

nbc REGIONAL NEWS

A Community Newsletter of the Northern Burlington County Regional School District

Volume 12 Issue 2

April 2009

A Chance to Go Green at NBC

Northern Burlington County Regional School District has proposed a solar energy system on

its rooftop for which it needs public approval, and the referendum is set for April 21, 2009, the same day as

the annual school board election.

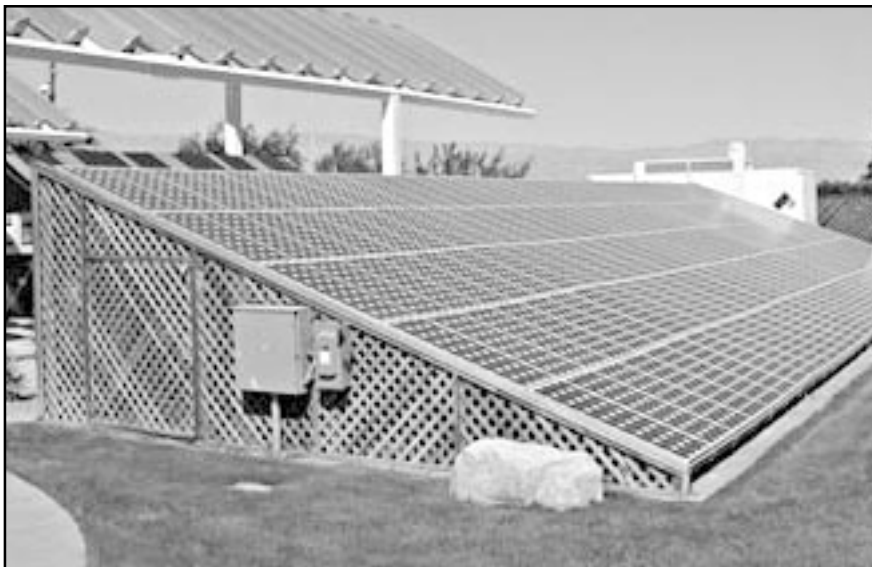
Although the district is requesting funds at the onset of the project to install the solar panels, the installation of a solar energy system on its rooftop will eventually save the district more than it costs.

In fact, it was this positive return on its investment as well as the need to replace leaky roofs that moved the district forward with the planning of the project.

The cost of the project is offset by several different revenue sources including grants from the state and federal government.

Both the White House and the state are pushing long term investments in renewable energy and have provided hefty grants to **Northern Burlington** for making the conversion.

It was this economic stimulus as well as the opportunity to reduce



Solar panels in use at the SunLine Transportation Agency. Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Energy - National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Jeans for Teens

The Northern Burlington County Regional Middle School really rose to the occasion recently with its campaign to collect jeans for homeless teenagers.

The school joined in on the national campaign launched by Aeropostale stores, and Do Something.org, a Web site that uses

the power of *online* to get teens to do some good *offline*.

Teens nationwide dropped off their gently worn jeans to Aeropostale stores through March 1st.

In all, **Northern's** students and the faculty contributed more than 330 jeans to the cause.

Continued on page four

Inside NEWS

- Focus on Solar Energy
- **Northern's** Judge Bonnie
- Sports All Stars
- Noteworthy at NBC

Judge's Talk Appeals to Students

Burlington County's Presiding Municipal Courts Judge Bonnie Goldman recently donned her robes and entered her alma mater to address the 7th grade class of **Northern Burlington Middle School**.

Judge Goldman, a 1968 high school graduate of **Northern** agreed to host an assembly program where students could ask her serious questions about the law and her life on the bench.

The assembly was scheduled after students read *The Outsiders*, a novel dealing with poverty, class conflict and teenage violence.

Judge Goldman told students that sadly the consequences of bad decisions are often not considered in advance, especially by teenagers.



Seventh graders had a lesson in the reality of law and order from Presiding Judge Bonnie Goldman.

Soup & Service With a Smile

A Campus Responds

Not only was it a lot of fun, but the event raised a lot of money for a good cause.

Recently, members of **Northern Burlington's National Honor Society** launched a dodge ball tournament as a means of raising funds for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, TASK, Inc.

The game raised over \$700 with which students purchased meals to support TASK.

