

The Jersey INSIDER



The Independent Leader in Local News

Vol. XII: No. 3

“Our Community... Your Stories”

March, 2016

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Law Tackles Bullying in Public Schools

Since the beginning of time, even before the advent of the schoolyard, people have been the victims of bullies. The true definition of bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. It preys on the seemingly weak and vulnerable and causes emotional damage that often goes unnoticed until its too late. It can be done in person as well as through social media. Bullying is a major problem for our society. We hear more and more of students taking revenge or inflicting harm on themselves because they have been bullied. In order to address the harm bullying has brought, there is now a law in New Jersey that directly tackles this aggressive and intimidating behavior.

Our legal contributor Jeffrey Pompeo, Esq. has written the following article explaining New Jersey's Bullying Law.



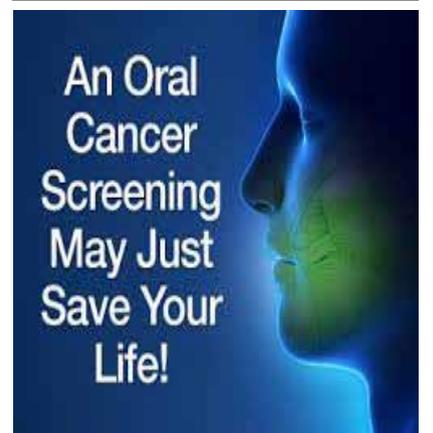
NEW JERSEY LAW TACKLES HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Jeffrey W. Pompeo, Esq.

Under New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of

Continued on Page 10

**Could You
Have Oral
Cancer?
Health
Department offers
Free Oral
Screening**



The Clifton Health Department is offering a free Oral Cancer Screening for residents of Clifton and Little Falls. The screening will take place on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 9 AM until 12 PM at the Clifton Health Department, 900 Clifton Avenue, 2nd Floor. Dr.

Continued on Page 4



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Around Town Community Calendar...



We want to help your events to be successful! If you belong to a group or community organization, send us your information and news. We will include them in them in our Around Town Community Calendar. Send your event information VIA E-MAIL to: info@cliftoninsider.com. Please note, all submissions must include the name of the sponsoring organization, the date, time, and location of the event, and a person to contact for more information regarding the event!

Young at Heart Club • The Young At Heart Senior Club Will Meet The First and Third Tuesday of the month at the fellowship hall of The First Presbyterian Church on Maplewood Ave. at 12:00 pm. Refreshments will be served from 11:00am to 12:30pm. The next meeting for The Young At Heart Club will be Tuesday March 15th. Members are encouraged to decorate the tables for Easter. The new time for all future meetings is now 12:00 noon. Come socialize, make new friends and play bingo. All are welcome to join the club. Be a guest for the day or go on our trips.

Upcoming Trips For 2016 - 1. Friday March 18th, 2016-Camp Hope-St.Patrick's Day Celebration. 2. Wednesday April 27th, 2016-Trip and show-Jersey Dreamers(J.Z.)"That's Amore" at The Bronwnstone. Dancing/Singing. 3. Wednesday May 4th, 2016-"Legends in Music-"Patsy Cline" a Comedian and Dancing-at Doolans/Spring Lake, NJ. 4. Friday June 10th, 2016-Spring Luncheon & dancing at The Mountainside-AARP 4192 & Young At Heart Club. 5. Wednesday June 15th, 2016-Jefferson House at Lake Hopatcong, NJ. "A Day with Elvis"- Boat ride,good food-fun day. 6. Wednesday July 27th, 2016-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse-Rock & Roll & Soul. 7. Wednesday August 24th, 2016-Erhardt's/Lake Wallenpaupack,PA-"Murder on the LustBoat" 8. Wednesday Sept. 21st, 2016-San Gennaro-Stony Hill Inn-Hackensack, NJ. 9. Monday Nov. 7th, 2016-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse-Christmas Show. 10. Friday Nov. 18th, 2016-Camp Hope-Salute to Veterans Show.

