

Visit our Web site for the latest South Jersey news, including daily news updates, breaking news, information on places to go, things to do and much more.

## What's hot

- Photos: Signs of the Times
- Photos: 4 disabled adults found shackled in Philly basement
- Special section: Cold & Flu
- Most read story: "South Jersey firm thrives amid hard times"



## What's new

### Photo Galleries

- Varsity: High school sports

[courierpostonline.com/photos](http://courierpostonline.com/photos)

### Blogs

- Girlz Games: "Schalick grad Bernardini leads Rowan"
- Community Editorial Board: "Never Again"
- Varsity Football: "Five Minutes - Mike Burke"

[courierpostonline.com/blog](http://courierpostonline.com/blog)

### Forums

- Recipes
- 100 year old man runs marathon

[courierpostonline.com/forums](http://courierpostonline.com/forums)

"These judges need a wake up call!" — **iratnurse** regarding news that Gov. Christie wants judges to pay more for their pension and health benefits.

## Today's feature

Get the latest business news at [CPSJ.com/Business](http://CPSJ.com/Business)

## Keep informed

### ■ E-MAIL UPDATES

Get the latest news, sports and business headlines e-mailed directly to you. Visit [courierpostonline.com](http://courierpostonline.com) and click on "E-Newsletters" at the top of the page

## Story chat

# Haddonfield schools lauded for acceptance

By **BARBARA S. ROTHSCHILD**

Courier-Post Staff

**HADDONFIELD** — Two Haddonfield schools were named No Place for Hate schools Tuesday by the Anti-Defamation League, which recognized them for their commitment to promoting respect for diversity and continuing anti-bias efforts.

Students at Haddonfield Memorial High School and Haddonfield Middle School each completed three projects over the 2010-11 school year to earn the distinction, which comes with a large banner and is renewable annually.

The schools are the second and third in South Jersey to be named No Place for Hate schools. The first, Cherry Hill's Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, was the first throughout the entire state to be so honored last spring.

Although the program is celebrating its 10th anniversary nationwide, it had not come to New Jersey earlier because the state's ADL organization has concentrated on other programs.

But in September 2010, a reorganization placed South Jersey in the Eastern Pennsylvania region, which had been confined to the eastern half of Pennsylvania plus Delaware. The chapter has been promoting No Place for Hate since its inception and already has more than 160



**Haddonfield Middle School Principal Gino Priolo says the school is developing programs to retain its No Place for Hate designation.**

COURIER-POST FILE

Pennsylvania and Delaware schools on board.

Lisa Friedlander, the ADL's No Place for Hate project director for South-eastern Pennsylvania/South Jersey/Delaware, said the chapter focused on communities at first, but began making a push for schools to get with the program in 2005.

Friedlander, whose husband, Seth, teaches history at Haddonfield Memorial High School, said the most effective No Place for Hate programs are the ones that become part of the school culture, with language and philosophy woven into daily lesson plans and behavioral expectations.

To earn their designation, high school students participated in a national event called "Night of Noise/Day of Silence" to

challenge myths about homosexuality and raise awareness for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and community members. Faculty participated in "Lead for Diversity" meetings to talk about making the school climate more accepting. Finally, students led "Reflective Lunch Discussions" about cyberbullying.

Haddonfield Middle School presented a one-man play, "Dirt," that forces audiences to challenge preconceived notions and stereotypes.

For its second project, it brought in an animal rescue group and an author to talk about getting over stereotypes by using stories of reformed pit bulls. Finally, the school held a presentation about apathy and the potential power of bystanders to shape school culture and advocate for others.

Middle school Principal Gino Priolo said the school has already begun its programs to retain its No Place for Hate distinction next year.

"We had a wellness day last week, with presenters from all over to talk about peer pressure and other things," Priolo said. "It's part of our ongoing efforts to create the best environment possible for our students."

