

★ REMINDER: ★  
★ There's no ★  
★ Observer next ★  
★ week! ★  
★ ★ ★

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 15

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

## Community Invited to Worship at Thanksgiving Service

The South Plainfield Clergy Group is pleased to announce the annual Community-Wide Thanksgiving Worship Service on Tuesday, Nov. 25. Each year we come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has done for us and for all that God is doing in our community.

This year's worship service will be hosted by Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. Reverend Dr. Nehemiah Thompson, pastor at Wesley UMC will be

our preacher. Worship begins at 7:30 a.m., with light refreshments following. A combined choir, under the leadership of Jim Horvath and Tom Baker, will bless us with music. There will also be a youth choir from The Rescue House of Prayer. As an expression of our thanksgiving, an offering will be taken to benefit FISH Ministries.

You are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food to be distributed to those in need. All are welcome.

## Housekeeper Arrested In Motel Burglaries

An employee of Best Western Motel on New World Way, and her accomplice, was arrested on Monday after a two-week investigation by South Plainfield Police detectives involving a rash of burglaries during the past month.

According to Police Capt. John Ferraro, Carol Ann Fratesi, 41, of

Piscataway was able to use her position as head housekeeper to allow an accomplice to enter rooms and take computers, laptops and televisions. In some cases the items were exchanged to support Fratesi's drug habit.

Fratesi was charged with five counts of both burglary and theft. Bail was set at \$50,000. Fratesi's accomplice, Gary L. O'Neal, 40, also of Piscataway, was charged with burglary and theft and four counts of receiving stolen property. Bail was set at \$50,000 with no 10%.

As a result of the investigation, Detectives Gary Cassio and Daniel Noonan were able to recover two computers and a television.

### A Note to Our Readers:

Don't look for the Observer next week. It's the one week a year we don't publish. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday and be grateful for the simplicities of life.

## SPHS Homecoming King, Queen Crowned



SPHS Homecoming king and queen, Brittany DeNitzio and Miguel Garcia



Franklin School students honor local veterans with performances in their honor. The entire student body participated in the afternoon tribute. See pages 12 and 13 for story and additional photos.

## BOE President Pennisi Says Board is Solvent

School Board President Pio Pennisi read a statement at the start of Tuesday's Board of Education meeting to answer and clarify statements that have been made about the board's finances. The following is the statement by Pennisi:

"At our last Board of Education meeting a number of statements were made regarding the district's ability to meet our financial obligations with the recent settlement of the teacher's contract. In an effort to supply clarification I would like to provide following information.

"Beginning with last year's audit report, the Board of Education noted a number of irregularities that needed to be addressed regarding the financial record keeping in the district. In the mist of the review of our financial information, we were in the process of hiring a new superintendent, who with the board, has begun to look at not only financial records, but also our personnel and curriculum operations as well. In an earlier statement, the board indicated that problems with the personnel functions had been rectified, particularly with regard to the budget.

"Concurrently, the board agreed to hire a new auditing firm in the spring in an effort to provide a fresh and comprehensive view of our financial

Continued on page 17

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School seniors Brittany DeNitzio and Miguel Garcia were recently crowned 2003 Homecoming Queen and King. Family and friends filled the school auditorium on October 21, waiting to see if their favorites would capture the crown.

The moments before the start of the pageant were filled with the flash of cameras and a flurry of last minute details. Ties were straightened, errant

Continued on page 21

## Tigers to Battle Canucks in Annual Rivalry

The SPHS Tigers will face the North Plainfield Canucks, in an annual battle to earn bragging rights as Homecoming victors on Thanksgiving Day. The game will be played at North Plainfield High School, 10 a.m. Pre-game festivities planned for Thanksgiving Eve include a spaghetti dinner, a pep rally at 5:30 and a bonfire at SPHS at 7 p.m.

## Alexa Named to Vacant School Board Seat

The Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Terry Alexa to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Dawn Jefferys. Alexa was the only person nominated. Alexa had been an unsuccessful candidate for the BOE in 2002. She currently serves as president of Grant School PTO.

Five people applied for the position, including John Markam and Marge Reedy, who have between them more than 18 years experience as Board of Education members. Also applying with Alexa were Dr. Tom Boyle and James Giunakais.

According to Board President Pio Pennisi, "Terry was chosen because she had been a candidate for the board previously and is very involved with the students and the PTO at Grant School. She will bring a new voice and new ideas to the board."

Alexa was sworn in immediately after the vote. Her seat on the Board runs until next April and will be filled in the 2004 school board election.

## SCAREDSILLY

Almost Famous Players Terrify Borough for Good Cause

This year's *Almost Famous Players* Putnam Park Haunted Woods tour began as an experiment. The event proved worthy of an encore; plans are in the works for next year's production.

For a behind the scenes story of the show's struggles and successes, see page 7.



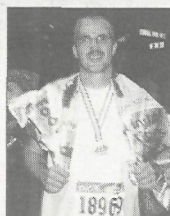
## May Named SPHS Principal

The Board of Education has appointed Dr. Kenneth May as SPHS principal, replacing Anthony Massaro who will assume the post of assistant superintendent of schools beginning in January.

A very popular choice among both the students and faculty, May is currently SPHS vice principal, and will begin the new position Jan. 1.

## ObserverInside

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Local resident chases a dream in NYC marathon. See page 2.

**Satisfy your appetite...**  
Observer & Hometown Heros are sponsoring a student writing contest. See page 10.





**If you enjoyed this edition of the Observer & would like to subscribe, call 908-754-9000.**



## Mark your calendars

Log on to  
**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, December 8 ..... Thursday, December 11

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 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

November 25, December 9, December 23

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

November 20, December 4, December 18

### board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: December 9

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: November 18, December 16

### 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? 908-769-0786.

### site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
December 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  
December 2.

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)  
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

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.  
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

## South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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Publisher/Editor

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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: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 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 or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: ggnan@aol.com or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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## Resident Chases His Dream in NYC Marathon

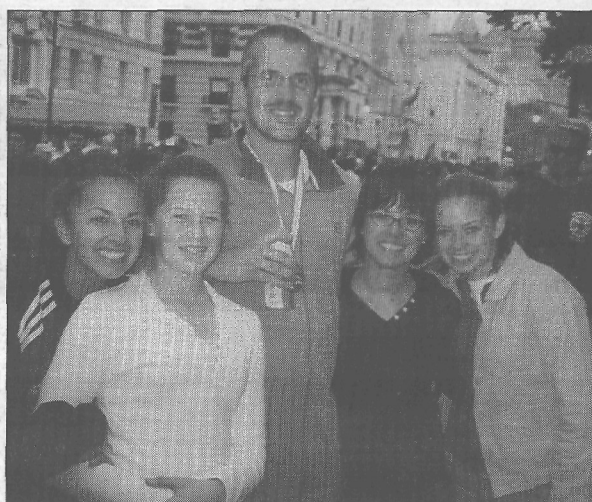
South Plainfield resident Eric Morris was one of 50,000 runners who successfully competed in the New York City Marathon. What makes his story so unusual is that this was the first time Eric competed in a 26-mile race. Actually, the only other race in which he competed was the 5K run on Labor Day. He doesn't even belong to a running club.

Eric said he has been training for the race all year. A fellow worker challenged him earlier this year to give it a try, and he decided to accept the challenge. Eric's father-in-law ran the race in 1966 and he was inspired by his efforts.

Eric and his fellow worker began to train and run together earlier this year. He set goals on how far he would run each training session and then increased the distance regularly. When he entered the marathon, he was also given a packet which helped him in his training routine.

Eric arrived in NYC with his own support group—his wife and three daughters were at the finish line when he completed the race. He ran the marathon in four hours and 17 minutes, not bad for a runner who had never run a 26-mile run.

When Eric returned to his Garden Dr. home later that day, his neighbors were all there to welcome him home. They hung a banner and flew balloons to congratulate him. It was a perfect

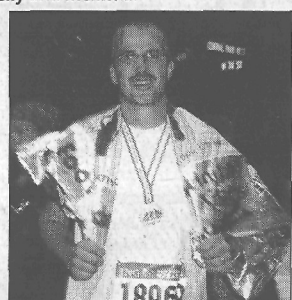


Eric Morris at the finish line at the New York City Marathon with his wife and daughters, Megan, Mallory, Shelly and Melinda.

way to end the day.

Morris said running the NYC Marathon was a unique and fascinating experience. Running along the streets of the five boroughs was something he will never forget. He added that he plans to run again next year. In the meantime, he will keep in shape by running in a few 10K races.

Eric resides with his wife, Shelly, and three daughters, Megan, Melinda and Mallory. He is the principal at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway.



Eric Morris at NYC Marathon.

## From the Publisher

This issue of the South Plainfield Observer was mailed to every household in South Plainfield. If this is the first time you have seen the Observer, we hope you enjoy it and will consider subscribing. If you are a regular subscriber, enjoy.

The Observer has been publishing for more than six years now. Our goal has been to fill the void in coverage that exists with the daily newspapers in reporting local news and events. The Observer covers things that do not make the daily paper, but are still important to our residents.

Please take your time reading this paper. You will get a good idea of what has been going on around town recently. These kinds of articles and events can be found in the Observer every week. There is no better tool to keep you informed of what is going on in than the Observer.

Also, please take time to look at all the advertisements in this issue. These local businesses support the Observer and want your business. Without the advertisers, there would be no Observer.

After reading the Observer, we know that you will want to receive it every week. Just fill out the the subscription form on page 5 and mail it to 1110 Hamilton Blvd., So. Plainfield, NJ 07080 with a check for \$25. To subscribe using your Visa or Master Card, call us at (908) 668-0010.

## Burglary Thwarted at Central Transport

A Central Transport Co. security guard and two accomplices were caught trying to load \$4,920 worth of boxed kerosene heaters and blue jeans into a van at the loading dock on New Era Dr. last Sunday night. The dock manager arrived at work early that evening, observed a van backed up to the building and called police.

Timmy Omar Terron, 21, of Trenton, who is employed as a security guard, had instructed two other males to help him retrieve the items from the warehouse. Terron and his accomplices, Reynaldo Casanovas, 25, and Joseph Santiago, 26, both of Trenton were arrested and charged with burglary and theft and remanded to the Middlesex County Jail. Bail was set at \$20,000 each.

**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 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 400 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.

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*References available upon request.*



## Santa Claus Is Coming To Town... on a Fire Engine

### PROJECT SANTA 2003



To help raise money for our upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (May 2007) and Firemen's Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine?

Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$25 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$25 should be a check made payable to the SPVEC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 100% of the \$25 goes directly to 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund. We also ask that you wrap a small gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$30. Please no expensive gifts! After you wrap the gift, please put your child's name and address securely on the gift. Firefighters will visit every block in the Borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. All you need is a camera.

Stop by the South Plainfield Fire Department to fill out a form and drop off your check. Gifts can be dropped off at Fire Headquarters from Monday, Dec. 1 through Wednesday, Dec. 10 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Santa will be delivering presents on Dec. 15, 16, 17 and 18. This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department so it is very important that your address and child's name are on each gift so each child is not disappointed. Please; there will be no exceptions; the last day to drop off your gift is Saturday, Dec. 13. Families must reside in South Plainfield.

Santa's hotline number is (908) 412-8868. Call if you have any questions; leave a message.

## Graf Named Office on Aging Exec. Director

Joann Graf has been promoted to Executive Director of the Office of Aging, a newly created position in the Borough.

Since the new senior center opened last year and since Joann Graf taking the reins last December, membership and activities have increased at a rapid rate. Up until last month, the senior center was part of recreation and under Recreation Director Mike English; it is now a new department in the Borough.

Graf will now head the Office of Aging and be responsible for coordinating all senior activities as well as any special needs, meals on wheels program, senior bus and all of the day-to-day activities at the senior center. She will also be searching for grants to add more programs and equipment to the senior center.

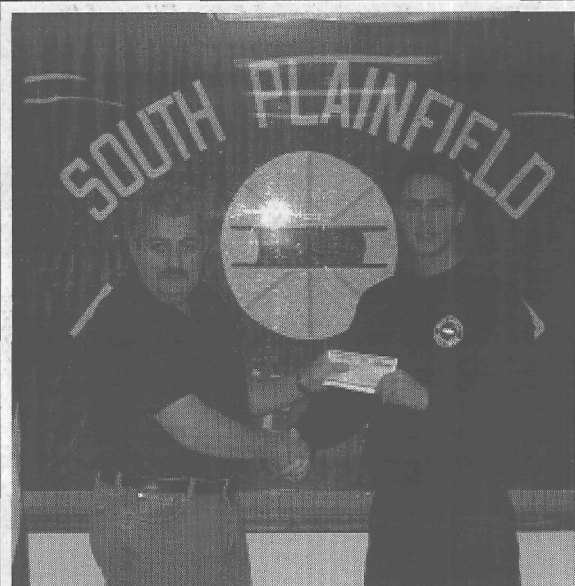
## Library Board Creates Search Committee

At last week's Library Board meeting, a subcommittee was formed to begin working on plans for a new library building.

A new building for the library was proposed last month by Councilman Bob Cusick, because it has out grown its present site. The new building will also have room for Historical Society artifacts, which are now stored in members' basements. The site of the new library is next to Conroy's Funeral Home, property owned by the Borough.

