

# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JANUARY 11, 2002



South Plainfield's Mayor and Council take their seats at the 2002 reorganization meeting. Pictured are (standing) Councilmen Charlie Butrico, Dennis Cerami, Bob Cusick and Raymond Petronko; (sitting) Ed Kubala, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Council President Jim Vokral.

## Mayor to Reduce 2002 Municipal Taxes

*Pinto Says Goodbye; Cerami, Butrico Sworn In*



Councilman Charlie Butrico takes the oath of office while daughter Kristie holds the Bible and wife Sherry and daughters Dana and Michelle look on.



Councilman Dennis Cerami's daughter Jessica holds the Bible as he was sworn in Sunday to a third term. His wife, Michelle and sons, Joseph and Dennis look on.

During Sunday's reorganization meeting Mayor Dan Gallagher announced that this year's municipal tax rate will be lowered. In his annual message, he explained that even though the council has been able to keep the municipal tax rate level for three of the last five years, next year we will see municipal tax rates decreased. He said that is something no one can recall when last that happened. In his annual address he directed all department heads to come up with a budget that will lower the tax rate. (See Mayor's speech on page 6).

The reorganization meeting, which was usually held on New Year's Day, was moved years ago to the Sunday after New Year's, so residents could enjoy the holiday with their family.

This year, as in the past, the crowd filled the Council Chamber and spilled out into the hall. Many were the friends and family of Councilman Dennis Cerami, who began his third term in office, Charlie Butrico, who is the newest member on the council and Councilwoman Darlene Pinto, who chose not to run for a second term.

The first order of business was the swearing in of two council members. Before they took their seats, Darlene Pinto, holding back tears, gave her last speech as a councilwoman. Instead of listing her own deeds, she recalled the council's accomplishments during the past three years, saying the entire council worked as a team. Pinto said the council worked together as a team

*Continued on page 11*

## Local Beavers' Efforts Put South Plainfield In the Spotlight

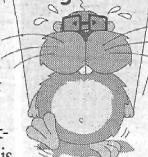
By Patricia Abbott

The newest residents in town — a quiet, hardworking family of four, continue to cause a sensational media stir throughout the area. A family of beavers has moved into a narrow section of the Bound Brook located in the Dismal Swamp on the South Plainfield-Edison-Meruchen border. Environmentalists don't mind the dam trouble the beavers have caused, but

extended all the way to New York, when Channel 2 News paid a visit to the site.

The Edison Wetlands Association is happy to play host to the animals. Wetlands Executive Director Bob Spiegel noted that the most recent barrier, a number of street sign posts erected by public works seem to be

Is this any way to treat a guest?



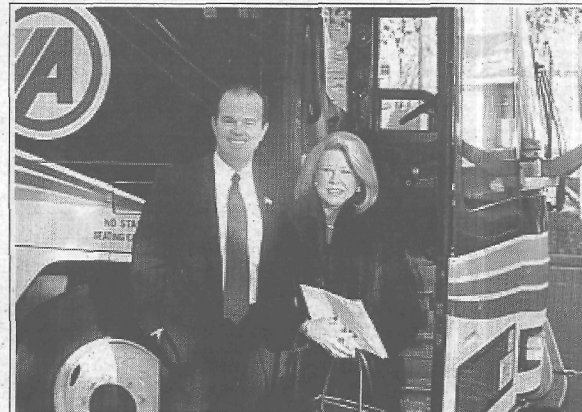
Photos by Jane Dornick

South Plainfield officials feel differently. There is an ongoing difference of opinion and contradicting stories. The beaver business is far from water over the dam.

Living up to their cliched reputation, "busy as a beaver," the varmints selected two four-foot pipes, which direct the Bound Brook under Woodbrook Rd., as an ideal spot for a dam. With the pipes blocked, water rises quickly and floods the area. South Plainfield officials fear this will eventually wash out the road. Over the past six weeks, public works employees have repeatedly dismantled the dam, only to find the "eager beavers" rebuild it overnight. Their notoriety

working, but he has additional concerns. According to Spiegel, a South Plainfield Councilman has been there at night on numerous occasions. Councilmen Bob Cusick admitted that he has been there often, checking on the situation. A combination of rain and the dam caused flooding on the road on December 23. His concern is for the safety of the single South Plainfield residence that is beyond the brook. The road is the only access in or out for this family. Cusick has brought his children, as well as friends

*Continued on page 12*



Patrick Diegnan, borough attorney, and his wife Anita are ready to board the bus that took them and about 40 of their friends and relatives to Trenton on Tuesday morning, where Diegnan was sworn in to the NJ State Assembly. The first South Plainfield resident elected to this post, Diegnan represents the 18th District. See next week's edition for complete coverage of the swearing in event.



## Commentary

### Preserving American Ideals

It is unimaginable to me to have people judge you just on your appearance, but sadly for people whose skin is just a shade too dark, it has become an expected reaction after a terrorist attack. One would think that in a time of national crisis that all issues of prejudices and racist feelings would seem irrelevant in the shadow of such a horrifying tragedy. One problem that still remains and frightens me the most is the overwhelming amount of racism towards people of the Islamic faith.

I have had the pleasure to know a person of Islamic faith. He is intelligent, kind and peace loving. Through our relationship I have learned the true meaning of the Islamic faith, and while I am no expert, I consider myself pretty knowledgeable in that field. The religion of Islam does not preach violence, but it inspires one to be a totally peaceful and understanding being. In short, Islam is a way of life, to be followed completely by its disciples.

Although I certainly do not agree with some of the measures that the religion calls for, I stand as a true believer in what this country was built upon; freedom. In the patriotic fervor this catastrophe has created, people put out their flags and shout, "Who needs the Middle East!" Little do they know that they are committing the same actions of the terrorist groups by blaming their prejudices and hatred on the pretense that it is in the pride of their country and religion.

Our forefathers built this nation on the principles of justice and democracy, liberty and equality. We must not let the actions of an isolated extremist group affect how we view an entire race of people. The biggest danger to us is not another terrorist attack, but the destruction of America's principles. Without those this country would never have become what it is today; a haven for the impoverished, a place where ambition can be molded into success, a land with equal opportunity for all, and most importantly a place where freedom is a given natural right.

Submitted by Jenevieve DeLosSantos, SPHS senior



### CORRECTION

In a Dec. 28, page one article, we reported about several students from South Plainfield High School and Middle School who attended the annual Tuba Festival in Rockefeller Center Ice Rink in New York City. The name of Barney Johnson, a Middle School student, was omitted from those participating. We regret the error.

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department  
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers & Fancy Foods on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spsobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spsobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request name their name be omitted when published.

Dear Editor,

What do you think of when you think of Patty Martin? Definitely, someone who gets involved in whatever activity her children are involved whether it be sports, drama, school, etc. Patty gets involved without being asked and takes the lead. She's a worker and doesn't look for recognition or pats on the back. If one of her children is on your child's team, you know she has the coach's gift in mind already at the start of the season.

I'd like to thank Patty, in particular, for working so hard in order to obtain jackets for this year's Junior Midget football team. As we were heading to the playoff games, Patty was already planning how the money could be raised, so that every football player could receive a jacket to recognize this season's accomplishments. Although I've heard that her husband, as well as I'm sure others, helped solicit the money from town businesses, Patty spearheaded the effort, sized the boys and dealt with the jacket company. She was very enthusiastic and positive that the total amount of money needed would be raised. The boys received the jackets this past weekend and have been wearing them proudly since.

Thanks, Patty, for your time, effort and enthusiasm when it comes to the youth of South Plainfield!

A JR. MIDGET PARENT

To the Editor,

Well, as everyone can see, we have lost the battle and much of our playground equipment has been removed. We have also learned that the Board of Education will not be contributing any money for replacement of the equipment.

In the past month, we have tried to think about all kinds of ways to raise money to replace the equipment for the children. The one thing you soon realize is that it will take a good deal of money to buy new equipment. In just four months of school, we have had all types of fundraisers that have been sent home to our families. In talking with various parents, I have had parents express the fact that they would rather donate to the raising of money for a playground than purchase a product or sell something to a friend to raise money.

In looking at various equipment, we would like to set a goal of raising \$20,000. We will place a thermometer in school with that goal and thus begin to take contributions toward that goal. I will be meeting with a playground committee in the next couple of weeks to see if we can begin to call upon local businesses to see if they

might contribute to our cause.

We are faced with a new challenge and we have never backed down from a challenge, and that is what makes Kennedy a special place. We must pull together and I know that by doing so we will accomplish our goal. Remember any contribution will be greatly appreciated. I realize that these are hard times, yet I also know that this playground served as a place for our children to gather and have hours and hours of fun.

Please make any contribution payable to J.F.K. P.T.S.O. Please clearly mark that the check is a contribution for the playground. We are hoping to purchase some new equipment by the end of March. A plaque will be established inside the school with the names of all contributors to the new playground equipment.

AL CZECH, PRINCIPAL  
J.F. KENNEDY SCHOOL

To The Editor:

Another holiday season has ended. I can't begin to express my sincere thank you to all the generous people of South Plainfield who saw the article that the South Plainfield Observer was so kind to print about the need to adopt a family, or make a donation of some kind. Such generosity was so appreciated by our families who were undergoing tough times this year. I only wish that everyone could have seen the smiles that your generosity brought to these families. Whether you adopted a family, gave gift certificates, cash, gave a single toy or ran a toy drive, donated a single warm clothing item or a dozen warm clothing items, your generosity was overwhelming. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy 2002.

MARGARET ACKERMAN,  
DIR. OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
BOROUGH OF SO. PLAINFIELD

To The Editor:

I attended the reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Borough Council yesterday, something I haven't done in the past seven years. The room was filled with greetings of Happy New Year and congratulations and good luck. After the meeting was called to order, the Mayor recognized the dignitaries and all of the former Council members who were present in the audience, which was a very nice gesture. After all, each and every former elected official has served the Borough with pride and gave endless hours of dedication to the town. It was not gone unnoticed by all that the only former councilperson not to be recognized was myself—but taking it from the source, I didn't expect anything more, or, anything less.

I did not intend for this to have a political undertone, however, the incident has made my letter become more poignant.

I wish Councilman Dennis Cerami luck in his second term. Dennis has never been less than a gentleman to me no matter where we should happen to see each other. I also wish newly elected Councilman Charlie Buttrick, luck in his first term. Charlie's family and my family go a long way back, and I'm sure that the morals instilled in Charlie by his family will follow him in his council endeavors.

The reason I attended the meeting was to give tribute to Darlene Pinto, who, like the rest of all former Borough officials, has given endless hours to the Borough.

From the calls in the middle of the night when it has been snowing and plows haven't come through the streets to the calls during family dinner time from residents or Borough employees when a problem arose, Darlene has been there putting the residents on the front burner and dinner on the back.

Many people, Democrat and Republican, have over the past several years, scratched their heads and questioned how can a Republican and Democrat be friends? The truth of the matter is, Darlene and I have shared a friendship long before the political arena, and to be quite honest, very seldom discussed politics.