All trips leave from the Masonic Lodge at 1484-1510 Van Houten Ave. For more information & ticket prices call Lillian @ 973-779-5581.

BEEFSTEAK DINNER • North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Agency (NJEDDA) Beefsteak Dinner and Tricky Tray Fundraiser on Friday, April 1, 2016 from 6:30 to 11:00 pm at the Boys and Girls Club located on Colfax Avenue, Clifton. Ticket \$45 Dinner, Music, Raffles, BYOB Call (973) 772-2600 for tickets and information.

SCHOOL 16 HSA TRICKY TRAY • The school 16 HSA will hold an adults only dinner and tricky tray fundraiser March 31, at the Valley Regency located on Valley Road in Clifton. Tickets are \$50 per person which includes a buffet dinner, soda, coffee, dessert and one set of general prize tickets. For more information contact Judi Green at 201-446-5799 or by email judigreen@optonline.net.

FLAPJACK BREAKFAST • The St. Philip Columbiettes Auxiliary 11671 is hosting a Flapjack Breakfast on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 8-10am at Applebee's, 375 Route 3 East, Clifton, Meal includes: pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, and a beverage. Cost is \$11.00. Proceeds from this event will support our various ministries and outreach contributions. Tickets will be sold at the door. For tickets and information, contact Cathie. (973-471-1265)

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP • The Athenia Veterans Post is sponsoring an Atlantic City Trip on March 20. Tickets are \$30which includes 25 slot dollars. The bus leaves at 9:30 am from the Post located at 147 Huron Avenue. The post opens at 8 a.m. and a free breakfast is available. For tickets call the Post at 973-778-0931 or Pat Salerno at 973-742-1913.

VALLEY SENIORS • The Valley Seniors Social Club meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 11:30 am at the Masonic Temple 1484 Van Houten Avenue. Refreshments are served prior to the meeting from 10:30 to 11:30 am. For more information contact Ethel at 973-706-6164.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST • St John Lutheran Church in Passaic will have a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 20, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm consisting of pancakes, sausage, juice, tea or coffee or hot chocolate, and a fruit dish. Cost will be \$10 for adult, and 1/2 portion free for children under 10 years old. The church is at 140 Lexington Ave. For information call the church office at 973-779-1166 or Lorraine at 973-868-3380.

Send Us Your Events!
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Editor@InsiderNewsNJ.com

HOW TO REACH US

<p>The Jersey Insider Published by</p> <p>CLIFTON INSIDER LLC P.O. BOX 764 CLIFTON, NJ 07015-0764 P: 973-865-7691 www.insidernewsnj.com</p> <p>nveliky@InsiderNewsNJ.com Look for us on Facebook Editor & Publisher: Nicholas J . Veliky</p>	<p>Associate Editor: Sharon Veliky</p> <p>Feature Writers: Jeffrey Pompeo Esq. Victoria Veliky Don Torino</p> <p>Customer Service: Call 973-865-7691</p> <p>Press Releases: Send to: Editor@InsidernewsNJ.com</p> <p>Back Issues: Contact nveliky@InsiderNewsNJ.com</p>	<p>Advertising - Print & Online: For advertising rates, publication schedules, or to request a media kit, please contact us at: nveliky@InsiderNewsNJ.com or call 973-865-7691</p> <p><i>"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution</p>
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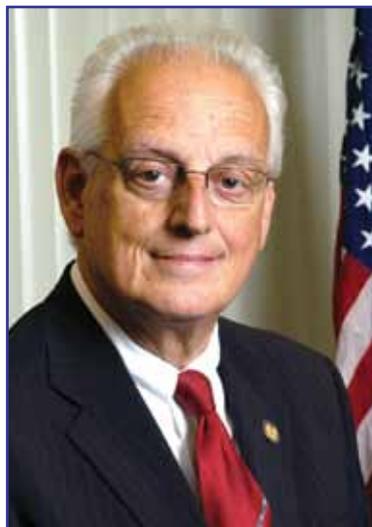


Rep. Pascrell: US Should Take Canada's Lead on Syrial Refugee Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representatives Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), an advocate for expansion of the refugee program, led a letter with 37 colleagues urging President Barack Obama to discuss resettling refugees from around the globe with new Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who is visiting Washington, D.C. this week. Since November 2015 Canada has accepted over 25,000 refugees of the Syrian civil war, while the United States has accepted less than 3,000 refugees since 2011.