The committee will visit other area libraries to study what the new library should contain. A similar search took place before the senior citizen center was designed. The committee will then make more detailed recommendations to the Library Board.

Subcommittee members include Eric Aronowitz, Virginia Popik, Barbara Ware and Councilman Bob Cusick. Stephen Magura will also be helping the subcommittee.



The LA Dreyfus Company of Edison recently made their annual contribution of \$500 to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. The check was presented by lifelong South Plainfield resident and LA Dreyfus employee, Battista Rundella. It was accepted by Lt. Peter Magnani of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. The company has been supporting the squad for over a decade.

## Project Video Connects Military and Families

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross has joined forces with AOL and Hewlett-Packard to support "Project Video Connect: We're Here Until They're Home" in Union, Somerset and Middlesex County areas. Project Video Connect allows thousands of military personnel who are still overseas and their families to send video messages to each other from locations around the world.

Project Video Connect gives military families, troops and supporters the opportunity to communicate "face-to-face" by creating personal video messages that can be sent free of charge. "We are truly thrilled to be able to provide Project Video Connect. We always look for ways to support the families of military personnel, especially when it comes to communications. PVC is a significant enhancement to our services and will certainly make a huge impact on morale," said Patricia Mulligan, Executive Director of the Tri-County Chapter.

The simple process, which takes a matter of minutes, allow military personnel and their families to use a computer equipped with a video camera to record a video message and send the link to their loved ones. With hundreds of thousands of troops remaining overseas for an indefinite amount of time, PVC is meant to keep them connected to their friends and family for as long as possible. We urge families and friends to take advantage of this opportunity during normal business hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (evening hours will be announced soon). Red Cross personnel will be on hand to assist users of this video service. For additional information, call our Armed Forces Emergency Services office at (908) 353-2500.

Enjoy the Observer,  
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## Thanksgiving Day Holiday Closing at Recycling Center

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28, because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Recycling will resume its regular schedule on Saturday, Nov. 29. The Recycling Center's regular schedule is 12 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Ave. will also be closed on Nov. 27 and 28. The Yard Waste regular leaf season schedule during November is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Bring leaves only in paper bags or loose. Do not leave plastic bags in the leaf pile.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

## Sacred Heart to Hold Alumni Mass

Sacred Heart School would like to invite all former graduates to the Alumni/Alumnae Golden Anniversary of Sacred Heart School.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Dec. 13. There will be a 5 p.m. Mass

immediately followed by a reception in the school cafeteria.

For alumni/alumnae who have not received a letter about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, see the invitation on page 9.

**AIDA SANTOS**  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT  
BRANCH MANAGER

**Valley National Bank**

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South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 757-5868  
Fax (908) 757-0494

**Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church**  
807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

Father Maciej extends an invitation to all Catholics in the area to join the small parish with the big heart in worshipping God.

Nov. 27 ~ Mass of Thanksgiving ~ 9AM

MASSSES: Daily at 8 AM - No Mass on Wednesdays  
Saturday evening Vigil Mass 5:30 PM

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# Around Town

## Wesley Methodist Pre-Thanksgiving Program

November 20

Wesley United Methodist Church would like to invite you to a very special pre-Thanksgiving event on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. in our beautiful sanctuary.

Appropriate for adults and young people alike, "A Pilgrim's Journey" will start off the holiday season with "music that penetrates and enriches the soul."

Wesley United Methodist Church, is located at 1500 Plainfield Ave. Call (908) 757-2838 for details or visit [www.thehardbutrightway.com](http://www.thehardbutrightway.com). Free will offering. Refreshments and CDs will be available for purchase.

## VFW Ham Dinner

November 21

The VFW Post 6763 will host a ham dinner on Friday, Nov. 21 at the VFW, 155 Front Street, from 5 to 8 p.m. The donation is \$7. The dinner is complete with three vegetables, salad, cake, coffee and tea. A children's menu is available for \$4.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and noon on weekends.

## Sacred Heart to Hold Basket Bingo

November 22

Sacred Heart School Home School Association will sponsor a Longaberger Basket Bingo and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 22 in the school cafeteria. Funds raised from this event will be used to build a playground for the children. Tickets are \$20 each, which includes admission and boards. Join us for an evening of fun and excitement. To purchase tickets or for additional information, call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891.

## Suburban Woman's Club Presents Musical

November 23

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will sponsor a wonderful theatrical experience to benefit their annual scholarship fund on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m. The play is "Jane Eyre, the Musical." Charlotte Brontë's classical story is now set to music and will be presented by the Circle Playhouse in Piscataway.

Ticket cost is \$16. All proceeds to benefit the annual scholarship fund. The award is to be given to a graduate

## What's happening in NOVEMBER

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 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div>  <b>EVENTS</b> </div>				
<b>Thursday, November 20</b> <b>Thanksgiving Luncheon 12 Noon</b>				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am-12:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Computer Classes 10-11am or 2-3pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 1-2pm	Shopping Day 9am-2pm Practical Crafts 10-11am Thanksgiving Luncheon 12 Noon Happy Thanksgiving Center Closed	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch 10am-11am Computer Class 10am-11am Men's Forum Steering Com. Meeting 1:30PM
24	25	26	27	28
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

ing SPHS senior. Complimentary refreshments will be served during intermission and door prizes will be awarded. Circle Playhouse is located at 416 Victoria Ave. in Piscataway, just a few blocks from 7th St. and Washington Ave.

For ticket information and reservations, call (908) 757-3680.

## Class of 1989 Plans 15-Year Reunion

November 27

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1989 is planning their 15th reunion to be held in Edison at the Sheraton in Raritan Center on Nov. 27, 2004. Price is \$80.

Contact [SPHSclassof89@yahoo.com](mailto:SPHSclassof89@yahoo.com) with address information.

## Knights of Columbus Communion Breakfast

November 30

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding a Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 30 at the Knights Hall, located on Hamilton Blvd. (across from Pizza Stop) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Continental Breakfast will follow the 9:30 a.m. mass at Sacred Heart church with a guest speaker. There is no charge for this event. Families are invited to attend. For more information and to make your reservations please call (908) 755-6203.

## Jr. Baseball Women's Auxiliary Holiday Party

December 3

The South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club Women's Auxiliary will hold their annual Holiday Party at Flanagan's on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. All women are welcome to attend.

\$25 admission includes dinner, desert, beer and wine. A wrapped gift exchange item (\$10 value) is all you need to bring! Please join us to "kick off" the holidays.

Call Cindy Eichler (908) 769-4047 or Stacy Lake (908) 757-9531 for your reservation.

## Annual John E. Riley Craft Show Planned

December 5

John E. Riley Elementary School, located on Morris Ave., will hold their Annual Craft/Vendor Night on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 9 p.m. Both new and handcrafted merchandise will be available.

For vendor information, call (908) 561-2530.

## Holiday Bazaar at Cedar Oaks

December 5

Cedar Oaks Care Center is holding a Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cedar Oaks Care Center, 1311 Durham Ave. There will be vendors, crafts, costume jewelry and more! Crafters are wanted!

## Senior Center EVENTS

## — Out of Town —

## Touchstone's Holiday Show Announced

Through December 20

Touchstone Theatre presents its perennial holiday favorite, "Christmas City Follies." This inspired vaudeville-styled romp celebrates the holidays with laughter, live music, warmth and spunk.

Christmas City Follies runs Thursdays through Saturdays through December 20, with two Sunday matinees on Dec. 7 and 14 at 4 p.m. Tickets for Thursdays and Sunday matinees are \$16 and Friday and Saturday night tickets are \$20.

For ticket information, call (610) 867-1689. Touchstone Theatre is located in Bethlehem, Pa.

## Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar

November 22-23

Sons of Norway Noreg Lodge of Marlboro is sponsoring their annual Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar. This event will be held at the Old Bridge Community Center in Old Bridge on Nov. 22 and 23. The bazaar is open to the public between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Come join us for an afternoon in "Scandinavia" and enjoy one of the largest Scandinavian bazaars on the east coast.

Anyone interested in joining a class or for membership, please contact Carl Johnson at (732) 946-8336.

## Edison Arts Society Performances

November 22

The Edison Arts Society is pleased to present for its sixth year "A Night of One Acts," an evening featuring performances by 80 middle school students representing five public and private Edison township schools. The performance will be held on stage Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Edison High School at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 and will be available at the door or by calling the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787.

## Job Seekers Club at Jewish Family Services

November 25

At the Tuesday morning Job Seekers Club, facilitated by a professional career specialist, you will be guided through all of the steps needed to conduct a pro-active job search. As a member of the club, you will have access to our Job Bank (updated weekly), our computers and our library. Most importantly, you'll have the wonderful opportunity to network with and for your fellow members.

The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the NOVA office, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201 in Edison. The fee is \$20 for ten sessions.

To reserve your place or for further information, please call Lila Schwartz, Career Specialist at (732) 777-1940.

## Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Meeting

December 3

Please join the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, a service organization dedicated to benefiting our communities since 1961, for our monthly membership meeting. The meeting will be

*Continued on next page*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Santa to Visit the PAL

December 20

South Plainfield Recreation invites all children ages one to 10 years old to visit with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the PAL Recreation Complex. Pictures with Santa and gifts for all the children will be handed out. You must register at the PAL for Pictures with Santa. There is a \$5 registration fee.

## Caroling in the Park

December 21

Come celebrate the holidays! The South Plainfield High School Chorus and the South Plainfield Recreation Department invite everyone to Caroling in the Park on Sunday, Dec. 21 starting at 3 p.m. in the gazebo at Spring Lake Park. Refreshments to follow at the Rescue Squad.



# events

(Continued from previous page)

held on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Metuchen. Light refreshments will be served and there is no fee to attend the meeting.

The program for this meeting will be decorative painting on Christmas ornaments. The program will be taught by Yorka of Bunchi's in South Plainfield.

For more information, call Diana Degnan, vice president, membership at (732) 548-0925. For information on the decorative painting class, contact Yorka at (908) 755-4049.

## Moonrakers Tall Club Holiday Party

December 6

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller than average" stature in the New

Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold their annual holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight at the Saddle Brook Marriott Hotel in Saddle Brook. Prospective members (woman 5'10" and taller and men 6'2" and taller, both over 21) are encouraged to attend. A cash bar will be available and semi-formal attire is suggested.

The price of \$55 includes a gourmet buffet dinner, unlimited complementary soda, dessert and dancing. Dancing only (8:30 p.m. to 12 midnight) is \$25 per person.

For reservations or for further information, please call (973) 783-6649 or visit the New Jersey Moonrakers website at <http://www.njtall.org>.

## Christmas Program at Dunellen Theatre

December 6

"An Old-Fashioned Christmas" is a

free holiday program for the whole family to be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Dunellen Theater on North Ave. (Rt. 28). The program will be offered at 2 p.m. and again at 4 p.m.

The free community festivities will feature an hour of holiday music, including a handbell choir and audience sing-alongs of traditional Christmas carols and other winter favorites of both adults and children. There will also be a special guest appearance by "Ebenezer the Shepherd," who will share his unique perspective during a re-enactment of the Christmas Story. Everyone will receive a small free gift—and a special memory of Christmas 2003.

For more information, please contact the First Presbyterian Church at (732) 968-3844. Reservations are not required, admission is free and no offering plates will be passed.

## "Holiday Magic" at Edison Arts Society

December 7

The Edison Arts Society proudly presents "Holiday Magic," our annual Holiday Dance Extravaganza on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. in the J.P. Stevens High School Auditorium. This delightful performance features students from four area dance schools: Yvonne's School of Dance, directed by Yvonne Ambrosio and Dawn Belle; Miss Dawn's Studio of Dance, directed by Dawn Ferro; Spotlight on Dance, directed by Carolyn Stefanchik and Chez Renee Dance Studio, directed by Renee Barile-Nicolay.

Reserved seats for this performance are currently on sale for \$12 each and can be purchased by calling the Edison Arts Society office at (908) 753-ARTS, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visa and MasterCard are gladly accepted over the telephone.



## Last Week's High Winds Down Several Trees

Pam and Ryan Goldfarb (above) stand in front of a huge uprooted tree that managed to take down part of another tree in front of their home on Dumont Ave. (off of Cherry and Walnut) during last Thursday's wind storm. This was the second uprooted tree that fell on the street that day. Luckily, both falling trees missed all of the powerlines, cars and driveways on the street and no one was injured. This tree, however, blocked the entire street for at least three hours until the Borough sent a truck with a tree shredder and backhoe in tow to clear it away. Pictured below is a tree that fell on a car in the parking lot at the high school.



Happy Holidays

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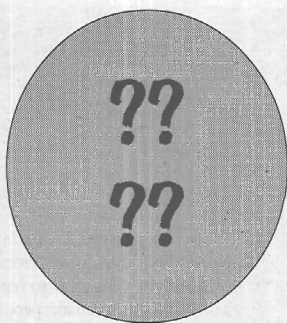
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## Help Create Sacred Heart's 100th Logo!

Students in the South Plainfield area are being asked to participate in a contest to create a logo for the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church.

The contest for the new logo will be spearheaded in all classrooms at Sacred Heart School. Also, students in CCD classes, SPHS, Bishop Ahr and St. Joseph's will be asked to participate.

