

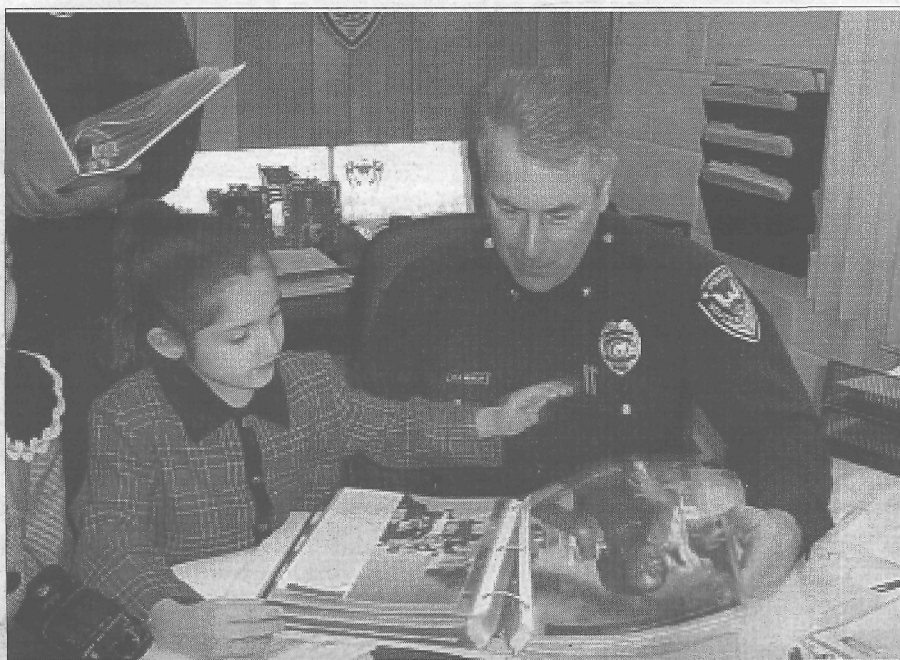
# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JANUARY 24, 2003



Giovanna Rodriguez shows Police Chief Bob Merkler her collection of 9/11 scrapbooks.

## Girl's Crusade Leads Her To South Plainfield's Heroes

By Jane Dornick

For most of us, the memories of the events of September 11 have been stored away in our subconscious. But for one seven-year-old girl attending Stony Brook Elementary School in North Plainfield, these memories live on day to day in seven scrapbooks which she painstakingly continues to compile.

For second grader Giovanna Rodriguez, a simple 100th Day of School project a year ago turned into a mission to meet and say thank you to all the local "heroes" she can locate. Her original intent was to collect 100 bottle caps for a school math project, which entailed finding 100 objects to commemorate the number of days they have attended class. With 9/11 still fresh in her mind, she told her

mother that instead she would rather collect magazine and newspaper images of the event instead.

For almost a year now, these scrapbooks have been growing in numbers, even though her completed project hangs in the school hallway. Her collection has evolved into a crusade to actually meet with police, fire and rescue workers throughout New York and New Jersey, to show them her scrapbooks and tell them how much their efforts mean to her.

When South Plainfield Police Chief Robert Merkler received a phone call from Giovanna, he graciously accepted the invitation to view her work. Merkler invited members of the rescue squad, fire department and emergency management. With her mother,

(Continued on page 12)

## High School Students Say No to War with Iraq

By Cathleen Fodor, SPHS Senior

Recently, the news has been buzzing with the talk of war with Iraq. Everyone has their own opinion when it comes to going to war, including SPHS students. Current events are discussed daily in the Government & Law classes offered at SPHS. The purpose of this is to inform students of the local news here in South Plainfield, as well as around the world.

During the week of Jan. 6, students conducted a survey concerning current events involving the U.S. government. Over 300 people were surveyed, including both students and adults. The results are as follows:

When asked if the United States should have a military draft now, 153 adults were surveyed, and 18 said yes, while 135 said no. With similar results, 24 out of the 158 students surveyed said yes, and 134 said no.

When asked if the U.S. should attack Iraq if the United Nations finds

no arms, 50 out of the 156 adults said yes, 106 said no, while 53 out of the 155 students said yes, and 102 said no.

Another question asked was whether or not the United States has the right to tell North Korea that they cannot have nuclear weapons. 84 out of 162 adults said yes, and 78 said no. Results varied a bit between the adults and students; 59 out of the 163 students asked said yes, and 104 said no.

The final question asked was if President Bush is doing a good job with the U.S. economy. Out of 161 adults surveyed, 25 said yes, and 136 said no. 158 students were asked this question and 29 said yes and 129 said no.

The events going on in the world today may have an effect on the future leaders of this country. Not everyone will agree with the results of this survey, but it is important to keep up with current events because they do effect the lives of everyone.

## Officer Saves Family from Fire

On Jan. 14 South Plainfield Police Officer Vincent Campagna was investigating a borough ordinance violation on Edgar Ave. when a fire broke out in the kitchen of the home.

Residents had complained of a bus being parked in the street overnight. When Campagna arrived, the bus was parked in the driveway and replaced by a camper which was parked too far out in the road.

The homeowner's mother was home at the time watching her two grandsons, ages four and 15 months. While speaking to the grandmother, heavy smoke began pouring out of the kitchen oven. When the oven door was opened, fire was observed and the room quickly filled with smoke. Campagna soon lost sight of the grandmother, grabbed the four-year-old and put him on the front porch. As he went back to find the 15-month-old, the four-year-old ran back into the home.

About that time Det. Gary Kline arrived and carried both boys safely to his police vehicle. Campagna located the grandmother, assisted her out of the house and began to extinguish the fire.

After the fire was out, police noticed that a large clutter of toys, clothes and other household items and debris formed pathways through the house. The hot water heater had signs of old fire damage and was leaking and that the outlets in the home were overloaded. Hanging on the downstairs wall was a certification for a day care which had expired on Feb. 28, 2002.

The local Board of Health inspector responded and DYFS was also called. Fire inspectors noted many violations and the occupants are not permitted to sleep in the home until all the violations are corrected. The family is currently staying at the grandmother's home on the same street.



### Congratulations!

Bravo to Vicki Boley (left) who fired games of 223-211-214 for a six game 218 average and top qualifying honors in the GMC individual tournament. Her 183 final game earned her a silver medal and runner-up honors.

Freshman Beverly Jamieson rolled 191-148-183 for a six game average of 181 and a 14<sup>th</sup> place finish in a field of over 200 varsity bowlers. Nice bowling girls.

## Free Rabies Clinic this Saturday

The South Plainfield Health Department will be holding their annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Borough Garage, located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont Avenues.

The rabies clinic is open to both cats and dogs. Residents are urged to bring

their pets for inoculation.

Dog and cat licenses can also be purchased at the clinic. Cost of dog or cat license is \$8 if spayed/neutered and \$11 if not. A \$1 per month late fee is incurred after Jan. 31. Cats must be brought in a carrier.

For more info, call 226-7631.

## College Junior Pens 'Chicken Soup' Story

By Patricia Abbott



Amanda Bertrand

South Plainfield resident Amanda Bertrand took a cherished high school memory and a concern for a friend and turned them into... chicken soup, or more precisely, a story published in *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Love and Friendship*.

Amanda, a junior at Rutgers University, had her story *One Single Rose* published in the "Chicken Soup" teenage series. The journey to publication was a long one.

Amanda's story is about the memorable Valentine's Day in 1997, her freshman year at South Plainfield High School. She recalls the school day was filled with hearts and flowers

and happy couples sharing romantic smiles. Amanda longed to feel a part of the holiday, to have a secret admirer send her a flower—all she wanted was one single rose. Later that evening a deliveryman brought a single rose to her door. The unsigned card read "To Amanda, From someone who cares." The simple memory of the anonymous gift lifted her spirits throughout high school.

Fast-forward three years to Valentine's Day of her senior year. A happy and confident Amanda found herself with numerous flowers sent from friends. Towards the end of the day she came across a tearful friend who had not received any flowers.

(Continued on page 12)

# Mark your calendars

Log on to  
[southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com)  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

## council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

### AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, February 3 Thursday, February 6

Monday, February 18 Thursday, February 20

Monday, March 3 Thursday, March 6

Monday, March 17 Thursday, March 20

Monday, April 7 Thursday, April 10

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

## planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

## zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Jan. 23, Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

## board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Feb. 11, March 11, April 1.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

## taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

## site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

## recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, September 2, October 7, November 11 (November 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

## business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

## traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall



## Honorary Senior Memberships Presented

Mike English presented an honorary membership card for the new Senior Center to Mayor Dan Gallagher at last week's council meeting. Also receiving cards were Councilmen Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral and Borough Attorney Pat Diegnan.

## IN YOUR OPINION

### Letter to the Editor:

The Lions Club of South Plainfield welcomes and extends their best wishes and success to the new South Plainfield Philippine Americans (Phil-Am) Lions Club members to our community.

New Jersey has several ethnic Lions Clubs and this is one of them. There are 188 countries in the world in the Lions Organization, with 1.4 million members, all helping needy people obtain hearing and eye exams, eye glasses, hearing aides, diabetes and seeing eye dogs, along with numerous scholarships and other worthy causes.

We all work under the Lions motto: 'We Serve.'

The South Plainfield Lions Club, now in its 56th year, will continue our efforts to help those who need assistance. Once again this year, we will be holding our very popular Annual Gourmet Breakfast fundraiser on Palm Sunday in the high school cafeteria. Hope to see you all there!

**BOB DESCH, PRESIDENT**

### Observer Readers,

I am the founder of a new foundation idea called the S.A.E.E. Foundation for Women in Crisis. The idea of S.A.E.E. is to help battered and abused women and mothers who are presently living in shelters get back on their feet and start a new "safe" life. Most of the women in the shelters leave their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They leave everything behind, end up with nothing and have to start over from scratch. S.A.E.E. stands for "Starting A Fresh Existence"

I need your help to make this Foundation possible. I need your donations of any household items, from kitchen ware to furniture, bedding, towels, new cosmetics, shampoos, curtains, baby and children items, diapers, baby food, formula and baby bottles. Also needed are women's, children's and baby clothing and anything needed to set up a new home. We will take what you have left after garage sales and spring cleaning. The way my foundation will work is when a woman is ready to leave the

shelter she is in, the shelter will contact me and I will make sure whatever we have collected will be given to the woman for her new home. I work strictly through the shelter, so I know your donations are going to a woman who truly needs them.

This foundation is important to me, because 15 years ago I was one of these women. I know the fear of leaving everything behind but the clothes on my back. Fortunately I had a wonderful family and did not end up in a shelter, but I did have to start a whole new life from scratch. I am also hoping that this foundation will encourage women who are scared to leave because of their fear of starting over with nothing to get out of a dangerous situation they may presently be living in. You can help give a woman with no hope a chance by donating household items which you don't need or use anymore. Help me help a woman in crisis get back on her feet.

