

# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JANUARY 9, 2004

## Former Borough Mayor Dies

Robert Mark Baldwin, Sr., native of Ridgway, Pa., died suddenly on Sunday, Dec. 28, in his home in Saylorsburg, Pa., from apparent heart failure. He was 78.

Robert was born on March 3, 1925, the son of William M. and Evelyn L. (Morgester) Baldwin. He was raised in Ridgway and left there in 1943 to serve during WWII in the 82nd Airborne Division, where he participated in "The Rhine Jump" during the time the Allies crossed into Germany in the final push to defeat the Nazis. He



Robert Mark Baldwin, Sr.,

served for a time in the Berlin occupation and then returned home in 1946.

He was married to Caroline Jean (Holt) Baldwin, daughter of Carl J. and Mary (Miller) Holt of Ridgway. Caroline predeceased Robert on July 25, 1989.

He was a musician and an artist. He made his career as a commercial artist operating The Robert M. Baldwin Advertising Company from 1948 through 1970. From 1970 until 1992 he operated a subsidiary company known as Baldwin Originals that specialized in the production of handcrafted home decorations and military memorabilia. Among his achievements were the design of "The Airborne Walk" at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and a memorial at Normandy, France.

He also served as the Republican mayor of South Plainfield from 1957 through 1963. Among his achievements as mayor were the design of a new Municipal Hall and Library Complex, the veterans' monument in front of

*Continued on page 10*

## Oh No!

Due to computer problems, we were unable to publish the winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest this week.

We will be contacting the winners and publish them next week.

Sorry for the inconvenience.



## New Business for 2004

*Council Bids Farewell to Vokral, Welcomes New Member and President; Mayor Seeks to Get Rid of the Trash*

This year's Reorganization meeting contained a few new agenda items not covered in past years. First of all the council had to say goodbye to Council President Jim Vokral, who has served for 10 years, eight as president. Vokral is taking a position Middlesex County Board of Elections Administrator.

Vokral's replacement is Kathleen Thomas, a life-long resident of South Plainfield. Taking over the reigns as council president is Dennis Cerami, who has been a councilman for nine years.

Each councilperson, as well as the mayor, expressed regrets on Vokral's departure and wished him luck in his new job. Perhaps the most difficult farewell came from Councilman Ed Kubala, who was Jim's running mate in four elections. He spoke of how they met just prior to running for office for the first time; how they became fast friends and how that friendship has continued to grow during the years they served on the council together. Kathleen Thomas said it best, "You (Vokral) are leaving the Borough in much better shape than when you first came to the council—a job well done."

Vokral drew a few chuckles when he gave his farewell speech, saying that when he interviewed for the council position he was told it would only take two or three hours a week of his time. He ended by thanking his wife Debbie for putting up with the many hours he was pulled away from home to attend to council business, some during family events.

Ed Kubala officially nominated Dennis Cerami as council president, saying he was a man of integrity not easily won when he believes something is right, he fights for it. He has been an advocate for the police and fire

department, as well as the rescue squad, always looking to upgrade their equipment needs.

Councilman Ray Petronko was sworn in for a third term and Councilman Bob Cusick for a second term. Kathy Thomas was sworn in and officially took her seat on the council.

In his annual address, Mayor Gallagher spoke about the many accomplishments during the past year. He also said his farewell to Jim Vokral and welcomed Kathleen Thomas. He also asked Borough Attorney Patrick Diegman to commence actions to terminate the junk yard operation on Hamilton Blvd. He is also asking that the Department of Environmental Protection be brought into the process. "That environmental and aesthetic nightmare has gone on long enough," he said. For Gallagher's complete address, see page 7.



Jim and Debbie Vokral receive plaques of appreciation from Mayor Dan Gallagher during Sunday's Reorganization meeting.

## Thomas Named to Borough Council

Kathleen Thomas, a life-long resident of South Plainfield, was named to fill the council seat previously held by Jim Vokral. Vokral is leaving to take a job as administrator of the Middlesex County Election Board.

Thomas has been an active member of the community for many years. She has been a member of the Planning Board since 2002, presently serves on the Sacred Heart Centennial Committee, is treasurer of the South Plainfield Field Hockey Association, a member of the South Plainfield Affordable Housing Committee, Washington Rock Girl Scout leader of Troops 375 and 777, and was a Council Delegate for two consecutive terms.

She has been a member of the South Plainfield Democratic Organization since 1991, serving as vice



Kathleen Thomas has been named to fill council seat vacated by outgoing councilman Jim Vokral.

chairperson and treasurer.

In the past, Thomas was an active

member of the John E. Riley School PTSO, working on several committees and events, and a member of the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Committee.

Thomas graduated with high honors and earned her B.S. in Accounting from Rutgers University.

Kathy and her husband Bill, also a life-long resident, have two daughters, Kelly, 15 and Kara, 12 who are students at Grant and the Middle School.

Thomas' term on the council will expire in 2006. She was appointed as chairperson of the Health, Welfare and Environmental Committee and will serve on the Administration, Finance and Public Information Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

## Midco Waste Seeks Approval to Go Public

Midco Waste, located on Harmich Rd., appeared before the council last week to ask permission to become a public license transfer station, which would allow them to accept waste from private vendors in addition to not just their own trucks.

Midco was recently given DEP approval to increase their tonnage from 700 tons per day to 1,250 per day. Under their proposal, Midco would agree to cap their tonnage at 950 tons per day until the Helen Street Project is complete and then increase it to 1,250 per day. They will also increase their host fees from \$.50 to \$1 per ton, thus generating more revenue for South Plainfield.

Midco general manager Joe Vi-

tulli said he didn't believe the increase would impact truck traffic and added the increased revenue would be approximately \$296,000 a year. When Councilman Cerami questioned him about truck traffic, he said about 100 trucks a day come and go now and the increased tonnage would mean about 30 more trucks. He could not evaluate what this would mean to our roads.

Councilman Cerami disagreed with his assessment. He said that any increase in truck traffic would not be beneficial to South Plainfield, since it is already fighting with traffic problems along Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. He said he would study the proposal, but felt any increase in revenue wasn't worth the increase in

traffic, at least until after the Helen Street Project is completed.

Vitulli said all trash is handled according to DEP regulations and that the DEP and Middlesex County audits their records on a regular basis. Trucks enter Midco and deposit their load, which is separated and then put in sealed containers and shipped to their facility in Pennsylvania.

Mayor Gallagher began his questions by holding up a stack of paper, explaining it was correspondence between his office and Midco during the last six months. He said many questions still remain unanswered, such as why the Middlesex County audits show more trash leaving the transfer station than coming in. He

also wanted to know why the company subtracts the recyclables from their host fees, which means they did not pay any recycling fees to South Plainfield.

He went on to say that even though the company has never received any violations, there were more than 30 complaints by nearby residents. He said the company promised to clean up their property on a weekly basis, but do not seem to be complying. He also noticed that on several occasions Midco trucks parked outside of the property for hours before entering the facilities, hampering traffic.

Gallagher questioned how accurate an audit could be when Midco is the

*Continued on page 10*



## 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, January 12	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, February 2	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 17	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, March 1	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

Jan. 20, Feb. 10 and 24, March 9 and 23, April 6 and 20, May 11 and 25, June 8 and 22, July 6 and 20, Aug. 10 and 24, Sept. 21, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and 30 and Dec. 14 and 28.

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 12 and 26, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24, July 8 and 22, Aug. 12 and 26, Sept. 9 and 23, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 4 and 18 and Dec. 2 and 16.

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 9 and April 6.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 16 and April 13.

### 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.

Jan. 13, Feb. 3, March 16, April 13, May 18, June 15, July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Nov. 9 and Dec. 7.

### 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

Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7.

### 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



Despite the cold weather and the snow two days prior, eight students from South Plainfield High School participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Tuba Festival at Rockefeller Ice Rink in New York City. There were in total over 200 participants playing Christmas carols with low brass instruments. The conductor rehearsed for two hours with the group before leading the players underground into the rink. Pictured here (top row) are Jordan Lynch, Adam Toth, Wadji Kanj, Dan Sierzega, Jeremy Vesper, Dorothy Cameron and (bottom row) Taylor Mandell and Wael Kanj.

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Both the residents and folks who work for businesses in South Plainfield need to be thanked again for all their participation in the annual "Holiday Project." Often I hear that we don't advertise or make a big deal of this undertaking; it is done in a quiet manner so that the recipients are kept confidential and not made to feel that they are being used for publicity. We assisted 72 families this year with food for Thanksgiving and gifts for Christmas.

All of you who donated by giving food, gifts, monetary contributions or your time to packing and sorting are so appreciated. Without much advertising, so many people come forward each year to give from their hearts.

I wish all of you a healthy and happy 2004.

**MARGARET ACKERMAN**  
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

To the Editor,

They finally built senior housing on Morris Ave. after trying for more than 20 years. It is not large enough to accommodate all the seniors who need housing and many seniors are on the waiting list. There is still a shortage of senior housing in South Plainfield, either in rentals or Senior Community Housing which can be purchased.

The school tax increase during the last several years and the small social security increases have put a heavy burden on senior citizens living on fixed incomes. It is forcing them to sell their homes and to move to where they can afford lower living costs.