Oh, don't get me wrong, having the type of personality that we both share, it is sometimes hard to keep our opinions to ourselves. We have from time to time ridiculed each others party affiliation and didn't hesitate to tell each other when we thought that the other had made a bad call; but we also complimented each other when we thought it was a good one.

There have been several times when Darlene has stood up and questioned members of her own party on certain situations and she always did her homework when it might have been something she wasn't quite sure of and making a decision with what was right in her heart—something some others should take heed to.

My uncle served as a councilman in the late 60's on the Democrat ticket. He told me stories of how back then with a mixed council, the disagreements and arguments took place in the council chambers, but after the meeting adjourned, both sides would go out to dinner, or socialize at functions around the Borough, many times sharing the same dinner table.

Darlene, I wish that all of the good you have accomplished during your term will come back to you twofold; enjoy your beautiful children while they are still children. I also look forward to a lot more good times together. And I hope that one day when we're both standing in the back of the room dead center from the Mayor, whomever he or she may be, we get the recognition we both deserve.

And yes, Virginia, there is life outside of politics!

LINDA DASHUTA

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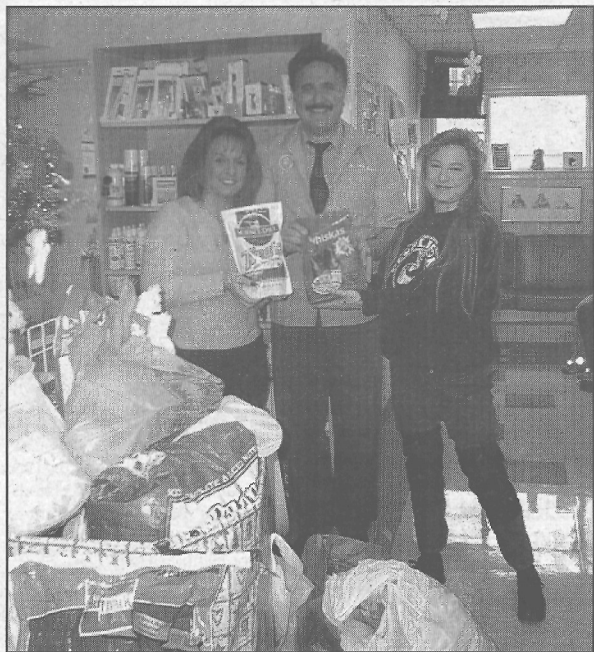
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Dr. Scott Linick of the Plainfield Animal Hospital is pictured with his wife Karen, left, and Sue Muhlgeler, representative for "People for Animals."

## Animal Hospital's Food Drive a Huge Success

The Plainfield Animal Hospital, located on Park Ave. in South Plainfield, successfully collected 850 pounds of pet food during the holiday season. They distributed the pet food to People for Animals, a non-profit organization dedicated to caring for unwanted pets.

"The spirit of the holiday season and generosity was truly overwhelming," stated Dr. Scott Linick, owner of the Plainfield Animal Hospital. "We would like to thank everyone who donated food, for making life a little better for our less fortunate stray and unwanted furry friends."

## School Board Candidacy Information Available at Local District Office

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 25, 2002, as announced by Ellen B. Johnson, South Plainfield's Business Administrator. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 16, 2002.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 305 Cromwell Place, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign

procedures, and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"I urge citizens who believe they can make a contribution to their communities' schools to consider board of education membership," said Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president. "Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

## Observer Helps in Fundraising of Kennedy Playground

After hearing that the J.F. Kennedy Schools playground equipment would be torn down and needed to be replaced, the South Plainfield Observer promised to donate \$5 from every new subscription to the Kennedy Playground Fund during the month of January.

"We wanted to help in the fundraising for new playground equipment at J.F. Kennedy School," said Nancy Grennier, publisher. "This is one way people can help support the fundraiser and at the same time get the latest local news."

The playground was inspected last year and found to be unsafe and no longer in compliance. The board ordered that it be torn down when a second inspection found it could not be brought up to code. Parents, teachers and students were devastated to lose this popular playground and want to replace the equipment as soon as possible.

If you read the *Observer* regularly, this is the perfect time to subscribe and help raise money for this cause. Just fill out the subscription form on page 9 and mail it to us at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

You can also visit our office and fill out a subscription form. For more information, call (908) 668-0010.

## Girls Scout Cookie Sales

It's cookie time again! The South Plainfield Girl Scouts will be selling Girl Scout Cookies from Jan. 18 through Feb. 10. All cookies are priced at \$3 per box.

The Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program is a tool that helps girls learn firsthand the value of making plans and setting goals, and in the process, earn money for their Girl Scout Troops.

All Cookie Sale Program proceeds directly benefit Girl Scouts locally in the Washington Rock Council. Cookie proceeds help provide financial aid to the girls, recruit and train adult volunteers, maintain and improve our camps and service center, subsidize special membership projects and help ensure low costs of Girl Scout activities.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES are the newest addition to the Girl Scout cookie line. Friendship Circles are made by sandwiching rich, chocolate filling between two vanilla cookies. Each side of the cookies is embossed with the word "friend" in one of 18 languages. These cookies celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Girl Scouting.

## SDW Announces Reading Copies of Footloose

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has announced that reading copies of the script for this year's show, "Footloose," are available at the South Plainfield Library.

Although auditions do not take place until June, the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop are making these copies available for students interested in trying out for the show to research the show and the cast requirements.

If you have any questions, contact the SPSPDW at (908) 561-5255.



Dave Street received his honor from senate leaders of both parties. L-R are William Cody, D-Bergen County, Dave Street, John Bennett, R-Monmouth County.

## South Plainfield's Dave Street Is Honored by NJ State Senate

By Patricia Abbott

Long time South Plainfield resident Dave Street was recently honored by the NJ State Senate for the educational programs he has developed. He is one of only a few people ever to be recognized for this kind of work. The resolution honoring him was sponsored by Sen. John Lynch, a Middlesex County Democrat and Sen. John Bennett, Monmouth County Republican.

The resolution acknowledges "his outstanding leadership, exemplary service and significant contributions within the educational community..."

It further noted his exceptional programs on managing anger, making positive choices, the environment, recycling, litter prevention and more, which Street has presented to more than thirty thousand students, teachers and administrators annually. The award concludes with "Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey; That this House hereby honors Dave Street." Commenting on the award Dave said, "I am honored and humbled to receive this award. I hope that I can live up to the expectations that come with it."

He currently offers three assembly programs for students on Character Education and Anger Management, the Environment and the Weather. He has Professional Development programs for teachers, presentations for administrators as well as motivational speaking presentations for businesses and community groups. As a certified provider, Dave can give certificates for one hour of professional development to teachers who experience his student assemblies. In the late 90's Dave was named the first artist-in-residence at the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission's Environment Center. For the past four years he has

been the MC of "A Taste of Broadway", a show sponsored by West Side Cultural Center, New York City.

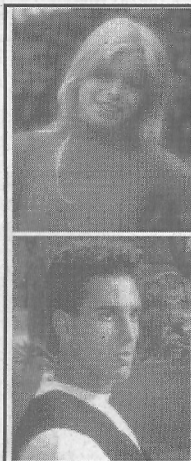
Dave is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and Kean University. He earned his Masters in Education Foundation from Rutgers University. A desire to perform brought him to New York City where he worked as a stand up comic, performance artist, and song writer. In the late eighties Dave returned to South Plainfield, where he became a substitute teacher for the Plainfield School District.

His interest in the environment and performing, combined with his work with kids was the stepping stone that led to where he is today. His approach was to combine education with entertainment. He began writing skits for his younger students with knowledge gained from their perspective. Older students are taught how to 'rap'. He raps about the environment and nature to prerecorded folk music beats and his sound was labeled Folk Rap. His very first show was at Riley School in the late nineties. A representative from the New Jersey Clean Communities saw one of his shows and named him to a list of state approved presenters. He then added a litter prevention aspect to his program. This led to the development of a program for alternative schools, shelters and detention centers. Dave teaches at-risk youths that by cleaning up the earth they can clean up their own lives. Dave credits Anthony Cotoia with giving him excellent business which helped him take his career to the next level.

Since September 11, Dave has expanded his Anger Management show to give young people the faith that by making positive choices they can still create the greatest world there has ever been.

## Back Pain?

**Edison, NJ-** Most people have no idea what to do when they experience back pain; they use heat, ice, sleep on the floor, even take pain pills hoping their pain will go away. The more you don't know, the more likely you may experience serious disc or nerve injury. If you are tired of suffering and don't know what to do about it, there is a Free Eye Opening Report that has just been released. For your free copy, call toll-free 1-888-568-8424, 24 Hrs. Recorded Message.



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# events

## Around Town

### Adult School Trip Info Meetings

January 15 and 30

The adult school will be holding two trip information nights. They will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2002, in the Cafeteria A/B of the high school and on Wednesday, Jan. 30, in the High School Information Center. Both meetings start at 7 p.m. Bring your friends for a good time. There will be door prizes and refreshments will be served.

Please call in advance to tell whether you plan to attend, either one or both of the meetings. Call the office at 908-754-4620, ext. 217, 213 or 214.

### Open House at Knights of Columbus

January 15

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are looking for new members. They will be having an "Open House" on Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call 908-755-6203 for more details.

### Project Graduation Spaghetti Dinner

January 18

The Project Graduation Committee will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Jan. 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria A/B. There is also a wrestling tournament that night, so plan on eating out if you are attending the tournament.

The menu will be spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, coffee, tea and dessert. All food will be donated by Cafe Piancone and Roma Foods in Piscataway, Marriott Services and Haisch's Bakery.

If you buy a spaghetti dinner, you will get into the wrestling match free. The cost is \$5 per person and \$4 for seniors. All proceeds benefit project graduation.

### AARP Meeting to Have Guest Speaker

January 18

AARP Chapter 4144 of South Plainfield will meet on Friday, Jan. 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. The speaker will

### Photo Night Meeting Change

Due to unforeseen conflicts, the date of the Historical Society "Photo Night" at the high school must be changed to Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Veit was just elected to another prestigious post and it conflicts with the previous date of Jan. 8.

be Mrs. Allison Carter, who will speak on the accomplishments of Martin Luther King. Mrs. Carter specializes in Minority Affairs and will also show Historical Sculptures.

### VFW To Hold Chicken Dinner

January 18

The VFW Post 6763 located at 155 Front St. will be holding a chicken dinner on Friday, Jan. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The annual Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay Awards will be presented during this dinner. The donation is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve. For more information, call (908) 668-9571 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

### SDW Selling Tickets to Titanic

January 26

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop still has tickets available for the musical "Titanic," to be performed at the State Theatre in New Brunswick on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 3 p.m.

Throughout the year, the SPSW plans for its annual production, and promotes the performing arts. This Tony-award winning musical is great family entertainment. If you would like tickets or more information, call (908) 561-5255.

### Rainbow Academy Open House

February 2

The new Rainbow Academy Child Care Center at 2177 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison is having an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For directions and information visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

Everyone who registers will re-

ceive a free photo sitting with proofs taken by Reminiscent Photography. In addition, you will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at [www.parentwatch.com](http://www.parentwatch.com).