Text of letter is as follows:

Dear President Obama,
With the expected arrival of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on March 10 for his first State Dinner, we urge you to discuss the important role our nations play



Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

in welcoming refugees fleeing persecution from around the globe, especially the over 4.5 million from Syria.

There are over 60 million people around the world displaced from their homes because of war, conflict, or persecution; and the United States must maintain its commitment to providing refuge for people in search of safety.

However, despite the United States' commitment to resettling additional refugees over the next two fiscal years, the United States has only resettled less than 3,000 Syrian refugees since 2011 when the conflict began. This is far less than Canada, which has welcomed over 25,000 Syrian refugees over merely a few months.

As a global leader, Prime Minister Trudeau has shown his country's commitment to welcoming Syrians fleeing persecution in unprecedented ways just as Canada has served as a global leader historically in welcoming Central American refugees. As a result, we believe this official visit serves as an important opportunity for you to discuss Canada's commitment to the refugee crisis in Syria

Continued on Page 6

HOUSE CALLS

I Make House Calls. . .

JEFFREY POMPEO, ESQ.

DiFrancesco Bateman
jpompeo@newjerseylaw.net

Contact me to meet in your home or

Clifton, 1200 Rt. 46 West, Suite 130 - 973-458-9174

Warren, 15 Mountain Blvd. - 908-757-7800

Newton, 61 Spring Street, Suite A-2



Open for Business

by Nicholas J. Veliky

When is open transparent government not open transparent government? When local government makes a decision not to communicate with constituents or even members of the governing body. The Open Public Record Act is a law that was put in place to insure transparency, and availability of public records when it comes to government doing the business of the people. Disregarding these laws comes with a price, potential lawsuits and perhaps more of a consequence, the loss of trust and credibility in the eyes of the community. The city of Clifton currently has litigation pending for OPRA violations brought on by North Jersey Media group. The Board of Education has a case pending investigation with the New Jersey DRC (

In spite of what you might think, Clifton for the most part, is not a "wealthy" community. For many of the seniors graduating from Clifton High School, a scholarship could mean the difference between pursuing higher education, the platform for a career, or vying for a job in our less than robust local economy. On February 17th the Board of Education auditor Paul Lerch of the firm Lerch, Vinci & Higgins reported that an "In trust" scholarship fund, one that had been untouched for over twenty years with a balance in excess of \$70,000 was an item in the BOE audit. These funds were earmarked for scholarships or special awards. The suggestion by the school superintendent to "re-purpose" these funds is a slap in the face to Clifton's graduating seniors and shows total disrespect to those who donated the funds to be used for awards and scholarships. The board should not even consider this suggestion.

How could these funds have gone un-used and un-noticed? Even longtime board member Jim Daley stated he had never heard of these funds prior to the report. While the, mystery of the "un-noticed" fund is unraveled by the auditor and BOE staff, one thing is for sure, the funds entrusted to the BOE, for the benefit of our students, must be carefully cared for. The BOE is the steward of our resources and they need to be prudent in the care of the funds. With this "financial oversight" and the discovery of missing funds from the School 5 PTA fund perhaps there needs to be an overhaul of the practices of our BOE and school associations when it comes to the care of our student's cash.