The logo will be displayed throughout the year on letterheads, posters, t-shirts and various publicity materials.

The logo will be judged on its originality, using the theme of the 100th anniversary and Sacred Heart Church. It must be submitted on an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper and can be either in color or black and white. Students are encouraged to use their imagination, but they must keep to the theme.

Entries must be in by Jan. 16, 2004 and a winner will be announced on Jan. 30, 2004, which coincides with the end of Catholic Schools Week. You need not be Catholic to enter.

Entries will be divided into several groups, K-3, 4-6, 7/8 and high school. Three winners from each group with be chosen and a winner picked from that group will be the winning logo.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. Prizes and judges will be announced later. A letter containing all of the rules of the contest and the prizes to be awarded will be announced in the near future.

For more information on this contest, call Nancy at (908) 668-0010.

### To the Editor:

The Lions Club of South Plainfield can not show enough appreciation to Pattie Abbott and her "Almost Famous Players" for donating a portion of the profits from her Haunted Woods Show during Halloween to our club for our charitable projects.

Fourteen Lion Club members worked at Putnam Park selling refreshments and hot dogs from our Eye-mobile. The Lions' goal was not to make a lot of money, but to support Pattie and her players and we were happy to do just that.

This was one of the most fascinating projects that we have witnessed in South Plainfield in many years. The comment from the Lions Club Members went from "a lot of fun" to a "fantastic show," which we are sure will be even better next year. To those that did not attend, don't miss next year's activities—it will be a very big event.

A tremendous amount of work went into this project by Pattie and her staff. Thanks again, Pattie.

**BOB DESCH, PRESIDENT, SO. PLAINFIELD LIONS CLUB**

(See page 7 for story and pictures)

### Dear Editor,

On behalf of Pat DeSantis and myself as chairpersons, we would like to thank all of the people who attended our second South Plainfield Ponytail Parents Association Art Auction fundraiser hosted by Ross Galleries, Marsha and her staff. This type of fundraiser constantly enables us to upgrade our girls' softball facility at Ponytail Park on Pitt Street. Through fundraising and donations, we have been able to purchase an electric scoreboard, a first-time sound system and upgrade the fields playing surfaces.

Thank you to Bob Boyle and the Piancone family of Roma Food for your donations of various desserts and bottled water, to the young people who helped all evening long, carrying the art pieces to the podium, Mykhal Boyle, Rachael Senz, Richie Szeliga, Cori Black, Marissa Piancone and Julia Parker. Also, thank you to the follow-

### 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 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 400 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.

ing persons who helped reload the art truck: Steve and Eileen Senz, Rich and Rosa Szeliga, Mark and Alyssa Sutherland, Scott and Debbie Bishop, Bob and Patrick Boyle, Ken Fry and to Marge Reedy and June Russo for working the reception table and Pattie and Chris Abbott for your photo coverage.

**SINCERELY,  
DEBBIE BOYLE, CHAIRWOMAN**

### To the Editor,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my family to thank the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for their quick response on Oct. 21. They arrived within moments of our call for a basement fire at our home. Their quick response helped contain the fire and get everyone, including our dog, to safety.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

**SINCERELY,  
THE MAKOWSKI FAMILY**

### To the Editor,

The Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour was created by the *Almost Famous Players*. The volunteer troupe wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations and support. This enormously successful show would not have been possible without the following people and businesses:

Halls Trucking, Vail Hardware, Fire Chief Larry DelNegro and the South



### Dear Editor,

On behalf of Shirley Affinito and myself as chairpersons of the Riley School 2003 Halloween Festival, we would like to thank the following persons for all their hard work on the festival committee. Without you, the Halloween Festival would not have been the huge success it was.

Beth and Bob Bors, Kelly and Bill Butrico, Ann Schiavo, Lon Esposito, Kathy Flanagan, Kathy Skwiat, Mike "Cateyes" Rochotte, Maggie and Jeff Temple, Alice Masters, Cathy and Bob Parillo, Viesta Harvey, Karen Kozak, Diane Heilman, Linda Di Dario, Joycelyn Aguinaldo, Paula Van Blarcom, Maryann Bythell, Laura Timmerman, Ivette Rivera, Jennifer Gonzalez, Jen Curtis, Laura Conrad, Ela Tomala, Jennifer Smithline, Kelly Sella, Donna Teller, Susan Pereira, Sandy Marcovecchio, Mr. Beegle, Liz Hughes and Nancy Grennier for your coverage.

The room décor was beautiful, the games were so cool, the fortune teller's castle was outrageous and the food table was over abundant!

Remember, your committee is only as good as the people who stand behind you! Thanks so much; you're the best!

**SINCERELY,  
DEBBIE BOYLE, CHAIRWOMAN**

Plainfield Fire Department, Ron Sward and the Rescue Squad, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilmen Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick, Traffic Safety Officer Sgt. Kevin Murtagh, John Pabst, Dan Sherwood, the entire South Plainfield Town Council, Police Chief Merker, Moretti Realty Century 21, Twin City Pharmacy, South Plainfield Observer, Artistic Custom Graphics-Designs by

Debi, Officer Dave Franchak, Officer Allen LaMonda, Pizza Stop, Junior Girl Scout troops 431 and 309, Spring Lake Florist and the members of the South Plainfield Lions Club.

If we have omitted anyone, we are truly sorry. Please contact us and we'll gladly remedy the omission.

**PATRICIA ABBOTT, DIRECTOR  
ALMOST FAMOUS PLAYERS**

*Happy Holidays from*

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# Almost Famous Players Terrify Borough for a Good Cause

## Putnam Park Haunted Woods Production — A Big Hit

This year's *Almost Famous* Putnam Park Haunted Woods tour began as an experiment. The goal of the volunteer theater troupe was to provide the town with a different kind of entertainment, raise money for a good cause and allow members to do what they love most — perform. The show took place in Putnam Park. Proceeds were donated to the South Plainfield Lions Club.

The incredible response to the three-day event proved the experiment to be a success of major proportions, far beyond the hopes of *Almost Famous* founder/director Patricia Abbott, the staff and the actors. Despite a rainy opening night, all tours were sold out. At one point over 50 people waited in the rain for a chance to see the show. The average tour size was approximately 30-40, but often more people were added to accommodate the ever-increasing audience.

The road from concept to production was not an easy one. Many hurdles had to be overcome, including a late start, procuring permits and many safety-oriented details. Another problem was a rehearsal location. There are no lights along the jogging trail in Putnam Park, so the cast often practiced in Abbott's front yard using work lights for illumination.

The majority of the cast was comprised of SPHS students, although there were many from the Middle School as well. The first few months of the school year are always hectic, and the performers found that rehearsals sometimes conflicted with jobs,



Chris Abbott and Christina Martin performing at Haunted Village.

dance classes, various school programs, football games and marching band. Each obstacle was dealt with as the students were working on the show.

Jackie Ostrowski of Bound Brook is one of several adults Pattie brought into *Almost Famous*. They performed together for many years with the Haunted Village of Somerset. She portrayed one of the Evil Sorceresses. Jackie commented, "This type of theater is one of the most difficult. You are at the mercy of mother nature. Choreography and timing are essential; without it you or someone on your team is bound to get hurt. It goes further than knowing blocking and lines; you have to read the audience and work with them since they are with you at all times. Most of

this is all done in the dark; it is challenging yet exhilarating and fulfilling."

From the start, Councilman Ray Petronko offered his staunch support, encouraging *Almost Famous* to move forward. Councilman Bob Cusick also assisted by arranging for a clean up at the park. Community service inmates spent hours clearing mountains of debris, including broken branches, cans, bottles, household trash and huge chunks of cement. Junior Girl Scout Troop 309 and leader Nancy McMahon also cleaned up of the park just prior to opening. Troop 431, led by Linda Kelly, donated a candy corn guessing game, a jar filled with a seasonal favorite. Troop members Stephanie Kelly, Rebecca Bosse, Alyssa

Roibal, Katie Egan, Katie Sullivan and Amanda Alamezohu also volunteered their services and talents performing as a not quite-alive soccer team.

Director Patricia Abbott was amazed at the support for the project. "My original idea seemed simple enough: present a small Halloween show, make a donation to a non-profit group and, most importantly, allow the cast to act: to show off their talents while giving back to the community." The snowball effect of support thrilled the cast. The show was patterned after the well-known Haunted Village of Somerset. At least a dozen *Almost Famous* performers have appeared in these shows over the years. The original script was written by Abbott, additional directing assistance was provided by Jackie Ostrowski and Jonathan Bergman of Hillsborough. Tickets were printed by Debi Esposito of South Plainfield, who also assisted with ticket sales.

The realistic combat scenes were a favorite with many of the youths in attendance and required hours of additional rehearsing. They were choreographed by SPHS senior Chris Abbott and sophomore Jake Levine.

Abbott noted that the show would not have been possible without the support and help of many, including Police Chief Merkler, Mayor Gallagher, Councilmen Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick, Vinnie Buttiglieri and Officers Dave Franchak and Allen LaMonica. Fire Chief Larry DeNegro and Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward offered valuable advice on a number of safety and technical details. The Fire

Department provided a light truck each night, often remaining later than planned due to the crowds. And members of the Lions Club were there each night selling and even supplying hot chocolate and hot dogs to the actors.

Patricia Abbott said, "It is so hard to thank everyone; so many people supported us, but there is one man who went above and beyond. Dan Nigro of Revere Rd. was our knight in shining armor. He built the large sign advertising the show and arranged for the donation of tarps to cover the fence. He built the coffin and the well and rigged several of the scares. He loaned us a generator to power the entire show, ran electrical lines and set up many of the scenes prior to the show. In addition to all this, he worked each night keeping things running smoothly." Dan's wife, Patry, handled set up, tickets and the non-stop crowds all three nights. She was assisted by Debi Esposito. During early preparations, Dan's son, Matt and his friends kept the trails clean and they watched over sets in the wooded area.

The general consensus was the show must go on. Plans for Halloween 2004 are already underway. *Almost Famous Players* hopes to do several small shows in the community frequently in the coming months. Their email address is: [almostfamousphs@aol.com](mailto:almostfamousphs@aol.com). They are also currently working on developing a web page. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 12. Checks should be made to *ALMOST FAMOUS PLAYERS* and mailed to 2 Page Court, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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## Call for "Little Miss Baseball" Contestants

It's time once again to crown Little Miss Baseball 2004. The Junior Baseball Club is asking that all the girls nominated march with the club in our parade on April 3, after which, at Opening Day Festivities, Little Miss Baseball 2004 winner will be announced. The winner must be present to be crowned. If not, the next runner up will be crowned.

Nominations for Little Miss Baseball will be accepted now through Jan. 1, 2004. Nominees must be South Plainfield residents between the ages of 7 and 11 years old. To nominate someone, call Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531. Finalists will be notified Jan. 2.

Little Miss Baseball 2004 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes with finalists' photos will be placed in locations throughout the borough, including Quick Check and B & C Deli starting Jan. 5. They will remain there until March 31. The votes will then be tallied and the winner announced on Opening Day, April 3.

## Borough Library Collecting Gloves and Mittens

The Friends of the South Plainfield Free Public Library is sponsoring a collection drive during the Holiday season. They're collecting new gloves, mittens, hats and scarves. The donated items will be distributed to the needy by the locally-based charitable organization FISH, Inc. The drive runs Nov. 19-Dec. 15.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

For information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

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## Mike Zushma Named "Lion of the Year"

The "Lion of the Year" plaque from the South Plainfield Lions Club was presented to first Vice President Mike Zushma for his accomplishments over the past few years. Lion Mike has brought in several new members and has been very active in all the club's activities.

## policereport

• On Nov. 4 the owner of MB Fragrances on Montrose Ave. reported the theft of boxes of perfume from a shipment that had arrived.

• On Nov. 11 South Plainfield Liquors on Hamilton Blvd. reported the theft of gutters that were on the ground in front of his building.

• On Nov. 12 Elsayed I. Elshahar, 52, of Brooklyn, NY was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting a leather coat worth \$329.

• On Nov. 13 Leslie Ann Hill, 37, of Somerset was arrested for hindering apprehension by showing a false drivers license at a motor vehicle accident and an outstanding warrant for \$5,000.

• A Plainfield resident reported that, while parked on New Market Ave., the passenger side door of his vehicle had been pried open and a JVC CD/stereo removed.

• On Nov. 14 Hellivie A. Mariano, 47, of Piscataway was arrested at the DMV for exhibiting a fraudulent drivers license.

• Middlesex Water Co. on Park Ave. reported the theft of several pieces of aluminum railing at the rear of the pumping station that had been cut and

removed.

• On Nov. 15 a No. Madison Dr. resident reported that three large mutilated birds were on the ground surrounding his vehicle that was parked in the driveway. A flower pot with another mutilated bird inside was found under the car.

• A Clifford St. resident reported that the screen of their garage had been cut and a BMX bike and go-ped were missing.

• On Nov. 16 Keshannar Sharia Kimpson, 33, of Plainfield was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting \$174 worth of clothing.

• Christopher D. Basile, 21, of Piscataway was arrested driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle accident.

• An Iselin resident received a summons for attempting to dump two pipes and a spring on Metuchen Rd.

