

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 22

50 CENTS

JANUARY 23, 2004

Outlet Store to Anchor Golden Acres



Photos by Patricia Abbott

After Bradlees vacated its anchor position in Golden Acres Shopping Center three years ago, the space has remained vacant. The center's management company will welcome U.S. Factory Outlets to draw shoppers in early summer.

Over the past two years Golden Acres Shopping Center on Oak Tree Ave. has begun a slow but steady return to the thriving retail mall it once was. The revival continues as the dismal portion that once housed Bradlees is being renovated to house

two new businesses.

U.S. Factory Outlets, a Northeast based chain with 32 stores, will open approximately June 1, offering off price clothing, housewares and general merchandise, much like Bradlees. U.S. Factory Outlets will use 40,000

of the 70,000-square-foot interior. Skyline Management noted they are looking into several retail options to lease the remaining portion of the building.

No tenant name will be released until a lease has been finalized.

Coach Killer Sentenced to Life

Johnathan Moorman, 21, of South Plainfield, was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty last week to murdering Roger Cassett in April of 2002. Moorman pleaded guilty to murder, kidnapping and attempted burglary before Judge James Mulvihill in Superior Court in New Brunswick. The plea will enable Moorman to avoid the death penalty.

Cassett, 59, was found hog tied and strangled in his Ten Eyck St.

home. Raymond Dutton, the victim's stepfather, who was 82 at the time of the crime, arrived at the house just after Moorman hogtied Cassett and was a witness to the murder. He was also hog tied, but managed to free himself and call police. Dutton died a few months after the murder.

Moorman told police, in graphic detail, how he committed the crime. When he fled the scene of the murder,

he also stole a container of coins.

Cassett, well known in the Plainfield wrestling community, was a two-time state wrestling champion at Plainfield High School and also coached the high school and youth wrestling team in Plainfield.

Moorman was ordered to serve 40 years in prison before being eligible for parole. Had he gone on trial, he would have faced the death penalty.

"A Faith Filled Future" Theme of Sacred Heart School's Catholic Schools Week

Sacred Heart School, along with the other Catholic schools in the Metuchen Diocese, will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 24 through Jan. 30. The theme for this year is "A Faith-Filled Future."

Many exciting activities are planned for both the students and faculty at Sacred Heart. Open houses will be held Tuesday, Jan. 27 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, Jan. 29 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Residents are welcome to visit Sacred Heart School during this time and consider whether a Catholic education would be right for their child.

The week's activities begin on Saturday, Jan. 24, with a Mass at

St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen at 7 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 26, there will be a breakfast for teachers, sponsored by the Home School Association (HSA) and a pizza lunch, sponsored by the Athletic Association.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the first of three open houses planned for the week will take place.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 will begin with a pancake breakfast for parents, grandparents, school staff and students, sponsored by Home School Association. The evening will feature a basketball game with the students playing against the faculty/athletic staff starting at 7 p.m. This is a very popular event

each year for both the students and the faculty. Come early, the gym fills very quickly.

Thursday, Jan. 29, will start with an open house from 9 to 10:30 a.m. From 1 to 1:30 p.m., the teachers will switch grades. That evening a science fair and open house will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30, will feature a "Mad Science of New Jersey" presentation, sponsored by the HSA. Ice cream will be distributed to the students, courtesy of the Sacred Heart Student Council. The winner of the 100th Anniversary Logo Contest will be named and a 1 p.m. closing prayer service will be held in the gym to end the week's celebrations.

We Are (CERT)nly Looking For You!

Volunteers Sought for Emergency Response Team

The events that occurred on Sept. 11 will never be forgotten; also not forgotten is how the spirit of America was awakened that day and many citizens came forth to volunteer their services. President Bush has harnessed the spirit of volunteerism with the Citizen Corps program. CERT, a nationwide initiative, is a part of that program.

CERT Teams have been utilized for searching for lost or kidnapped children, staffing emergency operations centers and monitoring events, securing emergency operations centers, assisting in providing minor first aid, managing "spontaneous/convergent" volunteers and assisting the Red Cross and other relief organizations.

Who are CERT members? Friends, neighbors, co-workers and trained professionals who volunteer their valuable time and resources to make a difference in their workplace and communities. These team members have participated in the (CERT)

program and have been trained to be prepared to respond to emergency situations in the workplace and their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the workplace and their community.

The South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management will conduct the first of many CERT Training classes on Tuesday evenings starting Feb. 3. Residents or businesses interested in assisting South Plainfield with this CERT program should call (908) 226-7718 or email mzushima@southplainfieldnj.com. Non-residents can obtain more information by calling the Governor's Office of Volunteerism at (609) 984-3470 or NJ State Police Office of Emergency Management CERT Training Coordinator at 877-CERT-411.



Pictured with Riley School students and displaying the Elks' donation check are (left to right) Sharon Reuter, Elks member; Elks Exalted Ruler Nick Chupko, Past Exalted Ruler Art Sabino, Riley School Principal Bill Beegle and Kelly Butrico, Playground Committee chairperson.

Elks Make \$2,000 Donation To Riley Playground Fund

The South Plainfield Elks Club recently donated \$2,000 to Riley School for the purchase of new playground equipment.

Three years ago much of the school's playground was removed because it

did not meet safety standards.

The Playground Committee has been working hard to raise money to replace the equipment. New pieces have been selected and the committee hopes to install them by early spring.

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, 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.
Monday, March 15	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

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. 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.: Feb. 10, March 9 and April 6.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: 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.

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

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

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

Junior Journalist Corner

**Students,
what's
missing from
this picture?...
YOU!**

Win a catered dinner for your family from Hometown Heros through the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Contest!

For details on entering, see page 12, or ask your language teacher at school.



SPHS senior Elaine Alexander and her mom pick up dinner, courtesy of Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros. Elaine, who was last week's Junior Journalist Contest winner, will also be invited to attend an end of the year banquet for all the contest winners and their parents.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a South Plainfield high school freshman. It has come to my attention that the class trip taken by the Junior English classes to Midevea Times has not been approved for the coming years. The reason being the trip is too elementary.

This trip has been part of the Junior Class for many years. It is something the students look forward to from the time they enter the high school. The show allows students to see what they have been reading and learning about, actually come to life. As part of their Junior year curriculum, the students study Midevea Times. They read *The Canterbury Tales* and *Morte D'Arthur*. Seeing the jousting and the tournament events was very exciting.

Why is it that learning can't be fun? This is a fun trip, as well as educational. Most of the SPHS students who graduate say that this trip is one of their greatest high school memories. As parents, we must try and get this trip reinstated for the coming years. I urge you to contact our Superintendent and let him know how important this trip is to the students of SPHS. I must also add that there is no cost to the district for this trip, the students pay for it.

**SINCERELY,
A CONCERNED PARENT
OF A SPHS FRESHMAN**

Letter to the Editor

In response to the letter submitted by Animal Lover with A Heart

According to your letter, Plainfield Animal Hospital did not refuse to look at the stray cat. You were going to be charged an office visit for them to do so. If your heart is truly that big and you were that concerned about the cat, you would have paid for the office visit.

I, too, am the owner of several cats, but I would have paid the office visit to help that stray cat. If your vet was willing to see the cat the next day, why didn't you try confining the cat for the night, possibly in a garage? And are you sure they were going to see the cat free of charge?

I will tell you just how concerned the staff of Plainfield Animal Hospital is. We lost a cat this past October. He was at Plainfield Animal Hospital for over a week in isolation and we were given daily updates by telephone and allowed to visit with him every day. One of the doctors spent an entire Sunday at the hospital because he would not eat on his own and she had to feed him several times with a syringe. We went to visit him twice that Sunday. There was no charge for an office visit. Do you think that doctor stayed to get twelve hours overtime?

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.

No, it was out of love for animals and concern for my daughter who loved that cat and continues to miss him deeply. The receptionists at Plainfield Animal Hospital, to this day, continue to ask how we are doing. I have dealt with Plainfield Animal Hospital for over twenty-five years and would never consider taking my pets anywhere else.

If you truly were an animal lover with a heart, you would have paid that office visit. You concluded by stating the mother cat did indeed have kittens, but they continue to be out in the cold. What happened to your concern? Why didn't you take the cat to your vet the next day when they said they would see her? If blame needs to be placed, maybe you need to look a little closer to home. Maybe your heart isn't as big as you think it is.

**ANOTHER ANIMAL LOVER
WITH A HEART**

To the Editor:

How inspiring to read an issue of any newspaper and see mostly heartwarming, GOOD news. Your Jan. 2 issue was just that.

We applaud those borough residents like the Yurgels and Shirley Thompson—with their family and friends—who spent time at Christmas to cook and deliver food and gifts to the most needy of our community. And how wonderful that teachers and students in the middle school's "Pennies from Heaven" project raised monies for Ap-

palachian families in Kentucky, while high school students hosted a holiday lunch for the seniors of South Plainfield.

The photos featured in the center section of the *Observer* of students involved in the holiday concert were outstanding. The photographer captured the essence of the holiday season in the close-ups of these young musicians.