### Rec Going to See "Naked Boys Singing"

February 3

For those who would like an alternative to watching football on Super Bowl Sunday, the South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a trip to Broadway to see "Naked Boys Singing." The trip takes place on Sunday, Feb. 3 and costs \$45 per person. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m.

Register at the PAL, Monday through Friday.

### Recreation Winter Dinner Show

February 7

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be sponsoring a trip to a Winter Dinner Show at the Hunterdon Playhouse on Feb. 7. The bus leaves from the PAL Building at 10 a.m. The fee is \$45 per person and includes dinner and the show.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAL, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### PAL Sponsoring Trip to See Oklahoma!

March 9

The PAL of South Plainfield is sponsoring a trip to see *Oklahoma!* on Broadway. The trip is planned for Saturday, March 9. Ticket price is \$90 per person and can be purchased from the PAL, Maple Ave., on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are only 45 tickets available so get yours soon.

### AARP Plans Bus Trip To New Orleans

April 20-28

AARP Chapter 4144 is planning a bus trip to New Orleans from April 20-28 (9 days/8 nights). The trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, hotels, tours in New Orleans, riverboat jazz cruise, dinner party, Bellingrath Gardens and cruise in Alabama, Stone Mountain Park in Georgia and much more. Price is \$655 for

double occupancy and \$855 for single occupancy.

For reservations and information, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

### — Out of Town —

### Middlesex WOWs To Hold Dance

January 11

The Middlesex East WOWs Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Jan. 11 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The event will take place at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8 and includes live music and refreshments. For more information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

### Rainbow Experience Announces Auditions

January 11-14

Rainbow Experience, a community youth theater program in collaboration with The First Congregational Church of Westfield and United Church of Christ Congregational of Plainfield, announces auditions for its 2002 production of "Once on This Island" for youths, seventh grade and up (adults are also welcome.) Auditions begin on Friday, Jan. 11, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the United Church of Christ on Plainfield, 220 W. 7th St. (908-755-8658) and Jan. 12, 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Westfield at 125 Elmer St. (908-233-2494.) Call-backs will be held Jan. 14 at the Westfield Church from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Rehearsals run from January into March. The actual production will be on March 9, 10 and on March 16, 17.

### NJPAC Presents 5th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration

January 16

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's FamilyTime Series presents its fifth annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m., in the center's Prudential Hall. This spirited musical celebration includes appearances by the critically acclaimed NJPAC Jubilation Choir under the direction of Stefane R. Minaree; Kurt Carr and The Kurt Carr Singers; and special guest speaker Yolanda King, daughter of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tickets are \$25, adults and \$12, children (under 14), and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO-NJPAC, at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark, or by visiting the NJPAC website at [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

## Sons of American Legion Looking for Members

The Sons of The American Legion is looking for patriotic Americans to become members of this active community service organization. If you are a male descendent, adopted son or stepson of a veteran who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War or delimiting periods set forth in the National Constitution of the American Legion, you may be eligible to join.

The Sons of The American Legion participates in a variety of community activities including volunteer work at VA Hospitals, social activities, fund-raising for charities & scholarships and other community projects.

Applications for membership are available at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. Or come out to the next meeting which will be held on Wednesday, January 16.

For membership you must present a valid proof of honorable discharge (form DD214), or active membership in the American Legion. Annual dues are \$7.

If you have any questions or want to learn more, contact them at [sal0243soplfd@aol.com](mailto:sal0243soplfd@aol.com).

Monthly meetings are held at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

### Symposium at Brass Lantern

February 2

On Saturday, Feb. 2, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Nancy Rosin, a long time collector of Victorian Valentines, will be conducting a symposium at the Brass Lantern in Metuchen, along with a Valentine Tea. Nancy's list of accomplishments include symposiums at Saks Fifth Avenue, The Ephemera Society of America and has contributed articles to "Victorian Magazine" and "Antique Roadshow." Most recently she has released a new video entitled "The Valentine and Expressions of Love" which is getting rave reviews. Don't miss this very special event at The Brass Lantern.

### Send Us Your Events:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to  
**South Plainfield Observer,**  
1110 Hamilton Blvd.  
Suite 1B,  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080,  
fax (908) 668-8819; or  
email to [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).

## How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

**ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS.** We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

**SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES,** i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

**IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).

**SUBSCRIBE.** It's \$25. (in town) for one year!!

## Aiello

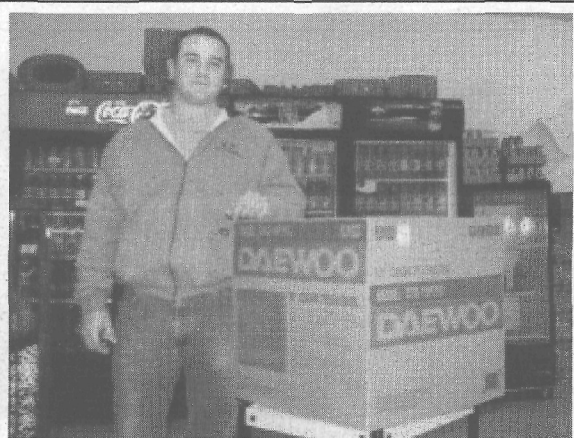
### Chiropractic Center, P.C.

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On the corner of New Market and South Clinton

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## Bagel Pantry Shows Customer Appreciation in a Big Way

The Bagel Pantry on Plainfield Ave. shows their customer appreciation in a big way each year. They hold a giveaway raffle contest on Christmas Day and the grand prize is a 19" color TV. This year's lucky winner was Mike Canas, of Avenel.

## southplainfield people

### Milestones

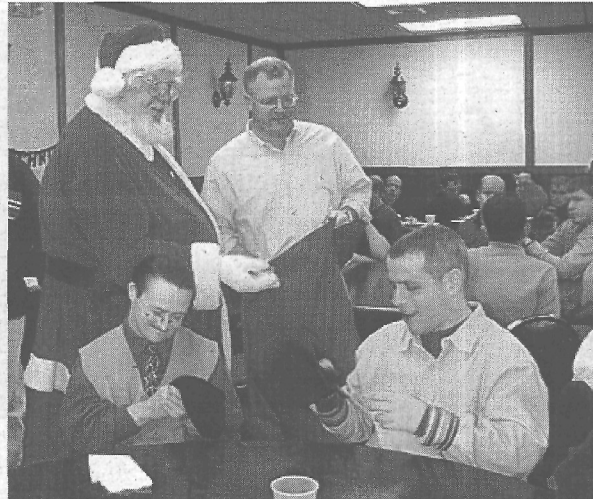
The School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT has named Stephanie Stahlin to the Dean's List for the Fall 2001 semester. Stephanie, the daughter of Frank and Barbara Stahlin of South Plainfield, will be graduating from the University in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Respiratory Therapy.

### Send Us Your Milestones:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to

**South Plainfield Observer,**  
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B,  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080,

fax (908) 668-8819; or email  
to ggnan@aol.com.



The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus held their annual Christmas party for the Keystone Community on Dec. 27. Santa Claus attended the party and handed out baseball caps and other gifts. Members of the Knights of Columbus pictured include William Thomas, Bill Hartman, Bob Walker, Joe Scraduto, Steve Belanger, Jim Shea, Leonard Kleczkowski, Mike Mannix and Tom Musmano. The Knights also presented a check for \$600 to Valli Kappil, a Keystone Community representative. John Weakley is the Grand Knight.



## High School First Marking Period Honor Roll

### Grade 9

Nicole Aguilar, Darshan Amin, Shakellah Amini, Peter Aquino, Felicia Bacchus, Christopher Bakazan, Michael Benak, Dawn Besser, Shakera Beverly, Erika Blaszak, Christopher Bojarski, Matthew Boley, Jennifer Braco, Justin Buendia, Gerry Butrico, Nina Byard, Pasquale Cantarella, Fabian Casteblanco, Nicholas Cesare, Timothy Cheng, Mallory Christ, Lauren Marie Ciandella, Toni Ciccio, Janine Clemente, Kristin Coffey, Carlos Humberto Corleto, Paul Corrado, Katie Crilley, Nicholas Curcio, Cassandra D'Urso, Seiichi Daimo, Alissa Davis, Louana DeLosSantos, Stacey Diana.

Douglas Dietzold, Christina DiFrancesco, Allison DiMeglio, Kaitlynn Disch, Jonathan Donahue, Michael Downes, Michael Duquette, Jeffrey Eng, Caitlin English, Karen Estonactoc, Shawn Ferguson, Anna Ferrer, Melanie Foscolo, Keenan Gaynor, John George, Allia Ghanim, Grant Gianneschi, Carolina Gomez, Kendall Green, Sara Grillo, Emily Harkins, Lauren Haus, Joseph Helgesen, Eva Humber, Phu Doung Huynh, Jamie Jakubik, Colleen Kamen, Peter Kelly, Ryan Kenny, Thomas Kiczula, Jr., Jessica Kizmann, Kevin Lahey, Johnathan Lopez, Kurtis Maglaque, Aimee Maiorino, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica Manning, Allan Mazurak, Kayleigh McGovern, Christopher McKnight, William Merkler, Jayne Merlo, Andrew Miller, Stefanie Miller, James Milliron, William Moates III, Rosanna Mootoo, Kathleen Morgan, Katie Mott, Jacqueline Muglia, Brian Murtagh.

Cynthia Nguyen, Huan Nguyen, Thao (Annie) Nguyen, William Padula, Jean Pagdonosolan, Eigil Pantaleon, Valerie Pasquarella, Deep Patel, Daniel Piwowar, Amanda Prybella, Patrick Pryor, Dwight Quicha, Eric

Rhode, Michael Richard, Todd Rivers, Mayra Robles, Ana Santiago, Alison Schmidt, Jessica Senz, Rajiv Sewdat, Jaret Shelton, Justin Shelton, Lesley Sideck, Erin Rita Sikanowicz, Melissa Silva, Derek Smith, Alisha Stasenko, Melissa Sticco, Sara Sukenik, Joseph Teller, Kelly Thomas, Melissa Anne Tinana, Ashlen Udell, Jennifer Vasquez, Erik Vesper, Michael Williams, Philip Zazzara.

### Grade 10

Elaine Alexander, David Allara, Michael Alvarez, Jonathan Alves, Arti Amin, Almaza Amini, David Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle Aronowitz, Alex Barletta, Robert Barone, Jr., James Bataille, Bruce Blackford, Victoria Boley, Shannon Boyles, Jonathan Buggey, Kaitlin Bundy, Kristie Butrico, Nicole Carlson, Tarryn Carlton, Michael Carmon, Vincent Carubia, Jonathan Chiang, Jeanine Christopher, Jason Cosma, Lori Cushner, Christopher Czaplinski, Justin Czarnik, Amir Sherone Davis, Ryan Decker, Christina Del Genio, Kevin Demarest, Brittany DeNizio, Allison DiCanto, Christopher Dickerson, Frank Dietzold III, Claire Dolling, Jene Douras, Chelsea Falato, Catherine Flannery, Michael Fry, Arielle Fumosa, Matina Ganiaris, Gregory Garbowski, Miguel Garcia, Dana Genova, Corey Gilmore, Sarah Green, Vincent Gulino.