• Middlesex Water Co. on Park Ave. reported that someone had attempted to steal a hatch and port hole cover from the pumping station.

• An Edison resident was issued a summons for attempting to dump leaves in the woods on Metuchen Rd.

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## Sacred Heart to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

### Year Long Events are Planned

Sacred Heart Church is planning a year-long celebration for their 100th Anniversary. Plans have already been made for several events which will take place beginning next June (June 18 is the Feast of the Sacred Heart) and concluding in June of 2005.

Present and former parishioners are encouraged to get involved in the celebration and to also attend the many events planned. Next year is really shaping up to be a busy year at Sacred Heart Church.

Anyone who may have pictures or memorabilia from events which took place in the church are encouraged to donate them. A 100th anniversary committee is presently compiling the history of the church and they will welcome any help you can give. Especially needed are pictures and information about Sacred Heart that occurred after 1986. At the conclusion of the year-long celebration, a book will be published containing photos and a history of the church.

Several much needed repairs to the church will be taking place before the celebration begins. If anyone would like to donate money towards the cost or planned purchases and repairs, or if they would like to make a memorial donation, call the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10. He has an extensive wish list, as well as a must-list of repairs and purchases needed.

The kick-off to the 100th Anniversary will be a four-day carnival starting on Thursday, May 20 and ending on Sunday, May 23. The carnival, similar to Sacred Heart's Funsival, has been named the Sacred Heart Family Carnival. The event will have vendors, rides and plenty of food. The carnival will be an opportunity to bring people together at the beginning of the celebration and as each event takes place, so will attendance for the finale at the end of the year-long celebration.

One of the fun things in the planning stages is digging up the time capsule that was buried over 25 years ago and gather artifacts during the year which will be buried at the end of the celebration.

Other planned events include youth and spiritual programs, concerts and a dinner-dance, all of which will run through the entire year.

Watch the *Observer* for more information on the above events, as well as additional planned events that are still in the works.

For more information on the 100th anniversary or you would like to help, call Bill McCriscin at (908) 561-6744.



### Sacred Heart Hosts Parish Picnic

Sacred Heart hosted a Parish picnic on Oct. 19, with hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, baked beans and all kinds of desserts. Highlights of the day were pony rides, water balloons, egg toss, horse shoes, sack races and face painting. A fun day was had by all. The Parish looks forward to hosting the same next year.

## Students Given Opportunity to Study Abroad

"Qualified high school students are offered a unique opportunity to spend an academic year or summer holiday in one of 15 European countries, Asia, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Chili, Australia and New Zealand as part of the ASSE International Student Exchange Programs," announced Megan Woo, Modern Director of ASSE.

"Until a few years ago, only a fortunate few could afford to spend a school year or summer abroad. Now, ASSE has changed all that," continued Woo.

Students, 15 to 18 years old, qualify on the basis of Anemic performance, character references and a genuine desire to experience life abroad with a volunteer host family in one of the many ASSE host countries.

"ASSE families abroad are carefully screened to provide a caring environment in which students can learn the language and culture of their host country," explained Woo.

Summer exchange students live with a family abroad who speaks some English. Students need not have learned a foreign language as they receive language and cultural instruction as part of the ASSE program. ASSE students attend regular high school classes, along with their new teenage friends. "ASSE Exchange International students learn by living the language and culture of their new host country," added Martinsons.

The ASSE International Student Exchange Program was founded by the Swedish Ministry of Education, cooperates with the Fabian Provincial Ministers of Education, is approved by the Australian Department of Education and the New Zealand Ministry of Education.

ASSE also provides international

opportunities for families to host students from Europe, the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, South America, Asia, Mexico and Australia and New Zealand. These select students are 15 to 18 years old and will attend the best school for a semester or an academic year.

For more information about the ASSE programs call 1-800-677-2773.

## Teen Night is Back at PAL!

It's time to let everyone know that Teen Nite is back! Teen Nite is open to all South Plainfield children from seventh to twelfth grade. Teen Nites are held on Saturday nights from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the PAL Recreation Complex beginning Saturday, Nov. 22. You must have a PAL card or a student I.D. to get in and you cannot leave without signing out. Register at the PAL from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Administration and Faculty, Parents and Students of Sacred Heart School cordially invite you to

**The 50th Anniversary Celebration of SHS**

Saturday, December 13, 2003  
5 p.m. Mass  
149 South Plainfield Ave.  
Reception to follow at Sacred Heart School Cafeteria

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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Stashko Promoted for Second Time This Year at Unity Bank



Kelly Stashko

Anthony J. Ferraro, President, Unity Bank, announced the promotion of Kelly A. Stashko from First Senior Vice President to Executive Vice President/Director of Communications. Ferraro commended the promotion by saying, "Stashko attained this position the old fashioned way, with hard work and absolute dedication. In my 30 years of financial management, I cannot recall ever promoting someone to such a

prestigious position that deserved it more."

Joining Unity Bank in 1996 as a consultant, Stashko began her career at City Federal Savings and Loan Association. She quickly became a permanent employee of Unity and thrived in the areas of Marketing and Information Technology. Stashko brings 25 years of broad experience in the financial industry, including operations, administration, facilities, data processing, product development, technical writing, marketing, and customer relations.

In appreciation of her efforts, Stashko was awarded Unity's most prestigious award for "Creative and Exceptional Management" in 2001 while also being nominated this year for a "Woman of Influence" award sponsored by NJBiz Magazine. "Within the last year, Stashko took on the added responsibility of heading Information Technology and successfully converted the Bank to a new Data and Items Processing system," stated John J. Kauchak, First Executive

Vice President/COO. "I cannot think of another woman in my extensive career who has had such a positive impact on her staff, colleagues and peers."

Stashko resides in South Plainfield with her husband, Steve and their dogs.

Unity Bancorp, Inc., is a financial service organization headquartered in Clinton. Unity Bank provides financial service to retail, corporate and small business clients through its twelve full service Retail Financial Centers located throughout Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset, and Union Counties.

For additional information about Unity Bank, please call 800-618-BANK or visit the website at [www.unitybank.com](http://www.unitybank.com).

### South Plainfield Native Initiated into Alpha Lambda Delta

Marietta College sophomore Matthew Peloquin, a native of South Plainfield, accepted membership and was initiated into National Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. This freshman honorary is presented to those students who had a 3.5 cumulative grade point average their first year.

Matthew the son of Thomas and Linda Peloquin of South Plainfield, is majoring in petroleum engineering and is a graduate of South Plainfield High School.

"We were very impressed with the amount of students invited to join Alpha Lambda Delta," said president to the society Laura Tompkins. "This displays the great academics that Marietta provides to its students."

"Alpha Lambda Delta encourages growth in the intellectual climate at Marietta," said Dr. Mark Miller, faculty advisor to the society.

Located in Marietta, Ohio, at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, Marietta is a four-year liberal arts college. Today Marietta serves a body of 1,150 full-time students.

## Calling All Student Writers! Observer and Hometown Heros to Sponsor Junior Journalist Writing Contest

The South Plainfield Observer and Hometown Heros is co-sponsoring a writing program entitled "The Junior Journalist Corner." The program will encourage students to write and then reward them for their efforts.

The program will be coordinated and promoted in all South Plainfield schools. Students will be able to submit their own original poetry, article, opinion piece or essay.

Teachers in all of the schools have agreed to help with and to submit the students' original writings to Hometown Heros and the Observer. After reading and judging students' works, a winner will be selected and his or her article will be published in the Observer with a byline each week. Watch upcoming issues for winners and published works.

Students whose articles are selected will win a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros, which will be delivered to their homes.

At the end of the school year, winning students and their parents will be treated to a banquet and each will receive a certificate of achievement for their journalistic efforts.

All students are encouraged to submit their essays, poems, opinion pieces or articles to their teachers. Each school has already been notified about the rules on submissions.

For more information on the contest, or if you would like the name of your school contact, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, or stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

## Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County urgently need caring volunteers to perform a valuable charitable act (mitzvah)—delivering meals to homebound clients.

The Kosher Meals on Wheels Program is a five-day-a-week service that provides two daily meals to seniors and disabled individuals who are temporarily or permanently unable to shop or cook for themselves.

Volunteers are asked to commit a

minimum of two delivery dates per month, with each route running approximately 90 minutes. Meals are distributed at our Edison office weekdays at 10 a.m. Someone who is unable to drive can still make a meaningful contribution as a "jumper"—a navigator who works alongside the driver to deliver meals.

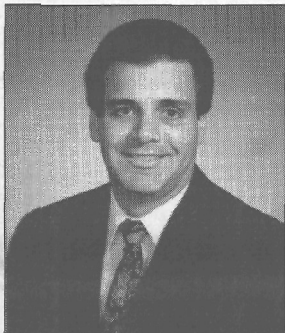
Call Sara Ullman or Fran Starr today to set up a meeting: (732) 777-1940.

### Dr. DeCosta Receives Chiropractic Award

Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, a South Plainfield chiropractor, recently received an award from the New Jersey Chiropractic Forum (The Forum), at its annual convention in Atlantic City. The Forum, which consists of all state and regional Chiropractic organizations, recognized and thanked Dr. DeCosta for his dedication and support to the Chiropractic Profession.

The inscription on the plaque presented to Dr. DeCosta reads, "With thanks and appreciation for your dedication to the Chiropractic Profession and your tireless efforts towards promoting Chiropractic in the State of New Jersey."

Dr. DeCosta, whose office is located at 129 South Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, is in his 26<sup>th</sup> year of practice. He is a member of the International Chiropractors Association, the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors,



Dr. Anthony DeCosta

the Central Jersey Chiropractic Society, and the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association. He maintains a family practice of Chiropractic and currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Council of New Jersey Chiropractors.

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## Donating Your Vehicle May be Worth More Than You Think

The biggest problem most people face when buying a new car is what to do with the used one. There are three basic options—trading it in means taking less than it's worth, selling it means dealing with a lot of inconvenience. Donating it means getting an itemized tax deduction for its true value and helping a favorite charity.

That's where Cars4charities comes in. They handle the entire donation process, from start to finish and send the entire net proceeds to the charity you select. Owners simply log onto

[www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org) or call cars4charities at (866) 448-3487 and the vehicle's will be picked up in a matter of days, free of charge.

Cars4charities handles all the logistics and provides the donor with all appropriate tax paperwork. "This is a great program for people who want to help a charity, but aren't able to make a significant cash contribution," says Karen Campese, CEO of cars4charities. For information, visit [www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org) or call (866) 448-3487 (GIVE-4-US).

## Send Your Wishes to Santa in a Letter

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is again sponsoring "Letters to Santa." Children who want to write to Santa should drop their letters in the special mailbox at the post

office on Oak Tree Ave. To guarantee a response, include child's full name and address somewhere in the letter.

Santa looks forward to hearing from everyone!

## NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

"Be Prepared"... More Than a Motto for Scouting

During the course of any given week at the Senior Center, questions will arise dealing with legal and health issues and how to prepare for possible disability or incapacitation. It is never too early to think about "getting your affairs in order." In fact, it is a vitally important matter for our seniors. If you want to control your financial, legal and health affairs in the event that you become unable to make decisions on your own, you should consider drafting some important legal documents with the guidance of a lawyer specialized in family or elder law matters.

By preparing a set of documents, you can indicate your wishes in life and in death, preserve your nest egg and

make decisions if you become incapacitated. If you need long-term health care or suffer from catastrophic illness, you may watch all of your savings "go out the window." These documents as a package will bring you a long way to protecting your assets from catastrophic loss and notifying your loved ones about your preferences regarding medical care.

There are four legal documents which form the foundation of good estate planning. These include a Durable Power of Attorney, a Living Will and a Health Care Proxy or Medical Power of Attorney and a Last Will and Testament. Over the next few weeks, I will attempt to give you an overview of each of these documents in basic terms. Please note that the contents of these articles are only meant as a general guide. I am not an attorney and I do not practice law. My point is to urge our older residents to seek legal assistance and establish a definite plan for themselves and their family.

This week's topic is Power of Attorney. Power of Attorney is a written document in which you, as "principal," name another individual as your "agent," to act on your behalf in handling your affairs. For example, your agent can sign checks and make deposits, pay bills, contract for medical and professional services, sell property, obtain insurance and do all the things you do in

managing your day-to-day affairs.

The term "durable" in reference to a power of attorney means that the power remains in force for the lifetime of the principle, even if he or she becomes incapacitated. A principle may cancel a power of attorney at any time for any reason. The powers granted on a power of attorney document can be very broad or very narrow in accordance with the needs of the principle.

The lack of a properly prepared and executed power of attorney can cause extreme difficulties when a person is stricken with a severe illness of injury rendering them unable to make decisions or manage financial and medical affairs. Advance preparation of the power of attorney can avoid the inconvenience and expense of legal proceedings. Without a power of attorney document, legal procedures for guardianship or conservatorship would be required once the principle becomes incapacitated. Once a serious, disabling condition occurs, it's too late. So don't put important matter off.

### Correction

In the November 14 issue, "David Hnatiuk and Danielle Datz are Married" the groom's parents names were omitted. They are Maryellen and Gregory Hnatiuk of South Plainfield. We apologize for the omission.