All in all, that issue of the *Observer* gave all South Plainfielders reasons to be proud of our community.

VIRGINIA GREEN

Dear Editor,

I recently was interviewed by the president of The South Plainfield Historical Society, Dorothy Miele. She and her staff are spending countless hours searching and interviewing old-time residents that have been raised and still live in South Plainfield.

The knowledge that was obtained by the Society can restore the history and events that have taken place in the past.

Mrs. Miele has even made house-calls to long-time residents that were unable to leave their residency.

Dates, times and places of events that she has obtained were far beyond their expectations.

Last year, the Society had their first Historical Day, which turned out to be a great success. Let's hope this year's events will be even greater.

The biggest problem confronting the Historical Society is their lack of funds. Plus, they have nowhere to display artifacts. Their funds are only from donations received or through fundraising. Help enlarge the history and education this organization is trying to provide. Send donations, little or small, to: South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

**THANK YOU,
JAKE CATALDO**

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.

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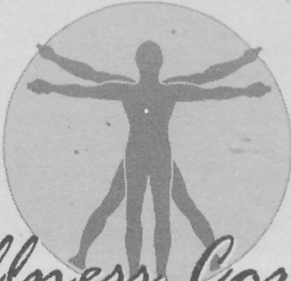
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Wellness Corner

Dealing With Chronic Pain

By Patrick M. Aiello, DC

Unfortunately, all too many people have the burden of dealing with pain and discomfort on a daily basis. Having to deal with chronic pain can lead to a confusing array of options. Do we medicate? Can surgery be helpful? Is exercise good? Is alternative medicine helpful? Where do we begin?

First off, not all pain is a bad thing. Pain is the body's warning system to tell us something is wrong. In the early stages of a problem that could be a very good thing as it allows us to address issues before they become bigger problems. At its worst, pain can become a debilitating factor that can take the quality of our lives away from us. Unfortunately, until recently, chronic pain hasn't been adequately addressed. What's more problematic is that all of us experience pain differently and at different levels. That's true, even with people suffering from similar conditions.

It's no coincidence that people suffering from chronic pain exhibit lower scores on health questionnaires and other disability scores. What's also no coincidence is that chronic pain sufferers typically exhibit poor health. So, what can we do about it? Well, here's an option.

A study from the July 2003 issue of *Spine* (a research journal) demonstrated chiropractic to be superior to both medications and acupuncture in



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

relieving this chronic spinal pain. This randomized control study looked at 115 patients at an Australian public hospital who were randomly assigned to one of three treatment options: Medication (Celebrax, Vioxx or paracetamol), needle acupuncture or chiropractic. At the conclusion of this study, the group receiving chiropractic care experienced the most recovered patients. Of notable importance was that patients in the chiropractic group reported a 47% improvement on their general health questionnaire, compared to 15 percent for the acupuncture group and 18 percent for the medication group.

What does this all mean? First and foremost I think it's a matter of getting back to the basics. Diet, exercise, keeping up with your health and reducing that which causes you pain. Unfortunately, there's no magic wand I can wave to make all of your pain go away. However, with a pro-active attitude and desire along with the proper guidance, there's hope for chronic pain sufferers. Don't give up the ship and continue to explore all of your options. **House-Call Update**—As we enter the New Year, I'm continuing to service my patients through house calls. It's been hugely popular and tremendously received. Should you have any questions or like to schedule an in-home chiropractic visit, please feel free to call me at (908) 755-2289 or E-Mail me at SoPlfDoc@aol.com.

New Community Bulletin Board

The Borough has a Community Bulletin Board located across from the Finance Office at the Municipal Building. The bulletin board will allow Borough groups and organizations who wish to conduct an activity or function to know if any other group is planning an 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.

Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

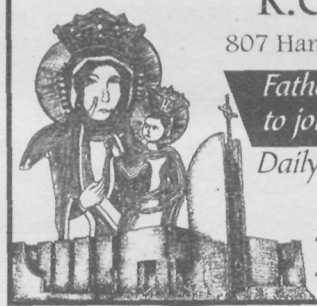
Father Maciej Melaniuk invites you to join our parishioners in worship.

Daily Mass at 8am except Wednesdays

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday evenings at 5:30pm

Sunday mornings at 8am and 11am



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A Singing Valentine for Someone Special

Valentine's Day is coming and the Millstone Valley Chorus quartets are busy preparing to deliver Singing Valentines on Feb. 12, 13 and 14. Deliveries are made in person to people at work, at home, in restaurants, or most anywhere a sender wishes. A Singing Valentine consists of a quarter singing two songs in four-part harmony, a card containing a personal message, a chocolate treat, a silk rose and a Polaroid photo of the event. Cost for the package is \$50.

Millstone Valley Chorus is a non-profit organization of women singing four-part harmony capella, often at community functions. Members live throughout central New Jersey and in Eastern Pennsylvania. Singing Valentines are a favorite activity of chorus members as they look forward to the smiles, giggles, or tears of surprised recipients. Future chorus plans include participation in Regional Competition in Philadelphia and presenting a spring show.

The chorus rehearses Monday even-



Millstone Valley Chorus members get ready to play cupid by delivering Singing Valentines. Pictured left to right are South Plainfield Recycling Coordinator Alice Tempel, Shirley Keinsohn of Kingston, Laurie Roland of Dayton and Shannon MacInnis of Kendall Park.

ings at Trinity Church, Mercer St., Princeton, where visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

To order a Singing Valentine or for more information, call (908) 874-

3079. For other chorus information or to book a performance, see the chorus website at www.millstonevalley.org or email to millstonevc@aol.com.

Golf Outing Planned in Art Muglia's Memory

A golf outing in memory of Art Muglia is being planned by Art's brothers, Jim and Bob, who wanted to memorialize Art in a special way. Art was a generous person who loved his family, golf and especially helping others.

With the help of a close family friend and longtime playing partner, John Cotrone, (known as "Chief" by Art), this year's outing will take place at the Spooky Brook Golf Club on Friday, June 25. Each year thereafter, the Memorial Golf Outing will be held on the last week of June.

Art Muglia, who died suddenly last year, was a prominent businessman in South Plainfield. He was an active member of the South Plainfield Business Association and the South Plainfield Advisory Committee. Art's passions included his family, building model airplanes, the NJ Motor Truck Association and his dedication to his favorite charity, the Matheny School. All of the proceeds from the outing will be donated to the Matheny School,

which teaches and promotes the arts to the physically and mentally handicapped young adults. Art loved the school with all his heart and giving the proceeds to Matheny would be what he would want.

The main focus of the day will be

for the friends of Art to get together once a year and to remember what Art meant to everyone.

To sign-up or for get more information on the outing, email Jim Muglia at JMuglia@comcast.net or call his office at (973) 667-2466.



Pictured are Dr. Scott Linick, director of the Plainfield Animal Hospital, and Martha Sides-Lathrop, a volunteer for People For Animals. Plainfield Animal Hospital donated over 600 lbs. of food for unwanted pets. People For Animals, a non-profit organization based in Hillside, is dedicated to the care and adoption of unwanted and orphaned animals.

Summer Drama Workshop Receives Grant

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has been awarded a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission for their 2004 production. The SPSPDW producing board also held a reorganization meeting and elected new officers.

This is the third year the SPSPDW has been assisted by a commission grant. The group is planning on having a sign-interpreted performance for the hearing impaired, and these funds will go towards funding an interpreter, as well as helping to defray other production expenses. This year will be the 33rd season for the SPSPDW.

The new officers for the producing board are President-Bill Mott; Vice President-Janis Nietzer, Treasurer-Kathy Winner and Secretary-Jayne Mott.



What's Missing From This Picture?... You!



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Events

Pack 207 to Sponsor Magic Show

January 24

Illusion team John Bundy and Morgan will perform a magic show on Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. at South Plainfield High School. Illusions include the age-old but unbelievable act of cutting someone in half, levitation and much more. The show includes an intermission and runs approximately 90 minutes. The event is a fundraiser for Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 207.

To order tickets, call Bill at (908) 561-8128. Tickets at the door will be \$7. Bundy and Morgan are donating their services. The money raised will be used for various scout activities and service projects.

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 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."

For further information on this event, call (908) 757-7598.

Senior Plan Trip to The Full Monty

February 5

The Senior Center in sponsoring a trip to NJ Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 5 for a 1:30 p.m. performance of the fun-filled musical comedy, "The Full Monty."

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
Monthly meetings will now be on the third Thursday of the month				
<div>EVENTS</div> <div>March 17-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"</div>				
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 Avail. Bridge Club 12:30pm
26	27	28	29	30
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

Tickets are \$35 per person and include transportation. Contact the Senior Center for tickets. Cut off date is Jan. 23.

Seniors Plan Trip Two to Atlantic City

February 4 and March 3

The Senior Center will be running two day trips to Atlantic City on Wednesday, Feb. 4 and March 3. The bus departs from Senior Center at 9 a.m.

The cost is \$15 with a return of \$13 from the casino. Please contact the Senior Center for tickets.

SPHS Music Boosters Meeting

February 4

All parents of students in the South Plainfield High School Band and Chorus are invited to attend the Music Boosters meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS Band room.