Your donations are so important. There is a drop off spot at R&F Transportation Inc. (Eds Automotive) 120 Barone Ave., or call and we will pick up your donations. Contact me, Debi Esposito, with any ideas or questions at (908) 757-3825.

Due to the extreme cold winter we are dealing with, S.A.E.E. is going to be hosting a blanket and coat drive. Please drop off any comforters, blankets and coats at the listed drop site. We will pass them out to the homeless, who will not leave the streets.

You can also visit my website at <http://www.angelfire.com/biz7/safe> or [saffefoundation@aol.com](mailto:saffefoundation@aol.com). S.A.E.E. is a non-profit foundation and a Wiccan Charity.

**DEBI ESPOSITO**

### To the Editor:

As sponsors of Assembly Bill 3105, which would ban paid advertisements on police, fire and first-aid vehicles, we feel compelled to respond to comments made by North Brunswick Mayor David Spaulding. The mayor's remarks are sorely misguided. He has missed the intent of the legislation, which aims

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at [spobserver.com](http://spobserver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

to prevent embarrassment to those who work so hard to protect the public.

As a result of 9/11, every American knows what a true hero is — our police, fire and rescue workers who literally put their lives on the line to keep us safe and secure. These heroes should be honored and treated with respect.

By using emergency vehicles as moving billboards, we would take away the credibility of the personnel who use them. It would be humiliating for a police officer to drive a vehicle splattered with advertisements for a local furniture store or a firefighter to respond to an emergency in equipment paid for by Best Buy.

We commend all elected officials who attempt to meet budget demands in innovative ways without raising taxes. However, we strongly feel that selling advertising space on police, fire, and first-aid vehicles is not the way to offset municipal expenses.

It is only right and proper for the Legislature to protect the image of our police officers, fire fighters and emergency personnel by prohibiting embarrassing actions. We must help build respect for these proud public servants, not make them the laughing stocks of the neighborhoods they are sworn to protect.

**SINCERELY,  
ASSEMBLYMAN PETER J. BARNES,  
JR., MAJORITY WHIP, D-EDISON  
ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK DIEGNAN,  
JR., D-SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

## 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 the 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 on Plainfield Ave. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at [spobserver.com](mailto:spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ngrennie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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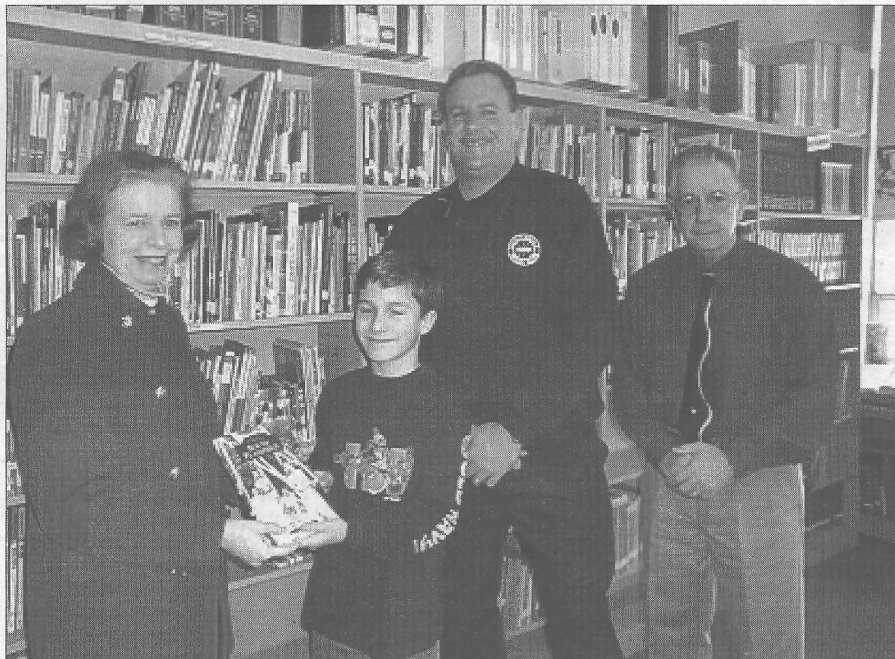
## Resident Arrested on Auto Assault Charges

South Plainfield resident Peggy Lanza, 45, was arrested on Jan. 10 on two counts of aggravated assault and assault with an auto, the result of an accident which occurred back on Sept. 28, 2002.

According to Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Nick Scwitch, Lanza was grossly intoxicated when stopped at 12:37 a.m. while making a left turn from Stelton Rd. onto Hamilton Blvd. in her Toyota RAV 4.

Hemant Chhibber, 35, of Piscataway was traveling north on Stelton Rd. in his 1998 Toyota Camry when the collision occurred. Chhibber suffered a fractured tibia and fibia and his wife, Anju, also 35, suffered a broken right leg. Their two children, ages one and two, suffered only minor injuries in the accident.

Bail was set at \$50,000.



After reading *Images of America: South Plainfield*, the book on the history of South Plainfield, Ron and Lynne Sward, owners of Physical Therapy located on Hamilton Blvd., thought that every school in South Plainfield should have a copy in their libraries, and are donating a book to each school in town. Pictured is Kennedy School librarian Eleanor Jordan, Matthew and Ron Sward and Kennedy School Principal Al Czech.

## Tax Prep Assistance Offered

AARP and the IRS will again be offering their income tax assistance program to the senior population. The Tax Consultants for the Elderly (TCE) are getting ready for the new season, reviewing and updating their information for the 2002 tax year. The program will run from Feb. 11 through April 15, and is open to all area residents.

Anyone interested in getting their tax forms prepared can come to the South Plainfield Senior Center located at 90 Maple Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. Services will be on a first come/first serve basis with priority to the elderly.

Please bring all information that is required to complete tax forms, including a copy of last year's tax return, all forms of income (W2s, CD and bank and bond interest, stock dividends, capital gains/losses, a copy of 2002 real estate tax, etc.).

If itemizing, please bring all re-

ceipts or accounting of medical, dental, prescriptions, charitable contributions and other deductible expenses.

Assistance will also be available to those residents who do their own tax returns, but would like consultants to check them over or have any questions. Additionally, assistance will be available to seniors needing help with other forms such as PAAD, PRT, Lifeline, Homestead Rebate, Heap and NJ Saver.

For further information, contact Joann Graf at the South Plainfield Senior Center at 908-754-1047.

## Historical Society Elects New Officers

The South Plainfield Historical Society voted in their new slate of officers last Tuesday evening. The officers are: President Dot Miele, Vice President Kathy Horvath, Second Vice President Sarah Meile, Recording Secretary Lynn Fasolo and Treasurer Maryann Veit.

The Historical Society also received good news. They will be given a large space to be used as their museum in the new school that is to replace the Roosevelt School.

A slide show was presented that showed many of the old homes in the town from "then" and now. It was sadly noted that many beautiful old mansions of the 1800's have been lost for one reason or another.

A number of programs have been planned. One is a slide and lecture show of the "Big Bands," with taped music at the South Plainfield Public Library on Jan. 26, at 2 p.m.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

## February is National Pet Dental Health Month

"Dental health often falls low on a pet owner's list of pet care priorities, taking a back seat to exercise, proper nutrition and grooming. Many pet owners simply don't realize the importance of oral care to their pet's overall health," says Dr. Scott Linick of Plain-

field Animal Hospital. By taking good care of their pet's teeth, pet owners not only help prevent periodontal disease, the most commonly diagnosed disease among cats and dogs over the age of three, but also help their pets live longer, healthier lives.

During National Pet Dental Health Month, pet owners are reminded of the dangers of poor pet dental care. Because dogs and cats can't brush their own teeth, it's up to their owners to ensure their pets get the oral care they need.

"The trouble begins when food particles and bacteria build up in the

mouth which leads to gingivitis and severe periodontal disease," explains Dr. Linick. Periodontal disease leads to tooth decay, bad breath, bleeding gums and in severe cases, tooth loss. Even more complications arise when the bacteria that cause periodontal disease travel into a pet's bloodstream, possibly resulting in damage to the heart, liver, kidneys and lungs.

Look for warning signs of oral disease. Take your pet to your veterinarian for a dental exam if you notice bad breath, a change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth and depression.

## School Board Candidacy Information Available

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24, 2003. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the school district office, at 305 Cromwell Pl., between 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 candidates 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.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said Glenn B. Evvan, NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens

to consider board of education membership. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

## Borough News

### Council Notes

• Darlene Pinto has resigned as a Class IV member of the Planning Board. Her unexpired term was filled as part of the appointments made on Reorganization Day 2003.

• The Borough will request a time extension from the Department of Transportation for awarding the contract to widen Durham Ave. The Borough received a Department of Transportation Grant in 2002.

• A Toro Power Shift Snow Blower will be purchased from Holly Park Mower Shop, at a cost not exceed \$1,800 to be used by the Department of Public Works.

• The Borough will purchase three laptop computers for the Police Department for use in their new police vehicles from GHA Technologies, at a cost not to exceed \$5,945.

• The Police Department will receive a 9-1-1 system upgrade provided through KML Technology, Inc. This system upgrade is being provided at no cost to the Borough. The Borough is also purchasing two additional upgrades, which were not included in the free upgrade, at a cost not to exceed \$3,887.

• The lease/purchase of a new telephone system for the new Emergency Management Building from Novacom Telephone Company was authorized. The total cost will be \$9,478.10 (five years at \$1,895.62 per year).

• A \$200,000 grant from the Statewide Local Preparedness Equipment Grant will be used to purchase a new Computer Aided Dispatch system for the police department.

• A Professional Services contract with the law firm of Buttafuoco, Arce & Price to represent the Borough in labor negotiations with PBA 100 was authorized. The cost is not to exceed \$5,000.

• The Borough will be applying to the Middlesex County Improvement Authority to participate in the capital lease program established by the County. The Borough is looking to purchase a dump truck, a pick-up truck, a 911 computer terminal and a Sport Utility Vehicle for Emergency Management for a total cost of \$140,000.

• Police Officer Joseph Campagna resigned effective January 15, 2003.

• The Council voted to endorse the Parent Code of Conduct as developed by the South Plainfield Recreation Commission. The council is also encouraging all recreation associations to pass similar codes of conduct.

• A \$4,000 grant has been received from the New Jersey State Police for Emergency Management.

• The Council approved a Resolution of Participation authorizing the South Plainfield Police Department to participate with the State of New Jersey in their Safe and Secure Communities Program, which is administered by the Division of Law and Public Safety.

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# Events Around Town

## Students New Year Dance at Sacred Heart

January 24

A New Year Dance for all students in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, in the Sacred Heart cafeteria. The dance runs from 7 to 11 p.m. (Lock down from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.)

Music will be presented by 'Soundz Good Entertainment.' The cost is \$5, which includes soda and chips.

For additional information, call Ginny O'Brien at 757-6057 or (908) 756-0633 ext. 10 or 12.