They were dancing on the ceiling when the news that the state was returning control of Paterson's schools to the city. Here we are just a few short weeks later and Paterson is faced with a budget that will mean \$45 million dollars in cuts in order for the district to remain viable. The proposed cuts are said to include job cuts, program consolidation and overall belt tightening. The Paterson school board challenges are not standing along in the silk city. The recently proposed and rejected city budget with a proposed 6.1 percent tax increase was soundly defeated causing the Paterson City fathers to go into emergency mode to prevent the city from shutting down non-essential services.

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Clifton Insider Letters to the Editor

Clifton BOE Has Lost The Public's Trust

To the Editor:

Whatever topic you pick - \$73,000 in scholarship money dormant for 20 years; violating OPRA and OPMA; minutes from committee meetings missing key discussions; cutting down of trees without following the proper procedure; trees cut down in the woods adjacent to School 16 without authorization; uniform surveys sent out without full board approval; lies about committees being able to spend money up to a certain dollar threshold; information withheld from certain board members; district personnel snow plowing private property in another city; not reporting to legal authorities questionable behavior between a minor and a district representative; questionable motives for hiring outside vendors; repeated violations of transparency; - there is a common thread - this board has violated its fiduciary obligations to act as a trustee for assets that belong to the public.

It is beyond comprehension that any business administrator or auditor would allow scholarship money to lay dormant for twenty years and then not to have BOE commissioners (with one exception) question why and who allowed this to happen. It is beyond comprehension that when a reported possible "theft" of public property (the cutting down of the trees in school 16 woods without

written documentation authorizing this work) was reported to the BOE and administration it was not reported to the Clifton Police for a full investigation including not not limited to questioning the contractor and his employees, questioning the head of buildings and grounds, contacting and questioning neighbors for possible video surveillance tapes.

Rather, as in past controversies or "gates", the administration and BOE began their "cover-up" of the incident. Here are the facts which can not be covered up. Mr. Marchione (head of buildings and grounds) told me and a witness repeatedly when asked if he authorized any work to be done in woods answered "no". His own presentation in front of the BOE showed no work was to be done in the woods and only the 25 trees in front of the school were to be cut down. The contract itself makes no mention of trees being cut down in the middle of the woods. As reported in the Clifton Journal Feb 26th article, Marchione said "he did not know the origin of the sawdust piles within the forested area and said to contact Rich Tree Service". Rich Tree Service told the Clifton Journal the trees were "recycled" into split rail fencing. Even after knowing all this information, no one from the school district still reported the incident to the police. Why not?

Rather, the BOE president re-

ported to the Clifton Journal that there had been a meeting between the school administration and Rich Tree Service - a fact most other BOE members were unaware of and had no written correspondence from the administration about this meeting or its outcome. Rather, sources are reporting that Marchione's story has now changed and is claiming he gave permission to have the trees in the woods cut down - again without board knowledge and approval.

I for one believe this new story to be bogus and yet another "gate" scandal has begun. I urge each and every BOE member to start upholding your fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of Clifton and start acting and ensuring these assets are protected.

Mary Sadrakula (201)314-5380

Oral Cancer Screening

Continued from page 1

Kenith Nevard, DDS will be conducting the screening and will be seeing patients by appointment only. Please call the Clifton Health Department at 973-470-5776 to make your appointment. An examination of the lips, gums, mouth, and throat for sores, lumps, and other early warning signs of cancer will be completed during this screening. All participants much be 18 years of age or older.

Oral cancer is a cancer that affects the lips, tongue, mouth and throat. It is approximately twice as common in men as in women and the likelihood of developing oral cancer increases with age. Oral cancer will be diagnosed in an estimated

Clifton Arts Center presents "Verdi and Puccini: Masters of Music and Passion"



Clifton Arts Center will present Verdi and Puccini: Masters of Music and Passion by Dr. John Butts on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 1pm at Clifton Arts Center, 900 Clifton Ave., Clifton, NJ 07013. This program is free and open to the public. Advance reservations are required, please call 973-472-5499 or e-mail artscenter@cliftonnj.org Seating is limited. The program is funded by the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