Many seniors who want to sell their homes and stay in town are out of luck. For the last 30 years, many seniors have moved out of town because there was no senior housing for them. What we need is more senior housing in town for senior citizens over 55 who want to remain in town rather than move to Senior Communities Housing in Monroe, South Brunswick, Jamesburg, Franklin, South Jersey or even out of state. There is no Senior Communities Housing locally.

In the next 10 years the senior population is predicted to double.

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### 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.

There will be a need for more senior housing. The building of senior housing will not impact our school system or have little impact on our road system since it will be located next to Rt. 287. It will produce more ratables for the town and attract retirees who want to reduce their home maintenance chores by downsizing and want to stay close to where they have family.

Jack Morris, who built our senior center, proposes to build senior community housing in South Plainfield on

the Tingley Rubber property next to Route 287. Retirement senior communities are oriented toward an active lifestyle, although "active" is not a criteria. Enriched with choices and opportunities of how to fill their days, they offer swimming pools, exercise rooms and a variety of clubs and interest groups.

I am going to set up a meeting with Jack Morris and the seniors at the senior center for him to present his plans on the senior housing. The time and date will be announced in the near future. I would encourage all seniors who are interested to attend the meeting. I would also like to get a petition started to ask the mayor and council to back the need for more senior housing. The petition is now available at the senior center for those who are interested.

**JOSEPH ZEKAS**  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD OFFICE ON  
AGING ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBER

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: 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.

## In a Slump?



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## Junior Journalist Corner



Junior Journalist  
Jacob D. Rotella

The *Observer* and Hometown Heros is happy to announce the first winner of the Junior Journalist Program. Through the program, students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays. Entries should be given to teachers.

The first winner in the program is Jacob D. Rotella, Roosevelt Elementary School third grader, whose poem about the playground slide has won him and his family a catered dinner from Hometown Heros. We hope you enjoy Jacob's winning entry, as well the additional poem also written by him!

Students who have not already entered are encouraged to submit their entries to their teachers. For more information on the contest, or would like the name of your school contact, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

### The Slide

Speeding down the slide  
not up,  
but down  
down,  
down  
to the wood chips  
that feel like spiders biting  
as the warm sun glows in your eyes.  
That  
is  
the  
playground!

### November

November is a time to eat turkey.  
Our family getting together for Thanksgiving.  
Report card time!  
No school!  
The time to be loved.. that is November!

## New Community Bulletin Board

The Borough has installed a Community Bulletin Board, which is located across from the Finance Office at the Municipal Building. The purpose of this bulletin board is to allow all Borough groups and organizations who wish to conduct any activity or function to know if any other group is planning on having a function or activity on that same day.

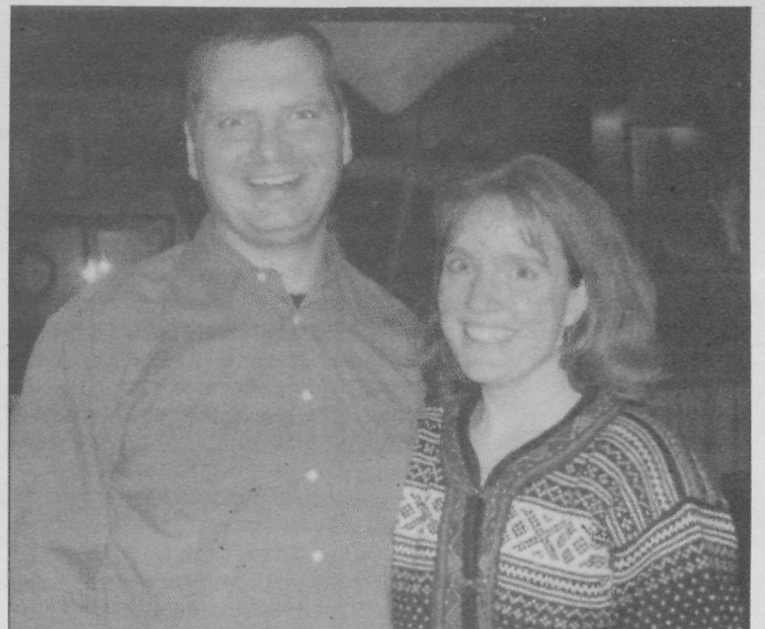
Any group or organization who

wishes to have something posted to the Community Bulletin Board should submit, in writing, the following information to the Municipal Clerk's Office, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080: name of the organization, type of function, hours the function will be run and the place of the function. This information will be noted on the Bulletin Board for public viewing.

## Borough Clergy Bid Farewell to Stanley-Ericksons, Covenant Church Pastors

In a rather emotional farewell dinner at the Longhorn Restaurant, South Plainfield Clergy Association said so long to their beloved colleagues Cathy and Jim Stanley-Erickson, co-pastors of the Pilgrim Covenant Church on Park Ave. Rev. Irene Campbell, pastor of the Rescue House of Prayer said prayers for the Ericksons. Pastor Michele Lewkow of the First Baptist praised the Ericksons for being such good friends to her. Rev. Richard Kiesling of the Lutheran Church said that the contributions of Cathy and Jim were very helpful to the ecumenical ministry especially to the Habitat for Humanity and CROP Walk in South Plainfield. Rev. Nehemiah Thompson of the Wesley Church thanked Cathy and Jim for welcoming him warmly to the ecumenical community. He also commented that Cathy and Jim were warm, friendly and very ecumenical and they will be missed.

Father John of Sacred Heart Catholic Church was not able to attend the dinner, but later commented that working with the Erickson couple was indeed enjoyable. He particularly appreciated them for having committed



Cathy and Jim Stanley-Erickson, co-pastors of the Pilgrim Covenant Church.

their marriage to the Lord's work.

The Ericksons were pastors of the Pilgrim Covenant Church for six years. They were hard working and loving pastors. They revitalized the youth ministry as well. The Pilgrim Covenant Church belongs to a denomination called Evangelical Cov-

enant Church in America, originally founded by Swedish immigrants for the Swedish language worship, but now is now a bi-lingual denomination open to all.

The Ericksons will be co-pastors of the Arbor Covenant Church in Madison, Wisconsin immediately.

## Assemblyman Diegnan Urges Governor McGreevey to Block World Trade Center Plan

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., has written Governor McGreevey, urging him to stop the proposed plan to reconstruct the World Trade Center.

In a letter Diegnan writes, "The plan is not a fitting memorial to those who lost their lives and the families who continue to suffer their loss. The design is nothing more than another formless office complex with a bizarre antennae bank at its summit. To de-

scribe it as imitating the arm of the Statue of Liberty or the cables of the Brooklyn Bridge are a stretch at best."

In commenting on his letter to the Governor, Assemblyman Diegnan said, "Almost one third of those who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup> were from New Jersey. Our state has a unique connection with that awful day. We all recognize that the rebuilding of the World Trade Center complex will be an economic engine for lower

Manhattan, but that should not be its main focus.

We must never forget the attack on our nation that took place there. The rebuilding should be an essential part of that remembering. This plan simply doesn't accomplish that goal."

## Borough Council Meeting Dates Are Changing

Starting in 2004, the Borough Council will hold both the agenda and regular meeting on the same evening.

The agenda portion will begin at 7 p.m. and the regular meeting at 8 p.m. If the council needs to have an executive meeting and time allows, it will be held before the regular meeting. If not, the executive meeting will be held after the regular meeting.

Most meetings will be held on Mondays, while some will be held on Tuesdays.

See page 2 for a listing of 2004 Borough Council meeting dates and times.

Please support our advertisers!

## School Board Candidacy Info Available at Local District Office

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, March 1, Edward E. Izbicki, South Plainfield's Business Administrator, announced. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 125 Jackson Ave., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about

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

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said Glenn B. Ewan, NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider board of education membership. Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

### Corrections

• In last week's issue, the listing of SPHS honor roll students on pages 6 and 7 neglected to include sophomore Steven J. Tietjen. We apologize for the omission.

• In the Dec. 12 issue, "Arte Fino Holds a Cut-A-Thon," the name of Samantha Orchowitz, who donated her hair for Locks of Love, was spelled incorrectly. We apologize for the error.

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# Around Town

## SPHS Booster Club Meeting

January 13

The next meeting of the SPHS Athletic Booster Club is next Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. They will be discussing the winter season snack stand coverage and the coaches request for help. Thanks to Mickey Wrublevski for providing delicious food at our December 2003 meeting!

Come out and support the winter season sports. Go TIGERS!

## Historical Society Monthly Meeting

January 13

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave.

This is the official Annual Meeting at which time officers for the year 2004 will be elected. The public is invited to attend.

## AARP Chapter Trip to Hunterdon Hills

January 13

The AARP Chapter #4144 is planning a bus trip on Jan. 13 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for lunch and to see "The Rainmaker." The cost of \$60 covers all expenses, including transportation from South Plainfield.

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

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

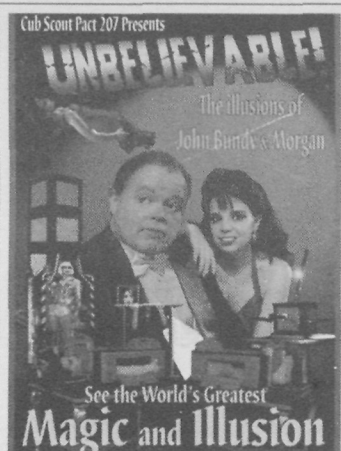
January 22

AARP Chapter #4144 will hold its first meeting of 2004 on Thursday, Jan. 22 at the South Plainfield Senior Center. The speaker will be Capt. Giardo Balmori of the Salvation Army Corp. headquarters in New Brunswick. Our chapter has been privileged to do community service with his group for many years and he will talk about the services they make available to our citizens.

