local delivery is available for
an additional fee.

**Anne Ellen Christmas Tree
Farm**
114 Daum Rd
Manalapan, NJ
732-786-9277
They are open daily
beginning Thanksgiving
Weekend through December
23, 9:00 am to 8 pm daily.
They have over 3,000 trees
including; Blue Spruce,
Norway Spruce, White Pine,
Douglas-fir, and Fraser Fir.

OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP 2016 ELECTION RESULTS

THIS YEAR OLD
BRIDGE RESIDENTS
VOTED FOR THREE
SEATS ON THE BOARD
OF EDUCATION AND
ONE, ONE-YEAR
UNEXPIRED TERM.
BELOW ARE THE RESULTS:
**OLD BRIDGE
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**
**ONE, ONE-YEAR
UNEXPIRED TERM**
FRANK WEBER (R) 1,401
✓ JUNE DUNGEE (D) 1,942
BOARD OF EDUCATION
**THREE, THREE-YEAR
TERMS**
✓ JILL R. CALI 9,537
✓ WALTER REED 8,250
✓ BALWINDER SINGH 8,000
MATTHEW SULIKOWSKI
7,501
ANNETTE TUNYLA HOPMAN
6,816
SHRENIK DAGI 688
TODD S. HOCHMAN 712



William A. Volkert
Chief of Police

TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

With the growing number of families being directly affected by opioid addiction, the Old Bridge Police Department would like you to be aware of the following:

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF OPIATE ABUSE*

- Change in sleep patterns
- Exhaustion or extreme tiredness
- Restlessness
- Insomnia
- Memory problems
- Missing items (small electronics, cash, checks, jewelry, spoons, aluminum foil, shoe laces)
- Nodding out
- Excessive scratching
- Constipation and use of laxatives
- Loss of eye contact when engaged in conversation
- Complexion pale in color
- Social isolation
- Pinpoint pupils
- Change in friends
- Moody, argumentative, cranky, explosive
- Dark circles under eyes
- Seems depressed and/or anxious, stressed out
- Wears long sleeves (even in extreme heat)
- Decreased performance at job or school
- Needle marks – arms, legs, feet
- Black residue on outlet switches and furniture handles
- Missing prescription pills

WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS*

- Muscle spasms
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Itching
- Hallucinations
- Paranoia
- Seizures

TAKE ACTION

Call 911 for any police emergency

1. Overdose Protection Act allows individuals to report drug overdoses without fear of being arrested (N.J.S.A. 2C:35-30)
2. Lock all current medications in a locked cabinet away from children
3. Return expired/unwanted medication to drop-box located in lobby of Municipal Complex 24 hours a day/7 days a week
4. Check local pharmacies for Narcan-medication designated to reverse opioid overdose
5. Check on-line for federal, state and county resources
6. Drug education, prevention and intervention can save lives

*GCADA (Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse) and NARCONON

For additional information, please visit the following:

KnowAddiction.nj.gov

NJHelps.org

TurnTheTideRX.org

DrugFreeNJ.org

NJ Addiction Service Hotline – 1-844-276-2777

PET SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAYS

OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL SHELTER

It's that time of holiday celebrations, again. We celebrate family and life through music, large gatherings and decorations at your home; however, it may be a precarious time for your pets who may not be accustomed to the noise, or protecting your curious cat/dog from munching on decorations, there are various situations that may be an issue for your furry family.

The loud noises from fireworks that tend to occur doing New Year's Eve can all stress out or even traumatize your flurry one.

Here are a few things to be preparing to make sure that your pet dog or cat aren't frightened or become destructive to your personal property or to them. While you and your flurry family to enjoy and celebrating the holidays.

PREPARING EMERGENCY VETERINARIAN PLAN DURING THE HOLIDAY IN ADVANCE

Make sure you know how to get to your 24/7 emergency veterinary clinic before there's an emergency and talk with your veterinarian in advance to find out where you would need to take your pet, always keep these numbers posted in and easy to find location in case of emergencies:

- Your veterinarian's clinic phone or cell number
- 24/7 emergency veterinary clinic (if different)
- ASPCA Poison Control
Hotline: 1-888-426-4435
(A fee may apply.)

HOLIDAY DECORATION

- Secure the tree, dogs with wagging tails or climbing cats can knock over the tree.
- Prevent your pet from drinking water in the tree stand, if you've add the preservative chemicals. These can be hazardous to flurry one. Do not add aspirin, sugar, or anything to the water for your tree if you have pets in the house. Also, water can be containing bacteria, which may cause to vomiting and diarrhea.
- Carefully select your ornaments avoid the breakable and glass one. When it breaks your flurry one can be stepped on it.
- Clean up pine needles frequently. They can be toxic when eaten by your flurry family

- Electric lights and Candles can cause burns when a curious flurry one chews the cords or knock down, it could result in a fire.

