

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 23

50 CENTS

JANUARY 30, 2004

Borough Installs Drive-Up Box for Tax/Sewer Payment



Borough CFO Glen Cullen, Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri, Tax Collector Richard Lorentzen, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and Mayor Dan Gallagher.

Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher and the South Plainfield Borough Council announced the installation of a drive-up tax/ sewer payment box. This drop-off

box will enable property owners to make their tax or sewer payments, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without ever leaving their vehicles.

The drop-off box is located along the exit road of the borough's municipal building. Those who wish to take advantage of this service enhancement are requested to make their payment by check or money order only (no cash please). Property owners must write their block and lot numbers on their checks. Their cancelled checks will serve as receipt of payment.

When the proposal of installing a drive-up tax/ sewer payment box was first brought to Mayor Gallagher and the Borough Council, they wholeheartedly supported the idea because they believed that this service enhancement would be very beneficial to both taxpayers and the borough. By providing this drive-up payment box, property owners will now have the flexibility to drop off their payments at their own convenience.

Many thanks should go to the Borough Tax Collector Richard Lorentzen and his staff for the initiative and proactive approach to serving the citizens of the borough.

BOE Fiber Optics Plan Excludes Sacred Heart

Last month the Board of Education awarded a contract to Promedia to install a fiber optic system linking the Office of Emergency Management, borough administration offices and local schools.

The Board of Education voted at last week's meeting to rescind the contract with Promedia and begin the bidding process again after they were notified by Business Administrator Dr. Edward Izbicki that the board had incorrectly been informed that Promedia was on the State's contractor list.

Sacred Heart Pastor Father John Alvarado, who attended the meeting, asked Board members to reconsider their decision not to include Sacred Heart School in the fiber optic network. He said he felt that the school had been left out of the loop when the planning and decisions were made. He added that the school has been working with Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma and had just completed the emergency plans successfully. He worried what would

happen if there was an emergency and Sacred Heart School was not connected. What would that mean for the students in the school?

Lorraine McHugh, parent of a student attending Sacred Heart School, addressed the board, reminding members that the funding

"[Sacred Heart] school had been left out of the loop when the planning and decisions were made."

Father John Alvarado, Sacred Heart Pastor

for the fiber optic project was also approved by local taxpayers whose children attend Sacred Heart. She said that 83 South Plainfield families have children attending the school and reminded the board that it costs \$10,000 to educate a student in the public school system and the children of parents who attend Sacred Heart school save taxpayers roughly \$1,150,00 each year.

McHugh was under the impression that parents who voted for the referendum intended all of the students in South Plainfield be included in the project. The fiber optic bid includes \$19,000 for The Office of Emergency Management, whose purpose is, according to their website, "to support and provide instruction and safety for the all of the Borough schools, stores and businesses," and McHugh says that Sacred Heart is part of that. At the present time Sacred Heart does not have an internet connection and she asked if there were an emergency, how would Sacred Heart be notified without a connection.

In addition, several board members were surprised to find out that Sacred Heart's internet access connection was cut off. Sacred Heart had partnered with the BOE to obtain a \$98,000 grant for an internet access account. However, the grant monies have been used, and Sacred Heart since been disconnected. Board members had been told at a meeting that Sacred Heart School was still connected.

According to BOE member Mike English, the school district is now utilizing a different method of delivery for Internet access.

As to hooking up the fiber optic system to Sacred Heart School, the board is looking into the legality of the project.

Public Meeting Set For Helen Street Project

Public Input Sought on Environmental Assessment

The Helen Street Extension Project, in the planning stages for years, is about to move forward into the next phase. A public hearing on the Environmental Assessment (EA) will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 in the Senior Center on Maple Ave. from 5 to 10 p.m.

The Helen Street Extension was first proposed in 1981, but the actual kick-off of the plan took place in 1988. It was subsequently adopted into the 2002 Master Plan. The project, which will cost between \$10-12M, is being funded by a grant from the Federal Government through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Each step of the process entails submitting required information and waiting until it is processed. Monies are made available as each phase is approved.

The project, when completed, will help to alleviate truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave., which is currently directed past schools, a church and through residential neighborhoods. It will also help reduce congestion, noise and delays. When completed, trucks will be able to turn onto Helen St. as they exit Rt. 287. Helen St. is located off of Durham Ave. near Quick Check.

The public is invited to attend the meeting, study the Environmental Assessment, ask questions and give opinions on the plan. A copy of the EA is available for public viewing at the Municipal Clerk's Office in Borough Hall, the South Plainfield Library and

the Edison's Main Library, located at 340 Plainfield Ave. in Edison.

Presentation boards showing the proposed preferred alternatives will be displayed for the public. A brief presentation will be given at 7 p.m. and then individuals will be asked to offer comments, which will be recorded and made part of the public hearing. Comments will be limited to five minutes so that everyone who wished to speak can be heard.

Written comments may be submitted up to 15 days after the public hearing by sending them in writing to: Helen Street Extension Draft EA, c/o CME Associates, Attn: Robert Russo, PS, P.P., 3141 Bordentown Rd., Parlin, NJ 08859-1162 or email to: rob@cmeusa1.com.

The Environmental Impact, which evaluates the environmental consequences of various alternative designs, was prepared by South Plainfield in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the FHWA and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA).

All comments will be reviewed. The Environmental Assessment will be revised to address all comments and then submitted to NJDOT/FHWA, which will either issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or determine that the project has significant environmental impact and require an Environmental Impact Statement.



The Butrico Family and friends gather to take to the ice.

Childhood Memories Revisited in the Front Yard

By Patricia Abbott, Staff Writer

South Plainfield residents Sue and Bill Butrico have wonderful childhood memories of ice skating on Spring Lake: care-free winter days, cold moonlit nights gliding over the frozen lake and sipping hot chocolate to warm up.

When the lake was named "Spring Lake Park," a South Plainfield tradi-

tion came to an end because the restructured lake rarely froze enough to permit safe skating. Sue and Bill were disappointed that their children would not experience the thrill of skating on the lake.

In a recent interview Sue explained, "We really wanted our kids to have something fun to do outside in the winter, so the idea of an ice

pond was born." Their first rink was built five years ago. After leveling the area in front of their Borman Road home, construction on the 30- by 77-foot rink began. Bill special ordered a huge plastic liner and set it into a wood frame. The rink took about a day and a half to fill.

Sue said, "James and Adam

(Continued on page 6)

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

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 plans 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

February 18

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

South Plainfield Observer

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To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

IN YOUR OPINION

To My Fellow Animal Lover,

First, my condolences on the loss of your cat. Only a pet owner can truly understand the grief we feel when we lose one of our "family members" and I send my sympathy.

I must address your comment that if my heart were truly big I "would have paid for the office visit." Well, unfortunately, my wallet is not nearly as big as my heart is and I was absolutely unable to pay for the visit. There is no further need to explain my financial situation in a newspaper other than to say that I did all that I was able to do.

Now, I will answer your questions. I could not confine the cat overnight in a garage, or anywhere, because I did not know whether she had had her kittens. In which case, they would have frozen or starved to death without her. I didn't take the cat to my vet the next day because I was unable to find her the next day. As it turned out, she gave birth that night or the very next day. She had the kittens hidden well and it took me two weeks to find them, while going to feed their mother everyday.

The story does have a happy ending after all. Once I found the kittens, I was able to bring them and their mom to my home. First, I brought them to my vet to have the mother cat tested for Feline Leukemia (which resulted negative) and then they stayed at my home until they were weaned. My CONCERN and perseverance through this situation helped me to find all four kittens good, loving homes. Unfortunately, adult cats are more difficult to place and I am still looking for a home for the sweet mother cat (and her two brothers) who are barely a year old themselves. They are all well taken care of and most of all, WARM.

Lastly, to answer your question of whether I am sure that my vet wouldn't charge me to look at the cat. The answer is YES! They did, in fact, look at her FREE OF CHARGE last week when I noticed her belly was still big. I feared she may be pregnant again, but the vet confirmed for me that she is not and now, at my expense, she will be spayed a few weeks from now.

So, there you have it. A happy ending to this story. Seven cats' lives have been saved thanks to my BIG HEART and even smaller wallet and no blame to be placed on anyone, especially myself. What a rewarding and enlightening experience this has been!

Good luck to you and your cats!
**SIGNED,
ANIMAL LOVER WITH A HEART**

Dear Editor,

During this past year I've had the privilege to observe Joann Graf doing her job at the South Plainfield Senior Center. I would like to take this opportunity to commend her for the excellent manner in which she has performed her job. She has initiated many programs and activities for the seniors. Computer, dancing, practical crafts, painting and exercise classes are a few. She has also started the bridge, pinocle and chess clubs at the Center. There are so many other activities she is responsible for initiating that I can't

Correction

Last week's **BOROUGH NOTES** incorrectly reported Rose Benak was hired as a full-time Senior Citizen Omnibus Operator/Typing effective Jan. 26. Sandra S. Connelly was hired for that position and Benak was hired as a part-time Public Safety Telecommunicator effective Jan. 5.