## Cedarcroft Presents "New Life Singers"

January 31

On Saturday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m., Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, located at 1715 Kenyon Ave., will present "Trophies of Grace," a program featuring the "New Life Singers" from the campus of Freedom Village, USA in



One show only takes place on Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School auditorium. Tickets will be on sale at Franklin School on Jan. 8 and 15, between 5-8 p.m. Advance ticket price is \$5. Tickets at the door will be \$7.

## What's happening in JANUARY

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
<b>Monthly meetings will now be on the third Thursday of the month</b>				
<b>Jan 19 - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Best of Branson"</b>				
<b>March 17-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"</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 12pm & 2pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10am to 11am	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Available Bridge Club 12:30pm
12	13	14	15	16
<b>TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.</b>				

Lakemont, NY. The "New Life Singers," one of four singing teams that travel to schools and churches throughout North America, will share the answer that helped them escape the teenage nightmare of addiction, abuse and suicide attempts. Since 1981, Freedom Village, USA, has been a "place of second chances" to young people who were once labeled "hopeless."

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of a wonderful event featuring great gospel music and powerful testimonies of God's healing hand in the lives of young people. For further information on this event, call (908) 757-7598.

## Tickets For Harlem Globetrotters

February 14

Tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters at Continental Arena on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. game are \$22 each. The tickets are Section 211 upper tier lower. (Seating will be filled on a first ticket purchase availability.)

Make checks payable to Cub Scout Pack 224 and mail to 201 Lane Ave., South Plainfield. Tickets are for admission only, you must provide your own transportation. Admission includes a two hour meet-and-greet prior to the game, Globetrotter University and a badge. You can only attend the meet and greet through a group purchase.

## Rec Plans Trip To See Hairspray

February 22

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see "Hairspray" on Sunday, Feb. 22. Bus will leave the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and return around 7 p.m. There will be plenty of time to shop and eat before the show. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at the PAL between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Only 45 tickets are available, so come and get yours now!

## AARP Chapter 4144 Drivers Course

March 10-11, 13 & 20

A defensive drivers course will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Mar. 10 and 11 at the Senior Center. A second course will be held on Saturday, Mar. 13 and 20 at Muhlenberg Hospital. For more details and reser-

variations, call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

## AARP Chapter 4144 Trips Announced

April 28-29

An overnight trip to the Delaware Racetrack, Three Little Bakers and Atlantic City is planned for April 28 and 29. Cost is \$160 for double occupancy, which covers all expenses, including transportation from South Plainfield. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 for details and reservations.

## Rec Plans Trip to New Orleans

Sept. 11-19

South Plainfield Recreation presents a trip to Biloxi and New Orleans from Saturday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 19. The trip includes the following: A guided tour of New Orleans, eight nights deluxe hotel accommodations, including four nights in a luxurious Gulf Coast Casino Hotel, a Jazz Cruise on a Mississippi riverboat, a tour of NASA's Amazing Stennis Space center and much more! The price also includes deluxe motorcoach transportation and 14 meals, eight breakfasts and six dinners.

For reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714. The cost is \$560 per person based on double occupancy. Add \$219 for single occupancy. \$75 is due upon signing. Final payment is due July 6, 2004.

## Senior Center EVENTS

Shopping at Pathmark 9am  
Practical Crafting 10am to 11am

Shopping at Pathmark 9am  
Practical Crafting 10-11am  
Monthly Meeting

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Pizza Lunch Available  
Bridge Club 12:30pm

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Pizza Lunch  
Bridge Club 12:30pm  
Men's Forum Steering Committee 1:30 p.m.

the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, Jan 13 at 8 p.m.

## Woodbridge WOWs Meeting

January 14

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will have a business meeting and social on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Main Public Library, George Frederick Plaza, Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## WOW Dance/Social

January 18

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will have a dance/social on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. There will be a live band and refreshments. The price is \$8 per person. The dance will be held at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## SingleFaces January Dances

Month of January

The following is a list of dances planned by SingleFaces for the month of January.

**Friday, Jan. 9** at the Victorian Manor, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. at 9 p.m. in Edison. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 549-2859

**Saturday, Jan. 10** at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 494-6200.

**Friday, Jan. 16** at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For additional information call (732) 542-2200.

**Friday, Jan. 16** at the The Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12

**Saturday, Jan. 17** at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 8 p.m. Free Dance Lessons 8 p.m.-9 p.m. Dance 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 18** at the Ramanda Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. in Raritan Center in Edison at 8 p.m. Cost is \$12. No Work Monday, always a great crowd.

**Friday, Jan. 23** at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is 12.

## — Out of Town —

## Circle Players Perform

January 9, 16 and 23

*Painting Churches*, a riveting comedy/drama by Tina Howe about family loyalty, dysfunction, aging and love opens at Circle Players, the community theater of Piscataway, on Friday, Jan. 9.

Performances are Friday, Jan. 9, 16 and 23 and Saturday, Jan. 10, 17 and 24 at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees are Jan. 11 and 18 at 3 p.m.

Tickets for opening night, Jan. 9, are \$13 and include a champagne reception. All other Friday and Saturday performances are \$12. Matinees are \$11 (or two for \$20). Seniors and students receive \$1 off with I.D.

Circle Players is located at 416 Victoria Avenue, Piscataway. For tickets and information, call (732) 968-7555.

## Moonrakers Club's "Meet and Greet"

January 13

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 its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott, located between Rt. 80 and

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**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.

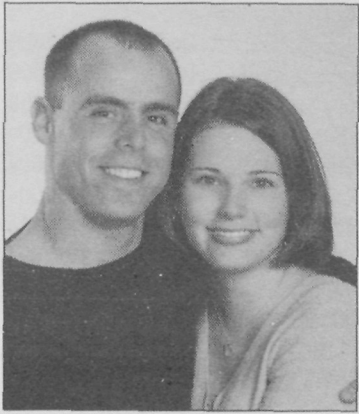
**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: ggnan@aol.

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



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Katie Kavka and Paul Panzarella Announce Engagement



Katie Kavka and Paul Panzarella

Paul and Kathleen Kavka of South Plainfield have announced the engage-

ment of their daughter, Katie Kavka, to Paul James Panzarella, son of Paul John and Susan Panzarella of South Plainfield.

Katie is a graduate of South Plainfield High School. She is currently attending The College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, graduating in May 2004 with a degree in Sociology.

Paul is a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen. Paul is a co-owner of Panzarella Constructing, Inc., a family business based in South Plainfield.

A September 2004 wedding is planned and the couple will be residing in Watchung.



### Unnamed Wins National Contest

Unnamed (pronounced "Un-named") has won first place in the Hard Rock Ultimate Altitude Buzz Contest. After winning the preliminary and final competitions at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York City, Unnamed competed against nine other

bands across the nation and Canada in an on-line voting competition. Each of the 10 bands submitted an original song which could be listened to and voted on and the three bands receiving the most votes would move on to the finals.

Along with bands from Boston and Washington, D.C., Unnamed was one of the top three. Actually, Unnamed receive the most on-line votes of all the bands. Next, their entry song, Vindication, was sent to the Platinum recording artists, Simple Plan, and Unnamed was chosen as the winner. They will be flown to Steamboat Springs, Colorado to open for Simple Plan on Jan. 24.

Members of Unnamed include South Plainfield High School graduates Eric Seiz, Lou Takacs and Eric Witkowski. In order to listen to Unnamed's winning song, Vindication, and some of their other songs, log onto [www.unamed.com](http://www.unamed.com).

### ALERT



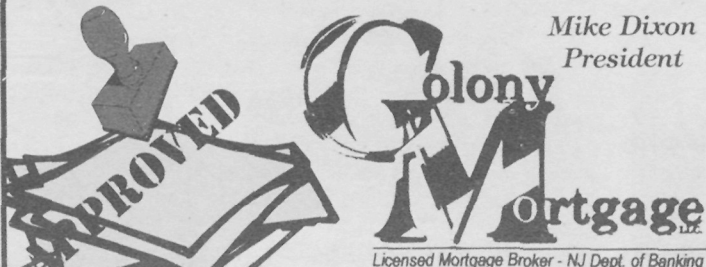
#### Board of Adjustment Special Meeting

The Board of Adjustment announced they will be holding a special meeting on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave. to hear Case \$41-03/CU I.S.S.C.

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## South PlainfieldScouting



### Franklin Cubs Make Gingerbread Houses

Franklin Schools' Cub Scout Bear Pack 207 made gingerbread houses last month in the library. Constructing the houses left to right are Joey Spinella, Ryan Rhodes, Andrew Rhodes, C.J. Wallace and Andrew Atkinson.

### Scouts Recognized for Drug Free Project

Scouts for Cub Pack 224 were recognized for their efforts to raise money for Drug Free Zone signs placed near all of the schools last month.