Historical Society to Hold Social Event

February 8

The South Plainfield Historical Society will be holding a fundraiser social on Sunday, Feb. 8 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the PAL building on Maple Ave.

The afternoon will include both social and line dancing, along with instructions. Entertainment, instruction and DJ services will be provided by Wanda and Jim York, both South Plainfield Adult Ed. dance instructors. Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes.

Come as a couple or as a single. All are welcome. Tickets are \$10 and \$13 at the door. For information and tickets, contact, Betty Lou Hamilton at (908) 755-3592 or Linda Mackenzie at (908) 753-6476.

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 (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

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

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

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

Senior Center EVENTS

— Out of Town —

Circle Players Perform

January 23 and 24

Painting Churches, a riveting comedy/drama by Tina Howe about family loyalty, dysfunction, aging and love is at Circle Players, the community theater of Piscataway, 416 Victoria Ave. Performances are Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday performances are \$12. Matinees are \$11 (or two for \$20). Seniors and students receive \$1 off with I.D.

For tickets and information, call (732) 968-7555.

Wardlaw-Hartridge School Open Houses

January 24

Wardlaw-Hartridge School will hold an open house on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 9 a.m. for PreK3 and grades through 12. Tours are available of the college preparatory facility located at 1295 Inman Ave. in Edison. Directions are available on the school's website at www.whschool.org.

The newly approved PreK3 program, known as "Smart Start," will only house a total of 16 students.

Admission screening for program readiness is now underway. Call the school at (908) 754-1882, ext. 156.

SingleFaces January Dances

January

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

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

Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Ramanda Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. at the Raritan Center in Edison at 8 p.m. a Cost is \$12. Chinese New Year.

Friday Jan 30 at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Shadowbrook, Rt. 35 in Shrewsbury at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

B'nai B'rith Ketubah Meeting

January 25

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will be meeting for dinner at the Buttonwood Manor,

Rte. 34 North in Matawan on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. The price of the dinner will be your equal share of the bill. Non-members are welcome to attend. RSVP to Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by Jan. 23.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

January 26

Adoption Support- CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) CHATS will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26 at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield. The meeting will be a sharing meeting, discussing how adoption affects family holiday celebrations.

Open sharing of adoption-related stories will be told and light refreshments will be served.

For information, check out our website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

Depression and Bipolar Meeting

January 28

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA Morristown Area) on Wednesday, Jan. 28 will feature Robert Corrington, Ph.D., a professor in Graduate Studies at Drew University in Madison. The topic is "Beyond Mere Survival: The Quest for Wholeness," followed by a question-and-answer period.

In case of the possibility of dangerous driving weather on meeting night, call (973) 994-1143 after 6 p.m. for cancellation information.

The organization's educational meetings take place monthly at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. (about one block east of the Morris Museum) in Morristown. Meetings are open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

Visit the website of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance/Morristown Area at www.dbsanewjersey.org/dbsamorristownarea to learn more and to view links to other sources of helpful information.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

Nutritional Sciences Preschool Open House

January 28

The Nutritional Sciences Preschool at Rutgers University will be holding its Open House for registration for the 2004-2005 academic year on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. The preschool is located in Davison Hall on the Cook/Douglass campus of Rutgers University, between the student center and the bookstore. The Nutritional Sciences Preschool is sponsored by the Department of Nutritional Sciences at Rutgers, licensed by the State of New Jersey and accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. The snow date is Wednesday, Feb. 4.

For more information or more specific directions, call Director Harriet Worobey at (732) 932-8895.

ONE SHOW ONLY- JANUARY 24

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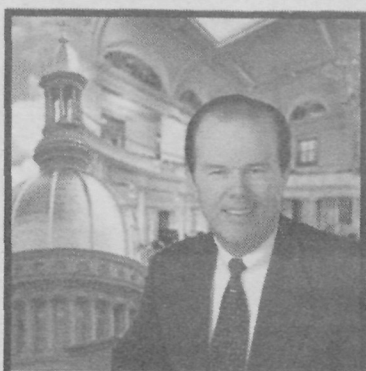
CUB SCOUT PACK 207 FUNDRAISER—Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School auditorium. Tickets at the door are \$7.

It seems like yesterday that my family and friends traveled by bus to help celebrate my taking the oath of office as an Assemblyman. In fact two years have passed and the 210th session of the New Jersey General Assembly is now part of history. I really believe that it was a successful term. The Governor and Legislature were forced to deal with the excesses of the past during a time of economic downturn. We passed two balanced budgets and addressed a \$12 billion deficit, without raising either the income tax or sales tax. At the same time local aid has been increased, including state aid to education. Working together with Assemblyman Peter Barnes and Senator Barbara Buono, South Plainfield received over \$1 million in additional state aid in 2002 and 2003. I was honored when Speaker Sires appointed me as a member of the Education Committee and as Vice Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee. As a former Instructor at Middlesex County College, I have a real interest in education. If there is one area that I want to make a difference in, it's improving all areas of educational opportunity in our state.

During the 210th session I was primary sponsor of 69 bills and co-sponsor of another 160. Thirty of those have been signed into law. Just last week the Governor signed Assembly Bill 3928, which I sponsored, into law. This law appropriates \$64 million for acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes throughout our great state. If you are ever interested in looking up any of my bills that are before the legislature you can find them by going to the website, www.njleg.state.nj.us and putting in my name under "search by bill sponsor."

Last Tuesday, Jan. 13, I again took the oath of office along with the 79 other members of the 211th session of the legislature. Speaker Sires has asked that I continue to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee and he also "promoted" me to Vice Chairperson of the Education Committee. I couldn't be more pleased. I am in the process of pre-filing those bills that I hope will become law within the next two years. Over the upcoming weeks, I'll be reporting to you on some of my ideas for New Jersey's future.

It has been an honor and a joy to be a member of the New Jersey General Assembly for the last two years. I look forward to continuing to work with Assemblyman Barnes and Senator Buono to do good things for the 18th district. If there is any issue that you want to discuss or an idea that you want to explore, please contact me. My legislative office is located at 908 Oak Tree Ave. Unit P. My phone number is (908) 757-1677 and my email address is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.



News
From The State House
Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Roque Inducted Into Tau Beta Pi

Cherilyne Roque of South Plainfield was inducted in November into Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society at Rutgers-New Brunswick's School of Engineering.

A senior majoring in chemical engineering, Roque is the daughter of Milagros and Dominador Roque of South Plainfield. She is a 1996 graduate of Sacred Heart Elementary School and attended Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark where she graduated as salutatorian.

Roque is currently vice president of the Rutgers chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and secretary of Omega Chi Epsilon honor society. A dean's list student, she also tutors and assists with research in the Chemical Engineering Department. Roque will graduate this May.

Tau Beta Pi is the second oldest honor society in the nation and represents the highest honor to be obtained by an engineering student. Membership is awarded on the basis of high scholarship and exemplary character.

Share your good news!

We'd like to include your births, promotions, weddings, anniversaries and announcements in Milestones.



Daryn Mascola and Gail Wylam of South Plainfield were congratulated by Governor Jim McGreevey on Jan. 7 for Daryn's selection as the New Jersey Staffing Alliance Employee of the Year. Daryn was placed in an administrative assistant position in a Piscataway pharmaceutical company by Gail Wylam, Director of Operations for Bryant Staffing, and has been working there since May 2000. Daryn registered with Bryant after being a stay-at-home mom and discovered that "temping" was a great way to build her resume, update her computer skills and increase her confidence.

Vokrals Welcome Birth of Granddaughter

Billy and Christine Riggio (nee Vokral) are the proud parents of a baby girl, Madeline Rose, who was born at St Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, on Jan. 13. Madeline Rose weighed in at 5 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 18½ inches.

For the proud grandparents,

Debbie and Jim Vokral of South Plainfield, this is their ninth grandchild. The paternal grandparents are Nancy and John Riggio of Staten Island, who now have seven grandchildren.

Christine and Billy have two other children, Billy, 6, and Abigail, 3. Both Madeline and mother are doing fine.

ALERT SPECIAL MEETING DATE

Board of Adjustment Special Meeting: The Board of Adjustment will hold a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. at Borough Hall to hear Case #41-03/CU I.S.S.C. (Indian Temple).



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News From the Historical Society... By William Tuthill

The South Plainfield Historical Society held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan 13 at the Seniors Center. The first issue of business was the nomination and election of officers for the new year. The officers for 2003 were: President Dorothy Miele, Vice President Kathy Horvath, Second Vice President Sara Miele, Treasurer Mary Viet and Secretary Betty Hamilton.

A fine collection of antique coins and buckles that were mounted and framed was brought in by Robert Hall. The collection contained two framed groups of musket balls and what might have been referred to as "pea shot" because of their size. All of these pieces are lead that have obtained a fine patina with age.

Hall explained that he found many of the items right here in South Plainfield, including a lead fishing line weight he found on the grounds of the new Senior Center. He found

them with his metal detector as the gas station was being torn down to make way for the center.

