

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 25

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 13, 2004

## Tigers Rule Middlesex County!

By Robert Hunter

The South Plainfield High School wrestling team headed into the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament as the number one team and came home with their eighth title in 12 years. The Tigers dominated, cruising to a 74-point margin over second place JP Stevens. The Tigers, who placed third in the tournament a year ago behind East Brunswick and Old Bridge, left both those teams shaking their heads in total frustration.

On Friday night the Tigers advanced all but one wrestler into the Saturday morning quarterfinal round. The first round was disappointing to Coach Kevin McCann. "We started slow. We had a bad morning, but the kids who lost bounced back and did a great job and scored us some points." The Tigers sent eight

wrestlers into the semifinal round, with seven of them making it to the finals. Overall, the Tigers crowned four individual champions and had three runner-ups.

In the championship round Jimmy Conroy (103), got the Tigers going when he scored an 18-2 tech-fall over Matt Pagan of Bishop Ahr. Conroy, the defending GMC champion, wasted little time scoring a takedown and a couple of three-point near falls before the end of the first period. Conroy pinned AJ Hrabar of Piscataway in the semifinals. Conroy is now 21-0 on the year.

Next up was freshman Billy Ashnault (112), who had a great tournament knocking off the number one seed John Pagnotta of Old Bridge 6-4 in OT in the semifinals. He then gave JC Bandiero of Edison a run for his money in the finals when he took Bandiero down with just 60 seconds

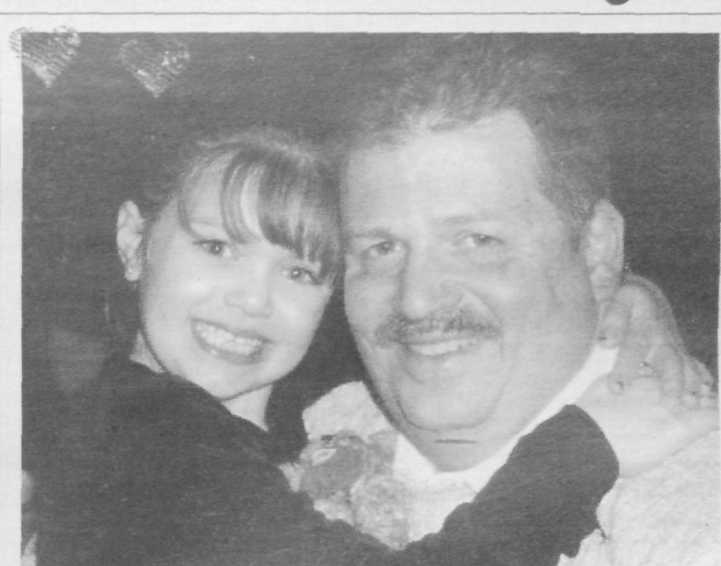
left in the period to take a 4-2 lead. However, Bandiero scored a reversal, sending the match into overtime. Bandiero then scored a takedown on the edge of the mat to win 6-4.

Nick Dorey (125), another freshman, also had a great tournament winning his semifinal match by a 16-5 major decision over Hamilton Hook of JP Stevens to reach the finals. In the finals Dorey gave a gallant effort, but was just out-matched, losing by a fall to state ranked Joe Bubenheimer of Woodbridge.