## Debbie Boehm Will Speak at Child's Play

January 24

The Starlight Supplement Presentation by Debbie Boehm planned for Child's Play Day Care Center in December, which had to be rescheduled due to a holiday snowstorm, will now be held on Friday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the day care center. The public is welcome to attend.

## Library to Host "Big Band" Era Program

January 26

The South Plainfield Library will host a special program, "The Big Band Era," on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. The audio/visual presentation will feature the music of such swing era icons as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Harry James and the "king of swing" clarinet maestro Benny Goodman.

The speaker for the program will be Dr. Stephen F. Marcone. Dr. Marcone is a former professional trumpet player and is currently Graduate Studies Coordinator Program Director of the Music Management Program at William Paterson University. He'll be speaking on the stylistic differences of the great American jazz bands of the 1930's to mid 1940's. "Swing" became the popular name of this music after Ellington's 1932 composition, "It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing."

This program is made possible through funding from the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program is presented free of charge and all are welcome.

Please join us for an afternoon of musical memories on Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. in the South Plainfield Library. For more information or directions, please call (908) 754-7885.

## Ponytail Assoc. Mtg.

January 28

The Ponytail Softball Parents' Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library. New members are always welcome.

## Music Booster Meeting

February 5

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Band Room. They will be discussing their first canning event which will be held on Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8, as well as Winter Guard, a com-

### What's happening in JANUARY

**MONDAY**

Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30AM  
Yoga 10:30-11:30AM  
Caring & Sharing

27

Bingo 10-2 PM

28

Exercise & Walking Club 8:45-9:45AM  
Movie 11:30 AM  
AARP Crafts 1 PM

29

Shopping at Pathmark 9AM  
Practical Crafting 10-11AM  
Line Dancing 11AM-Noon  
Pool Match 10:30-2pm  
So. Plainfield@Piscataway

30

Bingo 10-2PM

31

### Daily Events

9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

### Senior Center EVENTS

**TUESDAY**

Tax Prep Assistance, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m to noon.

Tickets on sale for matinee performance of "Some Like It Hot," Feb. 6 at NJ PAC. Cost \$40

**WEDNESDAY**

Shopping at Pathmark 9AM  
Practical Crafting 10-11AM  
Line Dancing 11AM-Noon  
Pool Match 10:30-2pm  
So. Plainfield@Piscataway

23

**THURSDAY**

Shopping at Pathmark 9AM  
Practical Crafting 10-11AM  
Line Dancing 11AM-Noon

24

**FRIDAY**

Bingo 10-2PM

24

**TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.**

bined trip with the chorus and band. We need as many parents as possible to attend this meeting.

## Local Church Plans Pierogi Sale

February 6

There will be a pierogi sale held on Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave. (corner of Belmont & Delmore). The pierogi are \$4 a dozen. They are handmade and freshly cooked to order by parish members.

There are two choices offered: potato with cheese and sauerkraut.

All orders must be in by noon on Monday, Feb. 3 for pickup on Thursday, Feb. 6. To order, please call (908) 756-7223 and leave your name, a contact phone number and your order (in dozens) on the machine.

## Education Foundation Annual Art Auction

February 22

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will be holding their annual Art Auction on Friday, Feb. 22 in the High School cafeteria. This year's Honorary Chairperson is William Ashnault.

If there are any items of particular interest you would like to see presented at the art auction, please call Marge Reedy at (908) 561-3951 after 6 p.m.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

February 22

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to 10 years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery and pre-kindergarten programs. Everyone who registers 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).

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## — Out of Town —

## Orphan Fundraiser This Saturday

January 25

With the growing number of wars and conflicts around the world, many children are left orphaned each year. With this in mind, Islamic Campus Youth Services of Fairleigh Dickinson University, the Montclair Muslim Students Association and Islamic Relief present: "Will You Deny the Orphan?," a fundraising dinner to support the needy orphans of the world.

Join us Saturday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Fairleigh Dickinson University, Wilson Auditorium, Dickinson Hall in Teaneck, to be a changing force in these difficult times. Tickets are available for \$25 per adult or \$12 for children 12 and under.

Islamic Relief is an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). It seeks to promote sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities through relief and development programs. Islamic Relief has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, and is a signatory to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements and NGOs in Disaster Relief. Islamic Relief is also a member of BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development).

For more information about Saturday's event or to buy tickets, please contact: Mona Abdallah-mona01@eden.rutgers.edu.

## Starting Self-Help Groups Free Workshop

January 25

The New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse is conducting a free workshop for persons interested in starting a self-help group. It will cover such topics as locating members, publicity, finding a meeting location, structuring the group, and how to conduct your first meeting.

The workshop will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Saint Clare's Health System Behavioral Health, located on Powerville Rd. in Boonton.

If you are interested in registering, would like information, contact the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at 1-800-367-6274, Monday

through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

January 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 27, at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

"Loss and Grieving in the Adoption Triad" by Barbara A. Rall, LCSW, adoptive mother and Senior Social Worker and Adoption Coordinator for Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments. Check our Website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 277-0607 for information.

## Psychiatrist to Discuss Depression and Bipolar Illness

January 29

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance monthly lecture meeting on Jan. 29 will feature Clifford Taylor, M.D., noted psychiatrist with an active private practice in Morristown. The topic for his talk is "Observations on Managing Depression and Bipolar Illness."

The organization's educational meetings are open to the public and take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road (about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. A nominal donation is requested from non-members. Free literature is available to all attendees and there is a lending library of educational audio tapes for members.

In addition to the lecture series, peer group support sessions led by experienced facilitators are held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month in Morristown (at the Fellowship) and on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month at the Madison Medical Center.

Visit the website of the First NJ Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group at <http://community.nj.com/cc/1stnjdmgs> to learn more and to view links to other sources of information. For local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the NJ Self-Help Clearing House, (800) 367-6274.

## Nancy Rosin to Appear at Brass Lantern

February 1

On Feb. 1 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Nancy Rosin a long time collector of Victorian Valentines, will be conducting her second symposium at the Brass Lantern, located in Metuchen, along with a Valentine Tea and a sale of antique valentines.

Nancy will be conducting a day of valentine magic at Tinsel Trading in New York City on Saturday, Jan. 25. This talented lady is featured repeatedly on AGE's Incurable Collection Show.

On Feb. 3, Nancy will be on Live Chat "E-Bay," at 8 p.m.

## Annual Antique Bottle Club Show

February 2

The NJ Antique Bottle Club (NJABC) will host its seventh annual show and sale on Sunday, Feb. 2 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 88 Jackson St., South River, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and children under 12 are free. Home cooked food will be sold by The Saint Mary of Ostrabrama Seniors. For information, contact NJABC, 24 Charles St., South River, NJ 08882, (732) 519-2804 [botlman@aol.com](mailto:botlman@aol.com) or (732) 868-0510 [xrdsrev@aol.com](mailto:xrdsrev@aol.com).

## Soprano Lynn Norris To Perform

February 2

The Monmouth Symphony Orchestra will present a concert on Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. in the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank. Soprano Lynn Norris will be featured in Mozart's Exultate Jubilate. In addition, Steven A. Gosewisch will conduct the "Semiramide" Overture by Rossini and the Symphony in C Major by Bizet. Reserved seats are \$20, adults; \$18 for seniors (60 & over); \$5 for college students. School-age children accompanied by an adult may obtain free tickets. For reservations, call (732) 842-9000.

For info about the orchestra, [www.monmouthsymphony.com](http://www.monmouthsymphony.com) or call (732) 842-9000.

## Alliance Presents "Spinning into Butter"

February 7 - March 1

Alliance Repertory Theatre Company is pleased to announce its production, Rebecca Gilman's highly acclaimed "Spinning into Butter." The production runs Feb. 7 through March 1 at The Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook.

Set on a college campus in Vermont, "Spinning into Butter" challenges our preconceptions about race relations through Sarah Daniels, the liberal dean of students, who investigates the pinning of anonymous racist letters on the door of one of the college's few African-American students.

Production dates are: Feb. 7 & 8, 13-16, 20-23, 28, and Mar. 1. Evening performances begin at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Special senior citizen and student discounts available, as are discounted group rates.

For information and reservations, call (732) 469-7700.

## southplainfieldpeople

# Milestones

### Adult School Line Dance Teachers International Competition Winners

On Wednesday nights, the cafeteria at South Plainfield High School is filled with fun loving people having a foot stompin' good time. That's when Wanda and Jim York teach a class of Country Line Dancing at the South Plainfield Adult School.

Wanda and Jim are more than dance instructors; they are also award-winning choreographers. Their line dance, "Late Night Swing," won an international competition judged by world-renowned choreographers.

In February, Wanda and Jim will be traveling to Blackpool, England for the seventh annual Crystal Boot Awards sponsored by Linedancer Magazine. One of their newer line dances, "Whoops, I Fell in Love," choreographed to the Alan Jackson song, "I Slipped and Fell in Love," has been nominated for Beginner Dance of the Year. Competing for the Crystal Boot, the Academy Award of line dancing are five other dances from the U.S., Canada and Europe. Interestingly, Wanda and Jim choreographed the dance as a collaboration with Joanne

Brady from Delaware, who was one of the judges on their first award.

"We are really excited about the nomination. It's an honor to have our dance even on the same list as these dances by some of the best choreographers in the world," says Wanda. Jim adds, "No matter what happens in Blackpool, we'll have a fun time. Just being there for the award ceremonies will be a great experience."

Wanda and Jim York live in Piscataway and have two children in college. Allison, a Deans Listed student at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh will be graduating with a teaching degree in May. Brad is an honor student in the General Motors Automotive Technology Program at Brookdale Community College in Lincolnton.

If you are new to line dancing or want to give it a try, join the Beginners' Class at South Plainfield High School. The next class starts on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Call the school at (980) 754-4630, ext. 213, 214 or 215 to register.



### Margaret Monroe Named Bloustein Distinguished Scholar

Union Catholic High School, located in Scotch Plains, announced that seven seniors have been designated Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. Students selected for this honor must place in the top 10 percent of their class and have a combined SAT score of 1260, or be ranked first, second, or third in their class as of the end of junior year.

Distinguished Scholars are offered an annual award of \$1,000 without regard to financial need. The Distinguished Scholars program was initiated in order to recognize the academic achievement of New Jersey's secondary school students.

Shown in above photo with school principal, Sister Percylee Hart, are (left to right), Robert McGuire of Mid-

dlesex, Michael Puzyk of Mountain-side, Thomas Ritter of Scotch Plains, Lauren Bowe of Fords, Sheri Jones of Plainfield, Margaret Monroe of South Plainfield and Jaleah Hawkins of Plainfield.

UCHS is located on a 20-acre suburban campus in Scotch Plains. It has a student body of over 750 students from nearly 55 communities.

### Sacred Heart School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is being held this year from Jan. 26 through Jan. 30. The following activities will be held throughout the week at Sacred Heart School.

• **January 25-Saturday Evening**  
Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass,  
St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen, 7 p.m.

• **January 26- Sunday Morning**  
Sacred Heart School Open House

All are welcomed, especially Alumni/Alumnae (10-11:15 a.m.)