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# Students Honor Vets in Song

by Patricia Abbott

"Freedom is Not Free, Thank You Veterans" read the banner at Franklin Elementary School. The school is a vision of patriotism, colorful artwork and essays line the hallways.

Veterans Day at Franklin School is a much-anticipated event. The staff strives to instill in each student a basic understanding of the holiday. Even the youngest student can offer a simple explanation detailing the importance of our veterans. The students bask in the glow of knowing they have learned something important.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11 the guests of honor, over 30 veterans from all branches of service, lined the stage. Across the front of the room were this year's featured performers, second grade students sporting red, white and blue tee shirts. The rest of the student body and dozens of parents filled the



gym to standing room only.

The afternoon began with a rousing Armed Forces medley and a procession of flags. The students, some struggling to keep their flag upright, proudly paraded past the Veterans. Several Franklin School alumni; SPHS chorus members Katie Mott, John Roesch, Michael Duquette and Susan Mott had been invited to join the students in song.

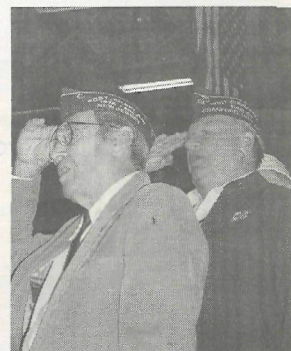
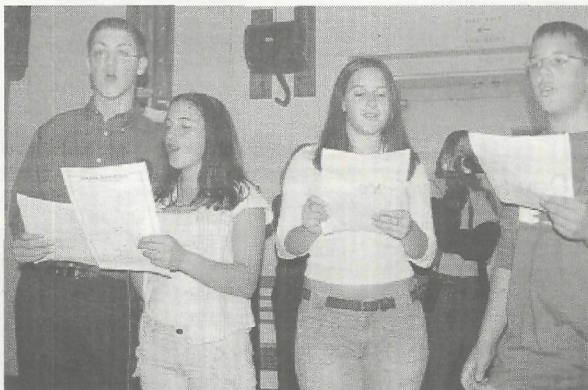
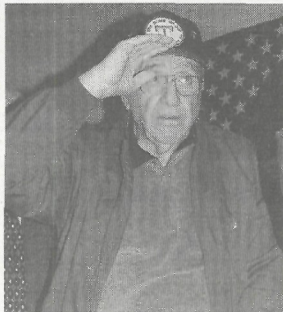
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students Alexis Cargill, Joseph Krawiec and Jordan Robinson. With the help of Principal Nancy Erickson original poems and essays were read by winners Shannon McMahon, Jamie Bohn, Thomas Willey, Brittany Titus, Jena

Cianfrocca and Jennifer Teece.

A touching tribute to the Veterans was highlighted by a slide display. Several years ago Art teacher MaryEllen Kopf had also created an eye-catching piece of artwork that has become a mainstay of the show of student patriotism. Her rendition of the famous Iwo Jima painting was done in bland colors topped with a real flag making the work seem to jump off the wall.

The Gettysburg address was read by student John Silas accompanied by music teacher Glen Parisi on trumpet.

The annual Franklin School program is an event that has to be experienced to be truly appreciated. By the final mournful note of TAPS, there were hearts filled with pride and eyes glistening with unshed tears.



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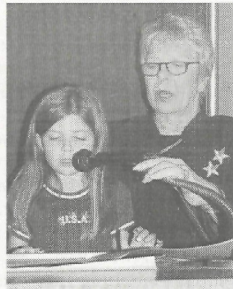
# Frankly Speaking

## Students Pay Tribute to Vets

### Veterans Day Essay by Shannon McMahon

I am proud to be an American and so are my Pa-Pas and Uncle. My Pa-Pas and Uncle are Veterans. They were soldiers that fought for peace. Even though I was not born yet, I know they did a good job fighting for America. They were very brave. I thank God that they did not get hurt because I would never have gotten to meet them and give them a big hug.

My Grandpas and Uncle are heroes to me and I love them very much. I will always look up to them.



Shannon McMahon

### Veterans Oh Veterans by Jaime Bohn

Veterans oh Veterans thank you for fighting in the armed forces. Veterans please keep it up. We will keep on cheering for you, at home, at a parade and in our hearts. We thank you.

### Veterans Day by Thomas Willey

Our heroes are special to us because they fight for our freedom. They give up spending precious time with their families. Our heroes give their lives for our freedom, which makes us sad. They do a duty for our country that many of us would be afraid to do. They are our countries bravest men and women. I am grateful for our heroes on this Veteran's Day.



Thomas Willey

### Veteran's essay by Brittany Titus

Veterans are men and women who fought for our country and our freedom. They are brave. My Grandpa Smith was a brave man who fought in three wars. He fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He served as a sergeant in the U.S.A. Army. We all should be proud and thankful for Veterans. Veterans made this country free and great. Thank You Veterans!

### Veterans Teach Us by Jena Cianfrocca

Veterans teach us to love and to care, to hope and to shine to help and to share.

Veterans teach us to respect those who are older. They defend our freedom over and over.

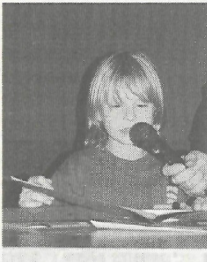
Veterans teach us to see that being in America is the best place we can be.



Jena Cianfrocca

### Veterans Day by Jennifer Teece

Thank you for protecting my family and friends and the animals. I hope God will be with the people in the armed forces.



Jaime Bohn



Brittany Titus



Jennifer Teece

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## Basket Brigade is Back

They come in flannel and old denim, baseball caps and work gloves, they knock on the door and when it is opened the occupant receives a warm smile and a cheerful "Happy Thanksgiving!" as they are handed a large box of food and a frozen turkey. These unassuming bearers of gifts in turn receive tearful hugs, profuse thanks and are often asked who sponsored the gift. The answer is always the same. "We are just the delivery service, this basket is a gift from someone who loves you, with the hope that you can do this for someone else someday when you are able." Then it is on to the next home.

The family will never know that their "delivery team" is made up of an assortment of accountants, contractors, nurses, yoga instructors, doctors, musicians, teachers and students, and will not receive one dime for their 10-20 hours of service this weekend.

What they are paid with is so much more! On Nov. 23 and 24, The Seventh Power, a local charity devoted to making a difference and being a force for good in the community will team up with The Anthony Robbins Foundation and sponsor their 15th annual Thanksgiving Basket Brigade. Working out of St. Theresa's School gymnasium in Kennilworth, they will feed approximately 1,000 local families from Essex to Sussex to Camden counties.

And they do it anonymously! "We are the ones who actually receive the biggest gift," says Brigade coordinator Christine Bertha of Maplewood. "The feeling that you get after handing the food to that family is something that will last you for the rest of your life! There is no amount of money that can buy you those memories! My six-year-old niece and nine-year-old nephew were so inspired by

what they saw that they cannot wait for this year's Basket Brigade!"

"That is what the Seventh Power is all about," adds President Willard Barth. Our Mission Statement is "Inspiring through our actions, Educating through our collective knowledge, Empowering individuals through mutual support."

We also have a number of programs to reach out and give back to the local community. Involving us with programs that help children, the homeless, aging and medically challenged is paramount to the purpose of the Seventh Power. In the last four years we have worked hand in hand with "Free Throws for Aids," "Habitat for Humanity," "The Angel Connection," "Make a Wish Foundation," as well as many local programs to provide both financial support, and even more importantly taking action as a group in helping these groups reach more people.

If you would like to be a part of this year's Basket Brigade by either volunteering time or donating money or food, you can log onto the groups website at [www.The7thpower.org](http://www.The7thpower.org) for more information call (201) 960-7603, or email [butterfly9541@allvantage.com](mailto:butterfly9541@allvantage.com).

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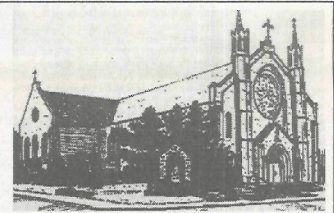
Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.  
Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 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.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m.  
and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello again. You still have almost a week to dig out the good dinnerware, order the turkey, jot down the kick-off times for the football games, stock up on Alka-Seltzer, and stake out a Mall parking space for Black Friday. So, it figures that you can take a moment to read about the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, and will be closed all day on Thursday, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Due to the Holiday closings, we're going to have an abbreviated Storytime schedule next week. We'll have one program for children ages three and over on Tuesday morning at 10:30. The program will last about an hour and feature stories and a craft activity. We'll also hold our "Books and Babies" program this morning and next Friday morning at 10:30. This program is for children ages three and under and features songs, stories and fingerplays. No pre-registration is required for these programs. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The Friends of the Library are once again sponsoring a collection drive for new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. The donated items will be distributed to the needy via the FISH, Inc. organization. The drive will run until Dec. 15. Also, we're participating again in the Books to Keep program, which distributes books to disadvantaged kids during the Holiday season. Patrons may donate new children's books for the drive, or make a monetary donation. Please give what you can to these charitable causes. For more information, please stop by the Circulation Desk.

Here's an important note: At the last meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, new policies were adopted regarding borrowing A/V items and using the Internet. These policies feature significant differences from the old ones, especially the new Net policy. We urge you to stop by the main desk and pick

up a copy of the new regulations as soon as you can.

Turning to A/V items, the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos is Wednesday. This month's titles include "The Santa Clause", "Back Street", "Black Hawk Down", "Rat Race", "Air Bud" and, on DVD, "Antwone Fisher". Get 'em while they can be got.

Meanwhile, we've also added new items to our own video collection. New DVDs include "Finding Nemo", "Holes" and "The Looney Tunes Golden Collection" in the Juvenile section, and the remake of "The In-Laws", the unrated version of "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" and "The Matrix: Reloaded" in the General Section. New VHS additions include "Barbie of Swan Lake", "The Saddle Club: The First Adventure" and new tapes featuring, respectively, Thomas the Tank Engine and Bob the Builder in the Juvenile section, with "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde", "The Fog", and episodes from "Will & Grace" and "The Sopranos" in the General section. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

You may have noticed that we've done quite a bit of rearranging in many areas of our collection. You have our word that we didn't do this just to mess around with you; we're trying to make the best possible use of our available space. If you need help finding something, please ask at the desk for assistance. Unfortunately, using a GPS system isn't an option at this juncture.

Finally, another reminder for those with cell phones and beepers. While you're in the Library, please set said beepers and phones to "inaudible" or at least crank the volume down. And, if you need to take or place a phone call, please do it outside or in the vestibule. These steps will keep you in contact with the outside world without bothering other Library patrons. As always, we appreciate your assistance.

That's about all for this week. We wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving. And, for afterwards, there's still time to look into books on weight loss.

Consumer Credit Counseling

Holiday Budgeting Tips

Take it from Santa. It is time to make that holiday gift list and check it twice. Otherwise, you may wind up with some post-holiday bills that are naughty and not so nice.

"Your first holiday tip is to establish a budget," said Mary Johnson, Supervisor of Training and Education, CCCS of NJ. "Many Americans don't have a holiday budget and those that do often don't stick to it."

Without a budget to guide your expenses, you can go through a lot of money in a hurry. In fact, many Americans do not total their holiday expenditures until the bills start rolling in sometime in January. By then, there is not much they can do.

Here are tips from CCCS of NJ on how to manage your holiday expenditures responsibly.

Create a plan. As a holiday gift buyer, your plan should be to maximize your holiday dollars. The first question is how much you want to spend. For many of us, the real question is how much you can afford to spend. Once you decide on an number, put it in writing and stick to it.

Include all holiday expenses in your budget. While gifts are the first thing that come to mind when you think of the holidays, don't forget meals out, special events, gift wrapping, greeting cards, postage and travel expenses.

Make a list of gift recipients. Will you buy for all your relatives and friends, or are you one of many who have made gift exchange arrangements? What about co-workers, neighbors, club members and sales prospects? Once you decide, write all the names down, divide them into categories and decide how much you want to spend on each category. This will give you an idea how much to spend on each person.

Buy in bulk for those unexpected gifts. Write in a soft amount of unexpected presents. Plan to have some extras on hand by investing in simple gifts anyone would enjoy. Buy items in bulk, such as elegant candles or tins of homemade cookies, which will also do nicely for party hosts.

Set aside shopping time. Shopping

may be America's favorite pastime, but it is also a lot of work. There is nothing worse than seeing an item advertised at considerably less than you paid. Luckily, the Internet, holiday catalogues and you local Yellow Pages allow comparison shopping from the comfort of your home. Start today to avoid the holiday rush.

Stick to your budget. As the holiday draw near, you may be tempted to buy that new gizmo. Don't. Many a budget has gone to pieces in the pre-holiday shopping frenzy. Fight off that last minute temptation and stay firm. Stick to your budget and you won't have to worry about post-holiday bills when the New Year starts.

Remember when buying gifts, it is the thought that counts.

For help with money management or budgeting, contact CCCS of NJ. CCCS of NJ is a non-profit, community service organization that provides confidential counseling, debt management and education programs to financially troubled consumers. It is a member of the National Foundation For Credit Counseling (NFCC). To schedule an appointment with CCCS of NJ, please call (888) 726-3260.

BOROUGHNOTES

Council Notes

■ The Mayor and Municipal Clerk have been authorized to execute the deed for Block 479 Lot 2 to Edison Wetlands Association, Inc.