Johanna Hedler, Robert Hoffman, Thomas Holowka, Christopher Horn, Janice Hussain, Jamie Irber, Tara Israel, Galen Johnson, Marissa Judd, Katherine Kaczka, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Wendy Kollarik, Kristen Kunie, Daniel Lammi, Kristina Latonio, Brittany Lee, Pauline Lee, Courtney Leporino, Ian Levine, Heather Loenser, Jordan Lynch, Kerry Mackey, Charlyn Magat, Michael Maher, Stephanie

Manuel, Jennifer Martinez, Danielle Nobile, John Okuski, Laura Papp, Francesca Pasquale, Ankit Patel, Anuj Patel, Ravi Patel, Natalie Picciottoli, Gregory Publik, Amanda Rastelli, Ashely Ritchey, Jonathan Rodger, Josef Rodriguez, Michael Salerno, Shari-Liane Sangster, Matthew Santone, Rachel Schwartz, Andre Scott, Daniel Sierzega, Susan Smela, Derek Smith, Jenna Smith, Lauren Smithline, Carly Stoeckel, Jermaine Thomas, Alexander Tierney, Adam Toth, Jessaka Whitsitt, Audrey Wilhelm, Michael Zeno, Robin Zushma.

See next week's edition for  
grades 11 and 12.

### From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from South Plainfield Library.

Next week, we'll follow our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. Each program lasts about an hour, includes stories and a craft activity, and is for children ages three and up. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. No pre-registration is required. We also have this month's Kidcraft program on Friday, Jan. 18. It's for children ages six and over, and it starts at 4 p.m. Unlike the Storytimes, we ask that you sign your kids up in advance. For more details, please give us a call at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The Library's classes in both basic computer usage and job searching continue in January. On Thursday, we'll hold a class on "Job Searching on the Internet" at 10:30 a.m. And, on Tuesday, Jan. 22, our next computer class, "E-Mail Basics" will be held at 10:30 a.m. Space is limited for these classes, so you must sign up in advance. For information or registration, please call and ask for Allan Kleiman.

We also have a couple of special programs on the way this month. On Saturday, Jan. 19, Dayel Giammarino will lead a program on Scrapbooking at 11 a.m. The program is free of charge and is open to adults and children over eight. Pre-registration for this program is requested. Then, on Tuesday, Jan. 22, we'll host a program on Self-Healing and Stress Relief. It'll be led by massage therapist Judy England-McCarthy. This program is also free; participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing.

Judy England-McCarthy also provided this month's display. It's a collection of fossils and minerals; you can

see them at the Library throughout the month. If you're interested in providing a display here, please call and check with Millie Condon.

The Library can now provide a major source of post-Holiday blahs: tax forms. Forms and booklets, both state and federal, are available. They can be found near the Adult Fiction shelves, on the side nearest the public photocopier. If you don't see the material you need, please check with Reference and we'll see what we can do. Complaints regarding tax rates should be addressed to the proper governmental agencies.

Once again, it's time for a reminder about A/V items and cold weather. To

be blunt, they don't mix. Exposure to cold temperatures can cause damage to magnetic media, particularly video and audiotapes. While CDs and CD-ROMs aren't as susceptible, it's still not a good idea to keep them out in the cold for very long. Thus, please try not to leave our A/V stuff in cold areas, like your car, for extended periods of time. If you have no choice, though, it's best to leave them inside the car where the sun can provide some warmth, rather than in the trunk. (Just reverse the advice we give you in the summertime.) As always, thanks for your cooperation on this.

That'll be all for this week. See you next time.

# Excellent!

Subscribe to the *Observer* during the month of January and we will donate \$5 to the JF Kennedy School Playground Fund.

We like to have fun too!



Call 908-668-0010, mail in subscription form on page 9, or email your request to ggnan@aol.com.

New subscriptions only—hurry, offer ends January 31, 2002.



## THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

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HEADING TO HOMETOWN  
HEROS FOR THE  
BEST SELECTION OF...

BREAKFAST, BAGELS, DONUTS, MUFFINS, PASTRIES, DANISHES, COOKIES, COFFEES, ITALIAN BREAD FROM BROOKLYN, HEROS, GOURMET SANDWICHES, SALADS AND SOME OLD FASHIONED FIRST CLASS SERVICE!

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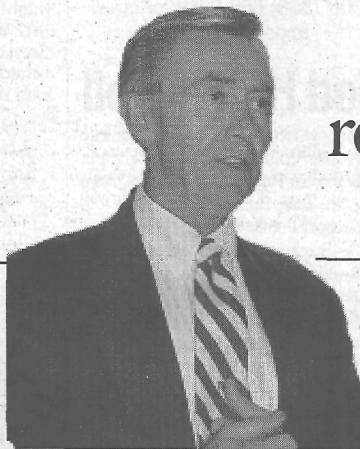
**HOMETOWN HEROS**  
908-755-HERO  
340 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield





# 2002

## Annual Borough Reorganization



Mayor Dan Gallagher

“We can and will reduce taxes this year!”

—Mayor Dan Gallagher

### APPOINTMENTS MADE BY MAYOR GALLAGHER:

Name	Board	Expires
John Pabst	Planning Board-Class II	December 2002
Howard Semon	Planning Board-Alternate I	December 31, 2003
Darlene Pinto	Planning Board-Class IV	December 31, 2004
Cornelia Calderone	Planning Board-Class IV	December 31, 2005
Paul Grzenda	Planning Board-Class IV	December 31, 2005
Larry Randolph	Environmental Commission-Chair	December 31, 2002
Gary Rohrer	Liason from Planning Board to Environmental Commission	December 31, 2002
Larry Randolph	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2004
William DeNizio	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2003
William Ashnault, Jr.	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2006
Georgeanne DiGrazia	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2006
Wesley Spear, II	Mayor's Rep to Library Board	December 31, 2002
Raymond Petronko	Mayor's HCD Representative	December 31, 2002
Dennis Cerami	Council Liason to Traffic Safety	December 31, 2002
Frank Schneider	Property Maintenance Board of Appeals	December 31, 2004

### SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COUNCIL:

Name	Board	Expires
Charles Butrico	Planning Board-Class III	December 31, 2002
John Pabst	Business Advisory Group-Zoning Officer	December 31, 2002
Susan Krystopik	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2003
Jonathon Robustelli	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2004
Noel Mazar	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2004
Ed Kubala	HCD-Council Representative	December 31, 2002
Charles Butrico	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission	December 31, 2002
Alice Temple	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission	December 31, 2002
Robert Russo	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission-Alt II	December 31, 2002
Sue Mischka	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee-Coordinator	December 31, 2002
Raymond Petronko	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Council Liason	December 31, 2002
Loretta Conroy	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Liason to Recreation Committee	December 31, 2002
Filomena Viola	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2004
Joseph Zekas	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2004
Agnes Ficorelli	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2004
Owen Kelly	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2004
Walter Pasacrita	Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	December 31, 2004

### From Mayor Gallagher...

Today marks the beginning of my twelfth year as your mayor. I look back with pride on all that has been accomplished during that time. Literally every area of our Borough has been improved. It's no wonder people want to live and work in South Plainfield.

It wasn't that long ago that Hadley Road resembled moon scape rather than one of the gateways to our Borough, that you literally took your life in your hands trying to negotiate the turn from Durham Ave. onto New Durham Rd., because there wasn't a traffic signal there, that the intersections of Park and Maple avenues and Oak Tree and Park avenues didn't have turning lanes or delayed signalization, that there wasn't even a plan to restore the center of town no less the beautiful new facades, decorative lights, benches, curb and road reconstruction which exists today and you couldn't make a left turn from Oak Tree Ave. onto Front Street. Our fire department didn't have enough space, our rescue squad parking lot was totally deteriorated, our rigs were on their last legs, our police couldn't rely on their communications system, our library didn't have a reliable heating or air conditioning system and the roof leaked—Borough Hall was like a dungeon and there wasn't an open space plan or an environmental preserve.

There are a host of other improvements I could talk about, but we all want to get to the reception at the Rescue Squad before the food gets cold.

However, there are a couple of things your mayor and council have done over the last few years which deserve special mention.

First and foremost, we stopped borrowing money. The prior administration put this Borough in more debt than all prior governing bodies put together. We instituted "Pay as You

Go Government" and it works! Virtually every project I just referred to was done on a pay as you go basis. Just up the street, our senior recreation center is being finished on a pay as you go basis. Last year we doubled the size of the PAL and we are about to open the first ever senior housing complex in our history. Simply put, the Borough of South Plainfield has never been in better condition. Our budget is sound, our tax base is strong, our professionals, employees and our volunteer organizations are the best in the state of New Jersey.

You can literally feel the vitality as you travel around our Borough. I am proud to have served as your mayor during this period of accomplishment and I thank all of those who have served on the Borough Council and our boards and agencies for making it happen. With that said, there are always new challenges and that's what makes the job of mayor so much fun and so fulfilling.

Traffic is a nightmare in central New Jersey and sadly South Plainfield hasn't been able to escape the problem. With the support of our Freeholders, Middlesex County is finalizing the design of a complete reconstruction of Hamilton Boulevard from New Market Ave. to Schevenko Ave.

The road will be torn up and totally rebuilt, including new curbs and sidewalks. We will also be planting trees along the entire distance. A right hand turning lane will be installed at New Market avenue and traffic lights installed at St. Nicholas, Hollywood and South Clinton avenues. The section from the intersection of Durham Ave. at the Valley Bank all the way to Stelton Rd. will be four lanes, two in each direction. This project will begin in the spring of next year and be finished by the end of the summer.

In conjunction with this project, we have applied for a state grant to install another lane on Durham Avenue from the Route 287 entrance to Hamilton

### APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR GALLGHER WITH ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL

Name	Board
Larry Del Negro	Construction Board of Appeals - Alternate Fire
Frank Scheider	Construction Board of Appeals
Steve Druga	Construction Board of Appeals - Alternate Architect
Jim Franchetti	Construction Board of Appeals - Alternate Plumbing
Marge Reedy	Cultural Arts Commission
Myra Stillman	Cultural Arts Commission
Errol Bailey	Cultural Arts Commission
David Joshi	Cultural Arts Commission
Terrance Julien	Cultural Arts Commission



# Darlene Pinto Says Farewell...

... "I believe some refer to me as a bull in a china closet...I hope that even when I am not around anymore something will remind you of me and give you the boost to accomplish what is necessary...you are all beautiful people and I am honored to call you friends."