Special guests included Police Chief Bob Merkler, Officers Allen LaMonda and Dave Franchak, Riley Principal William Beegle and Nancy Grennier, Editor of the *Observer*. All were thanked for their help in the project and presented with a gift.

The Cubs received letters from Governor Jim McGreevey and Police Chief Robert Merkler, who also presented each scout with a certificate.

They also received special recognition awards from President George Bush; Director John P. Walter, Office of National Drug Control Policy; a citation from the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly for the Drug Free Sign Project, signed by Senator Buono, Assemblyman Peter Burns and Patrick Diegnan; a Certificate of Appreciation from the



Cub Pack Leader Marie Markey displays the cake specially made for the cubs during last month's ceremonies.

Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice signed by the Attorney Generals Vaughn McKoy and Peter Harvey and a letter from Senator Corzine

for the Drug Free Sign Project.

Cubs who were honored were Christopher and James Markey, Anthony Austin, Cesar Fernandez and Joshua Siepmann.

### Workshops for College Financing

Families of South Plainfield High School Students and the community are invited to attend the following evening workshop:

**Making College Financing Count** -How to plan for and manage college costs. Strategies that will help prepare you and your family for the next steps, ways to navigate the college financial aid process, presented

by Making It Count and College Solutions Network. The presentation will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 7-8 p.m. at the high school, in cafeteria A/B.

The workshops are sponsored by the South Plainfield High School Guidance Department.

Please R.S.V.P. to Cindy Povall at (908) 754-4620 ext. 464.

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## ob·serve (v.t.): 1. to

celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

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# Reorganization 2004

January 4  
Reorganization bids  
farewell to some &  
welcomes new volunteers



Councilman Bob Cusick is sworn in by Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri as his parents Jim and Joan, wife Monica, and children Robert Jr., Gabriella, Shane and Garret watch.

## Mayoral Appointments

With Advice And Consent Of Council

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Nancy Field	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2006
Melanie Friedman	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2006
Tami Cole	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2005
Walter Kalman	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2006
Happy Hylkema	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2006
Dr. Robert Rosado	Library Board of Trustees – Bd. of Ed Rep.	December 31, 2004
Tom Delaney	Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2007
Daniel Nigro	Public Celebrations	December 31, 2006
Timothy Morgan	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. – Bd. of Ed Rep	December 31, 2004
Sgt. Kevin Murtagh	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm – Police Rep	December 31, 2004
Peter Richkus	Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	December 31, 2006
Paul Grzenda	Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	December 31, 2006
Joseph Glowacki	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. – DPW Rep.	December 31, 2004
Dennis Cerami	Youth Guidance Council – Council Liaison	December 31, 2004
Officer Gary Kline	Youth Guidance Council – Police Rep.	December 31, 2004
John Rayho	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2007
Don Alexa	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2007
Gary Vesce	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2007
Frank Furino	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2007
Richard McCriskin	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2005



## Council Appointments

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION DATE
Gaetano DiPietro	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2006
Susan Krystopik	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2006
Jack Pedersen	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2006
John Pabst	Business Advisory Group – Zoning Rep.	December 31, 2004
Davis J. Samuels (CME)	Business Advisory Group – Engin. Rep.	December 31, 2004
Ed Kubala	Council's HCD Representative	December 31, 2004
Alice Tempel	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission	December 31, 2004
Charles Butrico	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm. – Alternate I	December 31, 2004
Davis J. Samuels (CME)	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm. – Alternate II	December 31, 2004
Joann Graf	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. – Chairperson	December 31, 2004
Raymond Petronko	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. – Liaison	December 31, 2004
Loretta Conroy	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. – Rec. Liaison	December 31, 2004
Filomena Viola	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2004
Joseph Zekas	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2004
Lillian Smith	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2004
Owen Kelly	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2004
William McAllister	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2004
Peter Vanderhelm	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2006
Charles Butrico	Planning Board – Class III	December 31, 2004



Ray and Steve Petronko, Councilman Ray Petronko's parents, and his daughters Kimberly and Alexandra, look on as he is sworn in for a third term.

## Mayoral & Council Appointments

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION DATE
John Koelble	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2006
Jim (B.J.) Schmidt	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2006
Larry Randolph	Environmental Commission – Chair	December 31, 2004
Cheryl Nagel-Smiley	Mayor's Rep. Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2004
Raymond Petronko	Mayor's HCD Representative	December 31, 2004
John Pabst	Planning Board – Class II	December 31, 2004
Craig McKenzie	Planning Board – Class IV	December 31, 2007
Jay Kartergener	Planning Board – Class IV	December 31, 2005
Nino Zeccardo	Planning Board – Alternate I	December 31, 2006
Peter Smith	Planning Board – Alternate II	December 31, 2005
William DiNitzio	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2008
Michael Dimeglio	Recreation Commission – Alternate II	December 31, 2007
Dennis Cerami	Traffic Safety – Council Liaison	December 31, 2004
Vincent Buttiglieri	Mayor's Rep. – Middlesex County Transportation Coord. Committee	December 31, 2004



# Dump the Junk and Improve Quality of Life Through Open Space

## Mayor Daniel Gallagher's Annual Address

Welcome everyone to this annual celebration of our American Democracy. As I begin my 14<sup>th</sup> year as your Mayor, I cannot help but reflect on how different our world is today from when I first took the oath of office on January 1, 1987. Terrorists only appeared in works of fiction. No one ever heard of Anthrax or dirty bombs or suicide bombers. Our biggest concern was traffic and air pollution, not safety and homeland security. But despite these threats, we as citizens of the United States can never be distracted from the legacy given to us by our forefathers. We must continue to be the beacon that shines its light of freedom and opportunity on every corner of the world. With that clear commitment in mind, let me report on the year 2003 and the goals of this Mayor and Council for 2004.

Today is a somewhat sad day for this governing body because a person who has played an integral role in everything that we have accomplished is leaving us. Council President Jim Vokral is moving on to another level of public service. As you know, Jim has been named as Administrator of the Middlesex County Board of Elections. As that is a non-partisan position, he cannot continue to serve on the Borough Council. As the expression goes, the Board of Elections gain is our loss. Jim is a man of intelligence, dedication and honesty. For the decade he served here, we always looked to him for guidance. It is no coincidence that he has served the longest tenure as Council President in our history. Everyone recognized that he is the embodiment of what a Council President should be. He never put politics above principle and he always kept one simple purpose in mind...what is best for the people? All who have had the pleasure to know Jim and his wife Debbie and their wonderful family know that they are very religious and moral people. They have a commitment to God and faith that is the essence of their being. Thank you Jim for sharing that wisdom with us for the last

ten years and thank you Debbie for sharing Jim with us. We will miss you both.

As sad as we are at losing Jim, we are fortunate to be able to replace him with an individual who embodies the best of South Plainfield. Kathy Thomas was born here, educated here and chose to live here after she married another true South Plainfielder, her husband Bill. Kathy and her family are involved in more activities than I have the time to list. She presently serves on our Planning Board. As an accountant, she will bring the knowledge and background necessary to keep our fiscal outlook on solid ground. Even more importantly, as a woman, she will bring a perspective which is important to government. Thank you Kathy for offering to serve on the Borough Council. I can assure you, it will be one of the most challenging and fulfilling experiences of your life.

We also welcome back Bob Cusick and Ray Petronko to the borough council. Their overwhelming reelection victory shows that the voters recognized what we already knew... Bob and Ray are outstanding public servants. From our exceptional recreation programs to our one of a kind, pay as you go road reconstruction plan, Bob and Ray have been leaders in making South Plainfield a model of efficient and responsive government.

2003 was an excellent year for our borough. We paved another 16 roads, finished the new parking area for our senior housing complex on Morris Avenue, cleaned up Veterans Park so that it will be open for this year's baseball season, entered into a contract with Middlesex County to totally reconstruct Hamilton Boulevard, started the process to build a new library on Plainfield Avenue, purchased needed equipment for our public works department, installed a state of the art computer assisted dispatch system in our police department, opened our new emergency management center, hired a full time Senior

Citizen Director, expanded senior services and finished the Environmental stage of the Helen Street Project, **ALL WITHOUT RAISING MUNICIPAL TAXES AND ONCE AGAIN REDUCING THE BOROUGH DEBT.** While our national deficit grows by the minute and property taxes all over our state skyrocket out of control, we, here in our little borough continue, year after year, to improve our infrastructure, expand our services, reduce our debt and keep taxes stable. I've said it before, but let me repeat myself. If people want to learn how cost effective, efficient and responsive government works, call South Plainfield Borough Hall. Our Administrator, Vinnie Buttiglieri and our Chief Financial Officer, Glenn Cullen will be happy to meet with you.

As good as 2003 was, 2004 will be even better. Our borough attorney is in the process of acquiring the necessary properties along Hamilton Blvd. so that Middlesex County can start the project this summer. When completed Hamilton Boulevard will be totally reconstructed from New Market Avenue all the way to Stelton Rd., with traffic signals installed at St. Nicholas Ave. and Ryan St. and South Clinton Ave. Hamilton Blvd. will be widened to four lanes from the Valley Bank at the intersection of Durham Ave. all the way to Stelton Rd. Best of all decorative lighting and pavers will be placed from St. Nicholas Ave. all the way to the overpass at New Market Ave. to give a nice town entrance appearance. Although not part of the project, I am directing the Borough Administrator and Borough Attorney to commence action to terminate the junk yard operation on Hamilton Blvd. That environmental and aesthetic nightmare has gone on long enough. Their license to operate will not be renewed. I ask that the Department of Environmental Protection be brought into the process. South Plainfield is a beautiful town and there are beautiful new homes being built along Hamilton

Blvd. These property owners, who clearly don't care about the health and welfare of our citizens, cannot be tolerated.