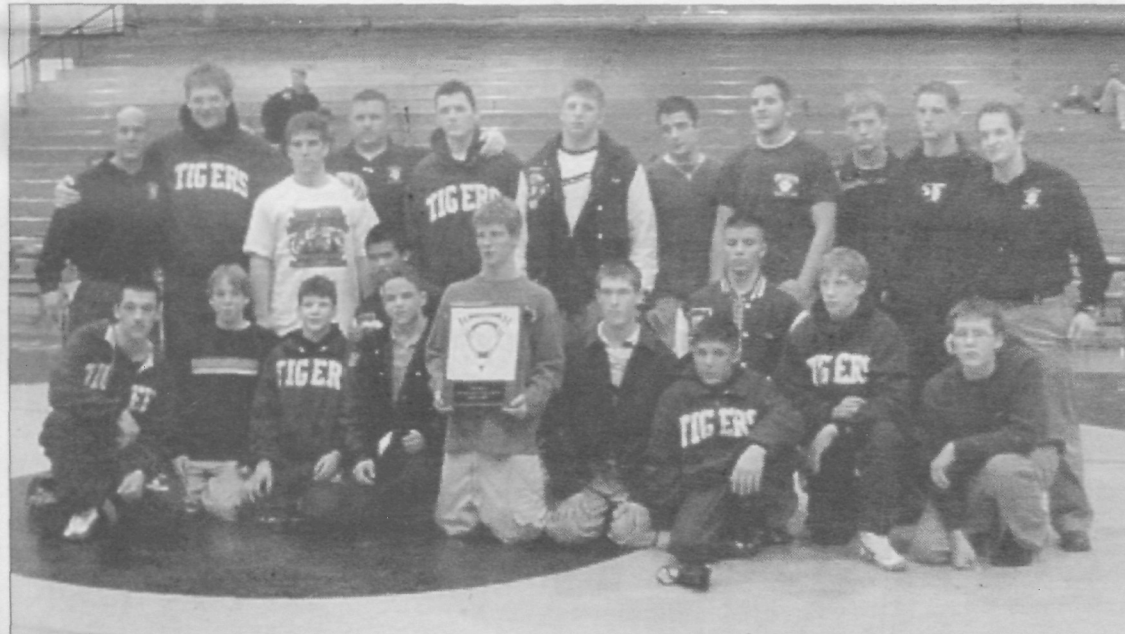
Paul Ritchey (145) also had a great tournament, reaching the finals with an 8-7 decision over Jason Shelsby of East Brunswick. Ritchey faced state ranked Vin Iodaci of Old Bridge in the finals, but came up short dropping a 10-1 decision.

Senior Guy Severini (160), got a big pin in the semifinals over Adam

(Continued on page 9)



Amanda Dolan, Kennedy School student, spends a special time with her dad, Bob Dolan, at the annual Father/Daughter dance. Dolan is a volunteer member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. See page 12 for additional photos of the dance.



The SPHS Wrestling Team is number one after winning the Middlesex Conference Tournament.

## 100th Anniversary Logo Winner Named

Last week the winning logo for the 100th Anniversary celebration of Sacred Heart Church was selected.

Students from Sacred Heart School have been working on the logo project for more than a month.

The entries were divided into three groups, K-3, grades 4-6 and 7-8. Three winners were chosen from each group and then a final winner was selected from that group.

The winning logo was designed by eighth grader Allison Whitefleet. Winners in K-3 were Megan Amiraault, Erick Colonnello and Linnea Kallner; grades 4-6, Brenda Eke, Kaitlynn Moctezuma and Jaclyn Thomas and grades 7-8: Allison Whitefleet, Jonathon Abel and Britany Jeffers.



Allison Whitefleet, who created the winning logo for Sacred Heart's 100th anniversary.

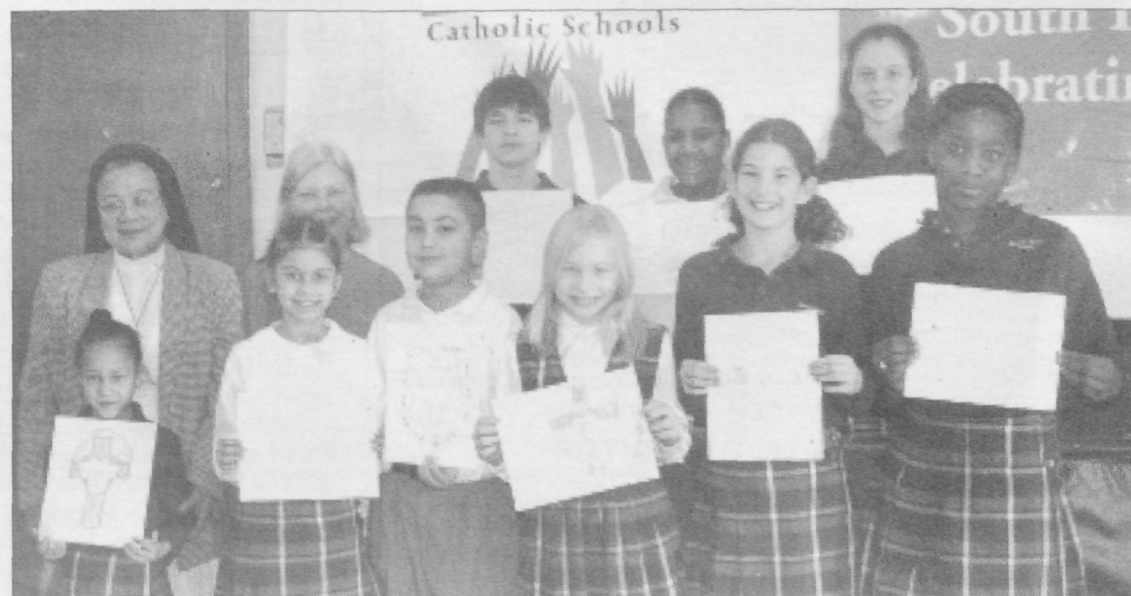
Judging were Judith Chabra, art teacher at St. Matthias and St. Frances Cabrini schools, Tracey Hartmann, Sacred Heart CCD teacher, Loretta McCabe, Sacred Heart art teacher, and Nancy Grennier and Susan Kaneps from the Observer.