35,000 Americans this year and will cause approximately 6,800 deaths. Possible signs and symptoms for oral cancer include a sore that doesn't heal, a lump or thickening of the skin or lining of your mouth, a white or reddish patch on the inside of your mouth, loose teeth, poorly fitting dentures, tongue pain, jaw pain or stiffness, difficult or painful chewing, difficult or painful swallowing, sore throat, feeling that something is caught in your throat, weight loss, or constant bad breath. Although the majority of oral cancers occur in persons 62 years of age and older, an increasing number of persons are being diagnosed with the disease. In its earliest, most treatable stages, oral cancer may be painless and go unnoticed. An oral cancer exam can help detect oral cancer in its earliest stages when treatment

will be most effective. The exam is painless and takes only a few minutes. Everyone who has ever used tobacco and/or alcohol or anyone 20 years of age and older should be screened.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, early detection is needed to increase the survival rate for oral cancer and it plays a significant role in patients' success in fighting the disease.

You should have the soft tissue of the mouth examined once a year. Many oral cancers are discovered by routine dental examination. Other tips for improved mouth health are: minimize or avoid smoking or other tobacco use, minimize or avoid alcohol use, practice good oral hygiene, and have dental problems corrected.

The opinions and views expressed in the letters to the editor are not necessarily those shared by the Jersey Insider. Letters to The Editor Policy: Submission of Letters to the Jersey Insider Letters to the Editor does not guarantee publication. Letters may be edited. Letters submitted may be published in print or in electronic format.

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Help us stock School 12 food pantry a branch of the Power of One Outreach serving all Clifton School Children Please bring peanut butter & jelly or cereal. This is voluntary.

“Shoulder to Shoulder With Our Brothers in Blue”

One of the founding principle of the Knights of Columbus, “Patriotism” directs charitable efforts toward those who serve us in the military and other domestic services. Our local police protect us, assist us and serve our community in many ways. Many of our local police are Knights and there is a common bond between the groups. 100% of the profit from the sale of “Shoulder to Shoulder with our Brothers in Blue” bumper stickers will be given to police charities. The Knight’s encourage everyone in the community to show our solidarity with our police officers by displaying one of these on their vehicle. Bumper sticker are \$5.00 each, are magnetic and can be obtained from any Knights member, by sending an email to rdunker-sloot@verizon.net



Properties Begin to Yield to Rt 46 - 3 Construction



Pascrell: Take Canada’s Lead

Continued from page 3

and its ability to resettle more refugees than the U.S. at such a swift rate; and identify ways that our countries can work together to strengthen our commitment to helping those fleeing persecution.

The international community has always relied on the United States to establish the

precedent for responding to humanitarian crises like the one in Syria. It is time for our nation to lead by example and increase our commitment to the refugee crisis. While we remain concerned about potential abuse of our resettlement programs by certain actors, we are also concerned when we see a child laying lifeless in the water after trying to escape the violence in their home country; a family starving because food assistance has been rationed; or a refugee dying while waiting approximately two years to be screened and vetted.

It is not only a moral imperative, but it is of critical importance to our nation’s long term national security and stability in the Middle East that Syrian refugees are welcomed in the United States. We deeply appreciate your personal commitment and the Administration’s work to the global refugee crisis, but we believe more must be done. Thank you for your time attention to this request and we look forward to hearing about the outcome of your conversation with Prime Minister Trudeau.

Sincerely,

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Nature in Your Backyard

BY DON TORINO

The Five Best Hummingbird Plants for the Backyard . . .