A ledger book, which dates back to 1874, has been donated by Mary Bori to the Society's collection of historical artifacts. Mary said her mother found the book in a desk in the gas station on Maple Ave., which is now the location of a foreign car repair shop. Mary's father owned and operated the gas station and repair shop for many years. After his passing, her mother sold the property and while cleaning out the office, found the book. Mary now owns and operates the White Star diner on Maple Ave.

Also, two photos of a pre-WWII Army Air Corps training plane, a PT19 were brought in by John and Helen Donnelly, both pilots who owned their plane.

The Army Air Corps was the air-arm of the army till late in WWII, when it was changed to the Air Force,

a separate section of the Department of Defense.

John Zazzara passed out 1½ inch buttons that depict the Hadley Airport to the members. The pins will be available to any member who brings their membership up to date and any new members joining the Historical Society. Membership dues for the new year are now being collected. They can be paid by mail or at the February meeting.

The Historical Society is sponsoring a night of music and dancing on Sunday, Feb. 8 at the PAL building. There will be several kinds of music and dances, as well as instructions on line dancing.

Tickets are now available from members or by mail for \$10 per person. Tickets at the door are \$15. Send your check to The South Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Free refreshments will be served.

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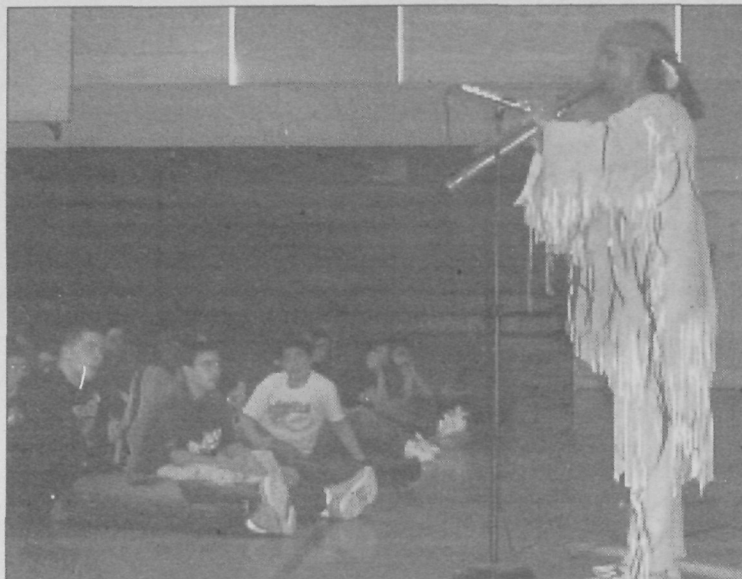
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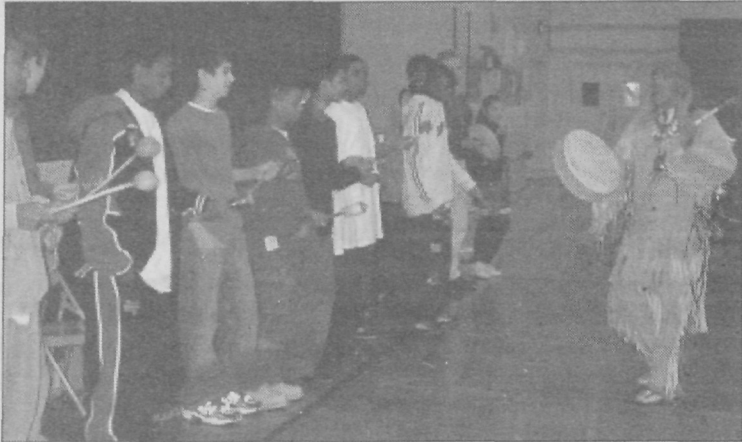
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Native American Philosophies Translate Into Respect for Environment and One Another



Indian descendant of the MicMac Tribe, Kenneth Little Hawk, speaks to Middle School students on American Indian lifestyles and contributions to society.



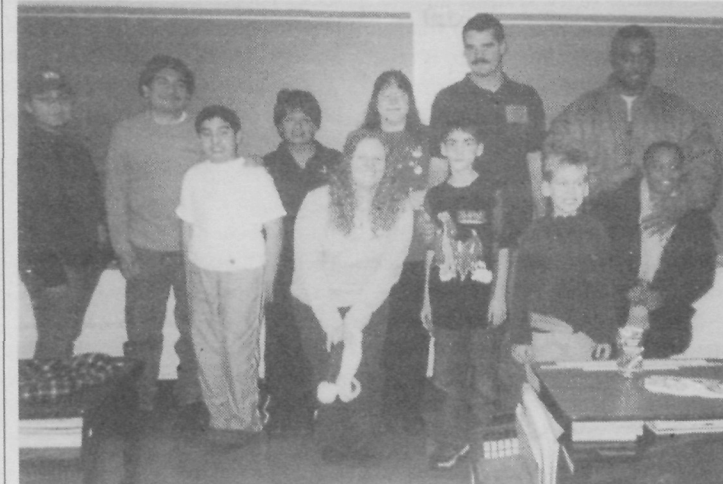
Fourth Graders Learn About Careers

Kerry O'Neill, a student teacher at Franklin Elementary School, organized a Career Day for her self-contained fourth grade class. The class invited family and friends to speak about their careers.

Due to bad weather, many speakers were unable to be present. The children did, however, get to hear from a manager of a heavy construc-

tion company and a housekeeper. The following week, a parent who was unable to be there that day, spoke about his position as a cable salesman and his cross-country travels.

The students learned very interesting things and expressed their appreciation to the parents for sharing their experiences.



Pictured are Stephanie Gonzalez, Mr. Gonzalez, Bryan Gonzalez, Miss O'Neill, Mrs. Panton, Tanner Panton, Mr. Panton, Brandon Shea, Mr. Green and Jy'Neer Green.

By Jane Dornick

Kenneth Little Hawk, an Indian descendant of the MicMac Tribe, recently spoke to students at the Middle School about native American Indian lifestyles and the contributions they have made to our society.

The MicMac Tribe originated in Nova Scotia, Canada and migrated over the years through New York State, with Little Hawk's family finally settling in Central Jersey, where he grew up.

Adorned in traditional Indian dress, he explained how the Indian people made use of what was in the environment and didn't waste anything. Their clothes were made from animal skins, their musical instruments were made from gourds, sea shells and even the bones from animals. Little Hawk demonstrated his musical talents by rubbing rocks together to make sounds and shook deer toes that were used as rattles. The Indian people, he said, killed for food, clothing and shelter, not for sport as we do today.

During his presentation, he kept the audience riveted with his animated dancing, singing and storytelling. Little Hawk even gave a history lesson by explaining how when the first settlers came to the New World they needed to establish a government, which was influenced by its Indian inhabitants. Our Declaration of Independence was based on the Iriquois tribe's example of equal representation.

The Indian people made many contributions to our society over the years by showing us about medicines, different foods and how to work with the land.

Little Hawk's message to the children was based on the Indian philosophy of respect; for the land, nature and people. He was very pleased at how much respect the Middle School students had shown him during the assembly and they were a credit to their parents.

SCHOOL BOARD *Briefs*



Assistant Superintendent of Schools Anthony Massaro (right) congratulates Natalie Zeno on receiving tenure. Also pictured are SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May and Vice Principal Helen Gottlieb (left).

- Natalie Zeno and have been recommended to receive tenure.
- Anthony Massaro was appointed as Affirmative Action Office for Equity in Educational Programs for the remainder of the 2003/04 school year.
- Cathy Feeney has retired as Transportation Supervisor.
- Sandra Acker resigned as Roosevelt/Administration Building Instructional Support Aide.
- Steven Senz was appointed as Treasurer of Schools Monies. He was a replacement for Jay Reba who was

- a temporary appointment.
- Cornerstone Architectural Group was appointed as Architect of Record for the 2003/04 school year.
- It was announced that Franklin School will pilot the Phonic Ear Amplification system for use in each classroom, at a cost of \$13,000, paid by the PTA. The pilot will run for an indeterminate length. It was also noted that the PTA should not expect reimbursement from the Board of Education, even if the system shows positive benefits for students.



Riley Principal Bill Beegle congratulates Eileen Stellakis on receiving tenure.

Make a Difference... Get Involved!

School Board Candidacy Information Available at 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 Avenue, 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."

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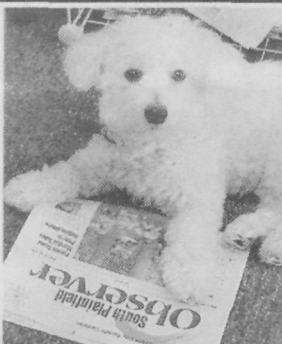
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A three-car accident last Friday resulted in no serious injuries.

Three Car Crash on Oak Tree Ave.

A three-car accident on Oak Tree Ave. caused traffic to be diverted for several hours around noontime last Friday.

A 2002 Nissan Altima driven by Joan Moskowitz, 61, of Paterson went through the stop sign on Joan St. while attempting to make a right hand turn. Moskowitz broadsided a 1998 Mitsubishi, sending it into the path of an oncoming vehicle. The Mitsubishi, driven by Selfia Naser, 50, of South Plainfield struck the front a

2003 Chevy SUV heading toward Park Ave., sending it over the curb. The SUV driven by Padmavath Iyengar, 53, also of South Plainfield hit a utility pole knocking it across the roadway.