The judges agreed that picking just one winning logo was very difficult. The students did a great job and any

one of the many entries could have been chosen as the winner. The judges had to review the entries several times before choosing the final logo.

The logo is now in the hands of the Observer's art director, Susan Kaneps, who will recreate it for reproduction in print, for t-shirts, and for all of the publicity regarding the 100th anniversary celebration.

The judges would like to commend all the students who submitted entries. Everyone did a great job!



Sacred Heart School Principal Sister Cornelia Ramirez and Art Teacher Loretta McCabe are pictured with students displaying their winning entries in the parish's logo contest. The grand prize winner was Allison Whitefleet.

## Community Pool Getting a Facelift

For the past few years, members of the community pool have complained that the water is too cold. The pool, which was built in 1965, is feeling its age. The pool's concrete lining has many small cracks and they leak, making it necessary to constantly add water to the pool. That water comes primarily from a well, which keeps the pool water cool.

The Borough Council voted last week to install a new PBC liner before the 2004 season opens. The cost of the liner will run approximately \$130,200. At the same meeting, the council also introduced an ordinance to bond \$124,000 of that amount to be used towards the cost of the lining. According to Councilman Ray Petronko, "It is a great solution for an old pool." A layer of felt will be placed on the walls and floor of the pool, the new liner will be installed

over it. The liner consists of a shell that is literally melted together with hot air. The race lines used by the swim club will be inserted into the shell and sealed with hot air as well.

According to the manufacturer, the liner is good for 25 years and comes with a 10-year guarantee. It will never need painting and its overall appearance will be a much nicer looking pool.

"Residents will see a big difference in the pools overall look and feel," said Petronko. He reminded residents that the membership fees for the pool this year will remain the same as last year.

The public hearing for the ordinance will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost during regular business hours at the Clerk's office for the public.



## Mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
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. 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. 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.: 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

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

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Friends:

I am planning on participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer this coming October. It is a two-day walk in New York City ([www.Avonwalk.org](http://www.Avonwalk.org)). I was unable to take this walk last year; I was still too weak from my chemo. I am back on my feet; I have won my battle with breast cancer. Now it's time for me to help other women win their battles. Each participant has to pledge a donation of \$1,800. I have a great way to raise the money: a few friends and I are putting together a cookbook.

I met some women who did this as a fundraiser for the walk last year. The cookbook was in memory of their mother who died of breast cancer a few years ago. The cookbook was a very big success. I have a copy of the cookbook and it's just beautiful. This is an easy project and I think it will be fun to do, but I need recipes! That's what I need from you: recipes! Please jot down your favorites and share them with me. You can share as many as you like. Each recipe that I get will appear in the cookbook with your first and last name and if you would like to share your recipes in memory of someone, or in honor of, that would make

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com), at our website: [spobservers.com](http://spobservers.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.

the cookbook even more special. Ask friends and family members to share their favorites. Also, if anyone has any good cooking tips, we will add them to the cookbook. You can email them to me at [poppy12092@aol.com](mailto:poppy12092@aol.com). In the subject, please put cookbook. You can also drop off or mail the recipes to the South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

If anyone would like to join me in this year's walk, I would love it. Raising the money is easier than you think! The more you have in your group, the more fun it is. When the cookbooks are ready they will cost \$15 each and 100% of the money will go to my pledge.

THANKS,  
BETTE SCHIAVI

Dear Editor,

Recently our company had a number of fraudulent orders placed on our web site. Through the South Plainfield Police department, the case was cracked and an arrest was made.

We have had a number of these cases and many police departments just don't know how to handle this type of theft over the Internet. We were placed in contact with a Detective Born of the South Plainfield Police Department. It's my understanding Detective Born has been recently

promoted to his new position, and I can see why! His efforts were outstanding! He went above and beyond the call of duty to recover our items and to ensure the community he protects is well guarded and crime free.

