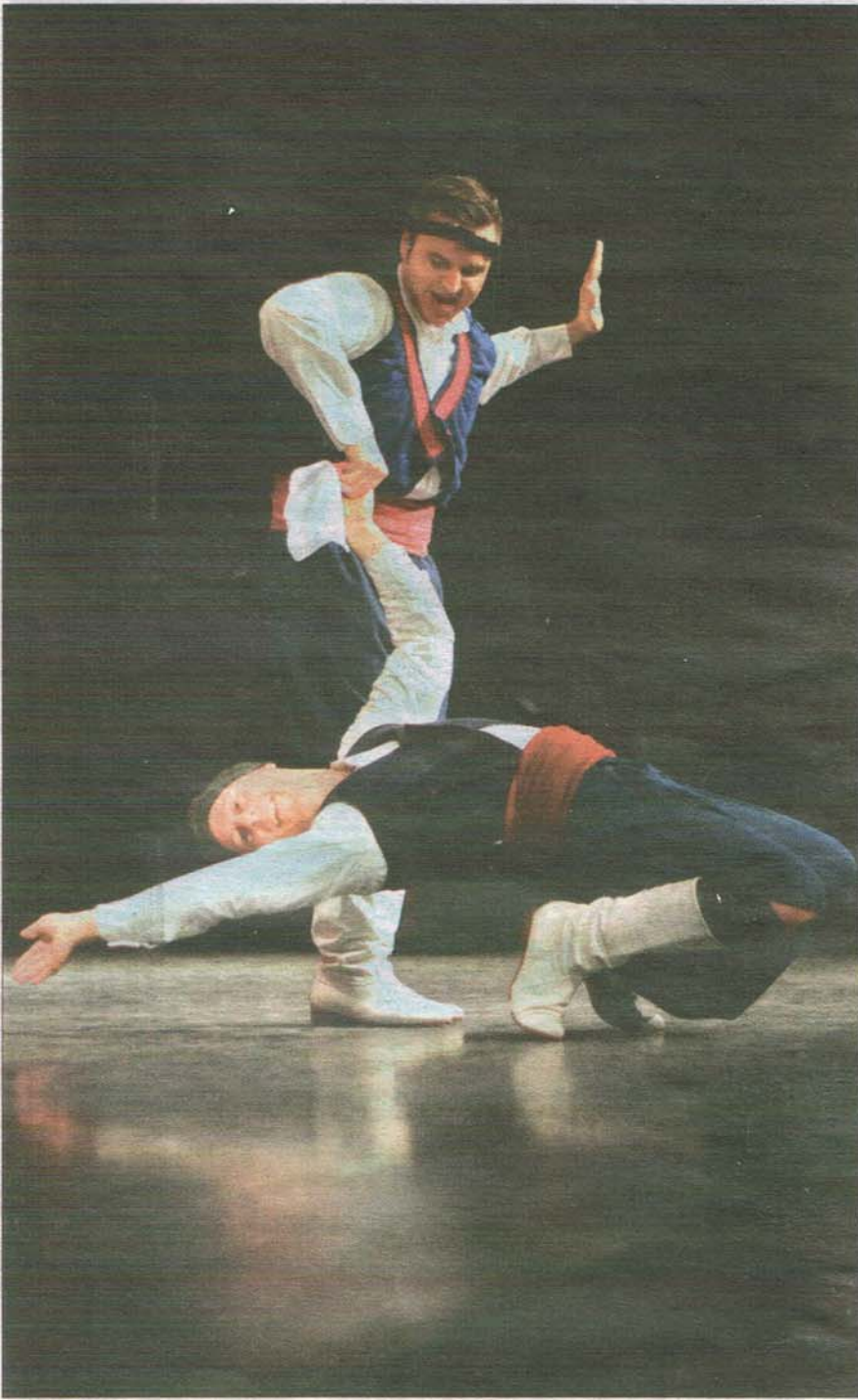




# News Transcript

APRIL 11, 2012

Greater Media Newspapers • A Group of Ten Community Newspapers Serving Monmouth and Middlesex Counties



GLEN HUSZAR

More than 100 current and past members of the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey will perform at a 40th anniversary celebration in Edison on April 29. For more, see page 3.

## Marlboro resident on 2012-13 school

Polls will be open from noon to 9 p.m. April 17; budget calls for tax decrease

• See related

BY JACK MURTHA  
Staff Writer

The Marlboro K-8 School District Board of Education has adopted a budget for the 2012-13 school year that will reduce the school tax rate by 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation if voters approve the general fund tax levy in the April 17 school election.

Board members voted 8-0 to adopt the \$83.8 million spending plan at their March 27 meeting. Board member Joseph Waldman was absent from the meeting.

"We recommend to the board the best budget available for the students and for the educational program, but we are also mindful of the tax impact," Business Administrator Cindy Barr-Rague said.

A \$62 million support the budget levy is the amount residents will vote

The budget tax levy of nearly \$62 million does not have the debt service tax

The school district will receive \$10 million in state aid this year, which is a decrease from \$11 million in 2011-12.