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.

list them all here. She will go out of her way to help seniors. Seniors call her and she listens to their problems and then will help if she can. She even does it on her own time. I have not met a more caring and compassionate person when it comes to being an advocate for senior needs.

She has improved the quality of life for many of our seniors in South Plainfield and deserves all the accolades that can be bestowed upon her. At this time I would like to thank her and I think I speak for all the seniors of South Plainfield who use the Center.

JOSEPH ZEKAS

To the Editor,

Move The NJ Devils to Newark?

I have a better idea, let's move them to South Plainfield. I live on W. Crescent Parkway at the corner of W. Crescent and Clinton Place. The ice on the street is 4 inches thick. It would make a great hockey rink. There is no bare road showing to the left or to the right of Clinton Place. I have watched people spinning out for two days, almost had my car hit, got my car stuck, etc. It is treacherous. Someone is going to get seriously hurt here.

I went to Police Headquarters early Sunday morning and explained the situation. Maybe someone will come out Monday was the response. The problem here is that W. Crescent, from Norwood to the end of the street, was never properly cleared. Now we are faced with a hazardous situation. We cannot park our cars in the street because people are sliding all over. If I put my car in the driveway, I risk getting stuck or having an accident. I have digital pictures of the street in the event someone gets hurt.

I guess until spring, all I can say is, "drop the puck!"
HERBERT O'BRIEN

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the let-

ter from "Animal Lover with a Heart" in your January 16 issue.

The Plainfield Animal Hospital has been serving South Plainfield and the surrounding communities since 1952. We have over 15,000 active patients.

We are participants in the New Jersey State sponsored low cost spay-neuter program and the New Jersey Feral Cat Program. We provide discounted service to the Animal Rescue Force, People for Animals, and Angel Paws, all bonafide non-profit humane organizations. We contribute generously to the New Jersey Veterinary Foundation which sponsors many programs for strays and unwanted animals. Over the years, we have cared for countless stray and unwanted animals at the Plainfield Animal Hospital. We treat foundling birds and wildlife at no charge. We just received thank you letters from the curator of the Staten Island Zoo and the director of the Avian Wildlife Center in Wantage, NJ, thanking us for our generosity for donating our services to them. Additionally, we support and contribute to many area civic and school programs.

One must realize, however, that a veterinary hospital is a business. The delivery of quality medicine, both human and veterinary, is expensive. We must pay our bills, pay our employees and pay taxes. Our staff is made up of caring and dedicated people who devote their lives to caring for animals. In a perfect world we could help every animal free of charge, but this is not reality. We do offer "good samaritans" who want to help stray animals a substantial discount.

To the person who wrote this letter I say, there are many animal lovers in the world and we all have hearts. The true animal lover is willing to take some responsibility or make a small sacrifice to help these animals.

**RESPECTFULLY,
SCOTT LINICK, DVM, FAVD,
DIRECTOR,
PLAINFIELD ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

(Continued on next page)

Tax Bills in Mail

South Plainfield tax bills for the first and second quarter have been mailed and residents should have received them by now. First quarter taxes are due on Feb. 2. See page one for story on the new mail drop box at Borough Hall, which allows after hours payment.

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



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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

To Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are reaching out to you today to join us in a benefit fundraiser for David Kile. David, also known as "the floor guy," was diagnosed with CML (chronic myelogenous leukemia) about two and a half years ago. On Aug. 20, 2003, he received a bone marrow transplant at Hackensack University Hospital. The days and months since August have been a roller coaster ride for David, with unfortunately more downs than ups. He is making progress; however, the recovery time is becoming much longer than anticipated.

With insurance premiums, co-pays and daily living expenses becoming an added burden, we are asking for your support. A Wine and Cheese Reception will be held in David's honor on Sunday, Feb. 8 at Snuffy Pantagis in Scotch Plains from 3 to 5 p.m. The requested donation for this event will be \$30 per person. Reservations may be made by sending your check (made out to the "David Kile Fund") to: Sandy Severini, 603 Spicer Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. You may also email your request to Sandy at SGSSEV@aol.com and we will hold your reservation at Snuffy's until you arrive on Feb. 8. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a donation to David, please mail to the address above.

Thank you for your support and if you have any additional questions we can be reached by contacting one of the following (all 908): Sandy Cassio-Severini 757-9358, Augustine Riginos 322-7726, Gail and Ginger Gaspari 754-2082, Lori Thievon-Wright 756-4411 or Susan Gavin-Rice 707-0144.

**SINCERELY,
FRIENDS OF DAVID KILE**



David Kile (left) with son Devon and mother Jan

To the Editor,

On Saturday, Jan. 24, we arrived at the high school to attend the scouts magic show. We sought out a handicapped parking space and found they were all full and all had proper tags.

However, a friend related to us how she had observed a cheerleader get out of one of the cars. The car remained there for the duration of the basketball game and magic show. Obviously she has no need for the parking space other than as a convenience. Whose car or hang tag did she have? It is illegal to use the handicap ID hang tag and the car equipped with those plates. It is also very unfair to those who truly need the accessible spaces. On this very cold afternoon we had to park way down near the Middle School.

If anyone knows who this young lady is, please show her this newspaper!
THANK YOU, LEGITIMATE HC TAG/PLATE OWNER

ALERT SPECIAL MEETING DATE

Affordable Housing Meeting

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss the Affordable Housing Program. The meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Mass Schedule:

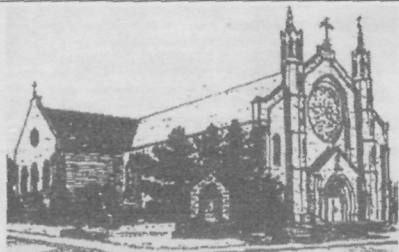
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays 6:30 a.m. (except Monday) 9:00 a.m. (church)

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

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



Tea Bag Folding at the Library

A one-session "Make-and-Take" class on "tea bag folding" will be held at the South Plainfield Free Public Library on Monday, Feb. 9 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The class will be led by Ronda Wisniewski, *Practical Crafting* Instructor and South Plainfield resident. Participants should bring a pair of scissors and a small bottle of white glue. Other materials will be provided. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

In conjunction with the class, the library will sponsor a crafting exhibit during February. There will be a display of "tea bag folding" projects created by *Practical Crafting* students, as well as other projects.

For more information or to register, please call (908) 754-7885. You may also learn more via the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Superintendent Gets New Contract

After just under than a year on the job, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado's contract has been rescinded and new a contract was signed. The new contract will expire in 2008.

Dr. Rosado was hired in February of 2003 at a salary of \$140,000. According to terms of the new contract, his new salary will be \$147,000 as of January, 2004 and he will receive an additional five percent raise to \$154,350 beginning on July 1, 2004.

BOE member Michael English said that the board has been very pleased with Dr. Rosado's job performance during his first year.

Midco Residential Renews Adopt-a-Spot Agreement

Joe Vitulli, General Manager of the Midco Residential Services solid waste transfer station at 11 Harmich Rd., has renewed the company's Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association.

The adopted spot is the stretch road between the Midco facility on Harmich Road and the intersection of Metuchen Road and Belmont Ave.

Midco first adopted the spot in 2002 to address the problem of cardboard and other materials that occasionally dropped onto the roadway from their trucks. The refuse adds to the litter that accumulates from other vehicles and industry along this heavily traveled route. Employees go out once a week to clean both sides of the road.

Mr. Vitulli also volunteered to dispose of all the refuse collected, as well as the refuse collected by any other Adopt-A-Spot participants free of charge.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator, Alice Tempel, at (908) 226-7621.



The South Plainfield Business Association recently held a very well attended networking event at Newco Data, located on the corner of Front St. and South Plainfield Ave. Pictured left to right are Jeff Newman, president of Newco Data, host for the event; Charlie and Debbie Kurland, owners of Hometown Heroes on Hamilton Blvd. who donated the food; Diane Thorn of South Plainfield Liquors on Front St., who supplied the refreshments and Jack Petersen, president of the South Plainfield Business Association.

Board of Ed to Study HVAC Needs in Schools

Ever since the voters passed the Board of Education referendum in 2001, the board has been trying to find a way to air-condition the schools. Voters approved the construction of a new Roosevelt School, upgrading the electric in the schools, installation of a boiler in the Middle School and several other items.

According to SPEA President Louise Mruz, voters were told that air conditioning was a part of the package in the \$19.2M referendum, and during the past year, she has asked numerous times when it will actually be installed. Last year members of the board were told that due to air filtration issues, the state would not allow window air conditioners in classrooms, and a more extensive study was needed.