As I put pen to paper to write this article one of the most amazing events in nature is taking place, the spring migration of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. This incred-

ible and grueling journey of one of the tiniest birds in the world takes it clear across the Gulf of Mexico, a distance of approximately 1300 kilometres (800 mi.) An almost implausible journey which is flown in one stretch, without stopping or even resting. Your backyard is an important stepping stone, a



rest stop and sometimes a nesting place along the migration highway for these magical little creatures and having the right plants in your garden to help them along may play

may also be attracted to the flowers such as gnats, fruit flies, small bees, spiders and mosquitos. Here are my top Five picks of native plants to introduce to your backyard that will help your Hummingbirds thrive in your garden habitat this Year. Beebalm- Monarda Didyma - Known by a number of different common names including bee balm, Oswego tea and Wild bergamot, this wonderful wildflower is native to eastern North America and its scarlet red flowers attract Ruby-throats like a magnet. Monarda is best grown in rich, medium to wet, moisture-retentive soils in full sun to part shade. Soil should not be allowed to dry out. You can deadhead flowers to prolong summer blooms Cardinal Flower - Lobelia Cardinalis. Where there

is Cardinal Flower there will be hummingbirds. Cardinal flower prefers rich, humusy, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. It will tolerate full sun in cool, northern climates, but otherwise appreciates a little shade. And don't let Cardinal flower dry out for long if you want to have healthy

. The beautiful purple spiked flowers are not only great for hummers but are loved by butterflies and also by goldfinches when it goes to seed at the end of the season. Agastache is very adaptable and is easily grown in average, dry to medium moist well-drained soils in full sun



and happy plants. Annise Hyssop - Agastache Foeniculum



to part shade. It does well in moist soils but they can do tolerate dry soils

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A Matter of Balance A Free 8 Week Course

The Clifton Health Department and NORWESCAP will be offering a free eight-week course called a Matter of Balance on Mondays from 1:00PM – 3:00PM, starting March 21, 2016 and ending May 9, 2016 at the Clifton Public Library, 292 Piaget Ave, Community Room A, Clifton. Each class is approximately two hours long. Registration is required. Please call the Clifton Health Department at 973-470-5760

to register. Registration will be on a first come first served basis. Please call as soon as possible, as space is limited. This course is open to Clifton and Little Falls residents only.

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. Participants will learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance. You should attend if you are concerned about falls, interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength, have fallen in the past, and if you restrict activities because of falling

concerns.

This program is based on Fear of Falling: According to the CDC, one out of three older people falls each year, but less than half tell their doctor. Falling once doubles your chances of falling again. Many falls do not cause injuries, but one out of five falls does cause a serious injury such as a broken bone or a head injury. These injuries can make it hard for a person to get around, do everyday activities, or live on their own.

Please call the Clifton Health Department at 973-470-5760 to register or for more information about this free screening.



Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities President Joe Duffy presents an Apostolic Blessing to Dcn. Ray Chimileski, St Luke Parish, Long Valley, founder of Operation Chillout, on the occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, for faithful service to homeless veterans, man and women in NJ.

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The Five Best Hummingbird Plants for the BackYard

Continued from page 7



when established. Plants will self-seed in good growing conditions. Trumpet Honeysuckle - *Lonicera sempervirens*. Unlike the invasive non-native Japanese honeysuckle our native Trumpet Honeysuckle is a great addition to the home garden. Its small tubular red flowers are loved by hummingbirds and the red berries are cherished by many of our backyard birds. Our honeysuckle



is best grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun, it can tolerate shade, but it flowers much better with more

sun. Trumpet Creeper - *Campsis radicans*. I almost did not add this to my top five list because it is such an aggressive, vigorous plant and at times not best for the backyard but it is so great for the hummingbirds I had to make it a top five selection. Trumpet Creeper is a woody vine which grows up to 30 feet tall and is best known for its magnificent flow-

ers. These bright Orange blossoms grow up to three inches long and are craved by hummingbirds and even Orioles. Trum-



pet vine is easily grown in most soils in full sun. Foliage grows well in shade, but plants need good sun for best flowering. Remember it needs a lot of room to grow so it does not choke out the other plants in your yard but if you have the room you will be amazed at the Hummingbird activity that will happen around this amazing native plant. Introducing native hummingbird plants to our backyard is a great way to help this wonderful and amazing little bird. Our backyards may become a last bastion for many migratory birds, let's all do our part to help them this year.