Reach Barbara S. Rothschild at (856) 486-2416 or [barothschild@camden.gannett.com](mailto:barothschild@camden.gannett.com)

# Charters expand reach in suburbs

By **BARBARA S. ROTHSCHILD**

Courier-Post Staff

**TRENTON** — The state Department of Education this week received 42 new applications for charter schools, including eight in South Jersey.

What's new about this round is the growing number of applicants from the suburbs, including ones for schools that would open in Willingboro, Somerdale, Voorhees and Monroe Township.

Only half the South Jersey applications for the tri-county area are for Camden schools, which currently account for nearly all the charter schools in the tri-county area.

Two charter schools are operating in Burlington County — one serving Florence students, the other serving New Hanover, Pemberton Township and Springfield.

In Camden County, there are suburban schools in Winslow and Gloucester Township.

Potter's Hand International Conservatory School in Monroe, which would eventually serve 360 students from kindergarten through eighth grade, is the only Gloucester County charter school listed among the latest applications and would be the first to open in the county.

Under Gov. Chris Christie, charter school applications are being encouraged as one way to provide choice. There have been 100 applications this year, and 27 approvals.

Schools in this round of applications, if approved, are likely to open in September 2013, DOE spokeswoman Allison Kobus said. Some could open as soon as September 2012.

The DOE is expected to announce approvals in January.

The two suburban Camden County applicants are

*"Kung Fu focuses their minds and strengthens their bodies."*

### DEVITA LEDGISTER

Shaolin Temple Charter School

Shaolin Temple Charter School in Somerdale and Creative Studies Charter School in Voorhees.

Shaolin Temple Charter School lists as its contact Royce Filler, the head monk of the Buddhist church in Somerdale that is affiliated with the Shaolin Kung Fu-Tai Chi Center. The center teaches a 1,500-year-old martial arts system developed by the Shaolin monks at China's ancient Honan Temple for health, meditation, physical conditioning, overall fitness and self-defense, and also provides after-school care for disadvantaged, at-risk children and those with behavioral issues.

The school's lead person is DeVita Ledgister, who helps run the after-school program.

Ledgister, a Sicklerville resident who has taken in abandoned and abused children herself, is working toward an educational leadership certificate at Cabrini College.

Church abbot Sifu Lu invited Ledgister to develop the school plan. Ledgister describes the school as technology-oriented with Kung Fu, targeting disadvantaged and behavioral-issue youngsters.

"Kung Fu focuses their minds and strengthens their bodies," she said.

If the school is approved, it could open as early as September with 65 students in kindergarten through grade 12 and eventually grow to 260 students.

The Voorhees application for Creative Studies Charter School includes plans for grades two through five in an arts-based program. If approved, it would join Regis

Academy Charter School in accepting Voorhees students.

Regis Academy, one of four charter schools statewide to gain DOE approval earlier this fall, plans to locate in Cherry Hill but would serve students from Somerdale and Lawnsdale as well as Cherry Hill and Voorhees. That school, co-founded by Pastors Amir Khan and Calvin Brown of the Solid Rock Worship Center, has been the center of controversy and neighborhood opposition.

While the Cherry Hill School District is actively opposing the Regis Academy application, saying it would unnecessarily divert state funds from a high-performing district, the high-performing Voorhees district has had no official comment on charter schools serving Voorhees children.

Among the other applications is one for Willingboro College Prep Charter High School, which would join two other planned charter schools in the township if approved.

Its contact, Nicholle Anatol, is also helming the previously approved Willingboro Academy Charter School for younger students.

Among the four applications for urban Camden schools, City Invincible Charter School is affiliated with Foundations Inc., a Moorestown company that works with leaders and organizations to improve schools, transform after-school time and engage families and communities in the educational process.

Reach Barbara S. Rothschild at (856) 486-2416 or [barothschild@camden.gannett.com](mailto:barothschild@camden.gannett.com)

# New housing rules delayed

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL**

Associated Press

A three-judge panel has slowed down Gov. Chris Christie's efforts to make quick changes to the state's complicated affordable housing requirements.