"To be here today, smiling, while recognizing that this is the last time I will be known as a councilwoman is a difficult task. But once I found the inner strength to talk about the accomplishments of my years in office, I know without a shadow of a doubt

that to sing my praises is impossible without acknowledging that the council, comprised for years of a Democratic regime, has had accomplishments because of the team that we are... I guess this is the part where I should list my good deeds, my ac-

complishments, but the last time I looked there is no "I" in team, so therefore each one of us is responsible for the accomplishments. That is the truth of politics that is often forgotten; as power, victories and egos take over. Each one of us here, both men and

women alike, made a choice to become involved. Whatever the original reason for involvement, the outcome was the same. We took the initiative... we won the race and we took a pledge to do the best for the people, our town, our friends, our family and what I consider the most important, our children.... We have learned to stand proud for what we believe in, we have learned acceptance, we have gained strength, and even though some of us at times have a different definition, we have all learned the true meaning of loyalty. The dedication and generosity to serve others begins within the essence of the team since that is truly the fundamental stage of any great force.

By all means, life is not perfect. Sometimes we need little reminders of the pledge we took. We often get sidetracked along the way, believing in the justice we are serving. The people of South Plainfield can be proud of this team because in our hearts we have done what is best for the people.

I think my most rewarding experiences during my term, where I felt that I truly made a difference, was sitting on the Planning Board and sitting on Public Safety with Dennis Cerami as chair (I thank you Dennis). I could not stand before you without having to share some of my honesty and everyone knows just how candid I can be.... My decision not to seek another term on council was not taken lightly and I appreciate all the kind words and beautiful acts by so many people. When the announcement was made and people came forth to share or to even comfort me, I actually felt like I made a difference in many lives in this borough. I know I am often a demanding person, but in truth I do not ask anyone to do something that I am not willing to do myself. I have extremely high expectations of myself and therefore that way with others, as many of you have discovered along the way. When I want something, I find every means available to achieve it. I often do not leave a stone unturned. I will fight to the death for the cause or the person I believe in. But these months of changes have caused deep reflection. I know I am a very lucky woman; I have many "things" to be grateful for and I will not bore you with listing them for it would surprise many a person that it is often the littlest thing in life that brings a true smile and warm feeling to my heart. I am blessed with a beautiful family who have been wonderful to me during this time. My children, Andrew, Rachel and Gerry (and my adopted daughter Lyndsey) are my world and I hope that I have shown them some light in life. I hope that I get to see them become the beautiful people I know they are destined to be.

I would be considered extremely neglectful if I did not say thank you to, Andy Pinto,... Andy you above all know the sacrifices that have been made and I will always thank you for your kindness and generosity as well as your family.

My friends at Borough Hall...to single you out would not be my style. You know who you are...you have been wonderful and I hope you do know just how important you really are... we have shared fabulous times of laughing, crying, interrogating, working and playing while improving all aspects of the community. Will anyone ever forget my ability to pick up a phone and make a demand? I believe some refer to me as a bull in a china closet...I hope that even when I am not around anymore something will remind you of me and give you the boost to accomplish what is necessary...you are all beautiful people and I am honored to call you friends.

For those in the political arena, you know I will not forget you...If one thing you all know about me is the fierce dedication and loyalty I possess. I will always remember all that you have done for me, especially in the latter part of my term. The memories are so strong that I truly believe that they will not fade in time. I am at a loss of words to accurately describe the feelings that I have for each of you.

For my friends...all I can truly say is...thank you for always being there...the good... the bad... the indifferent and the confrontational...you truly know what it means to be a friend.

With that...it is time to say goodbye to Councilwoman Pinto...and say hello to Darlene Pinto...the same dedication of loyalty I exhibited, as a councilwoman is part of the integrity of who I am. I plan on remaining active within the community in some way. Problem solving and the pursuit of justice are a desire I have and I am looking forward to enhancing.

To Councilman Butrico...I welcome you and remind you that you are not to fill my shoes, but to make your own mark within the democratic team...my advice to you is simple, follow your heart and always stick by your own beliefs...always be honest with everyone you deal with, and never make promises that you have no intentions of keeping...keep focused on the issues since it is very easy to be swayed or sidetracked.

In conclusion... I thank everyone for the many opportunities and eye opening situations... I ask all of you to continue your support of our town and to embrace this new council with the same love and affection you have showered on me.

Especially in these trouble times, I ask God to keep us safe, to watch over and protect us.

Godspeed my friends and I thank you."

Blvd. at the Valley National Bank so that will also be two lanes in each direction. We will also install a third lane at the Quick Chek at Helen St. so that there will be a dedicated turn lane to Helen St., a dedicated left hand turn lane into the new complex and a dedicated lane going straight. When these projects are completed, there will be a tremendous improvement in traffic movement all the way from the Lakeview Ave. overpass through to Route 287.

Of course everyone asks about the status of Helen Street. It's important to remember that Helen Street is being done at no cost at all to South Plainfield. It is called "A Demonstration Project" and is funded by the Federal Government. We were the only community in the state to be approved. Helen St. will go over the railroad track, a brook and will be near wetlands and the closed landfill. In other words, it is complicated...but it is on schedule. The environmental impact studies are complete, we have submitted a conceptual design which is being reviewed by the State and Federal Government. After it is approved in concept, then the environmental permits have to be obtained, and the land acquired from private owners, including condemnation if necessary. After that, the final design will be completed and the project put out for bid. If all goes as expected, the actual construction will start in late 2004. Of course that seems like a long time, but we are halfway home and no single project will more improve the quality of life in South Plainfield than the completion of Helen St., which will take truck traffic off Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave.

The proposed Hamilton Blvd. Redevelopment Agency has been endorsed by the Planning Board and Mayor and Council. An application will be submitted to the Division of Community Affairs by late spring.

When approved by the state, the contaminated Cornell Dublere site will be replaced by a beautiful new complex. Within two years that dastardly and dangerous parcel will be an asset to the Borough.

As you probably know, we have repaved over 100 roads on a 'Pay as You Go' basis over the last six years. Seventeen more will be added this year, including Woodland Ave. and Tyler Place.

All of our parks have been upgraded and this year we will install new parking and a jogging/walking trail along the entire perimeter of Putnam Park. We are also exploring creating a skate-board park for our youth.

Now let's talk about taxes. Although we have been able to not have a local municipal property tax increase in three of the last five years, that is not enough! This country and state are experiencing hard economic times. Just like our new Governor, Jim McGreevey has committed to fiscally sound government in Trenton, we must do the same in South Plainfield. I challenge this governing body, with the help of our department heads and employees, to work to submit a budget this year which will include a Municipal tax decrease. Let me repeat that. I ask for a budget that reduces the municipal portion of our property tax bill. Our residents deserve tax relief. No one can remember the last time local property taxes were lowered in South Plainfield. After this year, I want them to be able to say we did it in 2002. Just like we have become the model for open government and 'Pay as You Go' government, let's make South Plainfield the model for how a municipality can actually live within its means and lower taxes!!

We welcome Charlie Butrico to the council and bid farewell to Darlene Pinto. Both of these individuals personify what dedication is all about. The Butrico family is synonymous

with the spirit of South Plainfield and Charlie is bringing with him a history of volunteerism, especially working with the kids of this borough. I know Charlie will be a great council member. But he has incredibly large shoes to fill.

Darlene Pinto has been a tremendous asset as a member of this council. Her work with the business community and economic development has become the standard to compare others by. I am pleased that Darlene has agreed to continue to serve on the Planning Board and I know that we will be able to seek her counsel whenever it is needed. Charlie, I know you have already been working with Darlene. Continue to do so. She is a terrific role model for a new council member.

Although 2001 was an excellent year for South Plainfield, everything seems insignificant in light of the tragic events of September 11. Words cannot capture what we all feel about that attack on our nation. Let me quote, the eloquent words of our President in his address to a joint session of Congress on September 20. "As long as the United States of America is determined and strong, this will not be an age of terror. This will be an age of liberty here and across the world. Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger, we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom, the great achievement of our time and the great hope of everyone, now depends on us. Our nation, our generation, will lift the dark threat of violence from our people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will Not Tire, we will Not Falter and we will Not Fail!"

God bless you all, God bless South Plainfield and God bless America!"

Natalie Bergen ..... Cultural Arts Commission  
Frank Furino ..... Cultural Arts Commission  
Suzanne Lyte ..... Cultural Arts Commission  
Hugh Scott ..... Cultural Arts Commission  
Happy Hylkema ..... Health Advisory Board  
Mary Chapman ..... Health Advisory Board  
Marie Dolinski ..... Health Advisory Board  
John C. Krewer  
(or appointed alternate) ... Library Board -  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dorothy Berney ..... Library Board  
Joseph Scrudato ..... Public Celebrations  
Don Alexa ..... Public Celebrations

Frank Mikorski ..... Traffic Safety Advisory Committee-  
Board of Education Liaison  
Kevin Murtagh/Karl Schuetz ..... Traffic Safety Advisory Committee -  
Police Department Representatives  
Joseph Glowacki ..... Traffic Safety Advisory Committee -  
DPW Representative  
Kevin Broderick ..... Traffic Safety Advisory Committee  
Dennis Cerami ..... Youth Guidance Council-Council Liaison  
Gary Kline/James Darby ..... Youth Guidance Council-Police  
Representatives  
Gary L. Vesce ..... Board of Adjustment - Alternate II  
William Thomas ..... Board of Adjustment  
Ronald Bosse ..... Board of Adjustment



# Sports

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

By Kevin Lykes

### WINTER REGISTRATION FOR 2002 SEASON THIS WEEKEND!!!

Our annual Winter registration for the upcoming 2002 baseball season at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be held on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 10 and 11 from 6-9 p.m. Also on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the SPJBC Complex. All new players must bring a birth certificate, and all registrants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Winter fees are \$60 single, \$90 double, and \$110 for three or more. At this time we will also be accepting registration for new umpires, managers and coaches. Registration will be held at the SPJBC Complex on Kenneth Ave., (off of Belmont just opposite the borough garage).

#### SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS:

1. This will be your last opportunity to register for the 2002 season without paying late registration fees, or facing possible waiting lists.

2. Also, a new bylaw passed this year prohibits any new players from joining a team after May. So there is no sense in waiting until the last minute.

Our fundraiser for the WTC 9-11 disaster will continue with the sale of ribbon pins, flag pins and flag decals at the January registration. Pins are \$3 and flag decals are \$1. Thus far we have covered our expenses and are generating a profit from this sale which will go the NYC Police & Fire Widows and Orphans Fund. We are hoping to reach the \$2,000 mark, which will be matched by the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be begin

their Gertrude Hawk Candy Fundraiser at our January registration.

#### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Jan 10, 11, 12, Winter Registration; Times are Thurs. and Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (tentative). This is also registration for managers, assistant coaches and NEW umpires.

Thursday, Jan. 17: Woman's Auxiliary meeting, 7:30 pm. at the Complex. Monday, Feb 4: 7:30 p.m. General Meeting.

Tuesday, Feb 12: 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, topic TBD.

Monday, Feb 25: 6:45 p.m. Rutgers Certification course, (Certification Required for all Managers and Assistant Coaches).

Week of Feb. 26 to March 1: League Manager meetings.

Saturday March 2: tryouts at PAL,

(Small Fry only).

Week of March 4: Draft nights/player notification.

Monday March 4: 7:30 General Meeting.