Sacred Heart Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, Sacred Heart Church (11:30 a.m.) Refreshments after Mass are sponsored by House & School Association.

• **January 28- Tuesday Afternoon**  
DARE Graduation, School Gym, 1 p.m.

• **January 29- Wednesday Morning**  
Student Pizza Lunch, (10:40-12 noon)

• **January 29- Wednesday Evening**  
Basketball Game, Students vs. Teachers, Alumni/Alumnae invited,  
School gym, 7 p.m.

• **January 30- Thursday Morning**  
School Open House, (9-10:30 a.m.)  
School Registration begins on January 27.

### Hometown Heros Recognizes Heroes Fran Flannery, A Volunteer "Hero"



Fran Flannery

The members of the 2002 GMC Field Hockey Champion team have nominated Fran Flannery as the "Hometown Hero" of the month. Coach Flannery, an excellent role model for the group, coached the team to one of its most successful seasons in the history of South Plainfield High School. Not only is she a superior coach, but she also is a history teacher at SPHS as well. She has taught her

students to be the best they can possibly be. She uses her excellent work ethic, teaching them to be dedicated and to work hard. She teaches the upperclassmen to set good examples for the underclassmen.

This year was a year in which the South Plainfield Field Hockey Team set several school records. Many individuals broke the school records for scoring goals. As a team, they had a 21-1-1 record and ended up as the GMC Champions. They also made it to the state sectional finals. Without such a spectacular coach, they never would have made it.

Not only does she dedicate a lot of her time to the field hockey team, she is also one of the more outstanding history teachers at SPHS. She is very serious about her students and tries to make her students have fun while they're learning. She also teaches honors classes, which are very challenging.

For being chosen as a Hometown Hero, Flannery will receive a catered lunch for six.

### Fast Response Earns Sergeant "Hero" Title

Sgt. Paul Wylam was nominated as Hometown Hero of the Month by Officer Wendell Born, Jr.

Wylam is a dedicated sergeant in the South Plainfield Police Department.

Wylam was one of the first officers on the scene at the Traditions fire last September. He arrived seconds after the call and immediately began evacuating Building I, which was fully involved. As he was helping residents to safety, he was knocked down by an explosion.

Officer Wylam will receive lunch for six courtesy of Hometown Heros.



Sgt. Paul Wylam



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"The Lacerda Team"

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# Annual Peer To Peer Night for Parents, Teachers and Students at Middle School

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

On January 8, the South Plainfield Middle School's New Jersey Peer-to-Peer group hosted their first Peer-to-Peer Annual Family Night. Parents, guardians, teachers, students and community members were invited. Approximately 40 parents and 20 students attended. The evening offered parent-child discussion and time for reflection along with refreshments. The objectives of the evening were: to improve parent/child communication, introduce parents/guardians to the Student Leadership Corps and their substance abuse prevention outreach, and to create an opportunity for parents, students and faculty to address factors affecting substance use among middle school-age youth.

The evening began with brief introductions by mentors Middle School teachers Dale Salisbury and Elyn Schwartz. The Student Leaders introduced themselves as well. Next up was a mock family confrontation. Students Jessica Pryor, Karylann Baker, Sarah Oglesby, and Brooke DeNitzio, performed a skit, "Around the Dinner Table." The skit represented the stressful family life of a single mother raising three children ages 16, 13 and 9.

Following the skit, students and parents broke up into three small groups. Parents were not permitted to participate in the same group as their child. Each group formed an inner and outer circle. The students formed the inner circle or "fishbowl." Parents observed from the outer circle. One at a time the students opened sealed envelopes each containing an index card with a question. The questions related to the life of a child and the relationship with their parents as seen through their young eyes. Each child answered openly and honestly. Parents listened but were not permitted to react. Questions included were: Why do students lose patience with their parents? What do students like to talk about with their parents?

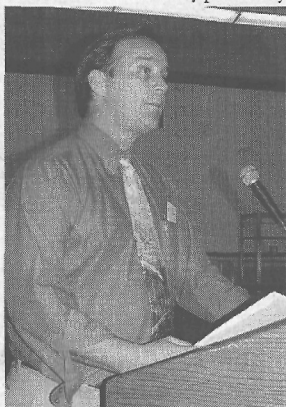
After the series of questions were completed the tables were turned and a select group of parents entered the fishbowl. The parents followed the same process, each answering questions related to adult life and their relationship with their child. The students listened quietly, experiencing a parent's point of view perhaps for the first time. Eye-opening questions included: What's the hardest part of being a parent? What do parents worry about most in regard to their children?

Parents and students had an opportunity to think about what they heard during a reflection activity. The entire group was asked; What did you hear tonight that surprised you? What did you learn tonight? There were honest answers to tough questions causing surprised expressions from parents and youths alike. Mentor Dale Salisbury said, "The reflection questions showed that the kids



Middle School students discuss issues in the "fishbowl."

were listening to the parents and visa versa. I think that the kids learned just how concerned their parents are about them and the reasons why parents say



Language teacher Dale Salisbury welcomes parents and students.

and react the way they do to certain circumstances/topics."

Parent Debbie Boyle enjoyed the evening and looks forward attending another family night. She said, "Peer



Parents Richard and Lori Little listen to students.

to Peer was fantastic, a great way to open up communications between parents and children of Middle School age. This was a very informative course for both children and parents and I look forward to another meeting at the end of the year with even more participants."

Kathie Fry, both a parent and

Middle School teacher said, "Many students and parents spoke from their hearts about their hopes and fears for the future of the children. They spoke of trust, communication and things we share. The worries parents have about violence and unhealthy influences were a common theme, as well as the kid's quest for more independence."

Eighth grade student Susan Mott and her father Bill both enjoyed Family Night. Susan said, "Hearing from both the students and parents, you get a much better feel for why parents do what they do and how much they really do care. It definitely opened the door for communication between you and your parents."

The only down side to the event was the lack of participation by seventh and eighth grade boys. An opinion voiced was the likelihood that middle school girls were a bit more mature than their male counterparts.

Student participants in the program that night from Peer to Peer were Katie Nuber, Rachel Esteves, Kasi Joyner, Megan Boyle, Lauren Fry, Jennifer Little, Becky Keller, Sara Oglesby, Katie Hardy, Ashleigh Gaspari, Rachel Senz, Susan Mott, Jessie Brandes, Christine Lanza, Tina Bijlani, Karylann Baker, Jessica Pryor, Nichole Freitas, Katie Noonan, Brooke DeNitzio, Jahnell Gordon and Karla Reyes.

Salisbury was pleased with the successful evening saying, "It was a fun and informative evening. The kids, parents, and teachers seemed to leave with a better understanding of each other. Hopefully some walls have been broken down and the communication that was established that night will continue."

South Plainfield Middle School's Peer to Peer group is in its second year, they are one of 118 schools currently participating in the program. SPMS has 35 members who are held up to high standards of citizenship. New Jersey Peer to Peer (NJPP) is a school-based prevention program designed to promote student health, resiliency and safety.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Once again, here's news from the South Plainfield Library:

Don't forget about the program on Big Band Jazz this Sunday. The program starts at 2 p.m. and is presented free of charge. No pre-registration is required. It's presented by the South Plainfield Historical Society and is made possible via funding from the NJ Council for the Humanities.

Looking at our children's programs, we have our slate of Storytime programs next week. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:00. Also, Miss Linda is still accepting craft projects made by parents and their children. Bring them in, and we'll put them on display in February. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885.

Tuesday is the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. January titles include the Disney feature *Mickey's House of Villains*, *True Crime*, *Cast Away*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and, on DVD, *The Scorpion King*. Meanwhile, the new group from the Audiobook Circuit is now available. Available titles include *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, *The Summerhouse* by Jude Deveraux, *The Cereal Murders* by Diane Mott Davidson, *Dirty Jokes and Beer* by Drew Carey, and, CD, *Fire Ice* by Clive Cussler. This group will be here until mid-April.

Here's a note for parents, students and teachers: At times, students are assigned reports and projects in which they must make use of the Library and its facilities. We're more than willing to help with such tasks, provided we have the means to do so. Repeatedly, students come in asking for items we

don't have, cannot obtain, or only have a limited number of. (Recently, for example, an entire class was assigned to watch the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* within a limited space of time, even though we only have one copy of that movie and aren't able to easily obtain another.) We ask that the three of you (teachers, parents and students) please notify us of such requirements in advance or as early as possible. This will enable us to prepare and make sure we have enough materials to go around. Otherwise, some students will be out of luck through no fault of ours, and we'd rather avoid such an eventuality. Thanks for your consideration with this.

We also have a note for those who use our word processors: If you bring your own discs, or purchase one from us, please make sure you take your disc with you when you leave. Also, we suggest that you mark your disc with your name. Several times we've found unmarked discs left in the computers by patrons; other than simply putting them in the Lost and Found for the time being, there's not a whole lot we can do with them. So, please keep track of your stuff.

Also, we recently learned that, in the past year, the Lion's Club has received over 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses, a large number of them via their collection box in the Library. Thanks to all who've contributed; if you haven't, please do so. The Lions are accepting eyeglasses of all types, plus hearing aids and hearing aid batteries.

Finally, it was recently announced that the next Harry Potter book, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, will be released in June. We'll let you know when we have a copy; you may place your reserve on it now, if you wish.

That wraps it up for now. See you next Friday.

## Sign Up For Little Miss Baseball Contest

Once again, it is time to crown Little Miss Baseball 2003. We ask that all the girls nominated march with the Baseball Club in our parade on April 5. The parade ends up at the Baseball Complex and during Opening Day Festivities we will announce Little Miss Baseball 2003. A REQUIREMENT for the winner is that she MUST BE PRESENT TO BE CROWNED. If she is not there, the next runner up will be crowned Little Miss Baseball.

We will be accepting nominations for Little Miss Baseball 2003 from Feb. 3 through Feb. 17. Girls must be between the ages of 7 and 12 years old and be South Plainfield residents. To nominate someone, you can call Stacy Lake at 757-9531.

Finalists will be phoned on Feb. 12. Little Miss Baseball 2003 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes (with finalists' pictures) will be placed in various locations including

Quick Check and B & C Deli starting Feb. 21. They will remain there until April 4. They will then be removed and counted for the announcement of the winner on Opening Day, April 5.

Get out and vote for our 2003 Little Miss Baseball. If you have any questions, please call Stacy Lake at 757-9531.

## Vendors Needed

Roosevelt School is sponsoring a Vendor's Day on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, please contact Therese Montouri at (908) 769-5270.