One study was done last year, at a cost of \$50,000, but the board wants more information on the condition of the present boilers in the schools before allotting money for air conditioning. They also want a time plan that schools can implement before they decide to undertake the huge project.

Francis Mullan and Brent Papi, en-

gineer and design professionals representing Schoor DePalma, gave the board a short synopsis on their proposal in the event they are hired to conduct the study. They will identify the needs in each school and whether the buildings can support roof top units, or if another type of unit would be best. They will also draw up a plan of action on a time line for the board to consider. Mullan said they will use the previous studies when recommending a plan of action.

According to Dr. Edward Izbicki, there is enough money left over from the 2001 school bond referendum, but in order to use it for air conditioning, the proposal must be placed on the ballot for taxpayer approval.

Mullan also spoke on a proposal in which Schoor DePalma will centralize all of the district's paperwork to a more efficient system. The documents would be centralized, categorized and stored in one central location.

The BOE has called a special meeting to discuss the HVAC study report on Jan. 29 at 5:30. No action will be taken at that meeting.

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Events Around Town

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."

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

Poetry Party for National CD Release!

January 31

Metaphorical Records, the tri-state's only Spoken Word record label, will host an all out poetry and music show to launch the release of their first nationally distributed Spoken Word CD entitled *Rhyme and Reason*. The release party will be held at the upscale African art and sculpture gallery Port Africa, Hadley Center, 4545 Stelton Rd.

The poetry party will feature several of the area's most popular slam poets and Spoken Word artists, including Khateeb ibn Yahya, Likwid Thoughts, La Raging Brown Wolf, Asmina and others. In addition to the poets, Port Africa will provide live music, a free buffet, door prizes and special discounts on their imported merchandise.

The CD release party will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31. Start time is 8 p.m. Admission is \$10 with a free hot buffet included with vegetarian and non-vegetarian selections available.

For more information, go to www.metaphorical.biz.

VFW Plans Country Breakfast

February 1

VFW Memorial Post 6763 is hosting a country breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 1 at the VFW, located on 155 Front St. The breakfast is from 8 to 11 a.m. Donation is \$5 for adults and a children's menu is available for \$3.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 Noon on weekends.

Ponytail Softball Meeting Rescheduled

February 3

Due to the weather, the South Plainfield Ponytail Softball meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on Tuesday Feb. 3 at 7:30 pm in the Middle School library.

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

What's happening in FEBRUARY

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 Feb. 4-Atlantic City Trip Feb. 5-The Full Monty at NJPAC Feb. 22-Black History Month Program March 17-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"				
EVENTS 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 Ladies Social Group 10am Men's Forum 1:30pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm Atlantic City Trip	Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10am to 11am 29 Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am Income Tax Prep 9-Noon The Full Monty at NJPAC	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Avail. Bridge Club 12:30pm 30 Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Bridge Club 12:30pm 6
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

Boosters meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the SPSHS Band Room.

Suburban Womans Club Meeting

February 5

The February meeting of the G.E.W.C. South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5 at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road.

The program will feature Catherine Dixon Leigh, author of "Lost in the Flood." Visitors and new members are always welcomed.

For more information concerning membership or attendance at the program, please call (908) 754-7410.

Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

February 7

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. There is limited space available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten, half-day pre-school and summer camp programs. Everyone who registers will receive one free month of Parent-Watch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit www.parentwatch.com.

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For directions and additional information, visit their website at www.rainbowacademy.com.

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.

Environmental Commission Mtg.

February 18

The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. in the conference room at Borough Hall. They will establish a meeting schedule for the entire 2004 year and it will be posted in the *Observer* in the near future.

Polish Home Plans Atlantice City Bus Trip

February 22

The Polish Home is planning a bus trip to Resorts in Atlantic City on Sunday, Feb. 22. The cost is \$17, with a \$15 coin return. Bus leaves the Polish Home parking lot at 11 a.m. and returns at 9 p.m.

For tickets or information, call Millie at 757-3428, Ann at 561-6551 or the Polish Home at 668-9442.

Rec Plans Trip To See Hairspray

February 22

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

— Out of Town —

SingleFaces January Dances

January 30, 31

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

Friday Jan 30 at The Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd., 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.

Community Nursery School Open House

February 2

The Community Nursery School of Metuchen invites parents and their young children to visit their school on Monday, Feb. 2, from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

or from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Registrations are now being accepted for the school year beginning in September for morning or afternoon sessions, two or three days a week and a five-day afternoon pre-k.

Community Nursery School, serving the community for 54 years, as an outreach mission of the First Presbyterian Church is non-denominational. The school is located at 270 Woodbridge Ave. in Metuchen, next to the train station. Call (732) 549-5105 for a brochure and additional information.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club

February 4

Please join the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, an organization dedicated to benefiting our communities since 1961, for our monthly membership meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Avenue (on the corner of Route 27) in Metuchen.

The meeting will include a presentation by Ms. Pat Donahue, Regional Director, KidSave International, a humanitarian organization helping children without homes in the US and internationally. We will also discuss upcoming service projects, including a diaper drive to benefit Amandle's Crossing in Edison, as well as the Metuchen Town-wide Garage Sale, April 25. Light refreshments will be served and there is no fee.

For more information about our meetings and membership, please call Diana Degnan, Vice President, Membership, at (732) 548-0925.

Feb.'s First Friday a "Triumph" At Touchstone

February 6 and 7

A free performance of Triumphs of Life (With a Little Inconvenience on the Side), an original play about ability, with a touch of disability, will premiere at Touchstone Theatre as part of Bethlehem's SouthSide First Friday events on Feb. 6.

Performances are Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. Touchstone is located at 321 East Fourth St. on Bethlehem's South Side. Tickets are free, but call to ensure seating availability. Wheelchair accessible seats are limited, so call early to reserve. Donations will be accepted at the door and will help to fund local performances of the play which will tour locally this spring. For info and reserva-

tions, call (610) 867-1689.

Tinsmithing Presentation & Workshop

Febraury 8

On Sunday, Feb. 8, at 1:30 p.m., the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey will present Traditional Tinsmithing, a presentation and workshop with Walter Rissmeyer, at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd. in Piscataway.

Master tinsmith Walter Rissmeyer will demonstrate tinsmithing techniques and teach participants how to create tin votives using punch-design techniques. Participants will receive a kit containing all materials necessary to create the tin votives. Participants will learn to decorate and pierce the tin using the patterns with the punch and ball peen hammer, and utilizing emery paper, smooth the rough edges to create a beautiful votive that is theirs to take home with the kit.

The hands-on workshop and presentation is suitable for ages 13 and up. Call the Commission and pay \$15 fee for materials, which must be received prior to the program, in order to reserve your space. Note: The materials fee is payable by check or money order only, and is non-refundable. Checks should be made out to: County of Middlesex/Cultural & Heritage. Mail or hand-deliver to: Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

For information, call (732) 745-4489. Hearing impairments call (732) 745-3888 (TTY users only), or 711 via the New Jersey Relay System.

Moonrakers Tall Club Meetings

February 10

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott Hotel, located between Rt. 80 and the GSP in Saddle Brook, on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.

For a schedule of our social events, call our 24-hour hotline service at (973) 267-3648.

Student Robot Teams Competition

March 5-6

A record number of 51 high school teams, each with remote-controlled robots they designed and built, will fill Trenton's Sovereign Bank Arena for two action-packed days of competition on Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6. Complete with pep squads, screaming fans and play-by-play commentary, the New Jersey First Regional Robotics Competitions, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, is the "big league" event to celebrate kids working smart in science and technology. The competition takes place on March 5 and 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton. For more information, visit www.usfirst.org.

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.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Linda Hansen

Valentine's Day is coming soon and so is the Library's annual "Valentines for Veterans" program. Each year the library sends a box of hand-made valentines to the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park. Patrons of all ages may stop by the library between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 to make a valentine. If you are unable to attend the program, you may make valentines at home and drop them off at the library by 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9. If you would like more information about "Valentines for Veterans" please visit <http://www.valentinesforveterans.com>.

The library holds programs for children on a regular basis. Our storytime and craft programs are for ages three and up. Programs are held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. Each session runs about 45 minutes and no registration is required. We also offer a "Books-n-Babies" program for our youngest patrons (and their caregivers!). This program is for ages up to 3 years old. "Books-n-Babies" is held every Friday morning *except* on the first Friday of the month. Registration is not required.

Kidcraft is held on the third Friday of each month at 4 p.m. Registration is requested but not required. Children should be able to use scissors (or have a parent help!).

There are plenty of materials in the library to keep kids busy throughout the long, cold winter. Most people borrow children's books, CDs or DVDs, but what about magazines? The library currently subscribes to over 25 children's magazines on a variety of topics. We have everything from the traditional favorites like "Highlights" and "Boy's Life" to newer titles like "Nickelodeon" and "Disney Adventures." For those of you in search of simple craft ideas we also subscribe to craft magazines like "Pack-o-Fun" and "Crafty Kids." Back issues of magazines may be checked out for two weeks, so be sure to stop by and take a look!