No one was seriously injured, however a 78-year-old passenger in the Mitsubishi was taken to the hospital with a minor head injury. Moskowitz was issued a ticket by South Plainfield Police for going through a stop sign.

police report

• On January 14 a Clarke Ave. resident reported that someone opened his garage door and pried open the door to the kitchen and took \$45 from his wallet in the bedroom.

• On January 15 a So. 11th St. resident reported that the molding on the rear driver's side door of their Hyundai had been removed and the door molding of a Pontiac had been partially removed.

• On January 19 a Pitt St. resident reported receiving numerous harassing phone calls over the past three days.

BOROUGHNOTES

■ The following were awarded Professional Services contracts: Fleming White Appraisals to conduct said services from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004; for the Police 9-1-1 System from KML Technology at a cost not to exceed \$3,924.62 for the period Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004 and for the Health Department's Animal Control Program with FRA Technologies at a cost not to exceed \$375 for the period Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004.

■ Part-time Public Safety Telecommunicator Marie Aimone resigned, effective Jan. 2.

■ Heidemarie Quinn was hired as a full-time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee effective Jan. 12.

■ Rose Benak was hired as a full-time Senior Citizen Omnibus Operator/

Typing effective January 26.

■ The budget was amended to include a \$6,668.21 Grant from the State of New Jersey, Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund and a \$9,204.42 Grant from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

■ The Board authorized the purchase of three laptop computers from GHAT at a cost of \$1,700 each, \$5,100 in total. The computers will be installed into the new police vehicles.

■ The Board authorized the purchase of three In-Car Video Systems from Mobile Vision (State Contract #A44254) at a cost of \$3,744 each, \$11,232 in total. They will be installed in the new police vehicles.

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

We'll be sticking with our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. These programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. They're held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. We also have our Books-N-Babies program for children up to three-years-old. That program is held on Friday morning at 10:30. If you'd like more information about our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Monday will be the last day of availability for the current group of Circuit videos and DVDs. Please stop by and check on what's here before they're gone. Meanwhile, the latest group of Circuit audiobooks is now ready for borrowing. Available titles for this period include *Safe Harbour* by Danielle Steel, *The Face* by Dean Koontz, *Three Witnesses* by Rex Stout, *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen, *The Hundred Days* by Patrick O'Brian, and (on CD) *2nd Chance* by James Patterson. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

Now, let's address a question that has come up several times of late: Does the Library accept credit or debit cards for the payment of fines, fees, etc.? The answer to that is: Not now. At present, we accept cash, checks and money orders for debt payment. However, we're just not equipped technologically or procedurally to start accepting plastic for payment. Patron suggestions regarding this have been passed along to our director and the matter is being considered. (The same cannot be said for those suggesting the acceptance of "Star Trek" credit units, though.) We'll let you know if the situation changes.

And now, for another question: Have you received the tax forms yet? The answer to that one is: Yes, some of them. We receive the tax forms (both state and Federal) in fits and starts. While we have a number of different forms and instructional booklets of both types, others are (we assume) on the way. As soon as we get them, we'll put them on display for

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

you in the pamphlet racks near our Vertical File cabinets. If you need instruction sheets or forms immediately, though, we can print them out directly from the respective websites of the IRS or the NJ State Division of Taxation for the standard printout charge of 10 cents a page.

HOWEVER, please be aware of the following: Our staff members are not accountants or tax professionals. Even if they were, our staff is *strictly prohibited* from offering tax advice, including but not limited to advice regarding which deductions to take, which forms to use, etc. Also, be aware that the Library does not offer tax preparation assistance. If you

need help filing your return, we will let you know which community organizations offer such help so that you may contact them directly. We hope this makes things clear for you.

Finally, we're holding a bit of a contest. Just leave your name and phone number in the jar near the Circulation Desk. Winners will receive one of four gift bags we'll be offering. The winning entries will be drawn at noon on Feb. 4. And why are we holding this contest? Because Feb. 4 marks the halfway point for this winter; only 44½ more days until spring begins!

That's about all for now. See you next Friday.

South Plainfield Scouting



Cub Scout Den 2 of Pack 324 planted a tree at J.F. Kennedy School in November. Planting this tree on their school grounds was a requirement for the achievement "Take Care of Your Planet." These scouts are working for their Bear Badge. Pictured from left to right: (kneeling) Keanu O'Neal, Nathanael Ganthier and Brian McCarthy, (standing) Kevin Belanger, Tommy Riccardi, Brandon Pauls and Anthony Quadrel.



Cub Scout Pack 324 of Kennedy School, pictured here on the field of Giants Stadium, recently went on a tour of the Meadowlands Arena. The tour included the race track, an inside look at the locker rooms, the press booth and Giants Stadium.

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SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

Vicki Boley, Matt Boley Medal Winners in GMC Individuals

Vicki Boley placed sixth in the qualifying round, then proceeded to bowl 258, 197 and 203 for a 658 set, earning a fifth position in the step ladder finals. Vicki defeated Ashley DiSilvestro of Woodbridge with games of 205 and 197, then Marissa Jaquillard, also off Woodbridge, with games of 268 and 157, before falling to Carteret's Kristina Figueiredo in the days most exciting match. Vicki's 709, three game total earned her third place among the

175 GMC bowlers.

Matt Boley's 708 qualifying score, coupled with his semi-final 646 set, put him in the third slot in the step ladder round. Facing Mike McGlynn of Edison, both bowlers matched strike for strike for seven frames after opening with misses in the initial frame, but McGlynn's prevailing 247-202 forced Matt to settle for a fourth place Bronze Medal. Congratulations to Vicki and Matt!

Tigers Crush New Brunswick

SPHS 932-917-929—2798
N. Brunswick 657-686-822—2165

Matt Boley's 247-209-196 and 651 set paced the Tigers to a 4-0 shutout over

SPHS 963-937-1006—2906
JP Stevens 1037-950-990—2977

The Hawks jumped out to a 74 pin lead and held off the rushing Tigers to squeeze out a victory. Matt Boley stroked a 641 set on games of 222-

the Zebras of New Brunswick. Teammates Jon Jeglinski's 209-526 and rookie John Roesch's 209-545 turned in excellent outings. Also chipping in were Nick Grego with 181-511 and Shawn Ferguson's 181-174.

203-216. A solid team effort was turned in by the entire Tiger squad. Nick Grego's 203-557, Jon Jeglinski's 222-539, Shawn Ferguson's 216-541, Vin Genova's 224-535 and Geo Kleinknecht's 192-25.

163 and Anna Ferrer's 140.

SPHS 792-815-761—2368
JP Stevens 632-733-682—2247

The Lady Tigers coasted to an easy win taking all three games from the Hawks. Vicki Boley again led the green and white with a booming 653 set on games of 229-205-219. Solid support was received from Beverly Jamieson's 166, Kim Baub's 175, Angelique Rualo's 166 and Anna Ferrer's 158.

Lady Tigers Drop Zebras, Hawks Up Record

SPHS 905-854-770—2579
N. Brunswick 597-580-589—1776

The Girl's team bowled their highest series of the season at the expense of a young New Brunswick team. Vicki Boley earned scoring honors on games of 208-222-190 for a 620 set, with backup from teammates Kim Gaub's 212-637 and Beverly Jamieson's 214-503. Also chipping in were Angelique Rualo with 178, Lindsay Hunsicker's

Sports

Boys' Varsity Basketball Preview

By Tim Morgan

The South Plainfield High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team has been getting a lot of attention this season. Few had doubts about whether their season would be propitious this year, but most did not foresee the success that they're having now. The Tigers won the White Division and the Rahway Christmas Tournament last year and went 17-6, but now they are one of the top teams to beat. "We have become a big target by other teams," said 18-year Head Coach Jeff Lubreski.

As of Jan. 19, the Tigers are 11-0. They recaptured the Rahway Christmas Tournament title and are poised to recapture the Division title. Last year, they made it to the semi-finals in the GMC Tournament, but they have loftier ambitions this year, hoping to make it to the finals and possibly capture that title, too. And they want to make it a round or two farther in the state tournament this year, having been knocked out in the first round last year.

However, the pressure is unmistakably on for the Tigers. The bar has been raised, and that in itself could make it more difficult for them to carry

out their goals, because their competition is watching them and scrutinizing them more than ever. Lubreski said that his team's newfound notoriety can be a distraction. "It's created some obstacles," he said. He is of course, satisfied with their bedecked reputation though. "We are stronger and deserving of our ranking, but we just have to stay hungry enough and determined enough to maintain it," he remarked. And speaking of rankings, the Tigers were ranked 14th in the state by the Gannett New Jersey Top 20 State Poll on Jan. 17.

"We've had success this year by concentrating on defense over offense," Lubreski said. "Our overall speed and athleticism creates match-up problems for our opponents." He also said, "I think we have more experience in hand as opposed to other years." Lubreski also attributes their upturn to last year's successful season being a motivator and a confidence booster and thinks that that factor could play an efficacious role in the future. "We are in a position where we can try to make winning a habit for the next few years," he said.