FOOD HAZARDS

Keep people food away from pets and inform your guess if you or they want to share holiday treats with your pets, make or buy treats formulated just for them. The following people foods are especially hazardous for pets:

- Chocolate - it is toxic to dogs and cats. Although the toxicity can vary based on the type of hocolate, the size of your pet, and the amount they ate, it's safer to consider all chocolate off limits for pets.
- Grapes and raisins- it is harmful to pets. Especially grape contain toxins that can cause kidney failure.
- Other sweets, yeast dough and baked goods - Not only are hey often too rich; an artificial sweetener often found in baked goods, candy and chewing gum, xylitol, has been linked to liver failure and death in dogs.
- Yeast dough can cause problems for pets, including painful gas and potentially dangerous bloating.
- Turkey, turkey skin and table scraps - sometimes even in small amounts - can cause a life-threatening condition in pets known as pancreatitis. Digestive gland, stomach upset, vomiting and diarrhea
- Turkey stuffing - Onion are toxic and can destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia. Foods containing high amounts of onion powder should also be avoided.

HOSTING PARTIES AND VISITORS

Visitors can upset pets, as can the excitement and noise of holiday parties. The following tips will reduce emotional stress on your pet and protect your guests from possible injury.

All pets - should have access to a comfortable, quiet place if they want to. Make sure your pets have a room or crate way from the commotion, that it can go to anytime it wants to get

away. If your pets are nervous around visitor, should be put them in another room or a crate with their favorite toy.

Inform your guests - ahead of time that you have pets or if other guests may be bringing their pets to your house. And you don't know how the pets will get along, you should either politely decline their request or plan to spend some time acclimating the pets to each other supervising and monitoring of their interaction for signs of a problems, and taking action to avoid injuries to pets or people.

Watch the exits - when people are entering or leaving your home, be very careful that your four-legged family member may be make a break for it out the door and become lost. And make sure your pets have proper identification with your current contact information. Particularly microchips with up to date, registered information. If they do sneak out, they're more likely to be returned to you. if your pet isn't already micro chipped talk to your vet about benefits of this simple procedure.

WHEN YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE - make sure you unplug decoration and lights, take out the trash.

In case your pet is missing during the holiday, please call local none emergency police number and local animal shelter to report and search for your loving flurry family.

Old Bridge Township Animal Shelter, wishing you a Joyous Holiday Season and a smashing New Year with your flurry family

OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL SHELTER, WISHING YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND A SMASHING NEW YEAR WITH YOUR FURRY FAMILY.

Flower Cart Florist
of Old Bridge

Let us help you set an elegant table.
Send a fragrant Gift that will be the Centerpiece of the Holidays



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's time now to support our newly elected President and focus on our day to day lives, there is no reason for protest and violence after the election results announced.

America is a great country, let us all united as one nation.

T. Ahmad

MAKE A WISH LETTER

A LETTER FROM ISABELLA VITALE



Isabella Vitale is a kindergarten student at St. Ambrose in Old Bridge and has a very special friend who lives across the street from her home in Monroe Twp. His name is Steven and he has a rare form of muscular dystrophy that significantly limits his ability to speak, or play with Isabella, but she loves to spend time with him, or simply walk alongside his wheelchair, careful not to press any of the buttons. In May of 2015, Steven was the recipient of a "Make-A-Wish Foundation"

trip to Disneyworld, through the generosity of the NJ Chapter located in Monroe Township New Jersey. That experience got Isabella thinking.....

On October 16th, Isabella decided to set up her own Lemonade Stand on the driveway of her home on Mayberry Avenue. She prepared signs, decorated her booth, and stocked her table with all the trimmings needed for a successful Lemonade Stand. Throughout the day, cars stopped as they drove by, friends and neighbors visited her stand for a quick refreshment, so charmed by her smile and intention to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. When the day came to a close, Isabella counted up her donations and prepared for the next step. Mom and Dad would contact the local chapter and present Isabella's donations, so that "other little kids can get a surprise wish come true".

Isabella and her parents met with Buddy O'Donnell, Director of Corporate Alliance for the Make-A-Wish Foundation on October 24th at the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, which provides spaces for "making" a wish in an unforgettable setting, and

for sharing and celebrating a wish experience with family and friends. The castle setting greets visitors with magical sights and sounds and invites children to wander and play in an open and protected space so that all children know this is truly their special castle. Buddy gave a tour to Isabella, her mom Kathleen, and her baby sister Valentina. He expressed his pride and gratitude, thanking Isabella for helping to "bring wishes to kids with life threatening medical conditions". Buddy later confirmed "wishes will change lives and impact communities". At the tender age of five, Isabella already knows that!