All requests must be made no later than Wednesday, Jan. 29 in order to secure a spot.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

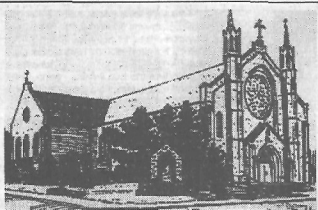
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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# Sports

## BASKETBALL

By Greg Machos

### Tigers Rebound With Two In A Row

The South Plainfield Tigers got back on the right track this past week as their season of streaks continue. Prior to the week, the Tigers stood at 3-4, but more importantly, 1-3 in the very competitive and sometimes crazy Greater Middlesex Conference White Division. However, with a big win over J.E. Kennedy of Iselin at home followed by a win on the road at Woodbridge, where the Barrons had not lost all season, South Plainfield found themselves right back in the thick of the division race.

Against J.E. Kennedy, the Tigers had a 16-7 third quarter to break away from a 29-27 halftime lead to defeat the Mustangs 71-58 on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the Anthony J. Cotoia Gymnasium in South Plainfield. The Mustangs at one point were in the GMC Hoops Top Ten as they started the year 4-2 including wins over Sayreville and Woodbridge while only losing by five to Perth Amboy, which is currently ranked third in the GMC Hoops Top Ten. However, the Mustangs fell on hard times, and the Tigers didn't do much to help them get out of that.

One big reason for that was sophomore Marquis Jones, who was one of the few bright spots during the Tigers four game losing streak. In the game against Kennedy, Jones had 21 points, eight rebounds, three assists, and two steals to lead the way. Meanwhile, other players such as Corey Gilmore (10 points, four rebounds, three assists, and three steals), Darren Smith (14 points, four steals, four assists, three rebounds, and two blocks), Mike Allocco (six points, three rebounds

and two assists), and Phil Veinott (12 points, seven rebounds, three assists, and two steals) put relentless pressure on key JFK players such as Bobby Jorgensen, who had 16 points on the night, but many of those didn't come until the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, Mustang teammate, Eliot Solop, who had 15 points in a loss to Perth Amboy, and 16 points in an overtime victory over Woodbridge, didn't fare much better as he only came up with six points.

As for the Tigers, Darren Smith and Phil Veinott came up with probably their best all around performances of the season. Both players were very active on the defensive end while making good passes and shots on the offensive end. And when they had trouble covering their men, the rest of the Tigers including Jones, Gilmore, Gary Houston (four points, two assists, and a steal), and Allocco were there to give them help. Foul shooting, which has been the one positive constant all season for the Tigers, was solid again as South Plainfield finished 13 of 19 overall from the charity stripe on the night. The Tigers also did very well on the boards as they out rebounded JFK, 27-17 on the night.

After the victory over J.E. Kennedy, there was no rest for the Tigers as they headed to Woodbridge to take on the Barrons. Woodbridge, which was 2-19 last season while competing in the GMC Red Division, have been one of the nice surprises this year so far despite some erratic play at times.

Coming into the game with the Tigers, Woodbridge had already won

twice as many games this year as did all of last year with four, and they were 3-2 in White Division play. Two players that have been key to their resurgence have been

Rob Gaydos, who ended with 19 points in the loss to South Plainfield and Devin Gilliard, who had 13. In the game, Ian Robinson came out of his doldrums as he scored 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter to help the Tigers break away from a 45-42 lead.

Marquis Jones also came up big for the Tigers as he had another double figure game with 16 and Mike Allocco chipped in with 11. Brian Rivera chipped in for the losers with nine points. So, now the Tigers are above .500 again, and 3-3 in divisional play, which by the way puts them in a four way tie for second place in the crazy White Division. Speaking of craziness in the White Division, in addition to the four teams tied for second place, there are three teams tied for first. The second place teams are South Plainfield, Carteret, J.E. Kennedy and Woodbridge while the first place teams are Colonia, North Brunswick and Sayreville. The White Division isn't alone as far as the craziness is concerned.

For the second year in a row, the GMC Red Division has three teams in a battle for first while four more teams are right behind them. What does this mean? Well, despite the Tigers up and down season, they still aren't too far behind everyone else in the conference this season because just about all the other teams have experienced some ups and downs. Looking ahead, the Tigers have two more games next week against Monroe and Carteret, which are both winnable games so it is possible the Tigers could be heading back into the meat of their division schedule with a 7-4 mark overall and 5-3 in the division. We'll see.

Greg Machos covers the South Plainfield Tigers as well as other Greater Middlesex Conference Varsity Boys Basketball for his web site, GMC Hoops at <http://www.gmchoops.com>

### PAL Plans Ski Trips

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring three ski trips to Mountain Creek on Friday, Jan. 24, Friday, Feb. 7 and Friday, Feb. 14.

The bus will leave from the PAL at 3 p.m. and return back at 10 p.m. We are limited to 42 skiers and three chaperones. The costs per trip will be \$35 for bus and lift and \$50 for bus, lift, and rentals.

You can register at the PAL or with Ms. Zurka at the high school. You can only register for one trip at a time.

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## BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

### Girls Finish in Top Third

Congratulations to the Girls Bowling Team who placed 13<sup>th</sup> in a strong field of 35 teams this past weekend in the prestigious Central Jersey Winter Classic XXII. Junior Vicki Boley was a third place finisher in individual competition which attracted the top bowlers in the state. She fired games of 195-232-239 for a sparkling 666 set. Other high scores for the Tigers' solid team effort were Beverly Jamie-

son 181, Kim Gaub 179, Alexis Montanaro 179 and Meredith Cooper 159. The tournament was won by powerhouse Brick Memorial, with team games of 874-1032-1,117, for a whopping 3,023 total.

The only bright spot for the Boys Bowling Team were Matt Boley (228-578) and George Kleinknecht (199-569) as the Tigers finished 40<sup>th</sup> in a very strong field of 47 teams.

### Boys Stun East Brunswick, Thumped by Piscataway

SPHS 882-847-871-2600

Piscataway 911-1026-1002-2939

The Boys Bowling Team dropped all three games to Red Division contender Piscataway after a close first game. George Kleinknecht topped all Tiger scoring with games of 203-178-173 and 554 set. Teammate Shawn Ferguson was right behind with 174-192-180 for a 546 set. Also chipping in were Matt Boley with a 208 and Nick Grego with a 197 game.

SPHS 907-855-883-2645

East Brunswick 885-897-873-2655

The throng of East Brunswick fans were stunned yesterday at Carolier Lanes as the Boys Bowling Team won

two of three games, but lost the total pin count by a slim margin of ten pins which enabled the Bears to salvage a 2-2 tie. Matt Boley's 201-565 set, Jon Jeglinski's 217-518 set, and a solid Nick Grego's 187-184-527 spearheaded the assault for the upset minded Tigers.

SPHS 920-898-937-2755

East Brunswick 940-966-946-2852

After the closely fought tie a day earlier, the Tigers gave the Bears all they could handle, but lost all three games by narrow margins. It was a high scoring day for the Tigers led by Shawn Ferguson's 188-193-209-590 set, Matt Boley (203-565), Anthony Ingerto (195-558) and Jon Jeglinski (199-527).

### Girls Shock East Brunswick, Edged by Piscataway

SPHS 768-742-761-2271

Piscataway 768-784-756-2308

The Tigers lost a squeaker to vastly improved Piscataway by the score of 2½-1½. The green and white rolled a first game tie, split the next two games, but lost the total pin count. Freshman Beverly Jamieson took bowling honors with games of 172-156-190 for a 518 set. Vicki Boley chipped in with 168-182-161 and a 511 set. It was a day of low scoring.

SPHS 840-928-751-2519

East Brunswick 816-922-857-2595

The Girls Bowling Team also shocked East Brunswick by sweeping the first two games, but dropping the third game by a big margin as the

tough Bears escaped with a 2-2 tie. Vicki Boley's 238 high game and 583 set, Beverly Jamieson's 200-539 set, Freshman Angelique Rualo's 177-466 set and a solid effort by the rest of the team paced the Tigers.

SPHS 849-809-800-2458

East Brunswick 888-884-900-2672

In a replay the next day because of an earlier snow postponement, the Tigers were still on fire, but the Bears were a bit stronger winning all three hotly-contested games. Vicki Boley finished with 158-178-214-550 set. Chipping in were Beverly Jamieson's 183, Meredith Cooper's 191, Alexis Montanaro's 175 and sophomore Kim Gaub's 194-164-160 for a 518 set.

### South Plainfield Recreation Discount Ski Tickets

Discount tickets may be purchased at the PAL Building for the following places and rates.

Montage Weekend/Holiday .... \$36	JF/BB All Area Ski/ Snowboard ..... \$57
Montage Midweek ..... \$29	Camelback Weekend/Holiday . \$45
Shawnee Weekend ..... \$36	Camelback Midweek ..... \$32
Shawnee Midweek ..... \$29	Camel Night ..... \$24
Shawnee Skiers Choice Pkg. ... \$57	Blue Mountain Weekend ..... \$40
Jack Frost/Big Boulder Weekend/Holiday ..... \$40	Blue Mountain Weekday ..... \$33
Jack Frost/Big Boulder Midweek ..... \$32	Mountain Creek Weekend/Holiday ..... \$40
JF/BB Night ..... \$23	Mountain Creek Weekday ..... \$30
JF/BB Discovery Package ..... \$47	Mountain Creek Twilight ..... \$30

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Greetings To The Grad

### CONGRATULATE THE 2003 DARE GRADUATES!

Become a sponsor in the Observer's special recognition supporting the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) students. For \$25 we will add you to the full page ad congratulating their achievement. You may personalize your ad if you have a family member who is graduating from the DARE program.

CALL (908) 668-0010 FOR INFORMATION OR TO PLACE YOUR AD.

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# Sports

By Kevin Lykes

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

The time for baseball is fast approaching! Our annual Winter Registration has just concluded. Together with the Fall Registration held in November, a total of over 400 participants are ready to go for the 2003 baseball season, which is little more than two months away. Room is still open for players in each of our leagues. Registrations will continue to be accepted at the winter rate of \$95-single, \$125-double, and \$145-three or more through January 31.

We will be at the clubhouse for one final registration for any of those who have not done so yet...on Friday, Jan. 31 from 6 to 9 pm. You can also register by printing out a copy of the registration form from our website at [www.sjpb.com](http://www.sjpb.com). Fill it out, sign, and return with check in the appropriate amount to: S.P.J.B.C., P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. All registrations must be post-marked by Jan 31, 2003. Important: players new to this league must also include a copy of their birth certificate; this includes those coming up from Teenerball. You can also pick-up a registration form from Charlie Decker at Century 21-Moretti Realty on Maple Ave., near the Firehouse, or contact any of our board members directly.

On Feb. 1 the late registration fee will be a flat \$100 per player, with no multiple family discounts, so it's important to take advantage of this, especially for those families with two or three members participating.

Small Fry parents (ages 8-12) should note that our annual tryout will be held at the P.A.L. on Saturday, March 1. For those of you who are new to the club, this is merely a process used to evaluate each player to determine roughly what kind of ability he or she has so that they can be evenly placed among all the teams in each league. All players who have signed-up will be placed on a team regardless of ability. Each participant will receive a post card around late February advising of the time he or she should come. Please remember this is indoors in the P.A.L. and cleats should NOT be worn.

## WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

# Tiger Wrestlers Dominate Competition During South Jersey Tournament

Twenty-six South Plainfield wrestlers headed down to Lacey Township in South Jersey for the annual Lacey Twp. Mat Cats Tournament and they dominated the competition, winning twenty medals overall.

Claiming titles for the Tigers were Anthony Ashnault (Bantam 50). Ashnault won his final by decision over Alex Huxford of Jackson 4-2. Ryan

Sacco (Midget 70) won his title by decision over Matt Cimato of Catch Wrestling. Corey Hay (Midget 80) won by major decision over Joey Moran of Jr. Knights 11-0. John Wylam (Midget 85) won by decision 7-0 over Matt Recine of Piscataway. Mike Wagner (Midget 90) also won by major decision over Sam Kaikasma of Berkeley 16-2.

In the Junior division, Patrick Hunter claimed his fourth title of the year with a 9-4 decision over Nick Pastore of Hopatcong. Danny Pompilio (100) defeated fellow teammate Nick Vallone by major decision 8-0.

In the Intermediate division, Billy Ashnault (90) pinned Earl Winterbottom of Egg Harbor Twp., Nick Dorey (110) defeated his friend and teammate Mike Jakubik 8-5. Rounding out the title run was Mark Wagner (115) when he pinned Ryan Noone of Pemberton.

Finishing in second place were Scott Whalen Bantam (55) Dylan Dorey (Midget 60) Zach Mitchell Hwt. Third place honors went to Randy Jakubik (Midget 70) Jake Smithline (Junior 95). Fourth place went to Troy Heilmann (Bantam 60) and Kyle Hughes (Midget 80).

Also winning matches, but not placing, were Vinny Vetuschi (Minnie Me), Joe Jakubik, Bobby Kolvites, Corey Stasenko, Nick Heilmann and Nick Vetuschi.

## High School Falls to Old Bridge and Kittatiny

The high school wrestling team's luck ran out in the match against Old Bridge when they could not produce the bonus points needed to defeat Red Division rival Old Bridge. Ryan Elliot, heavy-weight could not wrestle due to an injured knee which did not help the Tiger cause. The Tigers gave up too many bonus points and did not get the bonus points they needed to pull off the win.

Jimmy Conroy (103) proved that the defeat he suffered at the Hunterdon tournament to John Pagnota was a fluke. In the rematch, Conroy dominated Pagnota and went on to win a major decision 10-1. Peter DeAndrea (135) did his job posting a 13-4 major decision over Billy Dunn. Paul Ritchey (140) won by deci-

sion 5-3 over Andrew Suozzo. Guy Severini (152) won by decision over Dan Rispoli 9-5. Glenn Gross (160) won by tech-fall 20-5 over Mike Manello. Steve Johnston got the only Tiger pin on the night when he pinned Kurt Schmidt at 5:24. Joe DeBlase (189) then decisioned Mike Walsh 7-5 but that was not enough. OB 39, Tigers 28.

In the Kittatiny match, it was the same with the Tigers losing 38-30.

## Novice Wrestlers Win Seven Medals at Middlesex Tourn.

South Plainfield Novice wrestlers had a strong showing at the Middlesex Novice Tournament. South Plainfield had nine wrestlers competing and came home with seven place winners.

Winning titles in the Pee Wee division were Inan Sikel (71). Inan won three matches on the day.

In the Midget division, Rich Szcligna (63) won his title by fall in the fi-

nals. Second place went to Ryan Walsh, (Pee Wee 43). Third place went to Dakota Pauls (Pee Wee 59). Fourth place went to Matt Vargas (43), Jonathan Grenier (47) and Matt Hurst (52), all in the Pee Wee division.

Also winning matches, but not placing, were Robert Benwell (46 Bantam) and Jake Smith (Pee Wee 49).

## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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

Ordinance No. 1611 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES CHARGED TO MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR THE YEAR 2003 be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 24, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 6, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1611

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that:

Annual fees for use for membership to the municipal pool complex shall be amended as follows:

Residents	On or before 4/15	After 4/15
Family	\$250.00 plus 10 free passes	\$280.00
Husband and Wife	\$195.00 plus 10 free passes	\$225.00
Individual	\$140.00 plus 10 free passes	\$170.00
Single Parent Family	\$220.00 plus 10 free passes	\$250.00
Family / Child Care	\$310.00 plus 10 free passes	\$340.00
Senior Citizen	\$50.00 plus 10 free passes	\$80.00
Non Residents		
Family	\$470.00 plus 10 free passes	\$470.00
Individual	\$240.00 plus 10 free passes	\$240.00
Senior	\$100.00 plus 10 free passes	\$100.00
Daily Admission Passes	Monday thru Friday	Weekends
All ages before 5:00 p.m.	\$8.00	\$10.00
All ages after 5:00 p.m.	\$5.00	\$5.00
Groups-20 or more-must be registered	\$5.00	\$5.00

Definitions

INDIVIDUAL - Resident of South Plainfield age 12 and over. Applicants under 18 must have parental consent.

FAMILY - A husband and wife and their children residing at the family home in South Plainfield. Children included under this membership are those born after September 1, 1983.

FAMILY WITH FULL TIME CHILD CARE - Families who employ a full time child care provider (child-sitter, nanny). This card is not transferable. Provider must be 18+.

PROVIDER/FAMILY must show proof of employment with cancelled check.

HUSBAND & WIFE - Couple must be legally married and reside in the same house in South Plainfield.

SINGLE PARENT FAMILY - A single parent and his/her children. Same rules apply as for family membership.

Proof of single parenthood required. (A copy of 2000 federal tax return with original address label is acceptable.)

SENIOR CITIZEN - 62 years of age or older.

ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk \$108.50

January 24, 2003

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### Louis Jadot \$7.99

Macon Villages  
A simple French Chardonnay. Fresh apple and citrus aromas and flavors are light and tart. The delicate acid balance of citrus and white fruit flavors carries into a refreshing, crisp finish on the palate. Goes well with fish.

### Sterling (Napa) \$16.99

Merlot  
Very complete, with ripe, well-centered plum, currant and black cherry flavors. Wonderful sense of balance and finesse, with fine, integrated tannins and pretty oak shadings. Drink now through 2008. WS 88

### Santa Margherita \$16.99

Pinot Grigio  
A very good Pinot Grigio. Delicate aromas of pear, apples and cinnamon follow through to a medium-bodied palate with good acidity and a spicy aftertaste. Serve as an aperitif or with light cuisine. WS 86

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Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot  
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### Arbor Valley \$4.99

Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel  
1.5 Liter

### Carlo Rossi \$7.99

Burgundy, White Grenache, Chablis, Sangria, Chianti  
4 Liter

### Peter Vella \$8.99

Chab, Burg, Rhine, White Grenache, Del. Red  
5 Liter Box

### Sutter Home \$6.99

White Zinfandel  
1.5 Liter

### Cockburn \$9.99

Ruby or Tawny Port  
750 ML

### Freixenet \$7.99

Cordon Negro Brut  
750 ML

### Corbett Canyon \$5.99

Merlot Chardonnay Cabernet  
1.5 Liter 1.5 Liter 1.5 Liter

### Louis Jadot \$7.99

Beaujolais Village  
750 ML

### Louis Jadot \$15.99

Pouilly Fuisse  
750 ML

### Kendall Jackson \$12.99

Cabernet Merlot  
750 ML 750 ML

### Moet & Chandon \$30.99

White Star Extra Dry  
750 ML

### Georges Duboeuf \$8.99

Chardonnay Cabernet  
1.5 Liter 1.5 Liter

### Stock Sweet or Dry \$6.99

1.5 Liter

### Cruzan \$9.99

Banana, Coconut, Orange, Pineapple, Vanilla Rum  
750 ML

### Zelko \$9.99

Vodka  
1.75 Liter

### Bentley's \$10.99

Gin  
1.75 LITER

### Club 400 \$11.99

Blended Whisky  
1.75 Liter

### Canadian Peak \$12.99

1.75 Liter

### Gordon's \$13.99

London Dry Gin  
1.75 Liter

### Seagram Seven Crown \$14.99

Whisky  
1.75 LITER

### Clan MacGregor \$15.99

Scotch  
1.75 LITER

### Bailey's \$16.99

Irish Cream Liqueur  
750 ML

### Christian Brothers \$16.99

Brandy  
1.75 Liter

### Jose Cuervo \$16.99

Gold Tequila  
750 ML

### Bacardi \$17.99

Light & Gold Rum  
1.75 Liter

### Smirnoff \$18.99

Vodka  
1.75 LITER

### Seagram's \$20.99

Canadian VO  
1.75 Liter

### Southern Comfort \$21.99

76 Scotch  
1.75 Liter

### The Glenlivet \$26.99

12 Yr Old  
750 ML

### Absolut \$28.99

Vodka  
1.75 Liter

### Tanqueray \$29.99

London Dry Gin  
1.75 LITER

### Remy Martin \$30.99

VSOP Cognac  
750 ML

### Dewar's \$31.99

White Label Scotch  
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### Jack Daniel's \$32.99

Whisky  
1.75 Liter

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Ice 12 oz NR btl  
Triple Black  
Case

### Budweiser \$15.99

Family Bud Light, Bud Ice, Bud Ice Light 12 oz cans  
30 Pak

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Regular & Light 12 oz cans  
30 Pak

### Yuengling \$13.99

Traditional Lager or Black & Tan 12 oz NR btl  
Case

### Heineken \$19.99

12 oz cans  
Case

### Becks, Becks \$20.99

Dark, Becks Light 12 oz NR btl  
Case

### Foster's Lager \$18.99

12 oz NR btl  
Case

### O'Doul's \$11.99

(Non-Alcoholic Lager or Amber) 12 oz NR btl or cans  
Case

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Sun 10-6

# Sports

## Preview



### High School Varsity Wrestling

by Tim Morgan

It is typical for the South Plainfield High School Wrestling team's Varsity lineup to be different every year, but not so recurrent for them to change their coach. Kevin McCann has stepped into William Pavlak's shoes as Head Coach this season after serving as an Assistant Coach for six years. Assistant Coach William Hamilton remains with the program while Shane Kagan has moved up from the Middle School to fill McCann's former position as another Assistant Coach.

Coach McCann said he is happy to be Head Coach, "excited" to get his chance, although it is sad to see Pavlak go. McCann also stressed the importance of coming together as a team. The Tigers certainly do that during their rigorous practices, which include intense conditioning and drilling competitively over and over to the point where the athletes can instinctively perform the moves. The philosophy this year is to condense as much work as possible in about two hours. Their practices bring the team into "the concept of a work ethic," McCann said.

Like any other season in past years, there is pressure on the Tigers to continue several winning streaks. The leading one is the District Championship, which the wrestlers have captured for nineteen straight years. They have also taken the GMC Tournament title home for the past five years and the Sectional title for the past two.

An especially noteworthy achievement for the team was recently garnering a 400th win for the program in its history. Coincidentally enough, take a zero off of that number and you have the number of years of its existence. Started in 1963, this marks the 40th anniversary for SPSHS Wrestling.