■ Glenn Timmons has resigned as full-time public safety telecommunicator effective Nov. 22.

■ The council authorized the purchase of additional equipment necessary for the system upgrades being made in the Tax and Finance Departments from Hewlett Packard in the amount of \$15,945.

■ The council waived the site plan application and variance application fees for Our Lady of Czestochowa Church for the placement of a temporary trailer which will be used for office space.

■ Barbara Tacon has been hired as a Docket Clerk in the Municipal Court effective Nov. 24.

■ CME Associates will prepare the bid specifications for the standby generator to be used for the northside pumping station.

■ Angelo Paradiso has been hired as a Omnibus Operator/Recreation Leader in the Office on Aging effective Nov. 17.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
ORDINANCE 1640

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

Ord. 1640 entitled: A ORDINANCE CREATING EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR SAID POSITIONS FOR THE YEARS 2003 THROUGH 2004 was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, November 21, 2003 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

AN ORDINANCE CREATING EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR SAID POSITIONS THE YEARS 2003 THROUGH 2004.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The rates of compensation for each employee of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be on an annual basis as follows except where indicated. Such rates of pay shall be effective on January 1st of the years shown.

POSITION	2003	2004
SEWER UTILITY SUPERVISOR	7,500	7,762
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR	7,500	7,762

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.

Attest:  
Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

November 21, 2003

\$80.50

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
ORDINANCE 1639

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

Ord. 1639 entitled: A ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1440 PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, November 21, 2003 and that a public hearing be held on Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

ORDINANCE 1639

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1440 PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS 2003 THROUGH 2005.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The rates of compensation for each employee of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be on an annual basis as follows except where indicated. Such rates of pay shall be effective on January 1st of the years shown.

POSITION	2003	2004	2005
AFSCME EMPLOYEES			
ACCOUNT CLERK	14.12/hr	14.62/hr	15.13/hr
ASSISTANT ENGINEER			
ASSISTANT VIOLATIONS CLERK	24,330 - 34,330	26,182 - 36,532	26,063 - 36,776
BUILDING SUB-CODE OFFICIAL	53,882 - 63,882	55,561 - 65,911	57,506 - 68,218
CLERK TRANSCRIBER	20,875 - 30,875	21,606 - 31,956	22,362 - 33,074
CLERK TYPIST	18,077 - 28,077	18,710 - 29,060	19,385 - 30,077
SENIOR CLERK TYPIST/HOUSING ASSISTANT	21,490 - 31,490	22,242 - 32,592	23,020 - 33,733
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	48,053 - 58,053	49,735 - 60,085	51,476 - 62,188
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR	28,755 - 38,755	29,761 - 39,408	30,803 - 40,767
DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR	39,679 - 49,679	41,066 - 51,417	42,505 - 53,217
DOCKET CLERK	18,078 - 28,078	18,711 - 29,061	19,386 - 30,078
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	25.00/hr	25.00/hr	25.00/hr
POLICE RECORDS CLERK	20,369 - 30,369	21,103 - 31,453	21,841 - 32,553
PRINCIPAL CLERK TYPIST	25,088 - 35,088	25,945 - 36,295	26,853 - 37,566
PRINCIPAL PAYROLL CLERK	37,329 - 49,329	38,636 - 49,986	39,988 - 50,700
PRINCIPAL TAX CLERK	33,562 - 43,562	34,737 - 45,087	35,952 - 46,665
RECREATION ATTENDANT	20,064 - 30,064	20,766 - 31,116	21,493 - 32,205
SENIOR CITIZEN VAN DRIVER	24.16/hr	Position Eliminated after 2003	
SENIOR CLERK TRANSCRIBER	31,188 - 41,188	32,280 - 42,630	33,409 - 44,122
SENIOR CLERK TYPIST	21,490 - 31,490	22,242 - 32,592	23,020 - 33,733
SENIOR DOCKET CLERK	21,490 - 31,490	22,242 - 32,592	23,020 - 33,733
SENIOR POLICE RECORDS CLERK	28,091 - 38,091	29,074 - 39,424	30,092 - 40,804
SENIOR POLICE RECORDS CLERK/TRANSCRIBER	21,459 - 31,459	22,210 - 32,560	22,987 - 33,700
SENIOR RECYCLING/GROUNDSKEEPER	33,040 - 43,040	34,196 - 44,546	35,393 - 46,106
SUPERVISOR OF ACCOUNTS	40,515 - 50,515	41,933 - 52,283	43,401 - 54,113
SOCIAL WORKER	47,337 - 57,337	48,991 - 59,344	50,705 - 61,421
PERMIT CLERK	26,068 - 36,068	26,980 - 37,330	27,925 - 38,637
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	32,455 - 42,455	33,591 - 43,941	34,766 - 45,479
PAYROLL SUPERVISOR	40,329 - 50,329	41,741 - 52,091	43,201 - 53,914
SENIOR CLERK BOOKKEEPER	45,108 - 55,108	46,687 - 57,037	48,321 - 59,033
VIOLATIONS CLERK	26,330 - 36,330	27,252 - 37,602	28,205 - 38,918
DATA ENTRY MACHINE OPERATOR/INTERPRETER	22,490 - 32,490	23,277 - 33,627	24,092 - 34,804
DATA CLERK TYPING/RECORDER OPERATOR COURT	16,578 - 26,578	17,228 - 27,578	17,901 - 28,613
PRINCIPAL CASHIER	27,000 - 37,000	27,945 - 38,295	28,923 - 39,635
CASHIER	18,000 - 28,000	18,630 - 28,980	19,282 - 29,994
PRINCIPAL CLERK TRANSCRIBER (POLICE RECORDS)	23,385 - 33,385	24,203 - 34,553	25,051 - 35,763

POSITION	2003	2004	2005
NON-UNION EMPLOYEES			
ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK TYPING	29,985 - 39,985	31,034 - 41,384	32,121 - 42,833
PRINCIPLE CLERK REGISTRAR / VITAL STATISTICS	33,380 - 43,380	34,528 - 44,878	35,736 - 46,446
COMPUTER SERVICE TECHNICIAN	34,682 - 44,682	35,896 - 46,246	37,152 - 47,864
SECRETARY TO PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER	23,990 - 33,990	24,830 - 35,180	25,699 - 36,411

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.

Attest:  
Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC  
Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield

November 21, 2003

\$201.25

Arm Chair Horse Racing at "Fun Night"

The Ladies Auxiliary of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad held their annual Fun Night on Nov. 8 at the Italian American Club. The event was catered by Flanagan's.


The evening of Arm Chair Horse Racing offers the fun of being at the track without the hassle of travel. Guests enjoyed not only the thrill of the race but door prizes, a 50/50 drawing and theme raffle baskets. The Fun Night was chaired by auxiliary member Joan Cantamessa.

The goal of Fun Night is to "raise sufficient funds for the Rescue Squad so they may purchase essential equipment to assist them in carrying on the important service they are rendering to our community." The South Plainfield Rescue Squad volunteers have been providing free emergency medical service to the community for 59 years.

Ladies Auxiliary officers are President Darla Woodel; Vice President Denise Neto; Corresponding Secretary Kathy Smolinski; Recording Secretary Tracey Mellor and Historian Patricia Fizur. Members include: Joan Cantamessa, Nancy Colvard, Dolly Curcio, Joanne Eroglu, Marion Gallagher, Dianne Mills, Rose Penkunas, Tracy Smizaski, Doris Tripet and Elsie Websterh.



Pictured is the one of the many baskets up for grabs at Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary Fun Night.



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## Mayor Council Seeks to Fill Vacancies on Boards, Agencies and Commissions

The Mayor and Council are now accepting letters of interest and resumes from anyone interested in serving on a Borough board, agency, committee or commission for the calendar year of 2004. The following boards, agencies, committees and commissions are looking for members.

ing for members.

Business Advisory Group (business owners only) on the first Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.

Cultural Arts Commission on the second Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m.  
Environmental Commission on the

second Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m.

Planning Board on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m.

Public Celebration Committee to be determined.

Senior Citizen Advisory Commis-

sion on the first Monday of the month at 5 p.m.

Taxpayers Advisory Group on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.

Please forward your resume, along with which board(s) you wish to serve on to: Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher or Council President James Vokral at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 no later than Dec. 8, 2003.

# Bank mergers can be unbearable.



Fleet Bank & Bank of America are merging. Yeah. It's a Big Deal. And there are more NJ bank mergers predicted. For NJ banking customers, here's what's in store at all these newly merged mega-bank stores ...

- IMPERSONAL Service PLUS
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- Merging of 2 Computer Systems
- Merging of 2 Corporate Cultures
  - Confused Tellers
- Longer Lines • More Waiting
- New Check Books (again)
- New Account #'s (again)

### Tired of your bank's identity crisis?

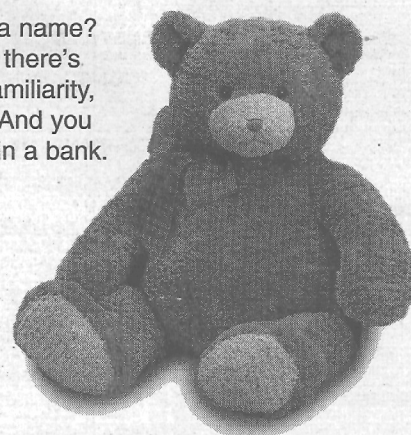
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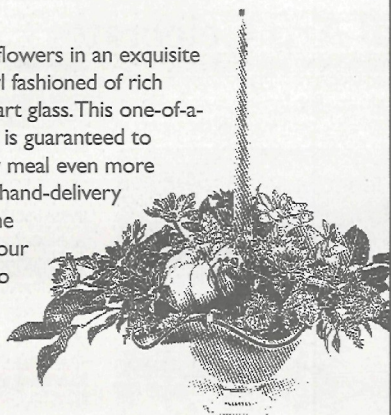
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40 LBS \$10.99

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Sunflower Stripes  
25 LBS \$7.99  
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SUNFLOWER OIL  
25LB. \$6.99 • 50LB. \$13.00

SUNFLOWER BLEND  
25LB. \$7.50 • 50LB. \$13.99

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### PURINA DEALERS PRIDE DOG

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Thistle Seed 50 LB. \$34.50 Safflower Seed 50 LB. \$25.00  
Sunflower Chips 5 LB. \$3.95 Peanut Hearts 5 lb. \$4.00  
Sunflower Chips 10 LB. \$7.25 Peanut Hearts 10 lb. \$7.00  
Sunflower Chips 25 LB. \$15.99 Peanut Hearts 25 lb. \$16.00  
Sunflower Chips 50 LB. \$31.00 Peanut Hearts 50 lb. \$31.00

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All Bird Feeders **NOW 20% OFF**

## BOE President Responds to Questions

(Continued from page 1)

operations. After meeting with the new auditors, the superintendent and the business administrator also began investigating a number of areas concerning our financial operations. During the course of the summer, they uncovered a number of issues that dated back to the prior years audit and in fact; some of the problems had existed for a number of years prior to the last audit. In subsequent meetings with the auditors, the board has also verified that these problems do exist and the Board will be taking the necessary steps to improve our financial process from this point forward.

"It was noted in our prior audit report that we had gone a year without tying our Treasurer of School Monies report to our Board Secretary's report. This is a critical example of the everyday maintenance of our financial program that was not in compliance. As of our October meeting, the board has approved and is up to date on all board secretary's reports and Treasurer of School Monies reports and has them in compliance. Our new auditors have addressed a number of issues. One recommendation-called for a careful review of documentation supporting the filing of paperwork made when completing the application for state school funding. It has been discovered that forms had not been filed with the state for payroll tax social security reimbursement for a period of time dating back to 2001. We have been able to recoup a majority of these funds except for one payment from June 2002. We have also found several adult school accounts have never been accurately

posted in the district's financial records and have also uncovered an unpaid past bill dating back almost ten years which may result in fines and penalties. These omissions occurred over a long period of time.

"The decision to change auditors was a critical one and they have done a great deal to set our financial house in order. After the auditors complete last year's audit, the board will ask our firm to continue to thoroughly exam the current year's budget to ensure problems that have been identified are being corrected and to verify we have not gone off target in any other areas. Many of the problems have existed for a number of years. However, at no time have we been informed we are in any jeopardy financially, and in fact, remain completely solvent in our ability to pay all salaries, bills, and all other

obligations as required by law. When the upcoming audit report has been completed we will have a clearer picture of any additional corrective action, which may need to be taken. It is this board's unanimous decision to correct these mistakes and move forward so we can concentrate on improving programs for our students.

"When our audit report is issued, we will be happy to entertain public discussion on this topic. Throughout the process, board members have been kept apprised of the progress of the audit through the Finance Committee as well as the board president. I personally appreciate the board's agreement on finally correcting problems, which were initiated in the past but impact the present and future financial reporting practices of the district."

## Youths Involved in Brawl at Cinema

On Saturday evening six youths were arrested at the Regal Cinema on Corporate Ct. after an altercation involving knives and a pipe.

Michael Hatchett, 20, and his brother Paris Hatchett, 18, of Piscataway had come to the movie theater in search of four other Piscataway juveniles in response to a previous altercation in their town.