(If you would like to make a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, please visit their website at www.nj.wish.org)



MEMORIAL STUDENTS GO ON A SAFARI

AWARD WINNING AUTHOR TRAVELS FROM FLORIDA TO SPEAK TO LOCAL STUDENTS



Laurence Harbor, NJ, November 17, 2016: Memorial Elementary students got to visit a Safari on Thursday, November 17th; or rather the Safari came to them via an award-winning author from Palm Beach, FL, Lorretta Neff. Founder of the EW Foundation, Mrs. Neff presented the kindergarten through fifth grade students her book Tame Your Manners. This journey took the students through the different animals of K.A.M.P Safari (Kids' Animals & Manners Program) to teach them how to be the best selves

they can be. Using defined traits of the animals, such as the poise and confidence of Giraffes, knowledge and obedience of Monkeys, and patience and understanding of Rhinos, the children learned qualities of themselves that they possess and can use every day. The 11 animals presented had the children realize manners, which ties in with the school's use of Pillars of Character, while dancing to music and singing to songs they were familiar with. Mrs. Neff donated her time by traveling from her home specifically to speak to the students at Memorial Elementary. She became familiar with Memorial after meeting Principal, Mr. Payton, while receiving an award for Promising Practices in Washington D.C. Each student received the book Tame Your Manners, encouraging reading at home and sharing with their family and friends the animals inside.

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PROJECT UNIFY: TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY

By Joey Najarian



Members of Project Unify, a club that joins students with and without disabilities, participate in various sports and activities.

"We created this club so everyone can have an equal opportunity to participate in various after school activities," said special education teacher

Karen Lewicki. "The main advantage of joining is to learn tolerance for all students. Our special education students, or athletes, get opportunities to gain respect and prepare for the real world."

Many special education students at Old Bridge High School are involved in the program. Junior Nick Rulli said he joined Project Unify to play sports and to socialize with everyone.

"Making new friends has been my greatest goal so far," Rulli said. "I don't feel any different from anyone else regardless of any disabilities; I can prove that I can do anything. I plan on staying for my whole high school time, and hopefully I can be prepared for anything that comes my way thanks to Project Unify."

Senior Sarah Resciniti said becoming a partner was "one of the best decisions I've made in high school."

"It's crazy how much the athletes and I have in common," she said. "They always maintain a positive attitude, are concerned about other's lives, and help you up on a bad day. They almost feel like family." Resciniti has been a long-time member of the club and urges others to join.

According to Lewicki, when she first started the club in 2011, membership was small but as the years went by, membership increased.

"The ultimate expansion for the club would be to make it a class one day," Lewicki said.

Project Unify works in collaboration with the Special Olympics of New

Jersey. Many of the Special Education students have shown improvement in academics, athletic abilities, and their overall attitudes. Many agree that Project Unify is their favorite part of being in school and they love to spend time with their partners.

Project Unify has achieved various accomplishments such as playing football against the OBHS Varsity Football Team, playing basketball against the boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams, and playing a celebrity basketball game against NFL players. The club's slogan is "Don't look at the 'dis' in front of ability."

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION AND SOCCER



Every child has a right to enjoy sports, regardless of having physical disabilities or not. Sports are an important aspect of a school experience and will have a lasting effect on a student's life. Furthermore, participating in extra-curricular athletic sports encourages socialization, improves leadership skills, and makes one physically fit.

Just 4 Kixs, is a soccer program for special needs children. "I started Just 4 Kixs in 2009, after finding in my own experience that there were no programs for special needs children to play soccer", state Karen Medeiros, Founder of Just 4 Kixs. She continued, "This program is unique to our area, we have 30 coaches, 175 volunteers, called buddies, and 115 players". Sponsored by the Old Bridge Girls Soccer League and many local businesses the program provides an op-

portunity to play soccer for children ages 3-14 with autism, aspergers, down syndrome or developmentally delayed. The program runs for 10 weeks in the Fall and Spring and ends with a large awards ceremony.

Each child is paired with two volunteers or as they say "Buddies" who assist the child throughout the day on the field of play and off. Their website states it best: You do not need any soccer experience to be a buddy. All you need is patience, enthusiasm, and a friendly smile. You will work alongside a child with special needs for one hour each Saturday for 10 weeks. Buddies will assist their special child in basic soccer skills, kicking, passing, running, dribbling, games and more. You will work one on one and guide them on the field

under the direction of the head coach. You will receive 10 hours of community service for completing the program and a lifetime of memories for sharing your time. We need about 80 buddies each season, bring your friends to sign up as well. We can assure you it will be one of the best and most rewarding experiences you will ever have.