There are some that would argue that the program slipped last year, when the Tigers posted a 9-5-1 record and failed to win the Red Division title. With back-to-back State Champion-

ships in the prior two years (Group II in 2000 and Group III in 2001) in conjunction with an undefeated record and a single loss record, any successive team would pale by comparison. Force like that can only be sustained for so long, too. Almost all of the members of those two lineups, several of whom were state placemen, graduated, leaving the ensuing teams in a predicament and to hold their own.

McCann admitted that last year's team had more experience. The Tigers have had a continuing trend of losing starters for the past few years. In the entire lineup, there are only four upperclassmen (two juniors and two seniors).

Freshman Jim Conroy has amassed an impressive record in the 103 pound weight class thus far and seems to be a shoe-in for the Rookie of the Year award. Viet Vo moves up one class to 112 in his sophomore year; freshmen Mark Warness and Anthony Niemczyk alternate in the 119 and 125 spots; sophomore Nick Curcio steps onto the Varsity mats this year at 130; Pete DeAndrea returns from a winning freshman season to go up to 135; sophomore Paul Ritchey, who contended in a few Varsity bouts last year, steps in full time at 140; and freshman Anthony Fierro suffered an injury early in the season, forcing the Tigers to have forfeit the 145 spot until he returns to health. Junior Guy Severini will wrestle regularly at 152 after proving himself capable as a back-up last year; seniors Glenn Gross and Steve Johnston, both established and hungry, will fill the 160 and 171 spots; junior Joe Dibiasi takes care of business at 189 after missing the entire previous season due to surgery; sophomore Rob Maistickle returns to his Varsity position, this time at 215; and junior Ryan Elliot, who showed promise of creeping his up the ladder of state level competition last year, returns as the heavyweight.

Johnston and Gross are the team leaders and usually the match captains.

Recently, the Tigers repeated as the Morris Knolls Tournament Champions, crowning six individual champions (Conroy, Dibiasi, Elliot, Gross, Johnston, and Severini) with DeAndrea and Maistickle each placing third and Vo placing fourth. They also did quite well in the Hunterdon Central Tournament. There was no team scoring, but Elliot and Gross emerged as champions; Conroy, Maistickle and Severini all took third place, and Steve Johnston earned a fourth place. The devotion and passion of the

coaches is one thing that separates the South Plainfield program from many others. It is not uncommon to see the coaches up on the mats working one-on-one after practice with wrestlers who approach them for extra training. All put in extra time and work for the team's benefit. "It's a privilege to be a part of a program with this outstanding tradition. I'm happy to be able to contribute to the success of this team," said Kagan.

All of the coaches have extensive wrestling experience. Hamilton, who is currently coaching his fourth year at SPSHS and 11th overall, is a paragon of this. He wrestled in high school and college and has stayed involved with the sport ever since. "It's a part of my life," he said. McCann, who followed the same path, added, "Coach Hamilton and myself, we're giving back to a special, successful program."

Wrestling has always been the premier sport of South Plainfield. "For some people, it's a way of life in this town," said McCann. He added that a lot of people look forward to the season, because they are enthusiastic and find it exciting. He continued by saying that there is a lot of interest in wrestling here, especially by the youth.

Looking down the line, McCann said that the team and coaching staff would like to recapture the Red Division, keep the GMC title, and win their 20th District title (drawing near a state record) as well as the Sectionals and possibly the Groups. A lot is expected from the returning wrestlers, who have an uncommonly heavy weight on their shoulders, but South Plainfield has a history of determination and strength in the sport of wrestling.



Pictured above are all the players and coaches of the South Plainfield Junior Midget Football Team. Players are Anthony Cassano, Bennie Gibson, Billy Ashnault, Jonathan Conroy, Bobby Yulick, Bryan Hunt, Ryan Crouch, Garrett Lake, Taylor Curtis, John Mills, Kenny Yefko, Nick DeSimone, Mark Wagner, Tim Gaughan, Mike Jakubik, Mike Stallone, Nick Dorey, Brad Martin, Scott Barton, Mike Jefferys, Mat Kopchak, Anthony Louise, Jeff Pryor, Troy Russell, Pat Millard, Erick Paley, Jordan Petriello and Justin Smith. Coaches are Garry Cassio, Bill Ashnault, Tony Cassano, Scott Barton, Harry Brown, John Mills and team commissioner Bill Lake. A pizza party was held at the PAL Building to honor the players and coaches on their outstanding season. The players each received jackets donated through the generosity of the following local businesses: Lochiatto Paving & Masonry, Columbia Savings Bank, Colony Mortgage, Stilo Excavation, Di-Lex Trucking, and Ware Industries. The coaches also received jackets thanks to the generous donations of The Creative Kids Academy and the parents of the football players. Congratulations on a job well done!

### Knights to Hold Free Throw Championships

Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2003 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

Competition starts Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Riley School gymnasium on Morris Ave.

Boys and girls ages 12, 13 and 14 will start at 10 a.m. Boys and girls ages 10 and 11 will start at 11 a.m.

All participants are required to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental consent.

For information, contact John Salerno at (908) 755-1425 or come to Riley School on Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. to register.

Winners go to the Continental Arena for the championship which will be held at a later date.

### Ponytail Softball Registration Starts Jan. 26

Registration for Ponytail Softball starts on Jan. 26 and runs until March 3. Ponytail Softball is open to all South Plainfield resident girls, ages 8 to 13 as of Oct. 1, 2002. Games are played at Pitt Street Park. The fee is \$35 per participant; there are no refunds. Birth certificates are required at registration. New participants to the program should bring

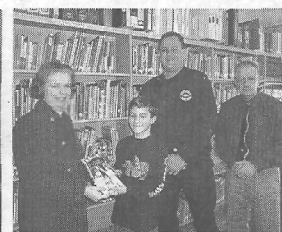
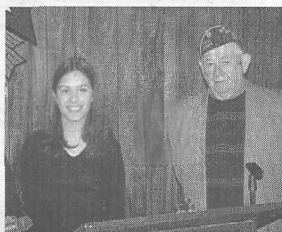
proof of residency. Coaches will be fingerprinted and must attend a safety clinic as well as a coaches instructional clinic.

Register at the PAL, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5 p.m., and on the first and third Monday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m.

For info, call the PAL at 226-7714.

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## Obituaries

### Angelo H. Dalto, 72

Angelo H. Dalto of Piscataway died on Thursday, January 16 at his home.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Mr. Dalto lived here for much of his life before moving to Piscataway five years ago.

Angelo attended schools in South Plainfield and graduated from North Plainfield High School, Princeton University and the Rutgers School of Law.

He practiced law all of his professional life in South Plainfield, first with his partner Howard Gran and later in the firm of Abrams, Dalto, Gran, Hendricks and Reina. He was a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the League of Municipalities.

Angelo served his community in many ways including Borough Attorney and as a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education. He was a member and chairman of the board of Middlesex County College in Edison and the board of directors of the former Suburban National Bank.

Angelo was an advocate for people with disabilities, using his services as an attorney to help establish community facilities for their housing and education.

Angelo was a one time champion of the South Plainfield Morra Tournament.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 46 years, Barbara Styler Dalto; three sons, John of San Diego, Calif., Peter and his wife Elizabeth of Tomkins Cove, Calif. and Michael Dalto of Baltimore, Md.; two brothers, Peter Dalto of South Plainfield and Lee Dalto of Palisades, NY and four beloved grandchildren, Isaac, Nora, Kalliope and Phoenix.

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

### Elizabeth M. Hann, 92

Elizabeth M. Hann died on Friday, Jan. 17 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Switzerland, she came to the United States in 1923. She resided in North Plainfield before moving in with her daughter in South Plainfield five years ago.

Elizabeth was a salesperson with the former Rosenbaum's Department Store of Plainfield for 20 years. She also worked for North Plainfield High School in the school's cafeteria as a server.

She was a member of St. Joseph's Church, where she was a member of the church's Altar Rosary Society. She was also a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Harold E. Hann, died in 1997.

Surviving are two daughters, Elizabeth Muggia of South Plainfield and Joan Terroni and her husband, Don of Bath, Pa.

Also surviving are five grandchildren,

dren, Joseph, Alfred, Susan, Dina and Leann; two great grandchildren, Courtney and Samuel and six step grandchildren, Joseph, Charolette, George, Maria, Virginia and Victor. Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to your local American Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

### Catherine V. (Blanco) Reedy, 95

Catherine V. (Blanco) Reedy of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the Ashbrook Nursing Home in Scotch Plains.

She was born in NYC and was a former resident of Iselin before moving to South Plainfield four years ago.

Catherine was a teacher for the Middlesex County Vo-Tech in Woodbridge, where she taught pattern drafting and design for 30 years before retiring in 1972.

She was a graduate of Rutgers University with a BA in Education and was a member of the New Jersey Education Association.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William T. Reedy Sr., who died in 1992.

She is survived by her loving son, William T. Reedy, with whom she lived.

Funeral services were at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

### Robert Strausser, 70

Robert Strausser of South Plainfield died on Monday, Jan. 13 at home.

Born and raised in St. Clair Pa., Mr. Strausser had also resided in Port Carbon, Pa., before entering the Air Force. He was stationed at Camp Kilmer in Piscataway, where he met his wife. They resided in Chatham, before settling in South Plainfield in 1963.

He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War as an MP. Mr. Strausser was a member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763.

Mr. Strausser was employed as a machine operator for the Jacobson Manufacturing Co. of Kenilworth before his retirement five years ago.

He enjoyed his time camping with his children, as well as his time cooking and gardening.

He is predeceased by two brothers, John and Ron.

He is survived by his wife, Mary (McDonald) Strausser; four daughters, Brenda Kasar of Greenbrook, Susan Barutis and Karen Hubbard, both of Stewartville, Barbara Perrette of South Plainfield; a son, Robert Strausser of South Plainfield and eleven brothers and sisters.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Michael, Melissa, Andrew, Jeremy, Christopher, Dylan and Colin.

Funeral services were held at

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made in his memory to Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

### Joseph McAllister, 53

Joseph R. McAllister died on Monday, Jan. 13.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, he attended Montclair State and upon graduation, settled in Montclair and started a family. A devoted algebra teacher for more than 30 years, McAllister was twice honored as one of the country's best educators by "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." He took pride in teaching the youth of Montclair in the classroom as well as on the soccer field.

He began coaching boys junior varsity soccer and in 1983, McAllister started the girl's soccer program at Montclair High School. In just three years, he led his team to victory in the Essex County Championship and was named Essex County Coach of the Year.

McAllister has left an indelible legacy in Montclair High School's academics and athletics.

He is survived by his wife, Clair; two daughters, Kelly and Allison; his mother, LaVera McAllister of South Plainfield; a sister, Linda Gimmich and a nephew, David Gimmich, both

of Dallas, Texas.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the educational institution of your choice.