On the White Division level, Sayreville and Colonia present the Tigers their most challenging competition. When they faced Colonia the first time, it was a difficult game to win, so beating them again will be pivotal in winning the division. On the GMC level, Cardinal McCarrick, North Brunswick and St. Joseph's are gunning to make the finals in the tournament as well. And on the state level, Scotch Plains, the fifth ranked team in the Gannett Top 20, will be formidable.

Lubreski, who has been exposed to basketball and competed in it all of his life, emphasizes the values of teamwork, developing character, and han-

dling adversity that can be taught in coaching and playing the sport, and any other sport for that matter.

In practices, the Tigers dedicate the majority of their time developing their team defense. They also work on team offense and offensive and defensive drills and do conditioning work.

"We have been healthy and we certainly hope to maintain that streak of injury-free games in order to accomplish the goals that we set at the beginning of the year," Lubreski said. He succinctly and descriptively calls his team "fun to coach, exciting to watch."

The Tigers are armed with upperclassmen, the majority of whom were regular Varsity players last year. Shawn Brown, Corey Gilmore (who was a GMC First Team All Defense selection last year), John Hammond, and Gary Houston are all senior guards, senior Ian Robinson is the center, and senior Jon Buggy is a forward. Juniors Marquis Jones and Darren Smith are guards and junior Mike Richard is a forward. Sophomores Jawaad Caldwell and Kevin Siedenburgh are both forwards.

Smith, Jones, and Robinson are the team's top scorers, averaging 17.2, 14.1, and 13.5 points per game, respectively. A particularly noteworthy statistic is that South Plainfield has made more free throws than the opponents they have faced have collectively attempted thus far.

Gilmore and Jones are the team captains.

Mike Alloco is the ninth year Assistant Coach, Bob Jones is the third year Assistant Coach, and Al Czech is the first year Freshman Coach.



Tim Morgan, Jr.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
RETAIN CRAIG COUGHLIN, ESQ. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR 2004 AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$125.00—FEE NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i), any contract or agreement, the subject matter of which consists of professional services is an exception to the bidding requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have professional legal services provided to the South Plainfield Library Board in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Craig Coughlin, Esq. has represented this Board in the past and has the knowledge and expertise in legal matters relating to public libraries; and

WHEREAS, said Craig Coughlin, Esq. has submitted a proposal to represent this Board for 2004 at an hourly rate of \$125.00, with the total fee not to exceed \$5,000; and

WHEREAS, said services are professional services within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(6);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees that Craig Coughlin, Esq., shall be and is hereby retained to provide professional legal services required by this Board during 2004, at an hourly rate of \$125.00, with the total amount not to exceed \$5,000.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director shall be and is hereby directed to have a copy of this resolution printed in the Observer as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Craig Coughlin, Esq.

Eric M. Aronowitz, President

\$45.50

January 23, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
RETAIN MARVIN DERUYSCHE, CPA TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR 2004 AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$50.00—FEE NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i), any contract or agreement, the subject matter of which consists of professional services is an exception to the bidding requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have professional accounting services provided to the South Plainfield Library Board in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Marvin DeRuyscher, CPA has provided professional accounting services to this Board in the past and has the knowledge and expertise in matters relating to public libraries; and

WHEREAS, said Marvin DeRuyscher, CPA has submitted a proposal to represent this Board for 2004 at an hourly rate of \$50.00, with the total fee not to exceed \$5,000.00; and

WHEREAS, said services are professional services within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(6);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees that Marvin DeRuyscher, CPA shall be and is hereby retained to provide professional accounting services required by this Board during 2004, at an hourly rate of \$50.00, with the total amount not to exceed \$5,000.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director shall be and is hereby directed to have a copy of this resolution printed in the Observer as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Marvin DeRuyscher, CPA.

Eric M. Aronowitz, President

Dated: January 13, 2004

\$45.50

January 23, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
DESIGNATE THE OBSERVER, THE COURIER-NEWS AND THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE AS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY IN 2004

WHEREAS, during the calendar year 2004, the Board of Trustees of the South Plainfield Public Library may be required to publish advertisements or notices required to be published; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees wishes to designate various newspapers as official newspapers for said purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the South Plainfield Public Library that the following newspapers shall be and are hereby designated as the official newspapers for the publication of public notices and advertisements required by law to be published by or on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the South Plainfield Public Library for the year 2004: The Observer; The Courier-News; and the Home News Tribune;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the use of said newspapers for publications and notices is subject to compliance with the statutes requiring the publication of official notices.

Eric M. Aronowitz, President

Dated: January 13, 2004

\$34.20

January 23, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
RETAIN HODULIK & MORRISON, P.A. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CONDUCT THE AUDIT OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003—FEE NOT TO EXCEED \$1,700.00

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i), any contract or agreement, the subject matter of which consists of professional services is an exception to the bidding requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to have an audit prepared for the South Plainfield Library for the year ending December 31, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Hodulik & Morrison, P.A. has prepared said audit in the past and has the knowledge and expertise in public accounting matters relating to public libraries; and

WHEREAS, said Hodulik & Morrison, P.A. has submitted a proposal to conduct said audit at a total fee not to exceed \$1,700.00; and

WHEREAS, said services are professional services within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(6);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees that Hodulik & Morrison, P.A. shall be and is hereby retained to conduct the audit of the South Plainfield Public Library for the year ending December 31, 2003, required by this Board for a fee not to exceed \$1,700.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of this Board shall be authorized to execute the Engagement Letter dated January 8, 2004 in connection therewith;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director shall be and is hereby directed to have a copy of this resolution printed in the Observer as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Craig Coughlin, Esq.

Eric M. Aronowitz, President

Dated: January 13, 2004

\$52.50

January 23, 2004

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908-668-0010

PUBLIC NOTICE
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
HELEN STREET EXTENSION FREIGHT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

All interested parties are advised that a Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 5 to 10 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ, for the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated December 2003, for the Helen Street Extension Freight Demonstration Project (Helen Street Extension). The EA was prepared by the Borough of South Plainfield (Borough) in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The EA has been prepared in accordance with "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969" (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, Council on Environmental Quality). The EA is being made available to the public for review and comment and will be the subject of the Public Hearing. The EA is available for public review at the following locations: South Plainfield Municipal Clerk's office, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield; South Plainfield Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield; and the Edison Main Public Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue, Edison.

The EA evaluates the environmental consequences of various build alternatives designed to provide large truck access to and through the industrial sections of the Borough, thus improving safety on local residential streets. In addition, the EA evaluates the No Action alternative. The findings of the EA resulted in the selection of a Preferred Alternative that would extend existing Helen Street north where it would connect to Metuchen Road. Existing Hollywood Avenue would be extended to the north to connect with the Helen Street Extension. In addition, the northern ends of Harmich and Kentile Roads would be connected to provide better truck access and connectivity.

The format of the Public Hearing will be as follows: presentation boards depicting the proposed Preferred Alternative will be displayed; a brief presentation will be given at 7 p.m.; individuals will be permitted to make oral comments, which will be recorded by a court reporter; written comments can be submitted at the Public Hearing, by Email, or by mail and must be postmarked within 15 days of the date of the Public Hearing (by February 26, 2004). All comments will be transcribed and made part of the Public Hearing record. Oral comments at the Public Hearing may be limited to five minutes so that all who wish to speak can be heard. All comments, whether made orally at the Public Hearing or in writing at or following the Public Hearing, will be given equal weight.

Written comments can be submitted from the date of this notice until 15 days after the Public Hearing date. Written comments submitted before and after the Public Hearing should be sent to: Helen Street Extension Draft EA, c/o CME Associates, Attn: Robert Russo, P.E., P.P., 3141 Bordentown Road, Parlin, NJ 08859-1162 or Email to: rob@cmeusa1.com. Upon review of all comments, the EA will be revised to address such comments, and submitted the NJDOT/FHWA. The NJDOT/FHWA will either issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or a determination that the project has significant environmental impacts and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

\$98.00

January 23, 2004

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Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Free Throw Championship

Boys and Girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2004 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Competition starts on Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Riley School gymnasium. Boys and girl 12, 13 and 14 will start at 9 a.m and boys and girls 10 and 11 will start at 10 a.m.

All participants are required to fur-

nish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental contestant. For additional information please contact Andy Provenza at (732) 254-0664 or Joe Scrudato at (908) 754-0869 or you can just show up at Riley School to register at 8:30 a.m.

Winners go to the Continental Arena for the Championship held at a later date.

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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Registration has ended for the 2004 baseball season. The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be starting to select our managers and coaches for the upcoming season. It is unfortunate that if your child has not signed-up yet and then decides to play with us this season, he or she will be put on a waiting list. We announced ten different sign-up dates through the schools and the *Observer* and even placed telephone calls to parents and/or guardians to remind them about the registration dates.

There is a mandatory meeting for all umpires on Thursday, Feb. 5, at the clubhouse from 7 to 8 p.m. If you



signed-up to umpire you must attend this meeting.