Please remember to visit us on the web at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. There are lots of links to useful websites (for both adults and children!), websites of the month and access to online databases 24 hours a day! If you have any questions about how these resources work, please feel free to stop by or call us at (908) 754-7885. Our website is updated on a weekly basis, so be sure to check it out!

Red Cross Offering Babysitter's Training Courses

For young people, babysitting is one of the first opportunities to earn money and learn job responsibilities. Also, there is such a need for well-trained babysitters. More parents, both women and men, work outside the home. There are more single-parent families. And there is such a heightened concern among parents for trained, well-qualified babysitters.

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross has a course that can help with these concerns. There is a Babysitting Course for young people, ages 11 to 15 years of age. Learn basic first aid procedures, how to prepare simple meals, safe play activities, how to recognize safety hazards, techniques for supervising children effectively and many other things to help you be a good babysitter.

Young people need to know what to expect when they approach a babysitting job. What questions should they ask parents? How should they conduct themselves regarding the television set, telephone use and snacks? What should they do in an emergency? How will they know if they have an emergency? How do they diaper infants? How do they stay in control of the situation? Take the Red Cross Babysitting Courses and find out the answers to all of these questions.

Courses will be held on Saturdays, Feb. 7, 14 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in South Plainfield and Saturdays, March 13 and 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Elizabeth.

Please call (908) 756-6414 ext. 10 to register or for more information.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Share your good news!

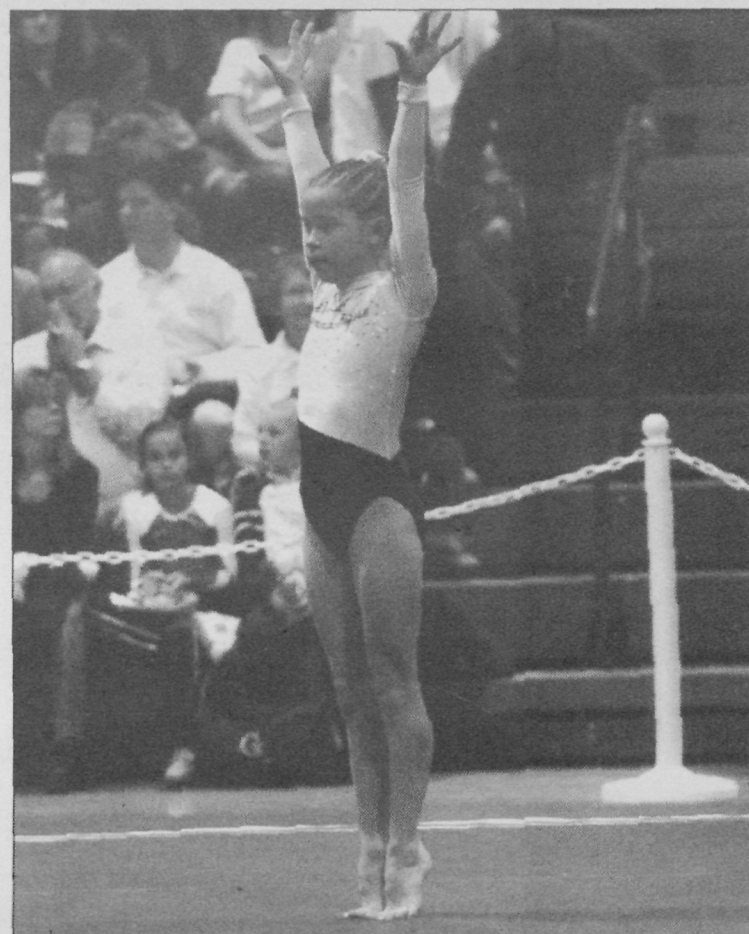
We'd like to include your births, promotions, weddings, anniversaries and announcements in Milestones.

Alexis Alba Takes Third At Gymnastics Championship

Alexis Alba (pictured at right) from South Plainfield was the third place all-around New Jersey USA Gymnastics State Champion. The competition was held on Saturday, Jan. 17 at Egg Harbor Middle School in Egg Harbor.

Alexis placed third on the uneven bars with a 9.425, sixth place on floor with a 9.0, seventh place on vault with an 8.85 and 12th place on beam with a 9.0.

Alexis goes to Henderson's Gymnastics Academy in Edison. She is coached by Mark and Ann Marie Henderson and Beth Campbell. Alexis works out five days a week, three and a half hours a day. She has been on the team La Gymnastique for three years.



ALERT



SPECIAL BOE MEETING

BOE to Meet on HVAC, Traffic

The Board of Education will meet in the Roosevelt Administration Building gymnasium, 125 Jackson Ave., for a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the HVAC Study Report and the Traffic Study Report. No action will be taken.

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Five Named to Dean's at East Stroudsburg University

A total of 1,028 students, have been named to the Dean's List at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania for the Fall Semester of the 2002-2003 academic year, according to Dr. Evelyn Lynch, provost and vice president for academic affairs. Five of those were from South Plainfield. They are Jessie K. Spayder, Jamie E. Day, Brian

K. Anlas, Matthew P. Kravetsky and Michael E. Loenser.

Students eligible for the Deans List are those who have attained a 3.5 quality point average of better. The letter "B" grade earns three quality points pre credit and the grade "A" earns four quality points per credit.

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Realtors Who Make a Difference

Three years ago, a group of agents at Century 21 Moretti Realty in South Plainfield formed the 'Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation' with the hope of making a difference in people's lives. It all started after a child of close friend of the Moretti Family was stricken with leukemia, a cancerous blood disease.

Guy and Toni Moretti, owners of the Century 21 Realty, experienced the incredible adjustments the entire family was forced to accept. "In short, every aspect of a families life changes when a child becomes ill," said Guy Moretti. "Usually one parent must leave employment to care for their child, creating a significant change in family income. Other siblings of the family are affected as parents spend an incredible amount of time in hospitals and doctors' offices. Treatments usually last for days," explained Moretti. Exposure to germs or the common cold can be dangerous to the sick child, as the immune system is compromised by medications. Learning needs must be addressed as the child undergoing treatments can not be exposed to germs most commonly found where large groups of people of people congregate, such as schools.

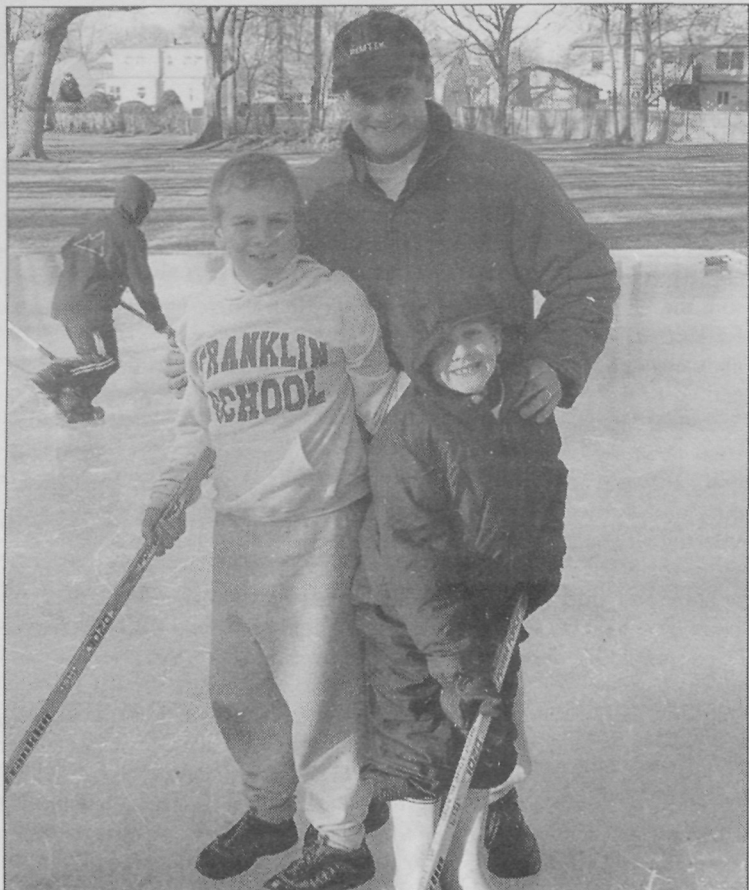
Century 21 Moretti Realty Agents have raised over \$75,000 so far to help families in need. Cancer, according to Guy Moretti, is big business with billions of dollars being spent each year on the treatment, care and research. "Statistics tell us that 80 percent of money raised for cancer is spent on adult oncology. Only 20 percent is spent on children and that is for all the family services," according to Maryann Lisewski, Broker Associate with Century 21 and vice president of the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation. "The money we are raising is given directly to the Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders with Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick," said Lisewski.