One juvenile received a seven inch laceration on his neck and jaw line requiring surgery and numerous staples to close it. Paris Hatchett was transported to St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick where he received fifteen stitches for a severe facial laceration.

The four juveniles involved were arrested following the incident and

two were charged with simple assault and two with aggravated assault and weapons violations. All were released to their parents or guardians.

Bail was set at \$15,000 for the Hatchett brothers who were charged with aggravated assault and weapons violations and were released after posting bail. South Plainfield Police Detectives James Parker and Gene Bataille are conducting an on going investigation and there are no indications that the incident was gang related.

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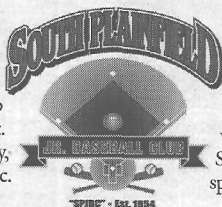


# Sports

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The Junior Baseball Club registration from now to January 1, 2004 is \$75. However, there are only two dates left to catch this early discount. The dates are Monday, Dec. 1 and Monday, Dec. 15 from 6 to 7 p.m.



After those two dates, the registration will increase to \$95. There will be no exceptions. This will give parents seven opportunities to sign their son or daughter up before the first of the year. We are also selling SPJBC club member cards for \$10. A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card and must have completed the Rutgers Certification Program. If you have volunteered already to manage or coach a team in the spring season of 2004, this serves as a reminder that you must complete the Rutgers Certification Program. The course is given through the Recreation Department.

This is the final call for equipment bags. Buddy Hutchison is asking all managers to return the SPJBC equipment bags prior to the club members meeting on December 1. If you do not return your equipment bag on this date, then you will not be coaching with us for the 2004 season.

The Junior Baseball Club is running a trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Yes, the Baseball Hall of Fame.

On Monday Dec. 29, we will be leaving 6 a.m. in the morning by bus to arrive in Cooperstown at 11:30 a.m. and take the complete tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame. We will leave Cooperstown and stop at the Old Country Buffet on the way home. This will be a great trip. Total cost for the whole trip is \$65 per person; this includes transportation, entrance to the

Hall of Fame and Buffet style dinner on the way home. We would like commitments from parents for this trip. It is very important to call the SPJBC and secure your spot on this trip now.

The Women's Auxiliary will once again be conducting "Night of Holiday Shopping." This event will take place at the Menlo Park Mall on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$8. This is a night of special shopping discounts, entertainment and events. For information, call Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531 or Betsy Spavder at (908) 757-8928.

The SPJBC is always based on volunteer efforts by parents, grandparents, and friends. A big THANK YOU to those individuals for volunteering their time and effort with helping the new executive board up to this point in time. Those of you who would like to manage and coach with us: this is a big part of the criteria for being selected as a manager or coach. Remember, "It is a new beginning."

Anyone interested in sponsoring a sign at the baseball club please call Bill Cochrane at (908) 561-6574 or the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090.

# American Martial Arts Celebrates Excellence

As American Martial Arts, located at 902 Oak Tree Rd., reaches its fifth anniversary, Master Kevin Vigneri and

his students celebrated martial art excellence. For five years now, Master Kevin has been not only the owner of



American Martial Arts, but the Head Master Instructor, giving the students consistency, thus structure. To prove that Master Kevin's way is the most effective way, his competition team currently consisting of 18 members, arrived at the Garden State Cup held on Nov. 9 with the three most important qualities: dedication, desire and discipline and they left with 11 gold, three silver, and four bronze medals in sparring; two gold, three silver and two bronze medals in forms and two gold, four silver and three bronze medals in breaking.

American Martial Arts' victory included yet another eight foot trophy for "The Best School" and Master Kevin was honored with the "Best Instructor Award."

Congratulations to Master Kevin and his competition team: Biran Patel, Juan Arrubla, Carl Kim, Daniel Quintin, Danver Quintin, Steven Hollain, Nico Hollain, Christopher Marrero, Sommer Bovell, Raymond Perez, Quincy Frederick, Denzel Mensah, Keegan Rollins, Robby O'Connell, Richard Kazandzhidi, Lorenzo Graham, Neel Shah and Samer Shah. Great Job!

## Wrestling Sign-Ups Extended

It's not too late to sign up for the most successful recreation program in the borough. Sign your son or daughter up for the wrestling program anytime at the PAL, Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

The Rec wrestling program has won the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League championship six of the last seven years, while the middle school

has won the NJ Grade School League championship the last two years. The high school team has captured two state titles and four sectional titles and seven of the last nine Red Division GMC titles.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The logo is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "SOUTH PLAINFIELD" at the top and "RESCUE SQUAD" at the bottom. The center of the emblem features a stylized Maltese cross, which is a cross with eight points. A thick horizontal bar is superimposed over the center of the cross.

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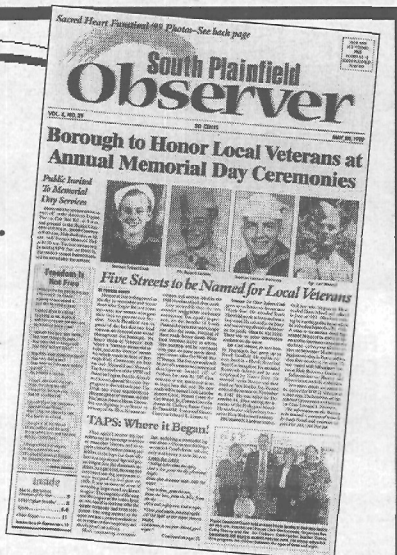
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Notice to Absent Defendant

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Richard H. Hauck, Deceased, his heirs, devisees and personal representatives, and his, her, their, or any of their successors in right, title and interest

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 420; Sentry Office Plaza; 216 Haddon Avenue; Westmont, NJ 08108, phone # (856) 858-3242, an answer to the Amended Complaint (and Amendments to Amended Complaint, if any), filed in a civil action, in which Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. is plaintiff, and Richard H. Hauck, Deceased; Camille Mirachi Hauck, wife of Richard H. Hauck, Deceased; Richard G. Hauck; William G. Hauck; and James J. Hauck, Sr. is/are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-8147-03 within thirty-five (35) days after November 21, 2003 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint (and Amendments to Amended Complaint, if any). You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated November 12, 1996, made by Richard H. Hauck, married as mortgagor(s), to First United Mortgage Company, Inc. recorded on November 15, 1996, for Middlesex County in Book 5188, Page 387 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., by Assignment recorded on January 17, 1997 for Middlesex County in Book 666, Page 666; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 56 Claremont Ave., North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-732-249-8000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 249-7600.

YOU, Richard H. Hauck, Deceased, his heirs, devisees and personal representatives, and his, her, their, or any of their successors in right, title and interest, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you are the unknown heirs of Richard H. Hauck, deceased who was the record owner of the mortgaged premises and executed the bond or note and mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency thereon, and for any right, title claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

DONALD F. PHELAN, Clerk  
Superior Court of New Jersey

\$80.50 November 21, 2003

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

#### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jason Lee requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit to move existing 2-family house back to another location on lot. Lacks 15' side setback, lacks 10' rear setback. Applicant will construct new foundation; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 416 Hamilton Blvd., Block 326, Lot 3+4 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, Dec. 4, 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 1T November 21, 2003

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

#### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Luke Canestri requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an add-a-level: lacks a 30' front setback; 25.24' is proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1835 Eganey St. Block 162, Lot 9 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, Dec. 4, 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 1T November 21, 2003

#### LEGAL NOTICE

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE No. 1638

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

Ordinance #1638 entitled: A ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 335 LOT 1 IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD TO JOHN MATWIJCOW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00 was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield at 7:00 p.m. on November 13, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$26.25 November 21, 2002

## SDW Asking For Resumes

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is seeking resumes for their creative and production staff for their 2004 season.

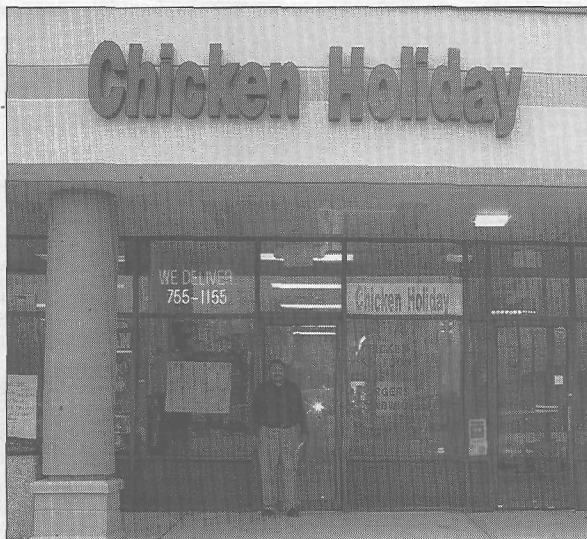
Resumes are being accepted for the following positions: director, choreographer, vocal director, orchestra director, assistant director, assistant vocal director, rehearsal pianist, stage manager, scenic designer/technical director, set coordinator, lighting designer and costume coordinator. There are also opportunities for interns from recognized schools and colleges. All positions are paid by stipend.

If any more information is needed, please contact the SPSPDW at [www.spsdw.com](http://www.spsdw.com), or leave a message at (908) 561-5255.

Materials can be e-mailed to the site above, or faxed to (908) 756-8790. Deadline for submissions is December 31. Applicants will be scheduled for an interview early next year.

## Elks Selling Entertainment Books

Elks Selling The South Plainfield Elks Veterans committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.



## Chicken Holiday Opens in Golden Acres Shopping Center

This week, Chicken Holiday opened its doors in the Golden Acres Shopping Center, next to Charlie's Ice Cream Factory. This is a full menu eatery, serving chicken, marinated spare ribs, seafood and salads. Entrees can be deep fried, grilled, or broiled and each dinner comes with a choice of a snack. Customers can eat in or take out.

The owner and manager is Uddin Gowhar.

MasterCard and Visa Cards are accepted for orders of \$10 or more. Catering for parties is also available. Since 1980, Chicken Holiday cooks foods the "cholesterol free way."

For more information, call (908) 755-1155 or fax (908) 755-1325.

## Night of Holiday Shopping at Menlo Park Mall

The Junior Baseball Club's Woman's Auxiliary is selling tickets for an "Evening of Giving" to be held on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.. The event takes place at Menlo Park Mall. This is the seventh year the women are participating in this night of special shopping, discounts, entertainment and events. Entertainment will be hosted by WPLJ radio and an appearing will be soap star Aden from "All My Children."

Ticket price is \$8. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Stacy lake (908) 757-9531 or Betsy Spayder at (908) 757-8928.

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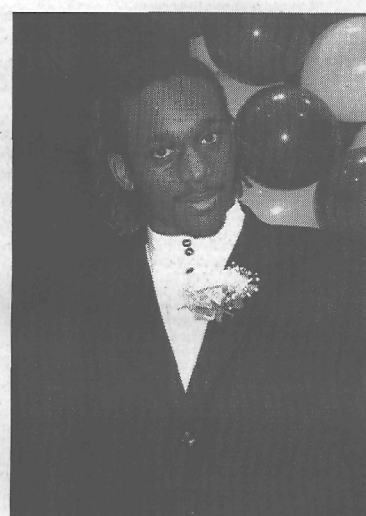
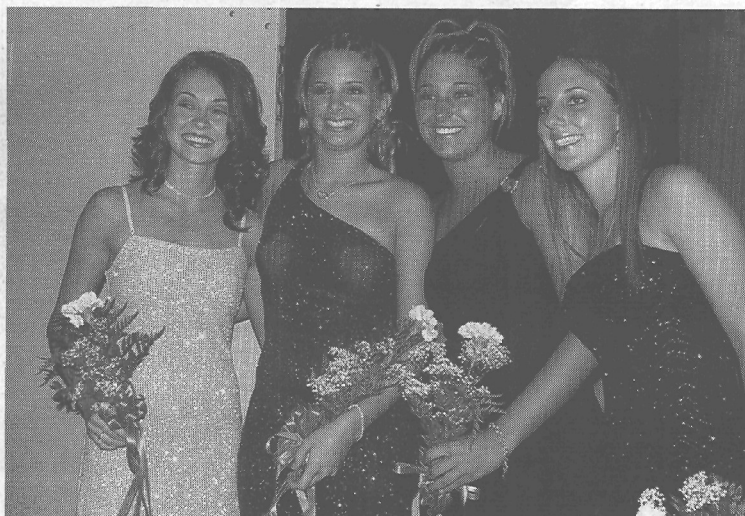
The Lacerda Team on average will net their sellers \$6300 more than the average realtor (Based on a \$285,000 property)

\*statistical information obtained by Middlesex County Multiple Listing Service 1/01/2003 through 6/30/2003

2003 Report Card	Middlesex MLS	Lacerda Team
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## High School Selects 2003 Homecoming Court

(Continued from page 1)

curls were adjusted, and boutonnieres pinned in place. After a last exchange of well-wishes, hugs and handshakes, the exciting evening began. One at a time the 30 nominees—19 girls and 11 boys—were escorted center stage. Masters of Ceremonies Steven Novak and Mrs. Zoda introduced each student and read a brief bio about them.