Marlboro's tax rate is estimated to be 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, Rague said. The district will pay about \$4 million in school taxes from about \$4

## Resident seeks speed

Manalapan officials may not have an answer for the residents of an adult community off business Route 33 who say that in some instances it is dangerous for them to make a left turn out of their development.

The Village Grande adult community is off business Route 33 just west of Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Yates Road provides access to the development from two points on business Route 33.

Resident Tom Vila addressed the Manalapan Township Committee at its March 28 meeting. Vila said a situation that has worried him for quite some time recently resulted in a fatal motor vehicle crash.

He said a vehicle that was turning left out of Yates Road (to head east) was struck by a vehicle that was heading west on business Route 33. A man who was in the car that was turning out of the Village Grande died in the collision.

Vila said the posted speed limit is 50 mph on business Route 33 from Wemrock Road to the highway's merge with the

Route 33 bypass of Yates Road. Drivers exceed the speed limit that stretch of

He said so many vehicles on Yates Road on the east cannot accommodate vehicles that a way.

Vila asked the township engineering body to do a study on the posted speed limit.

Members of the Township Engineering Department said Route 33 is a state Department of Transportation road.

The official writing to the township about the area, there is no guard to the site.

Valesi said there is no guard area, but there is a sign that would let the speed limit drop to 40 mph.

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GLEN HUSZAR

More than 100 current and past members of the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey will perform at a 40th anniversary celebration at the Pines Manor in Edison on April 29.

## Hellenic Dancers of N.J. will celebrate 40 years

Anniversary dinner-dance will feature performances by current members, alumni

BY PATRICIA YOCZIS  
Correspondent

An experience of Greek culture awaits those who join with the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey (HDNJ) as they celebrate their 40th anniversary with a dinner-dance and a performance at the Pines Manor in Edison, Middlesex County, on April 29.

The event, which is open to the public and begins at 4 p.m., will feature more than 100 current and alumni dancers performing from their repertoire of more than 325 Greek folk dances in authentic costumes. Music will be provided by the Apollonia Greek band and DJ Pegasus.

"We hope all those who attend our celebration will receive a taste of the history of Greek culture from the past, present and even the future through the symbolism, story and message of the Greek dance and music," said John Halkiadakis, HDNJ artistic director for the past 15 years. "The dances release a lot of emotions for the dancers, and hopefully these emotions will be shared by the audience as well."

Halkiadakis, a native of Edison who now lives in Bridgewater, Somerset County, said the HDNJ performance will be in three parts, each lasting about 20 to 25 minutes: carnival or Mardi Gras dances by current dance members; mixed regions dances by alumni; and dances from the Island of Crete by current members.

"In between the three dance sections, the Ap-

polonia band will play and members of the audience will be invited to try Greek dancing," said Halkiadakis, a first-generation Greek American who has been performing Greek folk dancing since he was 16. "We want everyone to feel the Greek cultural experience through dancing."

The approximately 40 current members and 60 alumni come from a cross-section of New Jersey, mainly in central and southern New Jersey, with ages ranging from 15 to the 40s, he said.

"We have members who are first-, second- and third-generation dancers, and maybe even some fourth generation," said Halkiadakis. "Most members have learned Greek dancing through their Greek Orthodox church communities and in dance conferences held among the churches."

The HDNJ was founded in 1972 by the late Rev. Jim Chakalos and his wife, Eleni, who is fondly known as "Mrs. C," at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Asbury Park.

The organization now rehearses at the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Holmdel. Since 1980, the HDNJ has been a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

"Mrs. C (Eleni Chakalos) is the heart and soul of the Hellenic dancers," Halkiadakis said. "She has made most of the costumes and gives us all the inspiration to function as a living history to preserve the folk dance customs of Greece for future generations."

According to Arete Bouhlas, HDNJ board member and publicity director, Mrs. C is still active in the HDNJ and will be honored at the 40th anniversary celebration for her dedication and hard work.

"It will part of our celebration," Bouhlas said. "There will be other surprises, too."

Bouhlas, who will be one of the dancers at the event, said the anniversary celebrations have been a year in the making. Many have volunteered their time and talents to make it a success.

"The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey keeps up with the traditional dances that are still performed somewhere in Greece and preserves the culture that comes with them," she said. "They are amazingly beautiful dances, and I encourage everyone to join us for a memorable event."

The HDNJ has performed professionally at national and international events, including the New Jersey State Ethnic and Diversity Festival, Greek Heritage Day with the Metrostars, the inaugural festivities for former President Ronald Reagan, and the Statue of Liberty Weekend Grand Finale.

In addition, members of the troupe participated in the closing ceremonies of the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Bouhlas said proceeds from the anniversary celebration will support the HDNJ in preserving the folk dances of Greece and perpetuating Greek culture in the United States, and helping with the expenses of the HDNJ's 2012-13 touring schedule.

Tax-deductible tickets for the four-course sit-down dinner, souvenir program and dance performance are \$75 for adults, \$55 for students 13 to 23 years of age, and \$35 for children 12 and under. No tickets will be sold at the door. For reservations, call Cheryl Bontales at 732-796-1006 or at [bontsc@aol.com](mailto:bontsc@aol.com). For general information, click on [www.hellenicdancersofnj.org](http://www.hellenicdancersofnj.org).