Robert Wood Johnson is the largest Cancer Facility in New Jersey. This year, all money raised by the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation is earmarked, especially to the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program. Dr. Kamen is one of the world's leading pediatric oncology specialists, a Professor of Pediatric and Pharmacology, as well as the chief, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Kamen's team of doctors are on the

cutting edge of research, improving the cure rate of this dreadful disease, along with finding better treatments for the children, minimizing the long term side effects of the medications.

The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation has sponsored a Walk for Cancer, a joint program with the Wall PBA, which combines a motorcycle run and community picnic in June, Cruises on the Cornucopia Princess, Vendor Nights and other fundraising events. The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation is currently sponsoring a Gala, honoring Dr. Barton Kamen as Man of the Year. It will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the Berkley Plaza, located in Berkley Heights. The cost of this Black Tie Optional event is \$150 per seat. Other means of support are available with ad books and corporate sponsorships. All proceeds from the event will benefit Dr. Kamen's ongoing research for child oncology.

To get more information or for donations, please call (908) 755-5051 ext. 305 or mail to Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, c/o Century 21 Moretti Realty, 225 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.



Bill Butrico with sons James and Adam.

Childhood Memories Found

(Continued from page 1)
day after school, and once more before bed." The boys thoughts on their own private skating rink were simple, but sincere. James, age 10, said, "We love it!"

James' brother, Adam, age 8, added, "Finally it's frozen!"

The older Butrico children, Gerry, 16, and Gina, 14, were a bit more vocal. Gerry said, "It's a great place to get friends together!"

Gina lamented, "I have been so busy I haven't been able to skate much, I want to get all my friends over here to skate and drink hot chocolate!"

Sue described the scene in front of her home. "At any given time there are eight to 18 kids on the ice. We go through a lot of hot chocolate! Even on the coldest days and nights, the kids are outdoors. One day it was in the low teens, they came in for lunch for about 20 minutes, and four hours later and they were still out there!"

Sue also said a neighbor sent over a portable fireplace that is ablaze night and day. While younger skaters cautiously tested their balance, the older youths played hockey around them. The Butricos received a pleasant surprise when neighbor Jason Lowe turned out to be an experienced figure skater. He amazed the crowd with spins and jumps. The rink is illuminated after dark and the kids usually skate until 11 p.m. on weekends. Each night the ice is swept clean and sprayed

with hot water to create a smooth surface the next day's skating.

On a recent weekend, the Butrico home and rink were filled with the family's relatives, 21 children, 12 adults, and with a few friends. Visitors without skates have little to worry about. With new skates needed for their children almost every year and donations of outgrown skates from friends, the Butricos have amassed quite a collection of skates, about 20 pairs, ranging from double runners to size 13 hockey skates.

Bill looked into chillers for the pond to extend the season and also checked online at Ebay for an ice smoothing machine, a Zamboni, but he hasn't been able to find either yet.

Bill said, "I think people thought we were crazy the first year. People worried about what it would do to the lawn, too. Funny thing is, when we dismantled it, the grass below was greener than the surrounding lawn and there has been no harm whatsoever." He loves providing a place for people to come have fun. He continued, "The first year, I had to work on the day it was finally frozen. When I came home and saw 20 kids skating, playing hockey and having a good time, it was well worth the effort."

Editor's Note: We have asked several residents to share their memories from the years there was skating at Spring Lake Park. See next week's Observer for their thoughts and some old photos.

NOTES FROM The Senior Center Social Security Online

There is a government agency that affects every one of our lives in many ways and that agency is eager for every taxpayer to learn all we want about them. To be truly accessible, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has their own website and encourages all of us to visit them at www.social-security.gov to access information and programs. SSA also has an e-news service, which you can subscribe to and Social Security will deliver news and updates to your email boxes.

Social Security's online services now include the ability for certain eligible individuals to apply for their Retirement or Disability Benefits from the privacy of their own home and at their own pace. Anyone starting to plan for their retirement years will find Social Security's Benefits Planner a useful tool with valuable information about the factors that will impact when they are done working. Social Security publishes up-to-the-minute information so you can access the latest news when-

ever you visit the website.

For example, you can check the website for changes in 2004. You will find the benefits for 2004 have been increased by 2.1 percent beginning in January. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security taxes increased to \$87,900 for 2004, an increase of \$900. Those individuals who receive SS Retirement and Survivor benefits who are under the full retirement age will be allowed to earn \$11,640 in 2004 before their benefits are impacted. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit for these beneficiaries.

Another important SSA issue is identity theft. SSA continues to advise the public to carefully protect their Social Security number against theft or misuse. Identity Theft has become a major problem across the U.S. Social Security publishes a very helpful fact sheet called "When Someone Misuses Your Number" available through the SSA website. If you don't have access to a computer, you may also call Social Security at (800) 772-1213, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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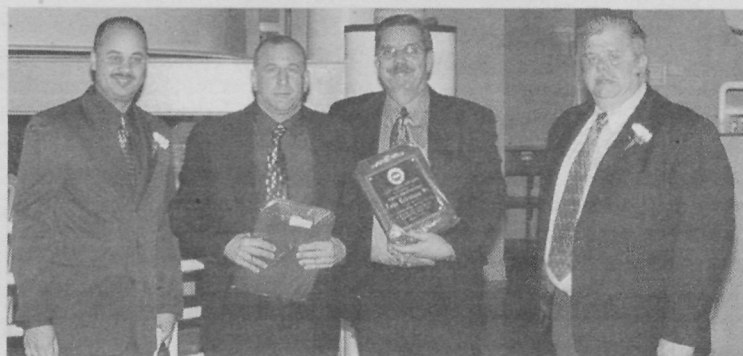
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Volunteers Recognized at Annual Rescue Squad Dinner Dance



The South Plainfield Rescue Squad held their annual installation dinner on Saturday, Jan. 17. The event was well attended by not only rescue squad members but many Borough officials, including Mayor Dan Gallagher, Freeholder John Pulomena, several councilmen, Police Chief Bob Merkler, Fire Chief Larry DelNegro and members of the fire department.

The following officers were sworn in for 2004: Brian Anderson, President; Greg Rowlands, Vice President; Keely Heyman, Corr. Secretary; Heidi Quinn, Rec. Secretary; Glen Ewing, Treasurer; Edward Laferrera, Captain; Pete Magnani, First Lieutenant; Steve Keleman, Second Lieutenant; Shawn Ackerman, Night Sergeant; Dan Kunst, Day Sergeant; Rich Hamilton, Chaplain; Brian Anderson, Rich Hamilton, Glen Ewing, Delegates; Pete Magnani, Robert Dolan, Steve Keleman, Alt. Delegates; Rich Hamilton, Historian and Tara Hoey and Kate Baron, Executive Board.

Officers for the Ladies Auxiliary are: Tracy Smizaski, President; Denise Neto, Vice President; Darla Woodel, Corr. Secretary; Tracy Miller, Rec. Secretary; Joanne Eroglu, Treasurer and Pat Fizur, Historian.

Cadet Corps officers are: Chris Abbott, President; Adam Tamzoke, Vice President; Amiyrah Sadiq, Secretary and James Katsiaficas, Treasurer.



Service Awards were presented to: 15 Years-Gary Toth; 10 Years-Robert Dolan; Five Years-Shawn Ackerman, Katherine Abigail Baron, Clem Ockay and Heidi Quinn. Ladies Auxiliary awards presented were: 20 Years-Darla Woodel; Five Years-Denise Neto; Past President Award-Darla Woodel.



The Captain's Award was presented to volunteers John Cerlentano, who logged 251 hours last year, and Bob Caparelli, who logged 322.

Members of the Dinner Committee were Keely Heyman, Kim Bulla, Tim Kelly, Robert Dolan, Jessica Cerami, Shawn Ackerman and Eddie Laferrera.

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Sports

Competition & Varsity Cheerleading

By Tim Morgan

I said last year that the South Plainfield High School Competition Cheerleading team was an almost immediate success after initiating in 1998. They won the National Competition after only two years in 2000 and have qualified for it every year since. If there is one thing the team is held together by, it's a sense of real achievement and pride for such a young program.

Second year Head Coach Jen Orzepowski calls this year's team "talented, energetic and competitive." Despite facing some challenges in the beginning of the season, she feels that the Tigers have come together as a team and was optimistic about the new members filling their roles so that the Tigers can perform the way they've been known to.

"They're very enthusiastic about their competitions and improving in order to make a successful season," said Orzepowski.