The state appeals panel issued a stay Tuesday on his plan for new affordable housing procedures and scheduled a hearing for February.

Until then, the state is ordered to follow the affordable housing procedures that were in place before the state Council on Affordable Housing was abolished last month.

In the 1980s, the state Legislature created the Council on Affordable Housing, a 12-member board that laid out each town's housing obligation and approved its plans for how to meet it. COAH became a nearly universally despised foil for local politicians who didn't like its rules or methods, which they saw as bureaucratic.

Christie formed a plan in June to eliminate the agency. Lawmakers had two months to object, but none did. The administration said that COAH would be eliminated and its duties transferred to the state Department of Community Affairs.

His plan set forth interim procedures designed to speed up affordable-housing decisions.

Fair Share Housing Center, a Cherry Hill-based group that advocates for housing for low-

er-income people, sued.

The group said that the DCA's new rules have meant decisions regarding towns' affordable housing plans are made without enough explanation or opportunity for comment.

"The only thing worse

than a slow COAH, a bureaucratic COAH, is housing policy set by the guy who has announced opposition," Kevin Walsh, a Fair Share lawyer, said Wednesday. "What we're going to get is faster bad decisions."

## ENGAGEMENTS



**Shannon Lynn Selfridge  
Justin Thomas Skacel**

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas George Skacel of Deptford, N.J. are very proud to announce the Engagement of their Son, Justin Thomas Skacel to Ms. Shannon Lynn Selfridge, daughter of Ms. Sandy Leszczykowski of Gloucester City N.J. and Mr. William Selfridge of Glendora, N.J. The wedding is planned for October 28th, 2011.



**Sandra L. Moyer  
Robert D. Shute, Jr.**

Sandra L. Moyer and Robert D. Shute, Jr., both of Harleysville, PA are happy to announce their engagement. Sandra is the daughter of Deanna Moyer of Hatfield, PA and the late Edward A. Moyer, Sr. Robert is the son of Mary and Robert D. Shute, Sr. of Marlton, NJ. Sandra is an analyst with DecisionOne Inc. in Devon, PA. Robert is a project supervisor with Construction Services International, Inc. in Harleysville, PA and a graduate of Rutgers University in Camden, NJ. The proposal took place in front of family and friends on November 20, 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. A February 11, 2012 wedding is planned.



**Brenda Jean Mason  
Theodore William Babiasz**

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Mason of Pennsauken, NJ are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Brenda Mason to Mr. Theodore Babiasz of Philadelphia, PA. Brenda graduated from Pennsauken High School in 2004 and from The College of New Jersey with a Masters of Education in 2009. Brenda is currently a teacher in the Pennsauken School District. Ted is the son of Ms. Cara Eckhardt of Harleysville, PA and Mr. Thomas Babiasz of Philadelphia, PA. Ted is a 2005 graduate of Lansdale Catholic High School and is currently a manager with the Wawa Corporation. A July 2012 wedding is planned.

### TO REQUEST A FORM:

■ Engagements, weddings and anniversaries (49 years and under are handled by **Retail Department**. Call (856) 486-2952. They are published on Thursdays for only \$49.95.

■ Anniversaries for 50 years and above are handled by **Editorial/Our Towns**. Call (856) 486-2458.

■ Announcements are also posted on our Web site for up to 8 weeks for no additional cost.

■ To request an engagement, wedding or anniversary form, mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Courier-Post Scrapbook Attn: Jackie, PO Box 5300, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

■ Please indicate which for you are requesting.

■ Forms are also available in our lobby during business hours, and can be downloaded at: [www.CourierPostOnline.com/scrapbooking](http://www.CourierPostOnline.com/scrapbooking). Call (856) 486-2952 if you have any questions.

View **Scrapbook Announcements** online at [www.CourierPostOnline.com](http://www.CourierPostOnline.com)