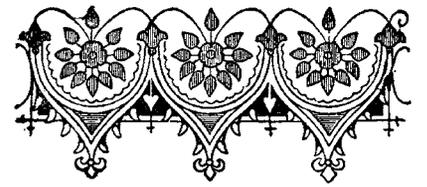


Business & Finance



Something Old, Something New, Something Bartered, Something Blue



Faye Alba, Director, BarterPays! Inc.

Many little girls grow up with dreams of someday having a fairy tale wedding. But most little girls don't dream about the price tag that comes with it. Reportedly, the average cost for a wedding in 2014 was \$30,000. But brides and grooms don't have to head to City Hall for an affordable wedding. If they're members of a local barter exchange, like BarterPays! in Howell, they can save thousands of dollars by bartering their big day!

Members of local barter organizations spend barter dollars, instead of cash, on purchases made throughout the Network. By bartering with vendors who are also members of BarterPays!, couples can plan a high-end wedding at a fraction of the usual price.

Elegant banquet facilities and premiere caterers are available in the BarterPays! Network. Members can trade for big ticket items, like photos and albums from our award-winning photographers, and for bouquets and centerpieces from our florists. Bring on the bling! Brides and grooms can use their barter dollars to purchase wedding bands at fine jewelry stores. Looking for a Pinterest-worthy cake? Our member bakeries can bake and barter it! Arrive in style by bartering limousines for the bridal party and shuttle buses for the guests. And don't forget about the DJ, party rentals, invitations,

photo booth, dance lessons, and hair and makeup, either—these goods and services can all be bartered, too!

The owner of Sweet!, a Belmar, NJ sweet shop, is currently planning her own big day. As a member of BarterPays!, she's able to trade her baked goods and chocolates for barter dollars, and in turn, will be able to save cash by bartering with countless vendors on her wedding day. Saving thousands without settling on your big day? I'd say that's like having your (wedding) cake and eating it, too!

Faye Alba is the director of BarterPays! Inc.

For more information about membership:
www.barterpays.com

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Behind Every Working Mom Should Be a Quality Afterschool Program



Pamela Elmi, R.E.D. Director

As a community education administrator for twenty years, I have seen the full spectrum of afterschool programs. Extended day care can be provided in community centers, churches, housing complexes, or in the schools themselves. Providers are private businesses, non-profit organizations, or an entrepreneurial venture of the schools.

Quality programs provide a safe and nurturing place for children to play and do homework after school during

the time that no adults are at home. Snacks are served and if you are lucky- enrichment, guest speakers, and field trips are provided.

One thing that has remained constant in the different communities that I have served is the increased need for quality after school programs. Shared data and resources between daytime school faculty and extended day personnel enhance positive student outcomes in overall learning. Afterschool programming is at its best when it compliments and coordinates with, but does not replicate school-day learning. Many school age children do their homework in an afterschool program, not in their rooms or at the dinner table anymore.

The change from 'latch key children' (with babysitters) to structured extended day programming came from the biggest jump in maternal employment from 1960-2002.

Employment rates for married women with children rose from less than 20% to over 60%. Rates of employment among unmarried mothers are even higher. (Blau, Ferber & Winkler, 2006) These increases have resulted in a greater demand for school-

age care, Mercer County is no exception.

National data on how afterschool programs may improve grades and test scores is inconclusive. What has been proven is that successful extended day programs do improve children's attitudes toward learn-

ing. This fosters a positive approach and commitment to lifelong learning and attendance at school. (After School Alliance 2003)

For information on programs in your area, visit:

www.njsacc.org

R.E.D. Has Room for YOU!

Before & After School Drop-In Childcare

Robbinsville Extended Day (R.E.D.) allows you to pre-register & purchase drop-in days and simply use them when you need them throughout the school year.

A minimum purchase of 5 passes is required, with a price range of \$53 - \$110. This is ideal for last-minute schedule changes, or if you need those extra hours as a busy parent.

OPEN TO ROBBINSVILLE RESIDENTS ONLY - ASK FOR 'FLEXPASS'

For more information, please contact Pamela Elmi, R.E.D. Founder and Director – Robbinsville Public Schools at 609-632-0910, ext. 2215 or ext. 2216.

www.robbinsville.k12.nj.us