The most crucial part of the Tigers' routine will be their tumbling act, and they are working on bringing their skills up to the highest level of competition they can every practice so that they can fulfill their goal of qualifying for the nationals again. The Tigers also work on their routine of cheers, dances and voices blended in combination with stunts and jumps. In competition, the routine is about three minutes long, but Orzepowski expressed that it was a tiring period of time that requires a fair amount of endurance. Colonia, Jackson and Lacey are the teams Orzepowski said the Tigers have "friendly rivalries" with, teams that the Tigers go against regularly at competitions.

Last year's team placed fifth in the National Competition and this year they are determined to at least equal that accomplishment. If their first tour-

namment was any indication, then their future is auspicious.

They placed second at the Bishop Ahr Invitational recently. This Sunday, Feb. 1, they will be competing at Jackson Township High School.

Seniors Miguel Garcia, Marissa Judd and Matt Santone are the team captains.

The Lady Tigers of the SPHS Varsity Cheerleading team do not compete for themselves, but rather choose to support the other winter sports and rally the crowds at the basketball games and wrestling matches. They are a small assemblage of only ten because of the separation inherent in having two cheerleading teams, but enthusiastic nevertheless. "They thrive on having such a small team, because they know they always have to do their best at all times," said 13-year Head Coach Georgian Larsen. "We've had a very good season."

Larsen emphasized the team unity of the Varsity squad. "They work well together. They're always enthusiastic," she said. "Everybody has a good attitude on this team."

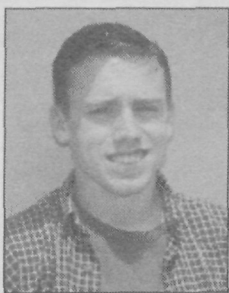
Larsen said that the emphasis of the season is definitely enjoyment for the Lady Tigers, but the ideals of camaraderie and dedication were unquestionably preponderant as well. When asked how she would define or describe the team, she replied, "(They have) commitment, leadership, fun; just basically a go-get-'em attitude."

Stunting, cheering, dancing and chanting are the main points the Lady Tigers practice, and Larsen stressed that they constantly try to perfect themselves in executing their routine. Larsen admitted that winter seasons in the past have not always been the easiest ones because of the hectic schedule inextricably bound to them, but she is convinced that the development and positive attitude she has seen the Lady Tigers display this year have

made this an enjoyable season for her as well.

Betterment is one of the main virtues of the sport of cheerleading that Larsen wants her athletes to take away from their experience. She asseverated that she wants the girls to learn the values of responsibility and having a positive and attentive attitude from their experience, especially having been a cheerleader herself for SPHS. "I enjoy seeing them thrive not only from cheering but in everyday life," she said. She emphasized very strongly and firmly that she hopes what they learn participating in the sport will help them in and prepare them for reality outside of school and sports, saying that she was concerned more with them listening to her when they left the sport and not necessarily just when they were still participating in it.

The team captains are seniors Caitlin Bundy, Britney DeNitizio and Wendy Kollarik.



Tim Morgan, Jr.

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

By Lee Flanagan

As I reported last week, registration for the 2004 season is over. The Pony B League will be strictly a 13-year-old league, consisting of four teams. The Pony A League will have ages 14-17, consisting of six teams. We have a waiting list going in both Pony Leagues with no guarantees of openings.

In the Small Fry C League consisting of eight- and nine-year-olds, there will be 10 teams. We have a waiting list for this league also. In Small Fry B, we will have nine teams consisting of 10- and 11-year-olds, with a couple of openings. Finally, in Small Fry A-12- and some 11-year-olds—we have a couple of openings for players. There will be six teams in this league. Call Lee Flanagan at (908) 561-6348 if you have any questions.

This Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Zoned Sports Academy, 24 East Kerry St. in Bridgewater, there will be a free Coaches Clinic. Somerset Patriots players will be in attendance from 8 to 10 p.m. Call Keny Brattenbauer at (732) 537-1770 to reserve a spot at this free clinic for players and coaches.

Monday night, Feb. 2 is our next Members Club meeting at the com-

plex, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night, Feb. 3 is our next free Coaches Clinic for players and coaches. Hitting will be the topic of discussion; starting time is 7:30 p.m.

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.

A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card and completion of the Rutgers Certification course. Call Mike English to register for this course if you need it at (908) 226-7713.

February and March are big planning months for us. With the "New Beginning" comes many new ideas. March 6 is our big tryout day for all Small Fry Players. That night is our "Base-Brawl 2004" Jersey All-Pro Wrestling Show at the Middle School Gym. Bell time is 8 p.m. Advance tickets will be available at Sportworld. WWE Superstars Al Snow and Jerry "The King" Lawler, plus Slyk Wagner Brown, April Hunter and Dan Maff, among others will be there. This will be an exciting event to kick off our 2004 season.

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SMOKING LOON Cab., Merlot, Chard. 7⁹⁹ 750 ml

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KENDALL JACKSON VINTNER'S RESERVE Cabernet, Merlot 12⁹⁹ 750 ml

CORBETT CANYON COASTAL CELLARS Cab., Merlot, Chard. 5⁹⁹ 1.5 liter

CAVIT FREIXENET HARVEYS Pinot Grigio Cordon Negro Brut Bristol Cream Sherry 10⁹⁹ 7⁹⁹ 8⁹⁹ 1.5 liter

SANTA MARCHERITA Pinot Grigio 17⁹⁹ 750 ml

CONCHA Y TORO FRONTERA Cab/Merlot/Chard./Shiraz/Carmenero/Cab./Sauv./Merlot/Blanc/Semillon Blends 7⁹⁹ 1.5 liter

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GORDON'S Vodka 13⁹⁹ 1.75L

BACARDI Light & Gold Rum 17⁹⁹ 1.75L

CHRISTIAN BROS. Brandy 16⁹⁹ 1.75L

REMY MARTIN VSOP Cognac 31⁹⁹ 750 ml

DRAMBUIE Liqueur 25⁹⁹ 750 ml

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Swimming

St. Joseph High School Swim Team Does It Again!

For the second year in a row the Saint Joseph High School swim team placed first with over 400 points at the 21st Annual Eastern States Long Island Invitational Meet held at Nassau County Aquatic Center on Jan. 24. The team also broke three records for the meet. Teams from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey compete in this invitational.

South Plainfield residents Calvin-John Smiley and Philip Luzny are members of the team. Calvin-John placed seventh in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 22:58. His time qualifies Smiley to swim in the YMCA National Meet in Fort Lauderdale in

April. Smiley also placed 12th in the 100 yard freestyle.

Philip placed ninth in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 55:49. Philip also swam the butterfly leg of the 200 yard Medley Relay with three other teammates and placed second.

Smiley, along with teammates Mike MacDonald, Stephan Rosales and Bobby Savulich broke a ten-year-old record for the meet placing first in the 200 yard Freestyle Relay with a time of 1:28:00, giving them consideration for NISCA All American Standards.

Smiley, MacDonald, Savulich and Brian Gartner also broke another ten-year-old record for the meet, placing first in the 400 yard Freestyle Relay, with a time of 3:15:71, also giving them consideration for NISCA All American Standards. Bobby Savulich also broke a third record for the meet swimming the 100 yard freestyle.

St. Joseph High School swim team is undefeated this season and is hopeful in winning another state championship. The team is coached by Steve Whittington, a teacher at St. Joes and record holder for the school in backstroke. Assistant Coach Matt Severino is an alumni of St. Joes, and a teacher in the New Brunswick School System.

GS Yankees Looking for Players

The GS Yankees needs players for the Spring/Summer to play on separate aged teams starting at 13 up to College Unlimited. They offer competitive wood bat baseball on weekends, player of the week web pages, and a listing of scouts and colleges in the New Jersey and New York area.

For info, call (732) 382-4610 or email: johngsbl@aol.com.

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Sports

SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

Vicki Boley (741) Sets New Record, Lady Tigers Crush Piscataway/Hunt. Central

SPHS	859	789	893—2541
Piscataway	635	720	717—2072

Vicki Boley shattered her own record of 709 high set as she cranked out games of 215-267-259 for an outstanding 741 set. With solid help from teammates Beverly Jamieson 226 game and 536 set, and Kim Gaub 209

game and 505 set, the girls' bowling team crushed Piscataway by nearly 500 pins. The 19th state ranked Lady Tigers improved to 15-7. The match also avenged an early season loss to the Chiefs.

SPHS	768	797	729—2291
Hunt. Central	693	796	671—2160

The Lady Tigers upped their record to 14-6 with a 4-0 shutout trouncing of Central. Moderate scoring was led by Vicki Boley's 181, Beverly Jamie-

son's 181, Kim Gaub's 178 and Lindsay Hunsicker's 171. The Tigers swept both matches this year from the Red Devils at Strike and Spare Lanes.