A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card and must have completed the Rutgers certification course.

This serves as a reminder that you MUST complete this course. On March 11 and then again on March 18, this course will be given at the PAL Building from 6:45 to 10 p.m. You MUST call 226-7713 to register.

Our tryouts are scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at the PAL Building. You will be receiving a postcard in the mail to let you know what time your child is trying out.

Wrestling News By Bob Hunter

Tiger Wrestlers Remain Unbeaten

The High School wrestling team kept their number one ranking in Middlesex County alive with a big win over number two Old Bridge 34-21. With the match starting at 130, Nick Dorey gave the Tigers the early lead when he won by tech fall over Ed Ebewo 16-1.

Sam Martin 135, was in a battle with Mike Caruso when it appeared that Martin took the lead with a takedown when they appeared to go out of bounds and Caruso was awarded a reversal, to tie the score with about 14 seconds left in regulation. Caruso then scored a takedown in OT for an 8-6 decision. Nick Curcio 140, then dropped a 6-1 decision to Mike Vandervalk, giving Old Bridge a short-lived lead.

Peter DeAndrea 145, came out and gave the Tigers the lead with a 20-13 decision over Len Crowther. Paul

Ritchey 152, then won by major decision over Billy Dunn, 13-3.

In the highlight match of the night, Guy Severini 160, was in a battle with Vin Iodaci, a third place winner in last year's state tournament. In a very physical match Iodaci prevailed, winning a 6-2 decision. Joe DeBiase 171, then won another 2-1 decision over Mike Maiello. Kevin Crilley 189, also came up with a big win when he defeated Joel Scarano, 4-3. Rob Maistick 215, then won another decision 3-0 to increase the Tiger lead to 21-9.

Ryan Elliott, heavyweight, pinned Troy Deceuster at 2:08. Jimmy Conroy 103, manhandled Steve Fallon in a match that Fallon did nothing but not get pinned 14-2. Old Bridge won the next two bouts by fall, but that was not enough. Mike Jakubik 125, closed the show with a 5-1 decision over Andrew Goldman.

Middle School Defeats Rahway, Kittatinny & P'burg

The Middle School wrestlers continue to roll with three big wins over league rivals Rahway 75-12, Kittatinny 49-15 and Phillipsburg 52-25.

Against Rahway, the Tigers got pins from Ryan Sacco 75, Nick Heilmann 80, Corey Hay 85, Patrick Hunter 90, Nick Vetusch 95, Tim Gaughan 107, Danny Pompilio 112, Mark Wagner 132, Sal Soto 150, Rocco Petriello Hwt. Winning by tech fall and major decision were Nick Vallone 119, 18-3 and Jonathan Conroy 140, 11-0.

In the Kittatinny match, Nick Heilmann 80 got the Tigers going with a 8-7 decision over Joe Bach.

Corey Hay 85, then won a 7-0 decision over Rob Curry. Patrick Hunter

kept things going with a major decision over Nick Bach 9-1. Mike Wagner 100, then pinned Cehria Simpson at 3:30. Tim Gaughan 107, won by decision over Rocky McClure 4-0. Danny Pompilio 112, then won by fall at 0:45 over Steve Fisher. Mark Wagner 132, Jesse Hay 151 and Rocco Petriello, all won by forfeit. Sal Soto 175, won by fall at 1:05 over John Gris.

Winning matches in the Phillipsburg match were Ryan Sacco 75, Nick Heilmann 80, Patrick Hunter 90, Nick Vetusch 95, Mike Wagner 100, Tim Gaughan 107, Danny Pompilio 112, Mark Wagner 132, Jesse Hay 140 and Sal Soto 150.

Rec Wrestlers Beat Hillsborough & Middlesex

The Recreation Wrestlers also continued their winning ways with a 51-25 win over Middlesex and a 51-31 over Hillsborough. Anthony Ashnault 53 won by forfeit. Kyle Brady 57, won by major decision 16-0. Troy Heilmann 67, won by major decision 9-0.

Ritchie Szeliga 70, won by fall at 0:21. Ryan Sacco 75 and Nick Heilmann 80, both won by fall. Corey Hay 85, won by decision 4-0. John Wylam 95 and Mike Wagner 102, both won by forfeit. Alex Lundy Hwt, won by decision 5-4.

Against Hillsborough, Bobby Kolvites 50, got the Tigers going with a tech fall 15-0. Anthony Ashnault 53, won by forfeit. Kyle Brady 57, won by decision 7-0 and Ritchie Szeliga 70, won a 2-0 decision.

Halfway home the Tigers found themselves trailing 19 to 17 with the meat of the order coming up. Ryan Sacco 77, Nick Heilmann 80 and Corey Hay 85, all won by fall, while Ryan Billich 90, won by major decision. John Wylam 95 and Mike Wagner 102, both winning by fall.

Middle School Basketball



Photo by Brian T. Cole

The Middle School Boys' Basketball Team is coached by Terry Allen and Joseph Bennett. The team consists of 21 players: Benny Gibson, Dale Johnson, Troy Russell, Scott Hunterdon, Chris Penisi, Christian Cole, Danny Espin, Ryan Bunting, Bobby Harrington, John Mills, Tommy Smith, Brendan O'Shea, Tramane Miller, Michael Burton, Kenny Lucky, Chris Fulton, Michael Dezmin, Chris Lesniak, Chris Kedmenec, Teddy Skwiat and Joey Grennier.

If you are a high school student who attends sporting events, and would like to write for the Observer, call 908-668-0010.

Ponytail 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 new participants in recreation programs, as well as a proof of residency. You may register at the PAL Building, Maple Avenue.

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Obituaries

Margee E. Chapin, 61

Margee E. Chapin died on Thursday, Jan. 15 in her home.

Born in New York City, she resided in Ardsley, NY before moving to Plainfield for 10 years. Margee and her family moved to South Plainfield in 1978.

For the past 12 years, she was the administrator for the Pathology Department for UMDNJ Medical School in Piscataway.

She was a 1962 graduate of Katherine Gibbs School of Manhattan, NY.

Margee had a deep dedication and love for her family. She lived by her motto, "Love is Kindness." She also was devoted to animals, especially birds and cats.

Surviving are her husband, Parker M. Chapin; a daughter, Lisa Jacov and her husband, Pete of Scarsdale, NY; a son, Gary Chapin and his wife, Bethany of Farmingdale, NY; two brothers, Chris Hinnen of Waldwick and Mark Hinnen of Eugene, Oregon. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Parker, Brigid, Emma, Julia, Sarah, Doriel, Juliette and Ayden.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St., Fords, NJ 08818.

John Dudak, 80

John Dudak died on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at Care One the Highlands in Edison.

Born and raised in Exeter, Pa., John had been a resident of South Plainfield for over 60 years.

An army veteran, John served with

the 701st Tank Battalion during WWII. He worked as a mechanic operator with the David-Smith Steel Co. in South Plainfield for more than 20 years.

John was an avid gardener and most recently was a crossing guard in South Plainfield. He had also been a member of Sacred Heart Church, also of South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by two brothers, Lawrence and Leonard.

Surviving are his beloved wife, Mary (nee Donahue) of 50 years; a daughter, Lynn and her husband, Marc Knox of Easton, Pa.; two sons, Scott and his wife, Pam of South Plainfield and Ed Donahue of Dallas, Pa. and four sisters, Alberta DeSepio of Piscataway, Beth Ann and her husband, Larry Carbonneau of Mobile, Ala., Lillian and her husband, David Barnes of South Plainfield and Sandra Hasson of Dunellen. Also surviving are three brothers, Phillip of South Plainfield, Fred and his wife, Terry of Bailey Island, Maine and Stanley and his wife, Doreen Bolesta of South Plainfield and seven grandchildren, Marc, Cory, Mitchell, Krista, Amanda, Karissa and Eddie.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Arthur W. Hammond, 73

Arthur W. Hammond of Bridgewater died on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Arthur was born and raised in Manhattan's Hells Kitchen and was a former resident of Long Island before moving to Bridgewater 50 years ago.

Arthur was a welder for many years before retiring from Degussa Corp. in South Plainfield in 1995. He was a former member and treasurer for the Bradley Gardens Volunteer Fire Department in Bridgewater. He loved surf fishing along the New Jersey Shore.

He is survived by two daughters, Kathleen and her husband, John Kreger of Dunellen and Carol Reno of Orfield, Pa.; two sons, Arthur W., Jr. and his wife, Darlene Hammond of Peyton, Colo. and Kenneth Hammond of British Columbia, Canada; his companion of 22 years, Anna Lare of Bridgewater; his former wife,

Mickey Hammond Gintella of Toms River; nine grandchildren, Justin, Jonathan and Joshua Kreger; Zakk and Kane Reno; Phillip, Joseph and Melissa Hammond and Erica Predko and two great grandchildren.

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

Hermine L. (Niehuser) Brinkman, 92

Hermine L. Brinkman (nee Niehuser) died on Friday, Jan. 16 in Care One at the Highlands in Edison.