The field was then narrowed to twelve. Receiving a ribbon proclaiming them part of the Royal Court were Elaine Alexander, Kelly Butrico, Brittany DeNitizio, Amanda Rastelli, Jessica Rodger and Chiara Tomei, Ryan Decker, Christopher Dickerson, Miguel Garcia, Daniel

Lammi, Jon Rodger and Guy Severini. Escorts for the nominees were Junior student council members.

The evening progressed quickly as Jessica Rodger and Ryan Decker were named second runners up and Amanda Rastelli and Chris Dickerson, first runners up. Several long seconds of silence passed before Brittany DeNitizio and Miguel Garcia were named Queen and King. The room burst into cheers and wild applause as they were crowned by last year's winners Crystal Soto and Chris Baron from last year's court.

The fun continued after the pageant.

Brittany said, "About 50 seniors went out to T.G.I. Fridays for dinner. It was so great to be able to be together and celebrate. It's times like these that I'll cherish forever."

Students were self-nominated. Requirements included, senior with a minimum a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and no suspensions. Students and faculty voted for up to six each for queen and king.

Other nominees were: Kaitlin Bundy, Shade Coleman, Charlyn Magat, Danielle Nobile,

**"I was thrilled about winning the title and felt honored to be selected among so many worthy candidates."**

— Homecoming King Miguel Garcia

Matina Ganiaris, Arielle Fumosa, Tara Israel, Kristie Butrico, Heather Loenser, Catherine Flannery, Kristen

Kunie, Janice Hussian, Shannon Boyles, Will Hamilton, Wajdi Kanj, Greg Publik, Vincent Carubia, and Danny Sierzaga.

On Thanksgiving morning Brittany and Miguel will join the North Plainfield Queen and King on the NPHS football field for the coin toss before the big game.



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## About the Nominees.....

**Homecoming Queen Brittany Lee DeNizio**, Senior Class president, is active with Student Council, Peer Facilitators, Announcers Club. She is treasurer of the National Honor Society, Chorus librarian, member of the Emeralds and clarinet section leader with the Tiger Marching Band. Brittany is a cheerleader for winter sports and volunteers as a fourth grade CCD teacher.

**Homecoming King Miguel Garcia**, Senior Class vice president, exemplifies what involvement at SPHS means. He is captain of the Varsity Boy's Soccer team and Competition Cheerleading Squad and a member of the Spring Track Team.

First runner up **Amanda Rastelli** is Student Council president and maintains a 3.7 GPA. A member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, French Club, Jersey History Club, Peer Facilitators and Announcers Club, she is also co-captain of the Field Hockey team.

First runner up **Chris Dickerson** is president of R.A.R.E. and Peer Facilitators. He is a member of the National Honor Society as well as captain of the football team and the track team.

Second runner up **Jessica Rodger** is Senior Class secretary. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and Student Council, the mascot for the Varsity Cheerleading squad and the manager for the Tiger Baseball team.

Second runner up **Ryan Decker** maintains a 4.2 GPA. He is National Honor Society vice president and is on the Executive Board of the Student Council. An active member of the Spanish National Honor Society, he has participated in basketball and track.

Other members of the Royal Court are: **Chiara Tomei** has a 3.1 GPA, is

active in sports and plays varsity soccer, basketball and softball, and is also involved with chorus and orchestra.

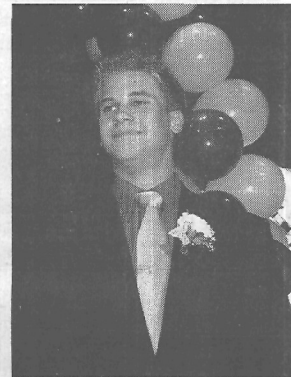
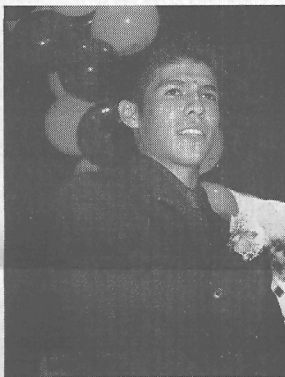
**Elaine Alexander** is a Varsity cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Student Council, and vice president of the Journalism Club.

**Kelly Butrico** has been on the cheerleading squad for four years and has been dancing at Spotlight on Dance for 14 years. She is currently a member of the Yearbook staff.

**Danny Lammi** is very much involved with SPHS music programs. He is captain of the Tiger Marching Band Drum Line, and a member of the Concert and Jazz bands. Danny is drummer for the rock band "Level Zero."

**Jon Rodger** is captain of the Varsity Football team. He is also a member of the track team and weightlifting club.

**Guy Severini** is a member of the Wrestling and Golf teams. He played freshman football and was on the varsity team his sophomore year. He is a member of R.A.R.E. and the Facilitators and is currently running the Freshman Facilitating Program for R.A.R.E.



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## Obituaries

### August Joseph Chiarella, 46

August Joseph Chiarella of Piscataway died on Thursday, Nov. 13 at his home.

Gus was born in Jersey City and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Piscataway 37 years ago.

Gus was a truck driver for MIDCO Waste Company in New Brunswick for 12 years.

He loved boating and fishing at the Jersey shore, especially fishing in the Raritan Bay. His favorite lake for boating and fishing was Lake George in New York.

He was predeceased by his parents, August L. Chiarella who died in 1976 and his mother, Frances Pica Chiarella who died in May of 2003.

He is survived by his brother, Anthony Chiarella of Piscataway.

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

### Elizabeth A. (Diehl) Vargo, 87

Elizabeth A. (Diehl) Vargo died on Thursday, Nov. 13 in the Care One Center, The Highlands in Edison.

Mrs. Vargo was born in South Plainfield, where she resided for most of her life before moving to Piscataway in 1967.

She was employed as a head bookkeeper for First National Bank in South Plainfield for 15 years, retiring in 1967.

Mrs. Vargo was a former member of the North Plainfield Storr Richie VFW Post Ladies Auxiliary and of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her son, Thomas "Skip" Allison.

Surviving is her husband, Philip Vargo; a daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Allison and three grandchildren, Scott Allison, Dawn Roche and Danielle Allison.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Charlene A. (O'Corr) Spencer, 68

Charlene A. (O'Corr) Spencer died on Thursday, Nov. 13 at Rahway Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Carbondale, Pa., she had resided in Scranton, Pa. before settling in South Plainfield 42 years ago.

During the early 1960's, she was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and was also active with the Roosevelt School PTA during the 1970's.

She is survived by four daughters and their husbands, Cathleen Spencer and Patricio Olalla, Lynne and Michael Shinkle, Kimberly and Richard Jackson and Charlene and David Hall; three sons, Michael and his wife, Sandy, Arthur and his long time girl-

friend, Jeanette Di Somma and Mark Spencer; her former husband, Art Spencer; two sisters, Rose Finelli and Evelyn Gabriel and her brother, Charles O'Corr.

Also surviving are her grandchildren, Tracy, Michael and Kelly Spencer; Tara, Artie and Bethany Spencer; Christian, Patricio and Marisio Olalla; Steven and Richard Shinkle; Danielle, Ryan, Spencer and Lauren Jackson; Mackenzie and Paige Hall and her six great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the So. Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2480 Plainfield Ave., So. Plainfield, NJ 07080.

### John C. Della Sala, 73

John C. Della Sala died on Friday, Nov. 14 at his home.

Born in Orange, he grew up in East Orange and then settled in South Plainfield in 1957.

He was employed as a candy and tobacco salesman for Monteverdi, distributing and later worked as the transportation director for the Wardlaw-Hartridge School of Edison. He retired three weeks ago.

A veteran of the United States Army, he served during the Korean War as a Supply Sergeant.

He excelled in athletics during his high school days at E. Orange High School, where he was named All State in Baseball and All County in Football. He was awarded a baseball scholarship to attend St. Louis University. He was later drafted to the St. Louis Browns baseball organization, now the Orioles, where he played as catcher. He still holds the E. Orange High School's highest batting average.

Mr. Della Sala was a member of the Elmwood Tigers Association of East Orange and the So. Plainfield Italian American Progressive Legion. He was also commissioner of Recreation for So. Plainfield and had been active, for many years, with the So. Plainfield Little League and had served on their board.

He is survived by his wife, Valetta (Padalino); two daughters and their husbands, Deborah and Edward Miller and Denise and Joseph O'Connor, all of So. Plainfield; two sons and their wives, John, Jr. and Beth of Freehold and Glenn and Ann of So. Plainfield and his sister, Molly Tangerie of Colonia.

Also surviving are his grandchildren, Christina, Jennifer, Kimberly, Amy, Andrew, Shane, Cody, Dylan, Troy, Brittany and Nicholas.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Frank Joseph Brandt, 84

Frank Joseph Brandt, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, Nov. 13 at his home in Visalia, California.

Frank was born in New York to the

late Anton and Kathryn Brandt and was a long time resident of South Plainfield before moving to Visalia five years ago.

Frank served his country in WWII, serving in the US Navy. He served on the USS Sierra and the USS Prairie from 1941 to 1945.

After the war, he was an insulator for American Cyamid in Bound Brook for 44 years before retiring.

He was an active member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. He loved bowling and bowled with the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus team. He enjoyed golf and was a caddy at the Plainfield Country Club for 50 years.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 57 years, Claire Brandt who died on Jan. 20, 1998.

He is survived by his son, Richard and his wife, Irene Brandt of Visalia, CA; two grandchildren, Meriah and Richard Brandt II of Hanford, CA and three step-grandchildren, Ian Hochfeld of San Diego, CA, Jayson Cody of the US Marine Corp and Bryan Cody of Visalia.

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

### Robert D. Poggio, 56

Robert D. Poggio died on Friday, Nov. 14 at his home.

Born in Flushing, NY, he grew up in Bayside, NY and graduated from Farmingdale State College with a degree in Food Technology in 1966. He then entered the United States Army, where he served until 1969 and in 1972, he and his wife settled in So. Plainfield.

Mr. Poggio was employed with the USDA as an inspector for the past 35 years.

A fishing enthusiast, he loved to fish for trout and ice fish during the winter months. In addition, he had been a member of the Warren County Rod & Gun Club for the past 25 years.

He is predeceased by his parents, Aldo and Catherine.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine (Dougherty) Poggio; two sons, Anthony of White House Station and Michael and his wife, Kim Poggio of So. Plainfield; his brother, Aldo, Jr., of Florida and his two grandchildren, Brianna and Michael, Jr.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the National Wildlife Federation, 11100 Wildlife Center Dr., Reston, Va. 20190, or to a charity of one's choice.

### Vivian J. (McCallen) Donahue, 75

Vivian J. (McCallen) Donahue died on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Atlantic City Mainland Hospital in Galloway, NJ.

Born in Perth Amboy, she had resided in the Central New Jersey area

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before settling in South Plainfield 55 years ago.

She is predeceased by her husband, Charles W. Donahue, Sr. and her grandson, Thomas Jr.

Surviving is her daughter, Karen Stuart; four sons, Thomas of South Plainfield, Kenneth of Wisconsin, Dan of North Carolina and Charles Jr. of Rhode Island and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Ronald C. Smith, Sr., 71

Ronald C. Smith, Sr., of Barnegat died on Thursday, Nov. 13 at the Southern Ocean County Hospital, Manahawkin.

Mr. Smith was born in Irvington and lived in South Plainfield before moving to Barnegat.

He was a Navy veteran, having served in the Korean War. Mr. Smith had worked for Conway Auto Parts of Manahawkin, retiring in 2000. He had been previously employed by Emerson Quiet Cool of Woodbridge for ten years and by Plibrico Sales & Service of Newark for 21 years as a

brick layer and was a 50-year member of the Brick Layers Union Local #4 of Newark.

He had been a communicant of St. Mary's RC Church, Barnegat and was an avid golfer and baseball player. In 1987, he and his son won first place in the Gates Memorial Golf Tournament played at the Plainfield West Nine Country Club.

He was predeceased by his brother, Harold Smith.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Arlene (Engelberger); his son, Ronald C., Jr. of Miami, FL; two daughters, Deborah A. Ortlieb of Holmdel and Karen A. Licato of South Plainfield; his sister, Mary Lou Pearce of Columbia Falls, MT and nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held at Bugbee-Riggs Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. Mary's Building Fund, c/o St. Mary's RC Church, 747 West Bay Ave., Barnegat, NJ 08005 or to Mt. Sinai Development Office, P.O. Box 1049, New York, NY 10029-6574. Please make checks payable to Mt. Sinai Hospital in Mr. Smith's memory.

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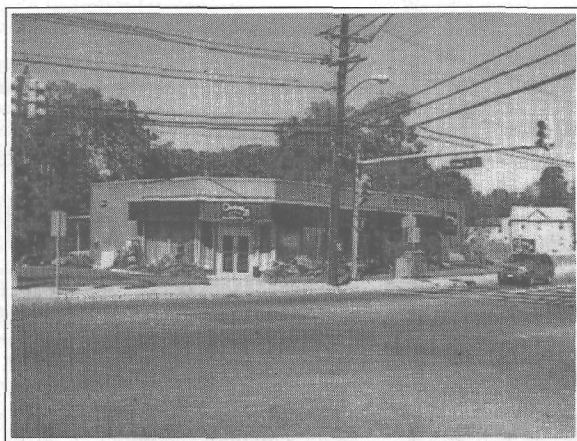
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