### Frank J. Stillman, 45

Frank J. Stillman of Phillipsburg died on Monday, Jan. 13 in Queens Hospital Center, Queens, N.Y.

Born in Brooklyn, Frank had resided in South Plainfield before moving to Phillipsburg last year.

He was a truck driver for Salson Logistics Trucking Company of Jamesburg for the past year.

Frank was an umpire for the Plainfield Recreation League and he was also an avid Nascar fan.

His father, Joseph Stillman, died in 1985 and his brother, Hugh, died in 1986.

Surviving are his wife, Cheryl A. Stillman; a daughter, Diane Witman of Monroe Twp.; a son, PFC Earl Witman, U.S. Marine Corp., of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; his mother, Catherine "Kay" Stillman of South Plainfield; a sister, Nancy Stillman-Pender of South Plainfield and a brother, Thomas Stillman of Clark. Also surviving is his grandson, Alexander.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Michael Pohira, 82,

Michael Pohira of South Plainfield died on Monday, Jan. 20 at the Haven Hospice Center at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in South Plainfield and has been a life-long resident.

Michael was a maintenance worker for the Middlesex County Parks Department in New Brunswick for 30 years before retiring in 1982.

He was a veteran of WWII, serving in the U.S. Army and saw action in Central Europe and the Rhineland Campaigns. He was a member of the VFW Memorial Post #6763 in South Plainfield.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. His favorite pastime was golf. He was a member of the West Nine of the Plainfield Country Club in Edison.

He is survived by two brothers, Charles and his wife Helen Pohira of North Plainfield, John and his wife Janet Pohira of Winter Park, Fla.; four sisters Ann Zampella of Bridgeport, Maine, Mary Yaczyn of South Plainfield, Pauline Zahuta of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and Margaret Kewkow of Littleton, Col. and many nieces and nephews.

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Robert and Louise Doyle requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a use variance for mother/daughter. Lot coverage bulk variance exceeds by 204.4 sq.ft.; rear setback for proposed deck lacks the required 20 ft. setback, 156' being proposed; side setback for above ground pool lacks the 5' setback, 4' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 342, Lot 9.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 13, 2003 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 January 24, 2003

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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

WHEREAS, the labor contract with the South Plainfield Police Department, PBA 100 expired on December 31, 2002, and

WHEREAS, the Borough solicited a proposal from the law firm of Buttiglieri, Arce & Price, 2509 Park Avenue, South Plainfield to represent the Borough in negotiations with PBA 100 at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00, and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(f)(1)(a), and

WHEREAS, funds have been certified and will be made available in the SPY 2003 Legal Budget, account #3-01-20-155-000-221.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the

Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with Buttiglieri, Arce & Price in the amount not to exceed \$5000.00 to represent the Borough in labor negotiations with the PBA Local 100.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$33.25 January 24, 2003

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE NO. 1614

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

Ordinance No. 1614 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 24, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 6, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

### ORDINANCE NO. 1614

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Be it ordained by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, that:

the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield, specifically Chapter 67, entitled: "Alcoholic Beverages" be amended as follows:

### Article 67-2, License Fees

License fees shall be amended as follows:

Plenary Retail	Consumption License .....	\$1,540.00
Plenary Retail	Distribution License .....	\$1,032.00
Club License .....		\$150.00

All other provisions of this chapter shall remain in effect.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication according to law.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$50.75 January 24, 2003

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE NO. 1613

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

Ordinance No. 1613 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$205,000.00 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL FUND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 24, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 6, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

### ORDINANCE NO. 1613

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$205,000.00 FROM THE SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL FUND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SANITARY SEWERS LINES ALONG PORTIONS OF PARK AVENUE (between Caffrey Terrace and Oak Tree Road) AND MURRAY AVENUE (between Carlisle Street and Maple Avenue) FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

Repairs to the Sanitary Sewer Lines along portions of Park Avenue (between Caffrey Terrace and Oak Tree Road) and Murray Avenue (between Carlisle Street and Maple Avenue)

Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as sewer utility capital improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$205,000.00.

B. That the cost of said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the SPY 2003 Sewer Utility Capital Improvement Fund, of which said funds are available for said purposes.

C. The estimated useful life of said improvement is hereby determined to be fifteen (15) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Section 5. This law shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$85.75 January 24, 2003

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## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD - MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 1612

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

Ordinance No. 1612 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$400,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS be adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 24, 2003 and that a public hearing be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 6, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1612

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$400,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AS LISTED BELOW FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

15 Computer Units; Server .....	\$20,000
Dump Truck w/salter & plow; Stump Chipper & Brush Hog .....	\$153,000
Road Resurfacing .....	\$125,000
Curb Restoration .....	\$25,000
Self Contained breathing cylinders; Fire hose & Ice/Water Rescue Equip. ....	\$42,000
Vehicle for Code Enforcement .....	\$19,000
Capital Improvement Fund (unassigned) .....	\$16,000

Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvement for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

- A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$400,000.00.
- B. That the cost of said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the SFY 2003 Capital Improvement Fund, of which said funds are available for said purposes.
- C. The estimated useful life of said improvement is hereby determined to be fifteen (15) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Section 5. This law shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$105.00

January 24, 2003

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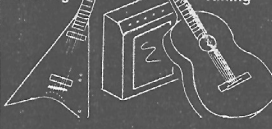
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# College Junior Pens 'Chicken Soup' Story

Continued from page 1

Memories of her freshman year and her own wish came flooding back. She purchased one of the last roses to be found, and had her mother sign a card for her. It read: "To Kristen, from someone who cares." They took great care to deliver it anonymously, but the next day Kristen ran to thank Amanda for her caring gift. The two memories have a special place in Amanda's heart.

That summer, as Amanda prepared for college, she read *Chicken Soup for the College Soul*. She decided it would be nice to share her memory with others, and submitted the story for inclusion in the *Chicken Soup Teenage Journal*. Later, during her freshman year at Rutgers, she received a letter stating her story was being considered for the book. She filled out forms and wrote a bio. Months later a second letter arrived. Her story had not been accepted for book, but would be kept on file for future consideration. Amanda said, "I thought the whole situation was over. I was happy to have been considered for the book one

time."

More than a year passed and Amanda was halfway through her sophomore year when she received notice that her story was being considered again; this time for *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Love and Friendship*. Forms were filled out and sent in a second time. Months passed and Amanda went on with college life. A third letter arrived. Expecting another rejection, she was elated to find her story had been chosen for the book. Of the thousands of submissions from across the country, only 85 had been selected for the book. Amanda said, "To tell you the truth it was the first time in my life I actually cried for being extremely happy. I couldn't believe my story was going to be published. My family, especially my mother and father, are extremely proud of me. Sometimes I think they are more excited about it than I am!"

The book came out in October of 2002 with her story in a chapter titled, "Acts of Kindness." She received a one time payment of \$300 and a copy of the book signed by the three editors.

Amanda dedicated her story to Ken R. Brams. The name is an acronym using the first letter of her best friend's first names. Katherine Skobal, Eric Jackson and Nichole Wrubleski form the name KEN. BRAMS is Brad Tierney, Robin Stayvas, Alison Barrett, Matt Kravetsky and Sheryl Cwickalo, all from South Plainfield. The middle initial "R" is for Ryan J. Bell, a friend from college. Amanda noted Ryan had seen her through the first rejection and then rejoiced with her at the acceptance letter.

Her bio includes her email address at school. Teenagers write to tell her how they enjoyed her story and admire her caring good deed. Amanda said, "Many of the girls mentioned that they cried after reading it and they just felt they needed to tell me how the story touched them. But I felt the whole point of submitting to *Chicken Soup* was for readers to read true stories written by people just like them. I was happy to share my story with these teens and I always thank the girls for expressing their appreciation for my story."

She remembers one sad email in particular from a girl who had planned to do something nice for a friend, but before she could, the friend was killed in a hit and run accident.

Amanda's story came to the attention of the *Observer* through South Plainfield resident Kathy Winner, an advisor for the Juniorettes. Amanda was a member of the all-female community service group throughout high school. Kathy said, "Amanda was a dedicated active member of the South Plainfield Juniorettes. She was always there for all our projects activities, cheerfully supporting all endeavors of the club." Kathy continued, "Amanda came to the Juniorettes' Christmas party this December. She brought a copy of her story for us to see and it left everyone who read it close to tears for the emotional effect."

Amanda noted that she hopes to write more short stories, perhaps even a novel. Although she is a Communications major, she would like to get her teaching certificate and Masters in Education. She hopes to teach young children.

## Second Grader

Continued from page 1

Maria, and her 10-year-old sister Angelica in tow, Giovanna brought several rolling backpacks full of looseleaf notebooks containing her year-long endeavour.

After the introductions, Giovanna and her family proudly showed the laminated pages, including auto-graphed photos, letters and memorabilia collected from every place they visited. Chief Merkler told Giovanna that on September 11, South Plainfield sent fire trucks and rescue personnel to assist in the massive recovery effort.

Giovanna was introduced to police officer Dan Noonan, who was dispatched to NYC that day and her mom immediately snapped a picture of the two for her scrapbook. She also received an official South Plainfield P.D. patch, as well as souvenirs from other agencies. She was also promised written letters expressing their gratitude. When asked what she intends to do with all of her books, Giovanna exclaimed her ultimate goal is to meet with President George Bush and Mayor Rudy Giuliani and show them her collection of pictures.

## policereport

- On Jan. 15 Michael J. Kapsch, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for two outstanding warrants, driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

- Dirceu Gulyas, owner of Gulyas Custom Wood Working on Bergen St., reported that a large slab of granite, valued at \$500, was broken into pieces near the front door.

- Sullivan's Auto on Clinton Ave. reported that their gate had been damaged.

- A Madison Dr. resident reported that his locked 1996 Honda Civic had been stolen from his driveway.

- On Jan. 16 Andre R. Taylor, 20, of Cambria, NY was arrested at the DMV for the sale of documents and forms.

- Dashon R. Graves, 21, of Plainfield was arrested at the DMV for giving false information on a application or exam.

- Sandra Yanez, 49, of Edison was arrested at K-Mart for shoplifting \$131.93 worth of assorted merchandise.

- Richard Michael Cienci, 40, of Edison was arrested at Grand Slam on Oak Tree Rd. for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana over 50 grams.

- On Jan. 17 Efrain Sanchez, 26, of New Brunswick was arrested for forgery and sale of documents at the DMV.

- On Jan. 18 K-Mart reported that a black male pushed a cart toward the door with a TV and DVD player. When the alarm went off he ran to a car waiting in the fire lane and drove away.

- A No. Madison Ave. resident reported that the rear left taillight of his vehicle had been struck by an object.

- On Jan. 19 a Somerset resident reported the theft of her pocketbook from her shopping cart that she left in the parking lot at K-Mart.

- On Jan. 20 a Murray Ave. resident reported that someone had partially ripped the screen on his porch.

- On Jan. 21 Steven Michael Thibault, 35, of South Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant and disorderly conduct at a motor vehicle stop.



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