Tuesday, March 12: 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, at SPHS practice, site to be determined.

Saturday, March 16: 9:30 a.m., "C" League Orientation, Field 1.

Monday, April 1: 7:30 General Meeting, all Fry players.

Saturday, April 13: OPENING DAY!

**SPECIAL NOTE**—The memorial service for longtime club member Bob Victor will be held this Sunday, Jan 12, at the Wardlaw Hartridge School at 2 p.m. These are all the details at present. If you need further information contact Wardlaw.

Our Website [spjbc.com](http://spjbc.com) is up and running. Check our website to stay updated on club activities, (coaches clinics, meetings, umpire training classes, tryouts, etc.) Also once the season is gear, schedules, rosters and standings. You can participate in trivia contests and see our complex from an aerial view.

**WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETING**—The monthly meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the SPJBC Complex on Kenneth Ave.

## Boys Winter Track

By Tim Morgan Jr.

The SPHS Boys' Winter Track team continues to have a highly improved and successful season. They placed fifth out of 26 teams overall in the GMC Relays on Friday and walked home with the GMC Relays White Division Championship. On Sunday, the team tied for tenth place out of 51 teams in the Group 2 State Relays. These are the best performances in decades by the winter track team and the Tigers are taking the competition by surprise and stunning them with triumph.

At the county relays, the Tigers took second in the sprint medley (consisting of Sean and Chris Grevious, John Rayho, and Jeff Williams), third in the shuttle hurdle relay (Phil Thomas, Ian Levine, and Chinny Oparake), third in the 4\*200 (Sean and Chris Grevious, John Rayho and Jeff Williams), fifth in the distance medley (Kyle Kazmir, Rob Hoffman, Galen Johnson, and Tim

Morgan) and sixth place in the 4\*800 (Tim Morgan, Rob Hoffman, Galen Johnson and Kyle Kazmir). The group scored in every event they entered, taking points in the high jump as well.

In the state relays, the high jump team of Sean and Chris Grevious placed fourth, the sprint medley team of Sean and Chris Grevious, Jeff Williams and Tim Morgan also placed fourth. The distance medley team of Kyle Kazmir, John Rayho, Jeff Williams and Tim Morgan placed seventh.

The Tigers certainly have alacrity to succeed even further now that they have shown that they are a formidable opponent. At only mid-season, there is plenty more ground to cover and even more improvement to be made. They are an experienced team, but will only lose four seniors to graduation, so they will almost certainly have staying power. This week, the squad will go to FDU again for the Ridgewood Games (on Friday) and dual meets against Sayreville and Monroe will be coming up next week.

## BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

### Girls Record Third Straight Shutout Romp Over Middlesex, Shellack South River

SPHS ..... 770 - 796 - 779 - 2345  
Middlesex .. 521 - 566 - 589 - 1676

The girls bowling team upped its record to 7-3 as they trampled Middlesex by over 600 pins. Leading the Tiger scoring were Vicky Boley with games of 188-248-194 for a sparkling 630 high set.

Kim Gaub chipped in with 171, Alexis Montanaro 166, and Danielle Larisch, a solid 458 set as the girls rolled their high series of the season.

### Boys Team Nearly Upsets Middlesex, Rallies For a Tie Against South River

SPHS ..... 806-813-833-2452  
Middlesex ..... 878-809-974-2661  
The boys bowling team threw a scare into a veteran Middlesex squad by splitting the first two games, but the young Tigers could not keep up with the Blue Jays and dropped a 3-1 decision. Matt Boley led all scorers with games of 224-210-190 for a solid 624 set. George Kleinknecht 176 and Anthony Ingerto 170 chipped in with solid efforts while Shawn Ferguson fired a 172 game.

SPHS ..... 878-796-819-2493  
South River ..... 862-868-797-2527

The freshman loaded boys bowling team again won 2 of 3 games, but had to settle for a tie against a spirited South River team that failed to fold in the final game. The Tigers solid performance from George Kleinknecht 190-213 for a 530 set and Nick Grego gave a 193 game for a

SPHS ..... 823-769-793-2385  
South River .. 562-588-605-1755

The girls team upped its record to 8-3 as they shellacked South River, cruising to their third straight white-wash as they rung up the 630 pin romp. Sophomore Vicky Boley fired games of 203-213-213 for a sparkling 629 set and freshman Kim Gaub stroked games of 184-172-169 for a solid 525 effort. Also contributing to the effort were Danielle Larisch 150, Meredith Cooper 160 and Alexis Montanaro, who rolled a rare triplicate.

492 set. Chipping in were Matt Boley 186, Anthony Ingerto 173 as the Tigers almost pulled off the upset bid.

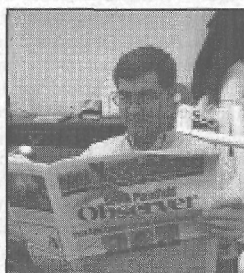
#### Middlesex Conference 2001-2002 Bowling Standings

Wins Losses Ties Points				
Boys White Division				
Colonia	8	0	1	17
Monroe	5	1	2	12
JFK	5	2	2	12
Middlesex	5	2	2	12
Bishop Ahr	4	4	1	9
So. Plainfield	3	5	1	9
McCarrick	1	5	3	5
South River	1	6	2	4
Carteret	1	8	0	2
Girls White Division				
Colonia	10	0	0	10
Carteret	9	1	0	18
South Plainfield	7	3	0	14
Bishop Ahr	6	4	0	12
Mother Seton	5	3	1	11
JFK	5	5	0	10
McCarrick	3	6	1	7
Monroe	2	7	0	4
South River	1	9	0	2
Middlesex	0	10	0	0

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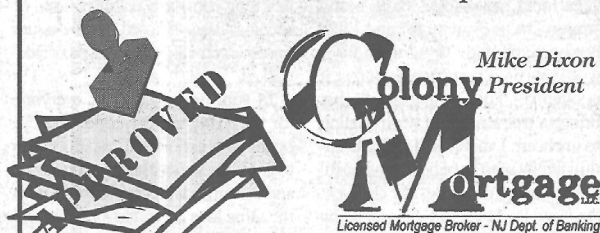
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# Sports

## WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

### Tigers Crown Four Champions at Hunterdon Tournament

With the improved quality of teams at the Hunterdon Tournament, it again has made this one of the toughest holiday tournaments in the state. The number 10 ranked South Plainfield Tigers sent six wrestlers to the finals where they claimed four titles.

Senior Ricky Ringle 112, defeated state place winner Dan Hilt 4-3 in the upset of the day for the first title. Danny DeAndrea 119, back from an injured

ankle looked good but dropped a 4-1 decision to Kyle Heberling of Lenape for second place. Senior Matt Anderson, 135, was next and scored a major decision victory 13-2 over Mike Gaeta of Manalapan for his second straight Hunterdon Tournament Title. Anderson now has a career record of 103-4 to go along with his New Jersey state title and a second place finish.

Senior Scott Doerr also had an out-

standing tournament claiming the 145 pound title by scoring a tech fall over Doug Pounds of Morristown at 5:13. Doerr also looks to improve on his 7th/8th place finish at the states a year ago. Glenn Gross came up short in his bid for a title when he got caught and pinned by Toms River East, Devin Mensanko at 3:01.

Mike Buteas 160, in his first Hunterdon Tournament final took ad-

vantage of the opportunity, winning a 5-1 decision over Ryan Barbuto of Morristown to clinch his first title.

South Plainfield was tied with Toms River East each sending six wrestlers to the finals and each with four champions. Host Hunterdon Central had two champions.

Paul Ritchey 125, won the JV title winning three matches on the day.

### Recreation Wrestlers Crush Westfield and North Plainfield

The Recreation wrestling team continued with their winning ways when they defeated Westfield 70-9 and North Plainfield 63-10 at a tri-match at the PAL. In the Westfield match Anthony Ashnault 50 and Tyler Hunt 53, won by forfeit. Randy Jakubik 60, scored a major decision over Pat Bergen 12-2. Ryan Sacco 63, won by forfeit. Corey Hay 70, needed

only 18 seconds to pin Greg Fortino. Nick Vetusch 73, won by forfeit.

Patrick Hunter 77, score a tech fall over Drew Bergen 15-0. Jake Smithline 80, won by major decision over Joe Panarese 8-0. Nick Vallone 95, back from a broken ankle, won a 8-2 decision over Sam Rechbach 8-2. Brad Martin 95, scored a fall over Cody Castorao in 55 seconds.

Mark Wagner 102 and Danny Pompillio 110, won by forfeit. Rocco Petriello Hwt. won by fall over Joe Kania in 48 seconds.

Also wrestling were Jeffrey Conroy 57, Nick Heilmann 67 and Mike Wagner 85.

In the North Plainfield match Anthony Ashnault 50, won by major decision 12-1 over Jamal Gahman. Tyler

Hunter 53, scored the quickest pin of the night at 12 seconds over Jeff Reinecke.

Jeffrey Conroy 57, won by major decision over Kyle Resado 11-0. Randy Jakubik 60, won by decision over Dylan Synoski 5-0. Ryan Sacco 63, won by major decision 14-0 over George Enler. Nick Heilmann 67, rebounded with a fall over Chris Gardner at 1:55. Corey Hay 70, pinned Bill Perenti at 1:39. Nick Vetusch 73, won a 5-0 over Derrick DeLacruz. Patrick Hunter 77, needed only 22 seconds to pin John Camp. Mike Wagner 85, defeated Jimmy Huff 3-2. Brad Martin 95, won a close 2-0 decision over Dave Synoski. Mark Wagner 102, needed only 33 seconds to pin Josh Alpizar. Danny Pompillio won by forfeit. Rocco Petriello Hwt. won a 9-2 decision over Ron Robleski to close out the scoring.

Also wrestling where Jake Smithline 80 and Nick Vallone 90.

### Middle School Wrestlers Go 2-0 in Tri-Match

The Middle School wrestling team continued on a winning path by beating Kittainny 42-36 and North Hunterdon 66-10.

Both matches were loaded with for-

feits, but in the Kittainny match the Tigers, with the help of those forfeits, found themselves locked up at 36-36 going into the heavyweight bout. That left it to Kevin Crilley who gave

up the first takedown, then went to work, scoring six points and control of the match. In the third period with Crilley down, he reversed his man and then pinned Chris Hagen at 4:30 for the win.

Also winning by fall for the Tigers were Billy Ashnault 80, Jimmy Conroy 85, Nick Dorey 95.

Winning by forfeit were Patrick Hunter 75, Anthony Feirro 140 and

*Continued on page 10*

### Middle School Wrestlers Win Three

The Middle School wrestling team had a good afternoon at a quad match with Voorhees, Flemington and High Point at the Flemington Field House. The Tigers defeated Voorhees 62-21,

Flemington 62-9 and High Point 42-32. Robert Gentile 70, went 1 for 1 on the day. Patrick Hunter 75, won 2 out of 3 with a pin and a decision by injury default. Billy Ashnault 80, won 2 out of 3 with two falls. Jimmy Conroy 85, went 3 for 3 with three pins.