I commend Council member Charlie Butrico for bringing focus and progress to the Helen Street Project. Since Charlie has taken over control of the project, each phase has been completed ahead of schedule. Now that the complicated environmental assessment stage is complete, the design stage has started. When the design is completed, property acquisition will take place followed by contract award. We are all impatient to have Helen Street completed so that truck traffic can be directed from our residential areas. Thank you Council member Butrico for giving this project the attention it deserves.

I believe that Council member Thomas, as liaison to Health, Education and Welfare should be added as a member of the new library committee. I also recommend that Natalie Bergen be added as a representative of the Friends of the Library Committee. Council member Cusick, please bring these recommendations back to the library board. I also direct that you report to the entire governing body on a monthly basis as to the progress of the committee. If there is any assistance you need, let us know. I want to see an architectural rendering of the proposed library hanging on the wall outside the council chambers very soon. There is no greater priority than a new library to serve our residents.

I am particularly proud of this governing body's record on acquiring and preserving open space. The beautiful expansion of Putnam Park would instead be a Walgreen's Pharmacy if not for our proactive approach. There would be a condominium/townhouse development on Tompkins Ave. if not for that open space acquisition. Our environmental preserve has won numerous national awards as a model of local government land preservation. I direct that Council Member Charlie Butrico

prepare a report within 60 days recommending open space acquisitions for this year. I know that there is a general consensus that the 10-acre parcel at the intersection of Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. should be permanently preserved along with the eight acres on Garfield Ave. I would also like you to investigate a possible cooperative venture with Edison Township and the Edison Wetlands Group to acquire the Adams farm property which is the subject of a pending development law suit. Please consider these parcels along with any other environmentally sensitive pieces for inclusion in your report. Of course, we cannot afford to acquire every undeveloped piece of property in our borough but we must continue to make open space preservation a priority.

As always, our budget is a primary concern this year. Council member Ed Kubala and his Administration and Finance Committee have done a tremendous job in keeping our local property taxes under control. We have not experienced a municipal tax increase in four of the last six years. No other town comes close to that record.

Insurance costs have increased over \$1M in the last three years and state aid has remained flat as Governor McGreevey has been forced to address the excesses of the past. Ed, I know it is a tall task but I direct that you and your committee look at every area of the borough budget for savings. Do whatever you can to keep taxes flat again this year. It gets more difficult every year but I ask that you submit a budget that does not include a municipal tax increase in 2004.

I know I speak for the entire council when I say we look forward to the challenges ahead. There is no task which we cannot accomplish if we all continue to work together.

I wish the best for you and your families for 2004 and let us all pray that God continues to protect this great land of ours in the year ahead.

## Republican Response to the Mayor's Annual Message

# Mayor and Council Need to Address Overbuilding, Ethics Problems

By Robert Jones, Jr., GOP Chairman

The South Plainfield Republicans join the Mayor and Council in celebrating all that makes our town distinctive: its sense of community, its fine schools, and its abundant tireless volunteers. South Plainfield has much to be proud of.

But at the same time, as we start this new year we must not overlook what needs fixing. Overbuilding plagues our town, traffic increases day by day, services are declining, and ethical issues abound. In their zeal to celebrate their political victories, the Mayor and Council must not lose sight of these problems and the need to attend to them. As the party out of power, the Republican Party promises to act as a watchdog—reminding the governing body that it must act in the best interest of all residents.

As we begin 2004, there are things the Mayor and Council must do without delay, things that should have been done long ago. For example, South Plainfield needs a plan to combat overdevelopment and traffic. Instead of offering one, the Mayor and Council contribute to the problem by continuing to sell borough-owned land to developers. This is not sound planning.

Moreover, one must question the wisdom of using these one-time revenue enhancers to prop up the budget. Selling off assets is a troubling sign.

The Mayor and Council also need to enact ethics reforms. Other towns have passed ordinances banning "pay to play," but in South Plainfield doling out no-bid contracts to campaign contributors is the norm. The Mayor and Council pass up no opportunity to grease the palms of their big contributors. In fact, just last month (after the election not so coincidentally) the Mayor and Council awarded no-bid contracts totaling over \$35,000 to two of the Democratic Party's biggest contributors. These types of ethical abuses must end.

Nepotism and cronyism must also stop. For instance, in December the Democrats decided to give (or maybe "gift" is a better word) a new job title and a fat raise to Borough Clerk-Administrator Vincent Buttiglieri. The Mayor and Council appointed Buttiglieri, a former Democratic Councilman, to the newly created position of personnel director. This is despite the fact that personnel functions have al-

ways fallen within the purview of Buttiglieri's job as administrator. This begs the question: Is he getting a \$7,500 raise to do what was already part of his job?

A similar raise was given to the Borough's chief financial officer. One has to wonder whether these new positions and raises were a necessity or a political reward. And if they were necessities, why did the Mayor and Council wait until after the November election to give these raises and new job titles to their cronies?

The Mayor and Council also refuse to recognize and eliminate conflicts of interest. This too must stop. It's not just Republicans saying this. The *Home News Tribune* in an editorial pointed out that it is a conflict of interest for Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan to serve as attorney for South Plainfield. Yet the Mayor and Council reappointed Diegnan as its attorney despite the conflict.

Worse yet, Diegnan serves as chairman of the South Plainfield Democratic Party. Years ago the Democrats were outraged when a Republican tried to serve as both the party chair and borough attorney. But apparently memories are short when you have absolute power and nobody to watch

over your shoulder.

The Mayor and Council also need to foster an environment where there is mutual respect between the governing body and the municipal employees—the police officers, the DPW workers and the employees in Borough Hall. As taxpayers we demand fiscal accountability from our elected leaders. But at the same time, we owe the people who work for our town the decency to act in good faith when it's time to negotiate. Communication should be honest, direct and timely.

When the residents of South Plainfield look back on 2004 they will see one of two things. They will see a year of positive change, or they will see a year of politics as usual. The all-Democratic governing body has the power to choose its path. Hopefully recent events will not be a sign of what's to come, because our town deserves better.

As we begin 2004, the South Plainfield Republican Party makes this pledge: We will support the Mayor and Council when they are right, and we will staunchly oppose them when they are wrong. We will do our best to keep the absolute power of the Democratic Party in

check and will continually remind these elected officials that they serve the residents of South Plainfield first and foremost. We hope that by serving as watchdogs we can challenge the Mayor and Council to better serve us all.

Here's to 2004 being a year of health, happiness, and progress for the people of South Plainfield.

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# Sports

## SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

### Tigers Ranked 11<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in NJ

Monday's *Star Ledger* published the top 20 teams in the state and listed the Lady Tigers as 11<sup>th</sup> and the boys' bowling team as 17<sup>th</sup>. The rankings are

based on team matches and statewide tournament action. The Tiger bowlers finished in the top ten, five of six times in tournament competition.

### Lady Tigers Edge Colonia for 10<sup>th</sup> Win

SPHS	789	820	804-2413
Colonia	776	818	801-2395

In a match not determined until the last bowler finished, the Lady Tigers squeezed out three close games for a 4-0 shutout over an improved Colonia squad.

Vicki Boley rolled games of 239-

212-195 for a brilliant 646 set. Chipping in were Beverly Jamieson with games of 170 and 160, Kim Gaub's 153-154 and newcomer Rebecca Dacchille's 152 game.

The girls' record stands at 10-4.

### Tiger Bowlers Upset By Colonia 3-1

The Tigers could not recover from a bad start as they rolled in the next two games, but fell short in trying to salvage a tie.

The Tigers were led by Matt Boley's

610 set on games of 184-212-214.

Other Tiger scores were Nick Grego, 192-203-544, Vin Genova, 198-526 and Dave Eichler's games of 178 and 185.

## Boys' and Girls' Varsity Bowling

By Tim Morgan

All teams experience highs and lows, and the South Plainfield High School Boys' Bowling Team had one of their lows last year. Despite their 3-19-2 record though, there were three highlights of their season: 1) their five man average was about 100 pins higher than the year before, which ironically sported a better record, 2) one of the wins was against GMC Champion South Brunswick and it was a substantial upset, too, and 3) they won the Sportsmanship Award for the Red Division (as did the girls).

Because North Brunswick did not compete last year and is not competing this year, the GMC split into two Divisions of ten teams each instead of three Divisions with seven teams each. Consequently, the Tigers were bumped up to the more demanding Red Division. Next year though, they should return to the White Division.

This year the Tigers are experiencing a significant upturn. True, their current record of 3-10-1 (as of Jan. 5) is pretty dismal, but it is not indicative of their talent. Many of their matches have been close and it has often been a simple matter of not being able to hold on to a potential victory. Head Coach Ralph Fech said that in order for the boys to win, they have to come out strong in the first game and hold on to the lead for the next two. The boys managed to beat #1 ranked St. Joe's and Old Bridge because they did hang on. "We have definitely improved immensely from last year because now we're in every match," Fech said. "They're intense and they want to win."