Seven *NHS* members spent the afternoon serving food and seeing the value of *NBC's* contribution.



CAP Courses Give College Credits

New at NBC's High School for 2009-2010

An expanded partnership between Burlington County College (BCC) and **Northern Burlington County Regional High School** will enable students taking courses taught in school to be eligible for college credits as part of BCC's College Accelerated Program, or CAP for short.

Under the partnership agreement, some 40 courses now taught at **Northern** will be eligible for dual credits, BCC and **Northern**, if students complete the BCC registration process and pay the BCC tuition.

Students taking an eligible course will receive a special BCC Application for High School Students to complete if they want to also receive college credits.

The benefits of getting college credits for courses taken in high school are many.

In particular, students will graduate with a high school diploma and a college transcript. Even if students do not choose to continue

their education at BCC, course credits earned from BCC are accepted at many colleges and universities across the country.

Students can present their transcripts to earn credits toward graduation, or gain advanced standing in courses upon starting college elsewhere.

BCC's affordable tuition and fees can represent a substantial cost savings for students transferring their credits into more expensive four-year colleges and universities.

Also, a student earning college credit while in high school is seen as an asset in the college application process because it demonstrates a student's proficiency with college level work.

A Sampling of Approved CAP Courses

Applied Technology: 2 Courses
 Business & Technology: 7 Courses
 English: 2 Courses
 Mathematics: 4 Courses
 Science: 5 Courses
 Social Studies: 1 Course
 Visual & Performing Art: 8 Courses
 World Languages: 10 Courses

Winter Sports Wrap-Up

Each sports season, **Northern** is pleased to recognize so many outstanding student athletes. This winter was no exception.

The following students received *First Team All Star* selection or were recognized for other honors.

Girls' Bowling All Stars

Heather Banks, 12th grade
 Priscilla Medenbach, 12th grade
 Kayla Pullen, 10th grade
 Ahnnalisa Regi, 11th grade

Boys' Bowling All Star

Justin Howarth, 11th grade

Wrestling All Stars

Josh Jones, 11th grade

Also noteworthy is that the boys' bowling team was named *Liberty Division Champions*.

Senior Michelle Lynn Smith was recently honored by the *New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association* at a luncheon for female athletes for National Women in Sports Day.

Michelle plays field hockey and softball at **Northern**.

She was also treated to a Seton Hall University basketball game after the luncheon.



Michelle Lynn Smith

Poised for Solar Power

Continued from page one

electric bills, save taxpayers money, *and* make a positive contribution toward a *greener* environment which made the decision to act now an easy one.

Therefore, the district bundled several of its facilities needs into one project in order to receive grants from multiple sources and limit the cost to its constituent taxpayers.

For example, the replacement of the high school fire alarm is also part of the referendum proposal because it is a health and safety issue. This replacement is considered a “level one, high priority capital maintenance project” for which the state has also allocated funds in addition to its grants to **Northern** for renewable energy.

The Scope of the Project

Here’s a closer look at what will be done under the scope of this project which seeks voter approval on April 21, 2009.

- Replace a section of leaky

roofs and install a solar energy system on the new roof.

- Remove and replace an inefficient and costly heating unit on the media center roof with an efficient one; replace that roof and install a solar energy system on the new roof.

- Replace the antiquated high school fire alarm.

As previously stated, **Northern Burlington** has secured several grants and rebates which will guarantee nearly \$2.3 million in direct aid to the district over the next 15 years.

This money will be used to offset the tax impact of the project to the local constituent communities.

In addition, money will be earned each year through Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs).

Northern estimates that the revenue earned from the SRECs and the savings incurred through reduced electricity bills will generate

a positive cash flow of an additional \$1.8 million over 15 years, based on the current market value.

This figure coupled with the \$2.3 million in aid will result in over \$4.1 million in financial incentives applied toward the cost of the project.

Since the total estimated cost of the project is \$3.8 million, or less than the incentives received, the project will *pay for itself* in less than 15 years.

The surplus of revenue of \$311,688 will go back to the taxpayers to offset future school taxes.

The projected tax impact for an average homeowner from each of the four constituent communities will be a minimal **27¢ to 29¢ a month**.