Nick Dorey 90, also had a big day going 3-3 with two pins and a tech fall. Brad Martin 95, went 1 for 1. Mike Jakubik 95, lost a heart breaker 6-5. Mark Wagner 100, won 2 out of 3 with two falls. Sam Martin 107, won a decision, a major decision and a fall. Anthony Niemczyk 112, went 1 for 2.

Mark Warness 117, had an outstanding performance going 3 for 3 with two pins and a decision. Greg Yefko 124, went 1 for 2 on the day. Opie Muse 132, won with two pins. Anthony Feirro 140, also went 3 and 0 on the day with three pins. Justin Huffsmith 150, won 2 out of 3 on the day. Kevin Crilley 175, also won three matches on the day, two coming by way fall. To catch up on all the wrestling news visit the South Plainfield Wrestling Club website at [www.spwvc.com](http://www.spwvc.com)

### Tigers Fall to So. Brunswick

The South Plainfield High School wrestling team suffered their first loss of the season when they dropped a 33-20 red division match to rival South Brunswick. The Tigers were shocked last year when they lost at home for the first time in four years to this same team.

The Tigers looking for revenge had to wonder what was to be after opening the match at 140 pounds with Guy Severini, who was in a battle with Ryan Griffin came up on the short end losing 6-5 decision in double overtime.

At 145, Scott Doerr dropped a tough 5-1 decision to Kyle Nadeo. Glenn Gross 152, came out and got the Tigers on

*Continued on page 10*

### Middlesex Holiday Wrestling Tournament

South Plainfield entered 14 wrestlers in the Middlesex Holiday Wrestling Tournament and came home with seven overall medal winners. In the Bantam 43 pound division, it was a South Plainfield final with Anthony (Firecracker) Ashnault and Malik Cission. Each wrestler won two matches to face each other in the finals. Anthony first and Malik second.

Also claiming titles were Intermediate Kevin Crilley, hwt. and Rocco Petriello, junior hwt. Anthony Feirro, intermediate 140, lost a heart breaker in OT in the finals for second place. Patrick Hunter, junior 75, lost a close 6-4 decision in the semi finals, but came back in the consolations to pin Billy Montgomery for third place. Billy Daly, 112 intermediate, finished in fourth place.

Also winning matches but not placing were Tyler Hunt, Katyah Cission, Nick Pauls, Justin Huffsmith, Opie Muse, Sean McCarthy and Jake Smithline.



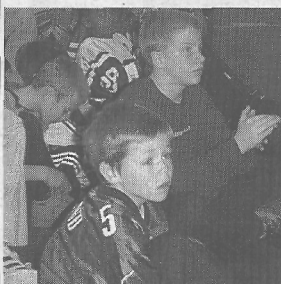
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## Obituaries

### Kevin K. Richter, 38

Kevin K. Richter died on Dec. 29, 2001 at home.

He was born in Plainfield and had lived most of his life in South Plainfield, where he graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1981.

After high school, Kevin entered the US Army and had been stationed in Washington DC and in Germany. Upon his discharge from the Army, he entered and graduated from the Teterboro School of Aviation Mechanics. He had lived in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands for eight years, where he worked as an aviation mechanic, before moving to Bordentown three years ago.

For the past three years, Kevin had worked as an air frame power plant mechanic for Merck Pharmaceutical Co. in Trenton.

An aviation enthusiast, he had recently earned his private pilot's license. He was also a motorcycle hobbyist. Kevin was a longtime active member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Edison and Bordentown.

His dad, Gilbert L. Richter, Sr., died in 1998.

Surviving are his mother, Helen E. (Menges) Richter; two brothers, Gilbert L. Richter, Jr., and Todd D. Richter, all of South Plainfield; a sister, Deborah Kratz of Oceanside, Calif.; a nephew, John Kratz, USMC and a great nephew, Joseph Kratz.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

### William E. Madden Jr., 70

William E. Madden Jr. (Bill) died on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at Muhlenberg Medical Center in Plainfield.

Bill was born to the late William E. and Catherine (Buhler) Madden in York, Pa., where he grew up and then lived in Cedar Grove, NJ. He graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair. After high school, he attended Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md. and after serving with the US Army in Korea, he completed his studies and graduated in 1957 from Seton Hall University in South Orange, earning his B.S. Degree in Business Administration.

After graduating college he joined his father's Lincoln-Mercury Agency in Harrisburg, Pa. and then moved to South Plainfield, where he had lived since 1960, and became a substitute teacher in the local school district. At the same time, he continued his sales career with various auto dealerships in this area, including the former E. Day Ford of Plainfield, City Ford and Laccardi Motors, both of Watchung, Suburban Dodge in Somerville and Dom's Auto Sales in North Plainfield.

During his over twenty year automotive sales career, Mr. Madden had been recognized for his sales ability by earning membership in the Ford 500 Club and receiving the top Hatter Award from Ford, which is awarded to the top 10% of the sales force.

During the 1960's, he was an extremely active member of the South Plainfield community, having served as a parent assistant with Boy Scout Troop 125, starting the Punt, Pass and Kick program and serving as the first chairman on the South Plainfield Adult School. He had been very active with the South Plainfield Jaycees and was chosen Jaycee of the Year for 1966-1967. Bill had also been an active member of the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade Committee and served as chairman.

He was a member of St. Mary's RC Church in Plainfield, The American

Legion Chaumont Post 243 and the VFW Memorial Post 6763 in South Plainfield.

Bill loved the Jersey Shore, fishing and boating and he especially enjoyed watching NASCAR races on TV. He also enjoyed cooking new recipes.

He was predeceased by his son, William E. Madden, III; his sister, Catherine M. Schmidt and by his father-in-law and mother-in-law Samuel and Margaret Rapp.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, Jean Rapp Madden; two sons, Bruce Madden of South Plainfield and Michael J. Madden and his wife Susanna of Robbinsville; two daughters, Diane Schwartz and her husband James of Lanoka Harbor and Joanne Tillotson and her husband John of South Plainfield; five grandchildren, Melissa and Jennifer Tillotson, Jimmy Schwartz, Luisa and Michael Kerwin; two sisters-in-law, Eleanor Wilson of Montgomery and Peggy Coggins of LaHabra Heights, Calif. and by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army.

### Robert W. Noll, 81

Robert W. Noll, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2001 at the Reading Hospital & Medical Center in West Reading, Pa. He was currently a resident at The Highlands in Wyomissing, Pa.

He was a member of the Kissinger's Lutheran Church in Wyomissing. When he lived in South Plainfield, he had been an active member of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church, where he had served as secretary/treasurer and a member of the choir. He also served as an assistant scout master in the South Plainfield community.

Surviving are his wife Eunice W. (Bush) Noll, of Wyomissing, Pa; a daughter, Sandra S. and her husband Michael Kavka, of South Plainfield; three sons, Robert W. Noll, Jr. of Lyndhurst, NJ, Roger B. Noll and his wife Laura of Carmel, Indiana and Ronald D. Noll and his wife Janice of Monmouth Junction and a brother, Willard J. Noll of Bowmanstown, Pa. Also surviving are eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Henninger Funeral Home, Inc. in Reading, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Highland's Endowment Fund, 2000 Cambridge Ave., Wyomissing, PA 19610.

### Ebba (Christiansen) Hammerdahl, 76

Ebba (Christiansen) Hammerdahl died on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at Norwood Nursing home in Plainfield.

Born in Denmark, Mrs. Hammerdahl came to the United States in 1932 and had resided in Metuchen before settling in South Plainfield in 1958.

She was employed by Ford Motor Co. in the accounts payable and receivable for 27 years and later worked for the South Plainfield Board of Education as the accounts payable and receivable coordinator for 12 years.

Her husband, Gert Arvid Hammerdahl, is predeceased.

Surviving are her son and his wife, Erik and Bonnie of Piscataway; two granddaughters, Elisa Marie and Kathleen Rose; a sister, Marie Tacks; a brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Augusta Christiansen and a niece, Linnea Bulun.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Elizabeth (Trum) Szypula, 71

Elizabeth (Trum) Szypula of Lakewood died on Friday, Jan. 4 at her home.

She was born in Newark and was a former 23 year resident of South Plainfield, before moving to Lakewood 15 years ago.

Mrs. Szypula also loved bingo; she could be seen at many of the local bingo games in Lakewood and at Sacred Heart Church Bingo when she lived in South Plainfield.

Surviving are her beloved husband, Joseph E. Szypula; a son, Stephen J. Szypula and his wife Debra of Grass Lake, Mich.; a daughter, Elaine Szypula of Hawthorne and two grandsons, Joseph S. and Jeffrey M. Szypula.

Funeral services were held at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

### Ruth Hauer, 81

Ruth Hauer died on Sunday, Jan. 6 at the Genesis Elder Care Center in Westfield.

She was born in Woodbridge and had resided in Rahway and Beach Haven, before she entered Genesis in 1999.

Ruth had worked as a cafeteria manager for J.C. Caterers and later became the district catering manager for the Rahway Board of Education before her retirement in 1985.

She was a former communicant of St. Francis of Assisi RC Church in Brant Beach and a member of the AARP.

She was predeceased by her husband, William J. Hauer and by her son, William J. Hauer, Jr.

Surviving are her brother and sister-in-law, James and Mary Anne Hilton of South Plainfield; her former daughter-in-law; Karen Hauer Kenney of Manahawkin; two grandchildren, Megan and William Hauer; two nephews, Jeff and James Hilton and a niece, Patty Boylan.

Also surviving is her great nephew, Jackson Scott Hilton.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Rt. 1, North Brunswick, NJ.

### Frank I. Margulski, 77

Frank I. Margulski died on Monday, Jan. 7 at the East Orange Medical Center in East Orange.

He was born in Newark and was a lifelong resident of the city.

He had worked as a laborer for various companies in the city for many years and was an Army Veteran of WWII.

Surviving are a sister, Stephanie Forfa of Newark and brother, Stanley Margulski of South Plainfield. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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## Tigers Fall to So. Brunswick

Continued from page 9

the board by winning a 9-3 decision over Mike Valentino. It looked like the Tigers were in good position to win another match with Mike Buteas 160, winning 3-1 with thirty seconds left in the match when he attempted to tilt Ricky Lyles who got the reversal and three back points to steal another win 6-3. Steve Johnston 171, answered with a 10-3 decision over Brady Shelcuskusky to get the Tigers back in the match.

Freshmen Rob Maistick 189, had to face Derrick Cromartie who got the fall at 2:15. Ryan Elliott 215, put the Tigers ahead with a fall over John Nortesano at 3:59. Heavyweight Amir Davis then dropped a 5-1 decision. Viet Vo 103, dropped a tough 6-4 decision in OT to Vincent Biondo. Ricky Ringel 112, kept things close with a 3-1 decision over Garrett Nasdeo.

Things took a turn for the worst when Danny De Andrea lost a very close 4-3 decision to Paul Strinkoski followed by another close match at 125, when Peter De Andrea lost a 7-6 decision to Young Lee. Freshmen Paul Ritchey 130, wrestled tough but got caught late in the third and got

pinned by Mike Fidacaro. Matt Anderson 135, closed the scoring with a tech fall at 4 over Sean Papp 15-0. There where a lot of one point matches which made a difference in the match.