As I have said, most other departments we have dealt with in the past are all but clueless on what to do in these cases. Detective Born took the time to do research and orchestrate a flawless execution and issuance of his warrant to make the arrest. Many seasoned detectives we have dealt with in the past were unable to accomplish what this fine officer of the law was able to do in just a few short weeks.

Not only was our property recovered, but a shipment of over \$100,000 in stolen computers were halted in their tracks. Hundreds, if not thousands of stolen credit card numbers used by the perpetrator will no longer be in the hands of the criminal element.

Perhaps your readers would find this case interesting, as well as knowing what a fine police department they have protecting not only them, but people and businesses across the country.

SINCERELY,  
ROBERT RUSSELL, BULLSEYE SERVICES

## ALERT

### Board of Adjustment Special Mtg.

The Board of Adjustment will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. in the Senior Center, located on Maple Ave. to hear case #41-03/CU/I.S.S.C. (Indian Temple).

## Rape Crisis Intervention Center Recruiting Volunteers

The Middlesex County Public Health Department's Rape Crisis Intervention Center is seeking volunteers to provide support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence.

"Volunteers are vital to our center... and an important part of our commitment to comfort and advise victims of sexual violence," says Freeholder John Pulomena, chairman of the Public Health and Education Committee.

Those interested in volunteering will take part in the center's 50 hour Volunteer Advocate Training Program, which will train individuals in crisis intervention, advocacy and in the dynamics of sexual violence and recovery. Upon completion of the program, volunteers will serve on call, on a rotating basis. Responsibilities will include offering support, information, and referrals via the center's 24-hour hotline to victims, others affected by sexual violence and members of the community at large. Volunteers will also accompany victims during collection of forensic evidence and throughout the legal process to offer information, support and to ensure that the victim's rights are being upheld.

The training will begin on Tuesday,

Feb. 24 and will be held on Tuesday evenings (6-10 p.m.) and Saturday mornings (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) through Apr. 3.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, or on the Rape Crisis Intervention Center and its services, call (732) 452-5900, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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## Elderday Care Program Seeks Volunteers

The Volunteer Services Dept. at Jewish Family & Vocational Service (JFVS) of Middlesex County needs you. Are you friendly, sensitive and caring? Do you have an interest or hobby to share? Are you able to volunteer one day a week or twice a month with frail senior adults? Our Elderday Care Program staff needs volunteer assistants to help provide social and mental stimulation and to help coordinate activities. We need volunteers for Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at our Woodbridge locations and Tuesdays and Fridays at our Edison location. If this describes you, please contact Amy J. Opitz, Volunteer Coordinator at JFVS at (732) 777-1940 ext. 122.

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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 [spobservers.com](mailto:spobservers.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ngrennie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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](mailto: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.



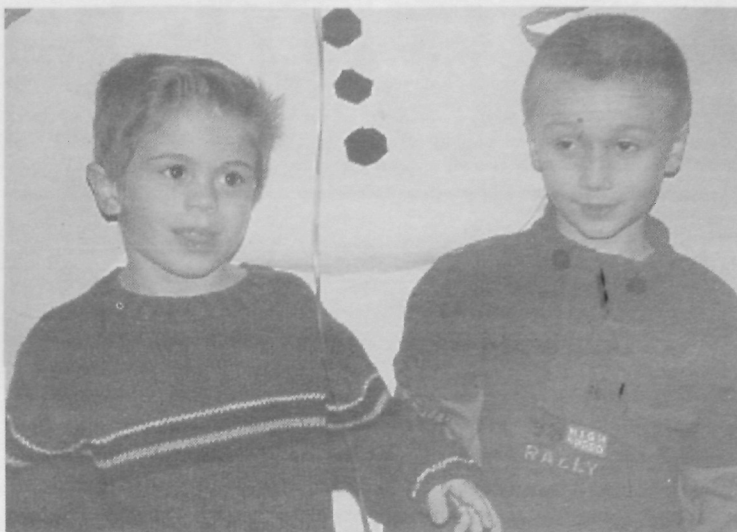
## Kids Enjoy SEPA Winter Festival

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

On a recent blustery cold Friday night, over fifty families enjoyed the Special Education Parent's Association's annual Winter Festival. The mini carnival featured games such as a golf putting range, frisbee throw, 'fishing,' beanbag toss and bowling. The children also enjoyed making spin art, chalk drawing and getting tattoos. The Jan. 23 event was held at Roosevelt Elementary School.

The guests were treated to popcorn, hot dogs, pretzels, drinks and ice cream. As the families were leaving, the children were able to select a book from many that were donated to the S.E. P.A.