If you have any questions on Hummingbirds drop me an e-mail Greatauk4@gmail.com

St. Philip Served Up Corned Beef Cabbage and Cabaret!



The annual St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's Day party held at St. Philip Parish in Clifton serves up more than just Italian pastries and great corned beef and cabbage. Along with the price of admission comes entertainment, courtesy of the talented clergy of the parish. The "Cabaret" portion of the evening was a part of the first event three years ago and has come to be a tradition. Fr. Joseph Garbarino, Pastor along with Msgr. Kevin Flanagan, Fr. Julio Barios and Fr. Miguel Jimenez share their talents in song and dance. Pictured are a few scenes from the evening.

Law Targets Bullying in Schools

Continued from Page 1

Rights (“the law”), every public school district in the state must adopt a policy which prohibits harassment, intimidation and bullying “on school property . . . a school sponsored function or . . . school bus.” The policy must include a response if such actions occur off school grounds “in cases in which a school employee is made aware of such actions.”

DEFINITION

The statutory definition of harassment, intimidation and bullying (commonly referred to as “HIB”) is long and convoluted, but includes an electronic communication (transmitted by telephone, cell phone, computer, etc.) or gesture or act (whether written, verbal or physical) that is “reasonably perceived” as motivated by an “actual or perceived characteristic” (such as race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc.) that “substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students” and that:

1. a reasonable person should know will harm a student (physically or emotionally) or damage the student’s property or create “reasonable fear” of such harm or damage to property, or
2. insults or demeans a student or students, or
3. creates a “hostile educational environment” for the student.

Although each school district can create its own policy, it must contain certain mini-

num features, such as:

- a. consequences and remedial action for a person who commits an act of HIB.
- b. a procedure for reporting such acts anonymously. Such acts must be reported verbally to the principal on the day the school employee witnesses it or receives reliable information regarding it . . . and in writing within 2 days.
- c. a procedure for investigating complaints. The investigation must begin within one school day of the reporting of the incident; must be completed within 10 school days from the date of the written report, and must be reported to the Superintendent of the school district within 2 school days of completion of the investigation.

The Superintendent may provide intervention services; establish training programs to reduce HIB; impose discipline; order counseling or take other action. The results of the investigation and action taken or recommended by the Superintendent must be reported to the Board of Education.

NOTICE

The principal must inform the parents of students involved in acts of HIB. Parents are entitled to receive the results, including findings, discipline imposed, if any, and services provided to address the HIB (such as counseling, support services, intervention services, etc.) and may request a hearing before the Board of Education, which must issue a written decision accepting, rejecting or modi-

fying the Superintendent’s decision.

OTHER DETAILS

The home page of the school’s website must list the name and school address, phone number and email address of their anti-bullying “specialist” (who can be a guidance counselor, school psychologist or other trained individual appointed by the principal), as well as the district’s anti-bullying “coordinator” (whose contact information must also be listed on the district’s website).

Every school district must post its anti-bullying policy prominently on its website. The law places a legal obligation on certain people to act. A school employee, student or volunteer who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student has been subject to HIB must report the incident.

A school administrator who receives a report of HIB from an employee (or should have known about an act of HIB) and fails to conduct an investigation may be subject to discipline.

Schools must establish bullying prevention programs on an annual basis.

A school district must provide training on its policies to employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students.

A school district must form a “safety team” in each school in the district to develop a “positive school climate” and to address HIB issues.

A state Anti-Bullying Task Force was established, among other reasons, to inform school districts concerning resources to assist in implementing the law and to prepare an annual report on the

effectiveness of the law.

GRADES

Under a program created by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, each school district must provide the Commissioner with an annual, self-assessment report which includes the number and nature of incidents of HIB; discipline imposed; programs implemented, etc. The school district’s score is an average of the total scores for all schools in the district. The score for each school and the average score for all schools in the district reflect their efforts to implement policies and programs consistent with the law and their degree of compliance with it. The maximum total score for a school is 78 points. (See the box “Grading the Schools” adjacent to this article.)