Born in Bad Essen, Germany, she came to the United States in 1936. She had resided in Rahway and Clark for many years before moving to South Plainfield.

Mrs. Brinkman was employed as a waitress for the former Voss's Confectionery in Rahway for 34 years. She was also a waitress in the café for Lord & Taylor's department store in Westfield for 12 years. Most recently, she was a waitress for Howard Johnson's Restaurant in Clark for six years, retiring in 1988.

She was a member of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway, where she was a Sunday School teacher for many years. Mrs. Brinkman was a member of the Deutscher Club of Clark for 25 years and she was also active in the Rahway AARP Association. She was an avid bowler and bowled for the Zion #2 Rahway Women's Church League.

Her husband, Henry, along with three sisters, Louise Voss, Anni Strebe and Elli Niehuser and a brother, Willi Niehuser, have all predeceased her.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Donald Mazzeo of South Plainfield and two grandsons and their wives, Andrew and Hope Mazzeo of Olathe, KS and Gregory and Heather Mazzeo of Burlington. Also surviving is one great granddaughter, Clare Elizabeth Mazzeo of Olathe, KS.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elm and Esterbrook Avenues, Rahway, NJ 07065 or to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.



Partygoers (left to right) Sue Barry, JP Barry, Barry Brown and Donna Brown toast to impending New Year at Cafe Everest's New Year's Eve party.



Donna Kasmer and daughter Christine enjoy the festivities at Cafe Everest.

Cafe Everest Celebrates New Year's Eve in Style

By Jane Dornick

For the second year, Cafe Everest, located on Park Ave., held their own unique kind of New Year's Eve bash.

The early evening festivities were geared to include families with children at an hour more appropriate for youngsters to ring in the New Year.

The dining room was packed with partygoers, who enjoyed an all-inclu-

sive meal, along with party hats, noise makers and sparkling cider.

After everyone had their fill, the children gathered around a crystal ball pinata filled with candy to simulate the ball in Times Square. After a 10 second countdown, the ball hit the ground and everyone gathered up as much candy as they could hold.

Everyone walked away having had a good meal and a great time.

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Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

(never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of The Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that you can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us that have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

- DAC -

Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

(never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of The Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that you can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us that have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

- GP -

Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

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- AM -

Classifieds

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LAST CHANCE To Purchase Observer photos by Patricia Abbott

The following photo files will be deleted as of 1/31: SP Fire Dept. FD concerts, FD Circus, many school concerts and events, and many other files. For more detailed info or to see PROOF sheets please call (908) 756-8011 or email Pattie at angelonly@aol.com

POLYMERIX CORPORATION, A Specialty Pharmaceutical company, is seeking an experienced, enthusiastic and detail-oriented Administrative Assistant for immediate placement! Position is 30-40 hours/week and would be excellent for working parents. Parents returning to the work force welcomed! Ideal candidate will have great organization skills and good follow through. Will be responsible for directing calls, greeting visitors, scheduling calendar and making travel arrangements for executives and assisting with special projects. Polymerix offers competitive salary and benefits and an atmosphere that promotes team work. If you wish to be considered for this position, please send your cover sheet, resume and salary requirements to hr@polymerixcorp.com (preferred) or fax it to, 732.457.9330.

P/T DRIVER FOR VAN-BOX TRUCKS. Clean driving record, road knowledge req. Call Fred (908) 561-8900.

CASHIER NEEDED-MON THRU FRI. 8:30am-2pm. T. Jaye's Hand Car Wash, 2431 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield. Call (908) 791-9900, fax (908) 791-0991.

LABORER-LOCAL CEMETERY. P/T & full time positions. Must be 18 years of age or older and have valid NJ Drivers License. (908) 756-1729.

P/T DENTAL ASSISTANT & RECEPTIONIST-Fax resume and references to (908) 822-1409.

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7 PC. BEDROOM SET-BED, CHEST dresser & mirror and night stand. New in box. Value \$2600. Sell \$975. (732) 259-6690.

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At the new front entrance portico of the Middlesex Public Library are (left to right): Project Architect Eric J. Giuliano, AIA, Construction Manager Vito Tamborrino, AIA and Partner Robert F. Barranger, AIA.

Cornerstone Completes Middlesex Public Library Expansion

Cornerstone Architectural Group of South Plainfield has successfully assisted the Library Board of Trustees with a 1.3 million dollar expansion and renovation to the existing Middlesex Public Library, located on Mountain Blvd. in Middlesex. The design also required interior renovations to the existing 7,500 square foot facility. Part of the construction cost was offset by a grant provided by the NJ Public Library Program Grant Program.

Cornerstone prepared the construction drawings, specified the interior finish materials and color schemes, assisted with the purchase of furniture and managed the construction process as part of a comprehensive scope of services provided by the firm.

Current design projects on the

boards at Cornerstone include the new Plainfield Animal Hospital, the expansion and renovation of the North Plainfield Municipal Building, new Land Use Building for the Township of Branchburg and the expansion of the Scotch Plains YMCA.

Recently ranked by *NJ Biz Magazine* as one of New Jersey's top 50 architectural design firms, Cornerstone Architectural Group provides professional design services in architecture, interior design, land planning and construction management. The firm employs a staff of eleven at its South Plainfield office. Founded in 1987 by Robert M. Longo, Michael G. Soriano and Robert F. Barranger, the firm specializes in design excellence for public and commercial buildings.

Office on Aging and Senior Center Year End Report

The following is a summary of the activities and programs conducted at the Senior Center in 2003. Currently 700 members are registered. The average daily attendance is in the 75-100 range, with a high attendance around 150.

Tax Preparation with AARP and a Men's Forum and Women's Social Groups are offered. Meals on Wheels served 11,840 meals. Transportation provided service to 375 seniors and provided approximately 13,000 service units. Twenty three bus trips were run during 2003.

Yoga, line dancing, exercise class, Qi Gong Class, exercise equipment room with three treadmills, two bikes, two steppers and a cardio glide machine are offered as well as practical crafts, drawing class, creative painting class, adult crafts and crocheting for the hospitals, ceramics. Ten computers were donated and four one-hour classes per week are offered. The center also offers "Listening to Children," a Mentor Program with elementary school children.

There are pool teams. Competitive matches were played against Piscataway, Woodbridge, Perth Amboy and

Plainfield. Movies are offered on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., as well as Daily and weekly card groups, including Bridge, Pinochle and Chess Club. Weekly shopping is also offered.

Monthly membership meetings with speaker program are held. There is a scholarship fund for SPHS; a 55 Alive Driving Program with AARP. Events included an Easter parade with "It's a Small World" Pre-School, Senior Prom Dinner Dance with Girl Scouts and High School students, Middlesex County Art Show, Fall Concert and Luncheon at SPHS, Flu Shot Health Program, Thanksgiving and Christmas Luncheon, Sing-a-Long with Fil-Am Lions Club and Christmas Concert and Luncheon at SPHS.

Grants Received—NJ Transit 5310 Grant for New Minibus to replace bus #32, County SHTP Grant for \$8,000 used toward transportation program, County Information and Assistance Grant for \$5,500; County Grant for \$4,600 to purchase oven for Meals on Wheels Program, County Grant for \$2,500 to purchase exercise equipment and a CDBG for \$30,000.

Junior Journalist Corner



Holly McDede

My Life as a Never Ending Movie

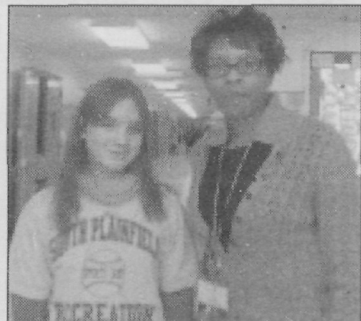
I watch movies all day.
I think I'll watch Legally Blonde 20 times before May.
Titanic sank, yet the movie will never die.
I'm addicted to movies, I'll admit even. I'm, not that shy.
Field of Dreams inspires me.
I'm on a Romeo and Juliet watching spree.
Some say it's gotta stop.
But if anyone made me stop watching Leonardo Decaprio, on the floor I'd drop.
The Shining may be scary, but a life without movies is even scarier.
I rather watch The Hobbit and be more merrier.
Some see me as movie obsessed.
But because I can see movies, I see myself as blessed.
Elle Woods, Jack Dawson, Tobey McGuire, and Brittany Murphy too
I'm stuck to movies like glue.
In movies like Ever After the ending's always good.
I'd watch movies all day if I could.

McDede Named "Junior Journalist"

Grant School sixth grader Holly McDede's poem, "My Life Is a Never Ending Movie," is this week's winning entry in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Holly receives dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros, and will be invited to an end of year banquet along with her parents.

Students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays. Entries should be given to teachers. Winners receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to an end-of-year banquet with their families.

For information on the program, or for the name of your school contact, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.



Holly McDede and Grant School Principal Janis Burchell

Attention Students:

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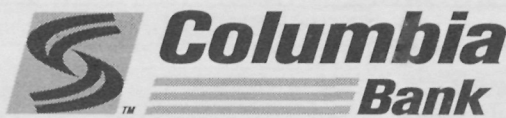
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