SPHS	810	769	700—2279
So. Brunswick	935	902	984—2831

The girls' bowling team was out-gunned by the Vikings who hit their high series of the season. Vicki Boley's 214 and 201 games, Beverly Jamie-

son's 175 game and a solid set from Lindsay Hunsicker set the pace for the Tigers who saw their record dip to 13-6.

SPHS	824	801	709—2334
Edison	985	863	788—2636

The Lady Tigers bowled well but ran into a high flying Eagle squad that could not be stopped or caught. Kim Gaub took the spotlight when she

posted games of 212-182 for a 512 high set. Rookie Anna Ferrer contributed a 180 game.

Matt Boley (705) Not Enough for Vikings Tigers Trounce Hunt. Central

SPHS	945	913	1036—2894
So. Brunswick	996	937	1026—2959

Matt Boley took the spotlight when he posted games of 278 and 245 to tally an impressive 705 set as the Tigers gave South Brunswick all they could handle, but fell to the Vikings

in a match decided in the 10th frame. Teammates Jon Jeglinski's 205 and 215 games, 590 set and Nick Grego's 221 game and 580 set found the conditions in their favor.

SPHS	962	906	892—2760
Hunt. Central	855	811	981—2647

The boys' bowling team jumped out of the starting gate and pounded Hunterdon Central by over 200 pins in the first two games and pinned a 3-1 defeat on the Red Devils. Matt Boley

took scoring honors as he posted games of 229-198 to tally a 616 high set. George Kleinknecht also excelled with games of 192-203 and 191.

SPHS	938	873	964—2775
Edison	981	1034	1086—3101

Edison found the conditions in their favor and coasted to an easy victory over the boys' bowling team, despite

Matt Boley's 221-195-205 games and 621 high set. John Roesch chipped in with a 214 game.

SPHS	955	834	866—2655
Piscataway	987	937	980—2904

The boys' bowling team dropped its seventh straight close match, falling to Piscataway despite Matt Boley's 247-

220-214 games and 681 set. George Kleinknecht chipped in with games of 182 and 183.

Wrestling News By Bob Hunter

Tigers Lose to Number 2 Kittatinny

The anticipated showdown between number two ranked Kittatinny and the fourth ranked Tigers of South Plainfield was a hard fought battle, with the Kittatinny prevailing 39-23.

The Tigers got off to a quick lead with Ryan Elliot 275, recording a fall over Chris Grablutz at 1:07. Jimmy Conroy 103, then manhandled Andy Valenti scoring a tech-fall, 16-0 at 4:12, to give the Tigers an early 11-0 lead.

However, that's when Kittatinny

rolled off eight straight wins to give the team a 33-11 lead.

In the 152 pound match, Paul Ritchey gave up a takedown with four seconds left and was down 5-3. It appeared Ritchey scored a reversal, but was only rewarded with an escape, making the score 5-4.

But the Tigers weren't done yet. Guy Severini 160, scored a fall over Anthony Virga at 1:10 to cut the lead to 33-17. Senior Joe DeBiase 171, trailing 2-1, attempted a headlock at

the end of regulation, but missed and lost by 4-1 decision. Kevin Crilley did his part when he pinned Scott Dacey in just 16 seconds.

If the Tigers had won both at 152 and 171, the score would have been 33-29 going into the final match of the evening.

Kittatinny is a very good team and the wrestlers in the lower weights did a good job staying off their backs. The Tigers wrestled hard and were in the match to the very end.

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 girls 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 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.

Sign ups for Ponytail Currently 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

Gladys S. (Snyder) Dennison, 80

Gladys S. (Snyder) Dennison died on Thursday, Jan. 22 at The Eastern Star Home in Bridgewater.

Born in Jersey City, she had resided in South Plainfield from 1951 until 2003, where she then settled in Bridgewater.

Ms. Dennison had been an office manager for Rutgers University in Piscataway for the Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Graduate School for many years, retiring in 1987. Previously, she worked for the Central Railroad of NJ.

A member of the Eastern Star, Ms. Dennison was also a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield and the church's Women's Circle and The Learning for Life of Plainfield. In addition, she was an avid swimmer, a member of the South Plainfield Community Pool and she enjoyed the theater.

She is survived by three children, William Dennison of Irvine, Calif., Elise Dennison of Plainfield and Jane Bauer of Englewood, Colo.; a sister, Anna Trucks of Texas and three grandchildren, Nicole Dennison of California and Allison and Scott Bauer, both of Colorado.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer Assoc., 225 North Michigan Ave., Ste. 1700, Chicago, IL 60601.

Henriette Celine Boczar, 79

Henriette Celine Boczar passed away peacefully on Friday, Jan. 16 at Somerset Hospital in Somerville, with her family at her side. Henriette was a woman of faith and dedicated to helping her family and friends.

Born on May 5, 1924 in New York City, Henriette was the second of four children of Marie Celine and Auguste Pierre Ferrier. She lived in South Plainfield for over 40 years before moving to North Branch four years ago. Henriette was employed by the Middlesex County Department of Probation, where she documented in-arrears childcare support and helped to re-establish needed support flows. She retired in 1989.

Henriette graduated from Julia Richman High School in Manhattan in 1942, where she was an active member of the women's basketball team. An avid bowler, she once rolled a personal high of 260 in tournament play. She and her husband were also accomplished polka dancers. Henriette was a long-time member of the South Plainfield PTA; the Brownies, where she served as troop leader; the American Waldensian Society; the Perth Amboy Women of the Moose Lodge 1360; Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church of Plainfield and most recently, the Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

She was predeceased by her brother, Rene Auguste Ferrier.

She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Albert; two sons, Jon Philip Boczar and his wife, Diane of Bridgewater and David James Boczar and his wife, Laurie of Easton, Conn.; two daughters, Irene Marie Stewart and her husband, Kevin of Sergeantsville, NJ and Celine Evelyn Boczar-August and her husband, Alan of Bridgewater; a sister, Pauline Suzanne Dorival of Belleville and a brother, Henry Pierre Ferrier of Brooklyn. She was the grandmother of six children, Amy Celine, Alan Richard, Jr., Andrew Daniel, Maeve Celine, Valerie Jean and Adam James and was a great grandmother to Lexi Celine.

Funeral services were held at the Bongiovi Funeral Home.

Contributions in the memory of Henriette Boczar may be made to Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

Josephine Stanislao Piro, 87

Josephine Stanislao Piro of Plainfield entered into eternal rest on Saturday, Jan. 24 at her home.

Josephine was born in New York City and was a former 50-year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Plainfield five years ago.

Josephine was a seamstress for the Bruno Dress Company in South Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1975. She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 149 of Plainfield.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and a former member of the Altar Rosary Society and the Sacred Heart Seniors. She was also a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

Her favorite pastime was Bingo and she loved knitting and crocheting.

She was predeceased by her husband, Salvatore Piro, who died in 1985.

She is survived by three sons, Peter S. and his wife, Joan Piro and Monico and his wife, Annamaria Piro, all of South Plainfield and Joseph P. and his wife, Paula Piro of Hillsborough; three sisters, Nancy Marsicano of Staten Island, Tina Tedesco of South Plainfield and Milli Colucci of California; two brothers, Paul Stanislao of South Plainfield and Sam Stanislao of Lakewood; eight grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

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

Ernest V. Carlomagno, 79

Ernest V. Carlomagno of South Plainfield entered into eternal rest on Friday, Jan. 23 at his home.

Ernie was born in N. Plainfield and moved to South Plainfield 50 years ago.

He was a graduate of Plainfield High School and Tusculum College in Tennessee.

Ernie was a supervisor in the stock and inventory department of PSE&G

in Elizabeth for 30 years before retiring in 1986.

He served his country during WWII in the U.S. Navy as a Petty Officer 3rd Class and was a member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763.

In his youth, Ernie was a lifeguard at the Watchung Lake Swim Club. He loved sports and excelled in football, baseball and basketball during his high school years. He then played for the former Plainfield Saracens Pro football team in Plainfield as a running back. He was a member of the Flying Eagles Sports Club of North Plainfield. He was a former member and coach for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club and the South Plainfield Pop Warner Football Eagles. He was an avid golfer and a former recreation attendant at the South Plainfield PAL.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Dorothy Marie MacDonald Carlomagno; three daughters, Norreen, Susan and Patricia; a son, Ernest V. Carlomagno, Jr.; a brother, Henry Carlomagno; 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

John Trocodeo, 83

John Trocodeo died on Monday, Jan. 26 at Genesis Elder Care- The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield to Italian immigrants, he was one of nine living in the Queen city until he and his wife settled to South Plainfield after his service in the United States Navy.

A veteran of WWII, John had served with the Sea Bees as a Second Class Petty Officer, serving in Iceland, Rhode Island, England, Scotland, France, Pearl Harbor, Guam and Okinawa. His duties included setting up Naval bases, building airstrips and ship-to-shore supply details.

