



— DEBORAH HINSON KMETZ

Youth Council President Linda Koskoski and the It Takes a Borough website.

respondents' names were kept confidential, Koskoski said. Volunteers maintaining the site are trying their best to keep it current. She said, "The people who are working on the site are people who have jobs and families and they're just donating their time because they want to help people in our community. That's one of the reasons we're doing this town." Koskoski said she's heard from people who wanted to help as well as those affected by the shutdown. "Some of the latter weren't asking for help — just looking to get on her feet when and if they did need help. We're going forward, I've just

been staying in touch with people, finding out if they need anything," she said. In the meantime, she said, organizers increased their efforts in getting food for the Metuchen Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church so that people affected could get groceries. The pantry was good shape, she said, but donations were likely to drop by mid-February, when another shutdown could occur. "The support that people have shown one another in the wake of this event is indicative of the manner in which Metuchenites respond in any given crisis. We support each other. We're here for one another," Busch said.

Ups under way

Teams will play regular season through May 24. The playoffs will begin with championship games for Division 1 on June 8. On the final day of the season, the Metuchen Baseball and Softball teams will be celebrated with trophies awarded to division winners and runners-up, along with a picnic on Oakland Avenue. Locations throughout the season will include both Hoyer Field and Fater Field on Oakland Avenue. To register or obtain more information, visit metuchenlittleleague.com.

Presbyterian youth group to fast for up to 30 hours

Teens also hope to raise \$15K in fight against hunger

The youth group at First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen will experience hunger firsthand — as well as help prevent hunger in others — at the church's annual Famine event Feb. 22 and 23.

Some 50 members of the youth group, in grades 7 to 12, will go hungry for 24 to 30 hours while learning why people don't have enough food and how to help those in need.

The program has been held for many years, said the Rev. Justin Karmann, temporary associate pastor of youth, young adults and missions.

It was inspired by the World Vision

30 Hour Famine event, a Christian initiative to fast while raising money to help children in poverty, but Karmann has refocused the church's event on local needs.

During the event, at about hours 26 to 29, participants will package 15,000 meals through the nonprofit Kids Against Hunger, which arranges food-packing events to help children and families in need.

The packaged meals will go to the Philabundance Food Bank, which distributes food to 90,000 people weekly in Pennsylvania and South Jersey.

The First Presbyterian teens will also raise funds for Kids Against Hunger through GoFundMe as well as personal appeals. Last year's event raised \$13,500, according to Karmann, and organizers hope to reach \$15,000 this year.

— *Marlaina Cockcroft*



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