Simply put, the boys have a better chance to win each individual match than they did last year. Fech said that the boys are very competitive in the Red Division.

Another encouraging factor is that the boys have more experience this year. Last year's team consisted entirely

of sophomores while this year's is almost all juniors. Currently, Matt Boley leads the team with a 206 average. Vinny Genova, the only sophomore, currently averages 176. Shawn Ferguson follows with a 175 average, George Klienkecht holds a 172 average, Nick Grego 165, John Jeglinski 164 and Dave Eichler 160.

The SPHS Girls' Bowling Team is a young team, but they are doing well, currently 10-4 (as of January 5) and have shown marked improvement from last year, when they posted a 12-10-2 record. Three of their four losses were close as well and they are looking to beat quality teams to advance their position in the Red Division. Their main hurdle is a lack of depth, which has been somewhat resolved over the past month with the recruitment of some additional players. Fech said that the girls are stronger now than at the beginning of the season because they have more of a backdrop to help them.

Fech feels that the girls have a legitimate chance against any of their competition. "The girls just keep rolling along and as long as they're healthy, they should keep on winning for the entire remainder of the season," he said.

In a landmark, the girls' team's victory against Edison marked the 400th win of the program. Senior Vicki Boley, who placed third in the state last year, currently leads the team with a 189 average. Junior Kim Gaub is formidable with a 157 current average and sophomore Beverly Jamieson, last year's Rookie of the Year, follows with 150 average. Sophomores Angeliue Rualo, Lindsey Hunsicker and Mallory Cooper bowl 136, 124, and 120, respectively, while freshmen Rebecca Dacchille and Katie Eder round out the squad with 121 and 120 averages.

Vicki and Matt Boley were both the MVPs last year and the year before. Vicki was selected for the All Central Jersey First Team and the All State All Group Second Team. Matt set an SPHS school record as a freshman by averaging 200 per game. Both have been All GMC Team selections. They both help carry their teams to success and make a potent sibling combination.

It is interesting to note that bowling is about a month ahead of the other winter sports. The teams practice for the month of November and in early December at Carolier Lanes before starting competition. Then, the bowlers compete four to five days

per week until February, when the state tournament concludes the season.

Other sports don't start practicing until the end of November, don't really start competing until January and go late into February or even into early March before their seasons end.

This is Fech's 30th year as the SPHS Head Bowling Coach. He bowled in college and continued his love of the sport after he graduated. He started the SPHS School Bowling program in the early seventies and in the 1974-75 season it became a Varsity sport. "It's a lot of fun to bowl. It's really exciting, and I've always enjoyed it," he said.

This year, Fech has Laurie Gertsel, a former state champion bowler, on board as a Volunteer Assistant Coach.

The girls are out for the Red Division title this season, which is a big step up from their sixth place finish last year. Woodbridge will be their top rival and East Brunswick, Piscataway and South Brunswick will also pose a threat. The boys are striving to place somewhere in the middle, which would also be a nice progression from last year. In order to do so, they will have to bowl some of their best games against JP Steven's Piscataway, South Brunswick and St. Joe's. The girls are also aiming to qualify for the State Team Finals from the upcoming State Sectionals. Last year, they placed ninth out of 26 teams at the Sectionals. Both teams are striving to finish their seasons with winning records and qualify for at least the third round of the GMC Playoffs (out of a possible four).

The boys and the girls have done well in the tournaments they have entered. In the Westfield Tournament, the girls placed fifth and the boys 13th; in the Joe Romer Holiday Tournament (which South Plainfield sponsors), the girls placed fifth and the boys eighth and in the Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic, the boys placed fifth while the girls placed sixth. Fech called the girls "tournament-tough." The *Star Ledger* ranked the boys 17th in the state and the girls 11th on Jan. 5, largely because of their impressive showings in these tournaments. The Tigers and Lady Tigers will also compete in Brick Invitational and the Central Jersey Winter Classic as well as the GMC Individuals on Jan. 7.



Tim Morgan, Jr.

## New Shotman Basketball Clinic

Mike "SHOTMAN" Lanza announced that there will be another SHOTMAN Score More Basketball Clinic. The clinic will be held over three Sundays starting on Jan. 11 and

ending Jan. 25.

For more information, please visit <http://www.shotman.net>, or contact Mike Lanza at (908)-754-2692, or via e-mail [atmlanza@shotman.net](mailto:atmlanza@shotman.net).

## Ponytail Softball Registration Underway

The 2004 Ponytail Softball Registration is underway and will continue

until March 5. Registration is open to all South Plainfield resident girls, ages 8-13 as of Oct. 1, 2003. All games are played at Pitt Street Park.

The fee is \$35 per participant and there are no refunds. A birth certificate is required to register, as well as a proof of residency. You may register at the PAL Building, Maple Ave.

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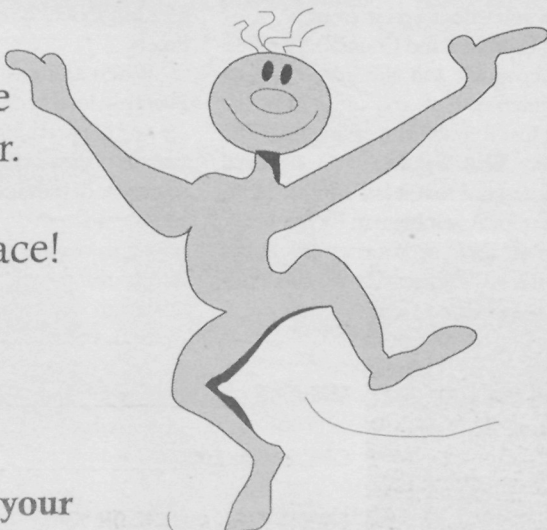
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# Sports

## Wrestling News By Bob Hunter

### Tiger Wrestlers Win Home Opener

The Tiger wrestling team had a very successful home opener against Boonton. Tiger fans knew very little about Boonton which is up past Morristown. Well, it did not make a difference. The Tigers came ready to wrestle and opened the match at 112 with Viet Vo winning a convincing 10-3 decision over Chris Petonak. Billy Ashnault then came out to wrestle at 119 and lost a close decision 7-5 to James Arnst. Mike Jakubik 125 then pinned Jarrod Prill at 3:41. Nick Dorey followed at 130 and won a 6-1 decision over Jon Graziano. Sam Martin 135 wasted little time getting the fall at :36 over Joe Marshello. Nick Curcio 140 with the score tied got caught and pinned. Pete DeAndrea 145 looked to be on a mission taking early command and scoring the fall at 2:26 over Matt Sullivan. Paul Ritchey 152 also attacking on the whistle scored a fall at :38 over Bill Morere. Travis Noll 160 was in a battle with Chris Azacio when he got put to his back when he attempted to escape and got pinned at 3:49. Guy Severini who wrestled 171 took the early lead before pinning John Takacs at 1:56. Kevin Crilley 189 faced Jason Eckert and scored the fall at 3:56. Rob Mastick 215 then pinned George Suarez at 2:38. Ryan Elliot Hwt had to face Bill Biermeistr a state place winner at 215 last year and was in a heated battle and came up short losing 2-1 in double overtime. Jimmy Conroy closed the match at 103 and wasted little time pinning Bobby DeGroot at 1:15. Final Score Tigers 54, Boonton 18.

### Tigers Crown Two at Hunterdon

With the flu bug hitting the wrestling team as well as the rest of the borough, the Tigers limped into the Hunterdon Central Field House with half the team, either injured or out sick, but still managed to come away with two individual champions and a second place finish along with two thirds, a fourth and a fifth place finish.

Jimmy Conroy 103 got off to a good start by pinning his first two opponents, then pinned Rob Coppola of Toms River East at 4:28 for his first Hunterdon Tournament title. Ryan Elliott 275 found himself down in the first period 2-1, but came back at the start of the second period with a reversal then the fall over Dennis Landoit of Holy Cross at 3:00 for his title. Guy Severini 152 was in a battle with Pat Hessert of Haddonfield when Hessert scored a questionable takedown at the edge of the mat with 15 seconds left to take the lead 8-5. Severini then scored two points on a quick reversal and appeared to have Hessert going to his back as time ran out for second place. Billy Ashnault and teammate Viet Vo, both wrestling at 112, went head to head in the consolation finals with Ashnault coming out on top with 1-0 for third and fourth place, respectively.

Sam Martin 130 also had a great tournament claiming third place honors when he won by decision, 5-2, over Jeff Maddalena of Hunterdon Central in the consolation finals. Finishing in fifth place was sophomore Kevin Crilley 189, who pinned Brian Friedborn of Lawrence at 3:30.

Next up for the Tigers will be the Edison Eagles Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. at Edison High School.

### Middle School Takes 3rd at Delaware

The Middle School Wrestling Team had a strong showing at the Tyrant Duals in Wilmington, Del. Ten teams from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey squared off in this middle school dual classic. South Plainfield, which should have finished in second, was awarded third based on criteria when Mt. Airy of Maryland ended up the winner in their selected pool. Even though the Tigers defeated Mt. Airy head-to-head, Mt. Airy still received second because of their finish in the pool standings. Confusing, isn't it? Anyway, the Tigers had six matches on the day, winning five.