Children with special needs are, unfortunately, not given an equal opportunity to take part in the majority of sports. Many times these children are also subjected to unfair play and denied the respect of being selected in a team. This is absolutely wrong and unfair. A coach, when making his or her selection for players, should be astute enough to judge students with special needs on their individual capabilities. The coach should not be swayed by assumptions, prejudices or fixed ideas. Intelligence should be employed in determining how to coordinate participation between students having

or not having disabilities. Soccer is one of the best types of sports for the disabled as it is comparatively easy and you don't have to use a lot of equipment in order



to play it. Outdoor activities are an essentiality for all children and disabled children are no different.

Children with special needs, when they play soccer, are given the opportunity to exercise and enhance their motor skills. Soccer is the type of physical activity which aids the disabled to improve themselves in acquiring strong social and cognitive abilities as well as confidence in themselves. But what really matters is that playing soccer and other sports are a source of enjoyment and fun. Some of the important factors about the importance of playing soccer for children with special needs are as follows:

- It gives them a feeling of being free and independent
- Improves their attitudes towards tolerance and understanding; hence making it easier for them to socialize
- Boosts up their self-confidence giving them a feeling of being competent as well as enhancing their sense of self-reliance.
- Greatly improves their quality of life
- Compliments them

with jovial attitudes

Soccer aids in promoting and developing disabled children's growth physically, mentally as well as emotionally. It helps them develop their personalities and boosts up their self-confidence enabling them to live their lives in a normal a way as possible. Soccer is the type of sport which has helped hundreds of disabled children to attain the kind of physical activity needed to get their lives on the right path.

Many international organizations and associations working for the betterment of the disabled are recognizing the importance of promoting opportunities to play soccer for children with special needs.

We all should be proud of the vision of Karen, the countless buddies, coaches, players, and parents that makes Just 4 Kixs more than just a soccer program.



THE 7TH ANNUAL JUST FOR KIXS OSCAR AWARDS



Giasullo, if anyone wants to become a buddy in the spring season, please email her at vgpg03@gmail.com. To be a buddy, you must be ages 12 and up.

1.) First picture is the Oscar trophy, taken by Danny Greene.

2.) Second picture is a player named Krithan Chingelpet (red) with his buddy Zack Medeiros (in Blue & Gray. Zack has been Krithan's buddy for over 3 years. (photo taken by Classie Events

3.) Third picture is of a player, named Kareem Samra, Won the Oscar for Best Smile! (Photo taken by Classie Events)



Were held at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. Joe Consiglio from the Grand Marquis, donated the marquis room the Awards Ceremony. Coaches, players, parents, volunteers (buddies) and community leaders praised attended to award the players for their hard work and dedication over the season. Grand Marquis also donated

the lunch, snacks, and desserts. Over 400 guests attended including the Mayor, and members of the township council. Classie Events provided the onsite photos on the red carpet not just this year but for the past 7 years.

Just for Kixs is affiliated with the Old Bridge Girls Soccer League. The buddy coordinator is Linda



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William A. Volkert, Chief of Police**

1. Keep your doors locked at all times - even if you are home
2. Be sure to lock all windows when you are leaving home.
3. Install door reinforcements along the top flight locks on all doors in your home and install special locks for sliding doors.
4. While you are out, closing curtains and blinds prevents burglars from observing the types of valuables you have in your house.
5. Install an alarm system.
6. Use a timer program lights and radios to go on while you are out or use a home automation technology system.
7. Arrange exterior lights to illuminate every entrance and use motion detectors.
8. Trim bushes and shrubs so they don't block the view of your home.
9. Do not let the mail or newspapers pile up. When the mailbox is overflowing or newspapers are strewn around the driveway, your home is a target for burglars. Place mail and newspapers on hold while you are away.
10. Secure jewelry and valuables in a safety deposit box.

Contact the Old Bridge Police Department regarding the following situations:

- If you see any suspicious vehicles in your neighborhood, contact the Police Department and attempt to provide an accurate description of the vehicle.
- All solicitors coming to your home required to have a township permit. If they cannot provide proof of refuse to show permit, close and lock your door and contact the Police Department.
- If someone unfamiliar to you rings your doorbell asking for directions or to use your telephone, do not allow them into your home. Contact the Police Department with a description of the individual and direction to travel.
- Some criminals will pose as utility workers claiming to be from the water department, electric company, tax office or any public or provide utility. Employees of these companies must have Identification. If they do not, lock your door and contact the Police Department.

**Do not attempt to intervene or approach anyone you believe to be suspicious.
Be the best witness from distance and contact the Police Department.**

Emergencies Dial 911

Non-Emergencies Dial (732) 721-4000

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OLD BRIDGE LEADERS INVITED TO NYU, STORY ON PAGE 16



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picture is Dr. Leung with his patient Jackie

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