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Although the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights only applies to

public schools, non-public schools are “encouraged” in the law to comply with it.

CONCLUSION

For more information on the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, visit the New Jersey Department of Education website at www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/tutorials/.

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NJ ANTI-BULLYING LAW GRADING THE SCHOOLS

Here are the grades for various school districts for 2014-2015 with respect to their efforts to implement policies and programs consistent with the law. The number of schools in the district are shown in parentheses. The maximum total score is 78.

Totowa (2)	75
Lodi (7)	73
Clifton (17)	72
Nutley (7)	72
Garfield (13)	70
Elmwood Park (5)	70
Passaic Valley High School (1)	
(Little Falls, Totowa, Woodland Park)	70
Wayne (14)	70
Saddle Brook (5)	65
Little Falls (3)	57

Grades for 2014-2015 for Bloomfield, Glen Ridge and Woodland Park have not been posted yet.



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Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin would like to remind all of his constituents that their suggestions are very important to him. Many ideas for the creation of New Jersey Laws come from citizens of all walks of life. If you have an idea for new legislation that would benefit this state, please do not hesitate to share your thoughts with his Legislative office at 973-779-3125 or e-mail us at AsmGiblin@njleg.org.

It is truly his privilege to serve the people of the 34th Legislative District.

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CLIFTON ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS

Open for Business

Continued from page 3

The city of Passaic, under the leadership of Dr. Alex Blanco has been enjoying a time in the lime- light of late. On a recent airing of the popular quiz show, Jeopardy, Dr. Alex Blanco was named in a Jeopardy question with the answer being "Passaic, New Jersey". The city is also celebrating the arrival of Patella Woodworking, a manufacturer of premium grade architectural woodwork. This new corporate citizen should add about 100 jobs to the Passaic economy. With all this going on Passaic's new user friendly website is a welcome addition. Be sure to check it out at "cityofpassaic.com".

Congratulations to Linda Hoffman, Woodland Park's Alfred Baumann Public Library's new director. Hoffman's skills and love for libraries make her a wise choice to guide the Baumann Library into the future.

The 2016 election season is beginning to take shape. Obviously the office of president of the United States will top the ballot. The uncertainty as to who will lead our two major parties is still undecided. One thing for sure as the candidates get closer to the convention the gloves are really off and the fur is really starting to fly. It would be refreshing that in between the name-calling and schoolyard rhetoric, to hear some substantive discussion on policy and what could be expected from the candidates if elected.

Yes, there is a congressional race this year and extremely popular Congressman Bill Pascrell made it clear he wants to continue to represent the 9th Congressional District, which covers a portion of both Passaic and Bergen counties, in Washington. Former Paterson Mayor Jeffrey Jones also declared his candidacy for the Democratic slot on the ticket stating Pascrell isn't bringing enough back to the district. Obviously this means a primary battle of sorts the results of which may put a chink in the armor of the Paterson Democratic machine. With the news of the Jones challenge, many Passaic County elected officials quickly lined up to give their endorsement to the Congressman.

Closer to home the Passaic County Democrats have chosen their slate. The current incumbents, Surrogate Brenice Toledo, Freeholders Terry Duffy and Pat Lepout and Sheriff Richard Berdnik will all run for re-election. The local GOP has not completed their selection and vetting process and will be announcing their full slate on March 19th. One Name that has emerged on the GOP ticket is Frank Feenan who is running for Sheriff. Feenan ran in in 2013, waging a formidable campaign against Berdnik, however he did fall short in the final vote count.

Paterson's 5th Ward councilman Julio Tavarez has decided not to run for re-election. Tavarez has been in the headlines for a number of controversies including a lawsuit against the city.

Word has it the Clifton Democratic Club hosted members of the Clifton Board of Education to discuss the proposed new middle school. With two BOE members in attendance there was discussion regarding the proposed school, however the BOE members made it clear they did not represent the BOE in the discussion.

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