In the first match the Tigers faced the Vipers from Maryland and won 51-41 with Ryan Sacco 75 getting the lone fall for the match. Next up was Tyrant Blue Team from Delaware and it was a battle from the start. The Tigers dropped four of the first five bouts and was trailing 21-4, fought back, but forfeits hurt the effort in the 54-43 defeat. Scoring falls were Nick Heilmann and Tim Gaughan. Oxford, Pa. was next and the Tigers dominated winning 66-30. They then defeated Drexel, Pa. 66 to 36. In the final pool match, the Tigers defeat another Pa. team—Council Rock 56-46. Then came Mt. Airy, who beat Tyrant Blue, who beat the Tigers. Things looked bad for the Tigers trailing 26-0, but they came charging back to pull it out 40-30. Good job.

### Middle School Wrestlers Defeat Flemington & Belvidere

The Middle School wrestling team had two big wins over Flemington 47-35 and 84-9 over Belvidere, but lost a close match to a very good High Point team 45-36. They are now 18-3 on the season.

In the Belvidere match the Tigers received nine forfeits and only lost two matches and won the rest by fall. The Flemington match was a different story and the Tigers had to build an early lead to hold off a late Flemington rally. Richie Szeliga, the normal 70 pounder, had to bump up 75 because Ryan Sacco was out sick. Szeliga did a great job. The Tigers then went on a roll winning the next seven matches for a 40-5 lead. Winning by fall was Nick Heilmann 80, Corey Hay 85, major decision 14-1, Patrick Hunter 90 by fall, Nick Vetusch 95 by fall, Mike Wagner 100 by fall, Tim Gaughan 107 by fall, Danny Pompilio 110 by forfeit, Mark Wagner 132 decision 6-0 and Sal Soto 140, major decision 12-3.

In the High Point match, the Tigers without Ryan Sacco, sent out Richie Szeliga 75 who was out matched. The Tigers got it back when Nick Heilmann 80 pinned Devin Carter at 1:40 to even the score. High Point then took the lead after the 85 pound match 12-6. Patrick Hunter 90, tied the score when he pinned Tyler Forbeck at 1:46. The Tigers lost the next five bouts and trailed 33-12 when Brad Martin 124 pinned Billy Hotalen at 2:14 mark to make the score 33 to 18. Mark Wagner 132 then pinned Aaron Volker in 19 seconds to bring the Tigers within nine points. Sal Soto 140 then pinned Adam Volker at 1:45 to close the gap to three. The Tigers then lost the next two bouts by fall but Rocco Petriello Hwt. pinned Devlin Gould in 41 seconds in the last bout of the day. High Point 45 Tigers 36



### 2003 LBI West Presidential Cup Champions

The late season event was played using a Ryder Cup format Hideaway Hills, Olde Homestead and South Moore, all located in Pennsylvania. Jim Flannery posted scores of 88, 69 and 86 to earn scoring honors for the champions. Pictured left to right are George Jones, Charles Woodhull, Frank Chirichillo, Bill Pavlak, Kevin Flannery, Jim Flannery, Dennis Stuewe and Rob Disch.

## Wrestling News By Bob Hunter

### Rec Wrestlers Defeat Watchung And Berkeley Heights

The recreation wrestling team posted two wins in the recent Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League, defeating Watchung Hills 67-19 and Berkeley Heights 75-6. Winning matches in the Watchung match were Anthony Ashnault 53, Tyler Hunt 63, Troy Heilmann 67, Richie Szeliga 70, Jeffrey Conroy 73, Ryan Sacco 75, Nick Heilmann 80, Corey Hay 85, Ryan Billich 80, John Wylam 95, Mike Wagner 102 and Seth Yocum 110. Winning matches in the Berkeley Heights match were Ryan Walsh 50, Anthony Ashnault 53, Kyle Brady 57, Tyler Hunt 63, Troy Heilmann 67, Richie Szeliga 70, Jeffrey Conroy 73, Ryan Sacco 75, Nick Heilmann 80, Corey Hay 85, Ryan Billich 90, John Wylam 95, Mike Wagner 102, Seth Yocum 110 and Alex Lundy HWT.

By Lee Flanagan

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Our last registration dates for the 2004 baseball season are Jan. 15, 16, and 17 at the SPJBC Complex.

This will absolutely be your last chance to register for the 2004 season. Registration fee is now \$95.

The next Coaches' Clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m., This is free to all parents, coaches and players.

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 card and must have completed the Rutgers Certification Program. If you have an interest 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. For more information about this course, please contact the Recreation Department.

Our next endeavor is the Pancake Breakfast that is scheduled for February. Further details will follow on this project.

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.

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# Obituaries

## Lois V. (Lambert) Traphagen, 86

Lois V. Traphagen died on Monday, Jan. 5 at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Lois was proud to have grown up on a farm in Scotch Plains. She had resided in Somerville and Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield where she spent most of her life.

A homemaker for most of her life, she also worked as a secretary for Mack Manufacturing in Somerville and Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield.

Lois led an active life as a long time member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield, a charter member of the Suburban Women's Club, a cub scout mom, a member of the Spring Lake Restoration Committee and the former local area Cherry Dell Gardening Club.

In addition, she was an avid gardener and bird watcher, a gourmet cook and loved to go dancing with her husband. They also loved the music of Fred Astaire and Ginger Roberts. Lois also enjoyed trips to Atlantic City, playing bingo with her many friends, and she enjoyed time in Cape Cod and her cat.

Lois was also proud of her ancestry, which links her to Abraham Clark, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence on behalf of New Jersey.

She was most proud of her family, which includes her late husband, Edward, who died in 2000.

She is survived by a daughter, Virginia and her husband, Larry Adams of Spofford, NH; a son, David and his wife, Janet of Glenn Gardener and most importantly, her grandchildren, Katie, Matthew and Ross.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Wesley United Church Memorial Fund, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

## Frank Maimone, 88

Frank Maimone died on Friday, Jan. 2 at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Manhattan, Frank had resided in Brooklyn and in Rosedale, Queens for many years before settling in Plainfield in the early 1990's.

He had been employed as an accountant for the Veterans Administration in Manhattan and previously been employed by Caswell-Massey, also of Manhattan.

He was a member of the Somerville Veterans of Foreign Wars, South Plain-

field Knights of Columbus Council 6203 and a former member of the Knights of Columbus in Brooklyn.

Frank is predeceased by his wife, Jennie (nee Sacco), who died this past September; a son, Joseph, who died in 1999; a sister, Evelyn Blinder and a brother, Fred.

Surviving are a daughter, Rosalie Maimone of Plainfield; a daughter-in-law, Janet Maimone; a grandson, Jonathan; a brother, Harry of Florida and a sister, Palmira Marindo of the Bronx.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## Laurentino "Larry" Gomes, Jr., 65

Laurentino "Larry" Gomes, Jr., died suddenly on Saturday, Jan. 3 at his home.

He was born and raised in Newark and had lived in Union before moving to South Plainfield 20 years ago.

Larry had worked for many years, before retiring three years ago, with Correct Temp of Kenilworth as a heat and air conditioning installer and service tech. He was a member of the Pipefitters Union Local 475 of Warren.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Marian (Iannascio) Gomes; his mother, Rose (nee Clemente); a son, Laurentino R. Gomes, IV of Los Angeles, Cal.; a daughter, Laureen I. Skurat of Hopewell; a sister, Marie Caravela of Whippany and three granddaughters, Gabriella, Gemma and Lorna Skurat.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## Maria C. Tibaldi Monczewski, 94

Maria C. Tibaldi Monczewski died on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at the Sunrise Assisted Living in East Brunswick.

She was born in Plainfield and lived there until moving to South Plainfield

in 1953, where she resided for many years. She later lived in Wallington and Toms River before moving to East Brunswick in 2002.

For many years, Maria had been a seamstress with the former Ben Statler Men's Clothiers in Plainfield, retiring over 35 years ago.

Maria was a former member of St. Bernard's RC Church in Plainfield, Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and St. John's RC Church in Toms River.

She is predeceased by her first husband, Achille Tibaldi, who died in 1971; a son, Daniel (2002) and her second husband, Charles Monczewski, who died in 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Diana and her husband, Tony Colone of South Plainfield and Pat and her husband, Frank Catalano of Spotswood; a son, Achille (Arite) and his wife, Elsie Tibaldi of Summer Field, Fla.; a daughter-in-law, Teresa Tibaldi of Pa.; a sister, Josephine Madonna of Clearwater, Fla. and nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the American Cancer Society, New Jersey Div., 846 Main St., Fords, NJ 08818, would be appreciated.

## Former Borough Mayor Dies

(Continued from page 1)

it, the design for the Spring Lake Park Complex and the opening up of a large, undeveloped portion of the town to be construction of what was known as the New World Industrial Site. He was a co-founder of the South Plainfield Junior Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the V.E.W. Post #6763, the Military Order of the Cooties Pup Tent #41 of the VFW, The American Legion Chaumont Post #243, a Trustee of the South Plainfield Public Library and a Charter Member of the VFW Post in Ridgway, Pa.