## Middle School Wrestlers Go 2-0

Continued from page 9

Justin Huffsmith 150.

The North Hunterdon match was also loaded with forfeits. Opening the match, Patrick Hunter 75, got the Tigers going with 5-0 decision over Anthony Mandaglio.

Jimmy Conroy 85, then followed with a fall at 1:02 over Jason Boyle. Sam Martin 107, needed only 48 seconds to pin Chris Zishma. Mark Warness 117, took control and pinned John Grambor at 1:50. Greg Yefko 124, wrestling up from 112, did a great job beating Jeff Vandoren 7-3.

In the final match Anthony Feirro 140, wasted little time pinning Jason Coppola in 54 seconds. Winning by forfeit were Billy Ashnault 80, Bryan Hunt 90, Nick Dorey 95, Mark Wagner 100, Justin Huffsmith 150 and Kevin Criley 175.

## Legal Notices

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the services of a Registered Municipal Auditor to conduct an audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS, the Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et-seq) required that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Andrew Hodulik, of the firm of Hodulik and Morrison, PA.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

\$22.00

January 11, 2002

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield, and WHEREAS, the Local Publics Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et-seq) required that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Esq.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. Health benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Borough Attorney.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

\$22.00

January 11, 2002

### NOTICE

Nagaraja Setty Santosh S/O Nagaraja Setty Resident of 6-8B Winding Wood Dr., Sayreville, NJ 08872 And 119, 6th main, 8th Cross, MC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-40 India Has changed my name from Nagaraja Setty Santosh to Santosh Nagaraja Setty. All concerned may please note.

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January 11, 2002



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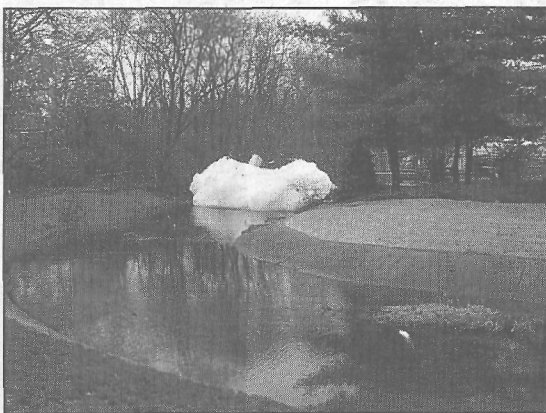
## Is it Snow or Snowy? — No, It's Detergent!

An eight foot high wall of soap suds was spotted in a creek on the 3000 block of So. Clinton Ave. across from Jersey St. on Monday. The Office of Emergency Management, the Fire Department and Haz-Mat were called out to investigate.

The fire department traced the source of the foam up the stream to Braco Manufacturing Co. on New Brunswick Ave. There were three 225 gallon totes with their nozzles open and dishwashing detergent was draining out of them.

Haz-Mat officials also observed waste water being drained down the sewer without having a permit to do so.

The matter is still currently under investigation.



## Mayor Promises to Reduce Taxes

Continued from page 1

and should take credit as a team. Darlene's complete speech can be read on page 7.

The mayor and council presented Darlene with a plaque and Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication to the residents of South Plainfield.

The mayor and council announced the appointment of more than 77 residents to the 35 boards, agencies and commissions in South Plainfield. More than 60 were reappointments. The mayor said that this was just another example of the spirit of volunteerism

that exists in South Plainfield.

Jim Vokral was elected unanimously by the council to serve as Council President again. Committee assignments for 2002 were announced as follows:

**Administration, Finance & Public Information** - Ed Kubala (chairman), Charles Butrico and James Vokral; **Public Works** - Robert Cusick (chairman), Dennis Cerami and Raymond Petronko; **Economic Development** - Charles Butrico (chairman), Ed Kubala and Robert Cusick; **Health, Welfare & Environment** - James Vokral (chairman), Raymond

Petronko and Charles Butrico; **Public Safety** - Dennis Cerami (chairman), James Vokral and Robert Cusick and **Recreation** - Raymond Petronko (chairman), Ed Kubala and Dennis Cerami.

Also appointed by the governing body were: Patrick Diegnan, borough attorney; Vincent Buttiglieri, public agency compliance officer; Andrew Hodulik, borough auditor; Thomas Lanza, borough prosecutor; Edward Santoro, public defender; Richard Lorentzen, tax search officer; John Jorgenson, municipal judge.

## policereport

• On Dec. 29 a Plainfield woman was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting \$220.95 worth of clothes.

• A Plainfield woman was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting three wallets worth \$90.

• On Jan. 2 a Queens, NY man and woman were arrested at Macy's for shoplifting mens, womens and baby clothes totaling \$827.99.

• On Jan. 3 someone passed a counterfeit \$100 bill at Home Depot.

• A Plainfield man was arrested at CVS on Plainfield Ave. for

shoplifting \$178.74 worth of Tylenol Cold Medicine.

• Richard Gola, owner of Barclay Brand Ferdon on So. Clinton Ave. reported that while driving back to the office an air compressor fell off his vehicle. He retraced his path and could not find it. Someone did call police to reported that they had the air compressor, but were disconnected. The caller never called back.

• On Sat. a North Brunswick woman was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting.

• A Spotswood woman re-

ported that her debt card had been stolen in Woodbridge and used at a CVS in South Plainfield.

• On Mon. a Keasbey woman was arrested at Kohl's for putting two pairs of sunglasses and two pairs of Nike sneakers into a Kohl's pocketbook. The woman also two pairs of Nike windpants put over her clothes. Total value was \$344.97.

• An Edison man was arrested at Pathmark for shoplifting \$63.43 worth of batteries, medicine and various food.

• Jesco on St. Nicholas Ave. reported the theft of a boat trailer.

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# Beavers' Put South Plainfield on the Map

Continued from page 1

to see the beavers in action. He noted the beavers can be seen only at night.

The dam the beavers built is in South Plainfield and they have made their lodge upstream on the boarder of the Edison Wetlands Association's preserve and education center.

According to Spiegel, South Plainfield asked the state Division of Fish and Wildlife to have the animals moved, but they refused citing the animals are not on borough property. Spiegel said, "South Plainfield can't do anything legally. We are keeping an eye out for anyone who tries to harass or trap the animals."

Not so says Cusick, "The beavers are in South Plainfield, not Edison." He said he was also told the beavers can't be successfully relocated during the winter months, so they are staying.

Mayor Dan Gallagher is not troubled having the beavers as new neighbors. His primary concern is the potential damage to the road caused by the flooding. He is currently investigating one of the many devices that claim to be effective in preventing beavers from blocking pipes.

The arrival of the beavers was big news for the area, according to Joe Garriss, a beaver specialist for the state Division of Fish and Wildlife. New



Photo by Christopher Abbott

Jersey beavers were nearly exterminated by trappers in 1850. It has been approximately 150 years since beavers have made their home in Middlesex County and the surrounding areas. The modern day concern with beavers stems from their ability to fell trees and flood developed areas such as roads, fields and septic systems.

A visit the infamous beaver site led to a secluded area of the Dismal Swamp, just past the Triple C Ranch preserve. Beyond the home across from the ranch, the only visible sign of humans were fencing and private property notices posted throughout the area. Spiegel was on hand to lead us to the brook. The beaver lodge is clearly visible from the road. Many signs of the beaver's industrious work could be seen, such as the remnants of felled trees jutting out of the ground. A Blue Heron landed in the water near the beaver lodge just before dusk. Spiegel noted that there has been a return of wildlife to the area in recent years, including the Red Fox spotted on the ranch. The area may be known as Dismal Swamp to local residents—but the beavers of Bound Brook seem to think it's anything but—dismal!

# Roosevelt Holds Blood Drive to Boost Dwindling Supply

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

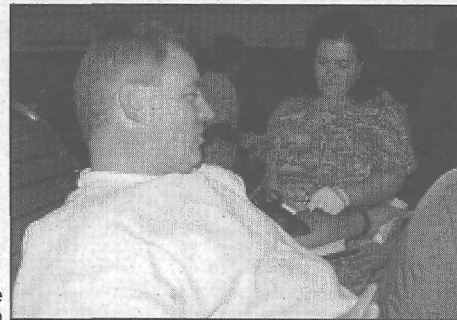
Four months have passed since the September 11 attacks. Life has returned to a normal pace for most Americans, yet, the still-recent memories linger, as does the need to help. With this in mind, Roosevelt School parent's Therese Montuori and Barbara Schaefer approached Roosevelt School Principal Dr. Rick Hangge about a blood drive. Even without the recent tragedy, news reports were sitting a constant need of blood during the winter months.

On September 11, Roosevelt School was one of several buildings open and ready to assist families of the disaster. Luckily the shelter was not utilized. While Dr. Hangge waited with the volunteers, the school nurse and six teachers, they discussed what more could be done. The blood drive fit the bill, giving back to anyone who might be in need. Superintendent Dr. John Krewer was contacted and gave his approval. Dr. Hangge noted Dr. Krewer was very supportive of the blood drive saying, "Dr. Krewer is always supportive of things that move the district forward and bring the community closer together."

Dr. Hangge, Therese Montuori and Barbara Schaefer, along with Roosevelt School secretary, Cheryl Mazzellan began to organize the event. A representative from New Jersey Blood Services contacted Therese providing her



Roosevelt Principal Dr. Rick Hangge, Therese Montuori and Barbara Schaefer.

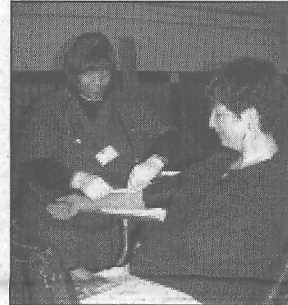


Officer Wayne Diana

with necessary details to prepare for the January 5 Blood Drive. Flyers went out to all the schools in mid-December and approximately thirty people registered in advance. Therese noted that there were many more 'walk ins' than they had hoped for.

There is currently a Blood Appeal in effect. NJ Blood Services employee Gail McGrath of North Brunswick pointed out that a steady flow of blood is needed throughout the year. During the days after the tragedy, news casts showed long lines of donors, with some being turned away. It was the first time that they had every experienced 'too much' blood. Blood has a shelf life of 42 days; after that it must be frozen and can only be used as plasma. Among the donors were Ivy Roig whose daughter is in fourth grade at Roosevelt and Police Officer Wayne Diana and his wife Janice.

Only two of the 30 who pre-registered, did not show up. Over 50 people attended the blood drive. Many were refused due to low iron, colds or other reasons. The drive generated 24



Kathy DiMeglio

pints of blood. Therese said she and Barbara were disappointed until NJ Blood Service employees explained that it had been a successful day, they had 24 more pints of blood, more than they had started with that day. They hope to make the Blood Drive an annual event in memory of September 11.

If you would like to find a local blood drive or organize a drive call 732-220-7000.



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