He was awarded several medals, including the Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding exhibition of gallantry and determination during operations in Normandy, France.

After returning home, John was employed by National Starch in Dunellen as a chemical operator and later as the warehouse foreman before retiring after 43 years with the company. He then worked for five years as a bus driver of handicapped children for the state of NJ Regional School, Union Campus.

A life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763, serving as their quarter master for many years. In addition, John was an active communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church, where he was an usher for the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass.

He is predeceased by five sisters, Margaret, Mary, Rose, Minnie and Lucille and a brother, Thomas.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Margaret (Fotia); two daughters, Linda and her husband, Chris Malvone of South Plainfield and Rosemarie Trocodeo of Fla.; a sister, Louise Schumacher of South Plainfield and a brother, Dominic of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are two grandchildren, Jennifer Grieves and Christine Ruiz.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 9:15 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart RC Church. Interment will follow in Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains. Visitation will be Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. in the funeral home.

Kathryn H. (Sparks) Biedron, 85

Kathryn H. (Sparks) Biedron died on Monday, Jan. 26 at her home.

She was born in New York City and raised in Linden. She married Edward F. Biedron on Christmas day in 1941 and they were married for 48 years before his death in October of 1989.

Retired since 1981 from American Flange Co. of Linden, Kathryn was a long-time member of Sacred Heart Church and their Rosary Altar Society. In addition, she was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

Kathryn was predeceased by a sister, Ann Cotton and two brothers, Bill and Joe Sparks.

She is survived by a daughter, Maureen Biedron Labudzki of Holmdel; two sons, Edward of Dunellen and Robert of Hampton, Va.; three grandchildren, Marc, Jessica and Daniel and a sister, Sister M. Francis Josephine (Helen Sparks) of Peekskill, NY.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Jan. 30 at 9:15 a.m. in the McCriskin Home For Funerals, followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Sacred Heart RC Church.

Interment will follow in St.

Gertrude's Cemetery, Colonia. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Haven Hospice, C/O JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818 or to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St., Fords, NJ 08863.

Irene Coulthard Phillips, 79

Irene Coulthard Phillips of South Plainfield entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Irene was born in England and came to the United States in 1947, settling in South Plainfield. She moved to Plainfield for two years, then she moved back to South Plainfield where she has lived for the last 54 years.

Irene was a bank teller at the former First Atlantic Bank in South Plainfield for 12 years before retiring in 1991. Her favorite pastime was sewing and doing needlepoint.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Emil Stanley Phillips, who died in 1980.

She is survived by a son, Robert E. and his wife, Bonnie Phillips of Jacksonville, Fla.; a daughter, Pamela and her husband, Jeff Kizmann of South Plainfield; a sister, Marian Tweedle of England and two granddaughters, Jessica and Brianna Kizmann.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 10 a.m. at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

Visitation is Thursday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

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police report

- On Jan. 20 Bryan Patrick Wheeler, 21, of Hamilton was arrested for driving under the influence of a controlled substance.
- On Jan. 21 a Ford Ave. resident reported that their American Flag that was stapled to a tree in the front yard had been shredded.
- On Jan. 22 Monica Rovira, 26, of Bethlehem, Pa. was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- Million Dollar Video on W. 7th

St. reported the theft of several movies by a black male who had them hidden in his jacket.

- On Jan. 24 Louis A. Muniz, 32, of Piscataway was arrested in Macy's for shoplifting two jackets and a pair of shoes worth \$604.

- Stacey Lynn Fox, 20, of Edison and Pricilla Renee Grant, 18, of Plainfield were arrested for driving a stolen car at a motor vehicle stop.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

January 23, 2004

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 22, 2004.

A. Case #76-03—Jason J. Lee, Block 328; Lot 3; 416 Hamilton Blvd. The applicant's request to withdraw this application without prejudice was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #87-0300—Joanne Morales, Block 20; Lot 5; 1712 Grant Ave. The applicant's request for a southerly side yard setback variance with a seven foot side yard setback as part of a one story addition to the rear of the existing dwelling was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$35.00

January 30, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

An appeal has been filed by Sylvia Jacobs requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit addition to home—proposed addition lacks side setbacks 8' required, 6' being proposed left side; 8' required, 6' being proposed right side, exceeds lot coverage by 87 sq. ft. or 1.7%; 1,250 sq. ft. allowed 1,337 sq. ft. being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 226 Delmore Avenue on Block 339, Lots 6, 8 & 11 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 12, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

1T January 30, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

TAKE NOTICE that the South Plainfield Planning Board will hold a hearing on Tuesday, February 10 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield to consider the appeal for a variance or other relief filed by McCriscin Home For Funerals.

The relief requested is to permit an extension of the existing parking lot of the Funeral Home to provide for 21 additional parking spaces at the property address 2425 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; Block 188 Lot 53. Applicant will seek final site plan approval for the proposed parking lot expansion project.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for inspection in the Planning/Zoning office in Borough Hall between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and present any objections to granting the relief requested.

\$35.00

January 30, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

TAKE NOTICE that the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment will hold a hearing on February 12, 2004 in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey to consider the appeal for a variance or other relief filed by Pilgrim Covenant Church, located at 3132 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The relief requested is to permit the construction of a 3' x 4' unlighted sign along the front of Park Avenue on behalf of Pilgrim Covenant Church Learning Center; Block 95, Lot 3. The proposed construction is contrary to the zoning ordinance in the following: The proposed sign is not a permitted use in the R-15 residential zone.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for inspection in the Planning/Zoning office in Borough Hall between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and present any objections to granting the relief requested.

Edward J. Santoro, Jr. Esq.
Attorney for Applicants

\$35.00

January 30, 2004

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DIGITAL CAMERA at rabies clinic at the Public Works Garage on Jan. 24. Call the health department (908) 226-7630.

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Trust Fund for Children of Deceased Parents Signed into Law

Legislation Assembly Assistant Majority Leader Linda Greenstein and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr. (both D-Middlesex) sponsored to provide for the financial stability of minors whose parents or guardians die without a will was signed into law last week by Governor James McGreevey.

Under the new law (A-3559), the parent or guardian of a minor child or beneficiary could petition the court for permission to place funds in a trust if a decedent died without a will. Monies placed in the trust would be used to cover the costs of the beneficiary's healthcare, support, maintenance and education if deemed appropriate by the fund's trustees.

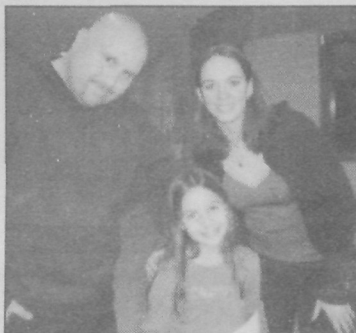
"If a parent of guardian dies without a will, their offspring or kin should not face a whirlwind of financial problems," said Greenstein. "Placing the assets of the deceased in a trust fund provides financial security in a child's life that may have been turned upside down by a loved one's tragic or untimely death."

"The unexpected death of a loved one affects families and their finances differently," said Diegnan. "Various factors should be considered, but ultimately, when a loved one dies without a will, decisions over a child's inheritance should be decided on an individual basis."

Before placing inheritance funds in a trust, the court would take into consideration the amount of money involved; the availability of other current financial resources; the stability of the entity offering an investment covered by the court application; the consequences of income taxes; the special needs or vulnerabilities of the minor beneficiary and the financial and psychological consequences of placing all or part of the minor's estate out of reach for an extended period of time.

Prior state law ordered the minor beneficiary to receive a lump sum of money when they reach age 18. The beneficiary was required to repay and distribute funds and properties to their former guardian as soon as possible. The Greenstein/Diegnan law permits a court to establish periodic distributions of portions of the trust's principal balance.

"A child's 18th birthday should not be viewed as either financial windfall or payment due date," said Greenstein. "State law needs more structure and balance to ensure that if a loved one dies without a will, their assets do not vanish when a surviving child becomes a legal adult."



Deirdre Macchia and teachers Mr. Bertram and Lauren Lopez.

Macchia Named "Junior Journalist"

Roosevelt School third grader Deirdre Macchia's poem, "I Dream a World," is this week's winning entry in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Deirdre 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.

Junior Journalist Corner



Deirdre Macchia

I Dream a World

By Deirdre Macchia

I Dream a World with peace and dignity.
I Dream a World with freedom and no violence like killing.
I Dream a World with only love not hate.
I Dream a World with no greed, or money so nobody will be poor or rich.
I Dream a World with no guns, knives or rifles.
I Dream a World with no murdering or terrorists.
I Dream a World with no kidnapping or abuse.
I Dream a World where everyone holds hands singing peace.
I Dream that we'll all join together and change this damaged world.
I Dream a World with no bad words or names.
I Have a Dream that one smile could spread love and peace and repair the world.

Attention Students:

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