Robert is survived by four children, Mark Baldwin of Clinton Township, NJ, Carl Baldwin of Ridgway, Pa., Jeanne Williams of Bangor, Pa. and

Eric Baldwin of Allentown, Pa. His brother, William M. Baldwin, Sr. is living in Citrus Springs, Fla. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

His ashes will be interred at the family grave plot in the Baptist Cemetery

of South Plainfield, where wife, Caroline, is buried. A private family ceremony is planned at an as yet undisclosed date. A portion of his ashes will also be sent to Ft. Benning, G. to be spread over the memorial he designed there.

## Midco Seeks Approval to Go Public

(Continued from page 1)

one supplying the records and there is no way to check if they have supplied all of them. "We have no way of knowing what you are doing!" he exclaimed.

Vitulli said the he had received the correspondence from the mayor and the company is presently undergoing a complete audit and will have answers to all of his questions in three weeks.

The Mayor concluded that until all of the questions are answered, he will not even consider granting their request. He added that he is going back to Middlesex County to request they investigate the company's records.

Members of the council agreed with the mayor and decided to wait until Midco supplies more information.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS, there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield for the year 2004, and

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

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

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

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$45.50 January 9, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

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

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer, Attorneys for the year 2004.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Laws because the service rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Bond Counsel.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$45.50 January 9, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1641

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

Ord. 1641 entitled: A ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE 2004 AMENDMENT TO THE 1995 SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE PLAINFIELD AREA REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY AND THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield at 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2003 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.00 January 9, 2004

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised.

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

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Andrew Hodulik of the firm Hodulik & Morrison, P.A.
2. This contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because services rendered are professional services of a recognized profession whose practice is regulated by law.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by Law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.00 January 9, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Hector Amini requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to erect a new building for a one family home. Refer to Ordinance #1220--"doesn't want to install curbs or/and sidewalk on the opposite side of the street"; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at Tremont Avenue on Block 404.04, Lot 1.02 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, January 22, 2004 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 January 9, 2004

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1903 high school and middle school  
graduations, 1902 and 1903 Jr and  
Sr. Proms, election 1902 and 1903,  
Girl Scout Gold Awards, 1902 and  
1903 Bike Rodeo, All District Con-  
cert, SPHS Anything Goes, SPMS  
Yearbook, Grant's ANNIE Jr., MS  
girls basketball, Grant 6th basketball,  
Kennedy Grandparents day, bands  
for Riley, Skatepark, school concerts  
and events, National Honor Society  
inductions, Franklin K&J, Franklin  
Suess, Dare Graduations, 1902 and  
1903 Labor Day, MS Peer to Peer and  
many other files. For more detailed  
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(1.5 liter) ..... **\$5.49**

Bring in this ad for 10% off on wines

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## policereport

### 22-Year-Old Man Charged in Baseball Bat Attack

Manuel E. Borrero of Piscataway was charged with aggravated assault last Friday after being confronted by two men at a residence on Bergen St.

Spencer Gardner, 29, of Hancock St. and Anthony Fasano, 29, of Kosciusko Ave. arrived at the Bergen St. home and threatened Borrero and his girlfriend, 25 year-old Virginia Zaehring, saying that they were going to kill both of them and their 16-month-old child. A hammer had been thrown at the girlfriend and a fight ensued. Borrero struck Gardner in the head with a wooden baseball bat knocking him on unconscious.

When police arrived, Borrero was arrested after he admitted hitting Gardner with the bat. Gardner was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, where he was treated and released.

### Man Run Over After Parking Lot Brawl

On Dec. 24 a 29 year-old Piscataway man was involved in a brawl at Liquid Assets on New Market Ave. and was struck by the suspect's car outside the bar.

The victim was involved in a physical confrontation inside the bar and left the club. Outside he got into another confrontation with another man, who struck him in the face with his fist and then picked up a brick and hit him in the back of the head. The suspect got into his car to leave the parking lot, but the victim stood in front of his car. The vehicle sped up and struck the victim, knocking him to the ground. The suspect fled the scene and the victim was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

#### Other Police News

• On Dec. 29 a McKinnley St. resident reported the theft of a license plate from his vehicle while parked at his home.

• Grand Buffet on New World Way reported that a man came to the front door of the restaurant, realized it was closed for renovations and kicked the door, shattering the glass.

• On Dec. 30 Bravo Supermarket on W. 7th St. reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill from a customer. The customer stated he had gotten the bill from an bank ATM in Dunellen.

• The Italian-American Club on Garibaldi Ave. reported the their front door was smashed and the interior door was pried open. A bottle of Malibu coconut rum was taken.

• On Dec. 31 a Grant Ave. resident reported that her lawn ornaments had been knocked over.

• A Hollywood Tan employee reported receiving two harassing phone calls.

• On Jan. 1 a Clinton Ave. resident reported that the passenger side rear window of his vehicle had been smash and the rear passenger door dented.

• A Laurel Ln. resident reported that eggs had been thrown at her vehicle while in the area of Clinton Ave. and Elizabethtown Ct.

• On Jan. 2 Wanda Liz Vendrell, 28, of Plainfield was arrested for shoplifting \$900 worth of clothing from Kohl's.

• Edward F. Jacobs, 49, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and being an unlicensed driver at a motor vehicle stop.

• The Club at Ricochet on St. Nicholas Ave. reported that four fraudulent withdrawals had been made from the company checking account.

• A Pershing Pl. resident reported

that a beer bottle had been thrown at his front door and the screen door glass had been broken.

• On Jan. 3 Susan Pou, 36, of Edison was arrested for concealing \$252.77 worth of merchandise at Burlington Coat Factory.

• An Orchard Dr. resident reported that his blow-up lawn ornaments had been popped.

• A Central Ave. resident reported that someone had removed an inflatable snowman from the front of her residence and another one had been damaged.

• An Edgar Ave. resident reported that someone had opened up a Commerce Bank check card in her name after closing out her existing account.

• A Bell Pl. resident reported that the passenger side window of her vehicle had been broken and her purse was taken.

• On Jan. 4 a Piscataway resident reported that she had left her wallet on a check-out counter at Pathmark and when she returned it was gone.

• Hunan Wok on W. 7th St. reported that a man came in complaining that he received the wrong order, but had eaten half of the food. The employee said she would replace it, however most of the food was eaten and he began to yell at her and threw the remaining food in her face. The suspect ran out of the store when she called police.

• The manager of Taco Bell on Stelton Rd. reported that a customer at the drive-up window had thrown a full cup of soda at him.

• An employee of Nutro Labs on Hadley Rd. left his wallet on top of a locker in the men's locker room. When he returned the wallet was found, but cash and a check were missing.

## Christmas Breakfast with Santa at Knights of Columbus



The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus held their annual Breakfast with Santa last month at the Knights Hall. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Santa, the children and their parents enjoyed a huge breakfast and each received a gift from Santa (Councilman Ed Kubala) when they spoke to him.



## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

Another year has begun and among your New Year's resolutions please include visiting the South Plainfield Public Library more often. Your Library includes much more than books (although it has over fifty thousand of those!). We have movies, including instructional and entertainment, we have books-on-tape and books-on-cd, we have a large selection of magazines and all the local newspapers. We also have programs, both for children and adults. For children Miss Linda has regularly scheduled story/craft times every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday plus a baby program Friday mornings. For adults we have programs on getting a job and computer instruction. Furthermore please watch for further information as we are going to be starting a book club this month.

Moreover, the library has computers on which you can do word processing and are internet accessible. We also have a number of databases available for patron use including the *New York Times* online from 1851 to date, the *New Jersey Star Ledger* from 1996,

*CountryWatch* which gives current information on countries around the world, Contemporary Authors (biographical/bibliographical information) and EBSCOHOST which indexes hundreds of periodicals, many with full text (this database can also be accessed from home through our website). And we have NOVELIST.

The start of a new year is a perfect time to start reading a new author and one way to find a new author is to use NOVELIST. This database allows you to find new books that resemble your old favorites either in plot, writing style, or even just an award winner. For example if you like Agatha Christie it would refer you to Dorothy Sayres or Josephine Tey (both female Golden Age crime writers) or Simon Brett (contemporary British crime writer) etc. And you can always ask a librarian, they will always be happy to help you.

And finally the Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library will be having their monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at the library (2484 Plainfield Ave.) See you at the library!

### Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays  
Wed. eves. with homily 7:30pm-Rev. Edward Struzik  
Dec 8 - Immaculate Conception (Holyday of Obligation) 8am and 7pm

Regular Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm  
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

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# Dining Out!

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VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT  
Golden Acres Shopping Center  
Park Ave. & Oak Tree Ave.  
Tuesday-Thurs. 11-9, Fri 11-10,  
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CLOSED MONDAYS  
**10% off** with this ad  
Try a New Taste this Holiday Season

**Charlie's**  
ICE CREAM FACTORY  
ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY CAKES NOW!  
Golden Acres Shopping Ctr.  
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Charlie's Ice Cream Factory

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MMMM...TOASTY!  
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(908) 226-5559  
Located at Golden Acres Shopping Center at intersection of Park Ave. and Oak Tree Road where the old Bradlees was by Hong Kong Supermarket & Shopper's World  
Come in and see for yourself why...  
Oven Toasted Tastes Better!!!

Advertise in the South Plainfield Observer Dining Guide. Choose from a one column (\$180) or two column (\$360) ad that runs for 10 weeks. We will design a custom ad for your business. Also included is a one-time feature with write up & photo.

For more information, call 908-668-0010.