The cost of doing only a partial roof replacement *without solar panels* was figured to almost **cost four times more** than the project

Continued on page five

The Dollars & Sense of This

Tax Impact of the Referendum

Chesterfield	\$3.27 a Year	about 27¢ a Month
Mansfield	\$3.37 a Year	about 28¢ a Month
North Hanover	\$3.27 a Year	about 27¢ a Month
Springfield	\$3.45 a Year	about 29¢ a Month

A Proposal With a *Bright* Future

Continued from page four

expense with them because of the loss of the different revenue incentives for renewable energy.

In fact, because of the great interest in the renewable energy grants and rebates, New Jersey has stopped accepting applications for these funds and the program ended in December 2008.

The box at the bottom of page four breaks down the *annual costs* of the project to the taxpayers, which averages about **\$3 per household per year**.

Despite the favorable economic and ecologic good sense of this project, the school district is required to receive voter approval in order to proceed any further.

If approval is received, the district is poised to begin work and complete the project before school begins in the fall.

The sooner the project begins, the sooner the district can put its football field-sized roofs to work as solar power generators and the sooner it can start to save on electricity while going green for the good of the environment.

Also on the Ballot

In addition to the referendum for solar energy, the annual 2009-2010 school budget will be on the ballot, as usual.

The proposed budget for next school year represents a slight increase of **less than 1%** over the current budget.

The budget proposed for 2009-2010 controls spending, which means it limits or cuts spending in every controllable area, and modifies current educational programs without adding any additional

costs to the budget.

Furthermore, *all spending* is within the spending caps imposed by the state.

To achieve this end, the **Northern Burlington Board of Education** has eliminated five full-time positions, cut administrative spending by 8% and cut capital spending.

In addition, the *Board of Education* has opted not to pursue any waivers to the tax cap although the district is eligible to do so.

Despite these measures, the overall result is a proposed budget that will produce a mixed result for the taxpayers in the regional school district.

Although the *Board of Education* and the Administration have worked hard to hold the line on taxes, there's always a challenge

Continued on page six

How the School Budget Impacts Your Taxes

2009-2010 Annual School Tax Increases/Decreases (per \$100 of assessed property value)

	Chesterfield	Mansfield	No. Hanover	Springfield
Tax Rate	\$0.415	\$0.578	\$1.061	\$0.618
Avg. Ass'd Home Value	\$452,036	\$335,225	\$177,000	\$320,809
Impact by Year*	\$69.21	\$0.00	\$228.83	-\$109.76
Impact by Month*	\$ 5.77	\$0.00	\$19.07	-\$ 9.15

*Based on Average Assessed Home Value

Getting Their Point Across

Artists as Social Advocates

Members of the high school's ceramics classes and the *National Art Honor Society* recently came together in support of a good cause.

In order to bring awareness to the issue of hunger, students sponsored an event known as *Empty Bowls* for the second year in a row.

In exchange for a donation, students served a humble meal of soup and bread in a handmade bowl that they created.

Students raised over \$600 in support of the Lakota Sioux Native Americans of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.



Members of the *National Art Honor Society* with advisor Mrs. Pat Proniewski.

Two Questions to Consider

Continued from page five

in understanding school finance when the dynamics of a regional school system are entered into the school funding formula.

According to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Sarruda, the amount of money needed to fund the school budget will actually **decrease** the school tax in Springfield Township, remain **unchanged with no increase** in Mansfield Township, produce a **slight increase** in Chesterfield Township, and an **increase** in North Hanover Township.

The blue box at the bottom of page five shows the local tax impact by township that taxpayers can anticipate. The tax impact is based on the average assessed home value in each township.

The good news is that **Northern** is doing a better job than ever before at a time when the state department of education has mandated more standards for curriculum and more tests to pass.

And although this budget limits overall spending to less than 1%, students will continue to grow in a rich academic environment.

Northern continues to modify its program offerings and expand in the math and science programs to support studies and research in areas such as Engineering, Video Production, Computer Applications, and World Language.

At the same time, the *Board* and its Administration have been researching new and innovative ways to save money while continu-

ing to pursue general grants and incentives to offset its expenses.

On April 21st, the voters will be given the opportunity to accept over \$4.1 million in these grants and incentives.

“To capitalize on these opportunities, we need the community to authorize the process on April 21st,” said Dr. Sarruda.

Need More Information?

The district has set up an interactive blog on its web page to answer any questions. Please review the literature and the information on the district web page at www.nburlington.com. and take some time to watch for more comprehensive, informative programming on Channel 19.

Noteworthy at NBC

Thespian Awards

Congratulations to the **Northern** students who were singled out for recognition for their participation at the recent New Jersey State Thespian Festival at Rutgers University.

They were: **Seniors**

Jennifer Asselin, Julian Azan, Bridgit Bauma, Becky Brodowski, Lauren Delfing, JT Kaltreider, Janelle Ntim, Alex Urisko; **Juniors** Melanie Yan and Patrick Welsh; **Sophomores** Hillary Lovenduski, Poonam Narotam, Samantha Nixon, Melissa Patterson; **Freshmen** Chandler Bailey and Joshua Knighten.

In addition, the cast of Jennifer Asselin, Julian Azan, Melissa Patterson, Tyler Schneckengerger, Melanie Yan, and Alex Urisko will be presented a NJ Governor's Award in Arts Education at a ceremony in May for taking *1st place* in the Speech & Theater State Competition in January.

Hall of Fame Honorees

Northern Burlington was proud to sponsor its 2nd annual athletic *Hall of Fame* induction ceremony in March.

This year's honorees were: former wrestling coach Ted



WINNING EDGE: Northern's *Drama & Forensic team took home two trophies in January.*

Hall of Fame cont'd

Gordon; former coach and athletic director Bruce Wandling (posthumously); Class of 1978 athlete Andy Zuckerman; and the 1962 undefeated **Northern** Cross Country team.

Congratulations to all inductees!

Musically Talented

Three students from the high school music department were selected to participate in the All-Eastern Honors Ensembles that performed in Providence, Rhode Island recently.

Anthony DeCarlo was selected for the All-Eastern Jazz Ensemble and Jessica Marcinkowski and Tyler Schneckengerger were selected for the All-Eastern Mixed Chorus.

Anthony DeCarlo was also selected as a finalist for the 2009 Grammy Jazz Ensemble, based on his videotaped audition for this national competition.

Middle School Spirit

Spirit Week at the **North-ern Burlington Middle School** was not only a lot of fun but it did a lot of good.

Not only did students enjoy performances by the school band, and show support for their sports teams, they also raised \$300 in support of the Special Olympics.

Congratulations also goes to the 7th grade for winning the school's *Spirit Stick* for their exemplary participation in the week's activities.

Trenton Thunder Award

Congratulations to the six **Middle School** musicians who won the Trenton Thunder Music and School Arts Award.

They were: Alison Belonzi, Dylan Cahill, Ray Diao, Stephanie Parada, Carly Stelljes, and Jesse Whitbeck.

The students received a ticket to a game, food vouchers and a complimentary pass to Kids Zone.

Singled Out for Song

Middle School students Pauline Gaudette, Grace Hermesmann, and Zachivett Rodriguez were selected to All South Jersey Chorus.

Vote April 21, 2009

Polling Locations

Chesterfield Township 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

All Districts Municipal Building

Mansfield Township 2 - 9 p.m.

Districts 1, 7, 8 NBC High School 500 Bldg.
Districts 2, 3 Municipal Building
Districts 4, 5 Homestead Clubhouse
District 6 Four Seasons Clubhouse

North Hanover Township 2 - 9 p.m.

All Districts Municipal Building

Springfield Township 2 - 9 p.m.

All Districts Municipal Building

Candidates for the Board of Education

Chesterfield

One 3-Year Term

- William Puglia
- F. Gerry Spence

Mansfield

One 3-Year Term

- James Nucito

North Hanover

One 3-Year Term

- Barclay M. Townsend
- James P. Foley

Postmaster: Please deliver April 1-4, 2009

Postal Customer

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Mr. Thomas Sensbach, Vice-President

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Mr. Roy Johnson

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Lt. Col. David Mahanes, Ex Officio

Dr. James Sarruda, Superintendent

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Mr. Richard Kaz, Jr., School Business

Administrator/Board Secretary

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