Volunteers kept things running smoothly throughout the night. On hand were teachers from several grade schools as well as Grant School including, Linda Duquette, Franklin School; Janice Early, Grant School; Linda DiDario, Kennedy School; Patty Reach, Franklin School; Anne



Joshua Stasenکو, 5 and Alex Catalina, 6.

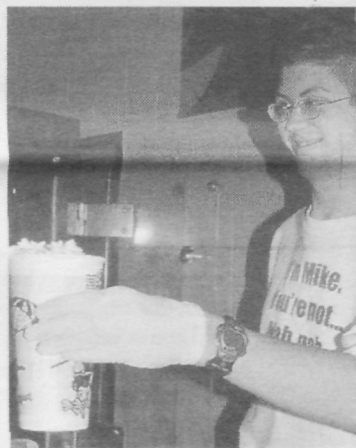
grade students Amanda Hoagland, Beth Becker, Sarah McCarthy, Sarah DeLair, Veronica Ruiz, Danielle Yulick, Jessica Jazikoff, Amelia Lyte, Megan Kaczka and Nicole Usuriello with Troop leaders Jane Beckler and Kathy Hoagland; Amanda Alemezohu from Girl Scout Troop 431; Chris Duquette, Tom Pedersen, Kevin Lahey, Tommy Loabo, Matt Brazza and Danny Zalinskys from Boy Scout Troop 207. Other teenage volunteers were: Alan Kasmer, JP Barry, Mike Duquette, Chris Delaney and Siobham Delaney.

This year's Special Education Parent's Association officers are Anne Bukelew, President; Lisa Stasenکو, Secretary and Tara Catalina, Treasurer. The SEPA offers help and support to the families of classified children who need questions answered and do not know where to turn. The organization is set up much like a Parent Teacher Association. They deal with a wide range of youths from preschool to high school seniors. They are involved with the relationships between the families and the teacher's and teacher's aides. They feel that it is important to have a close connection with the teacher's and aides because these individuals are a big part of the children's lives. Any family that has a classified child in South Plainfield is encouraged to sign up and get involved.

They have four issues on their agenda this year, the first was the Winter Festival Next they hope to start a Buddy Ball program started in South Plainfield and have it supported by the recreation department. This program

unites a child with a volunteer who helps them to play various ball games. They also want to ensure they have as many teachers and aides working with them as possible. By attending the SEPA meetings and voicing their concerns they can help improve relationships between educators and the families.

Their main goal this year is to get more families to join the SEPA. The cost is \$5 per year for a family. Treasurer Tara Catalina offered this invitation, she said, "Come to our meetings and see what we are about and what we are doing for the good of all the special needs children in South Plainfield!" The SEPA meets every other month on the second Tuesday. For more information call President Anne Bukelew at (908) 757-1804



SPHS Junior Mike Duquette volunteers to run the popcorn machine.



Mark Caparelli, 5, takes a pretzel break.

Delaney, Riley School and Director of Special Services, Richard Flamini. Girl Scout Troops 118 and 431 and Boy Scout Troop 207 assisted with set up and clean up. They also ran the games and booths.

In addition to donations from South Plainfield schools the Fire Protection Company, Inc., donated helium for the balloons and Sal's Spirit Shoppe donated bottled water.

Among the volunteers were: Girl Scout Troop 118, Grant School fifth

## BOROUGHNOTES

■ A service contract was authorized with Class Software Solutions to provide maintenance on the PAL computer software at a cost of \$4,321.51 for the one year period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004.

■ A service contract was authorized with PECO Company to provide maintenance on the Genicon printer used by the Finance and Tax Departments at a cost of \$1,465 for the one year period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004.

■ A waiver of all construction permit fees for Our Lady of Czestochowa Church associated with the installation of a temporary trailer on their property was authorized.

■ The Borough was authorized to make an application to the Middlesex County Improvement Authority enabling the Borough to participate in their capital lease program. The Borough is looking to purchase a Rescue Squad Ambulance costing \$150,000.

■ Eric Milstein was re-hired as a part-time Public Safety Telecommunicator-Trainee effective Feb. 3.

■ J.T. Penyak Roofing Company was authorized to repair the roof over the Public Works garage at a cost of \$17,499.

■ The Borough Engineer was authorized to make an application for the 2004 New Jersey Department of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Fund Grant, which will be utilized for the installation of a footbridge between the Senior Recreation Center and Veteran Memorial Park.

■ The Council Adopted the Ch. 159 Budget Amendment to include a \$4,000 Grant received from the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.

■ Participation in the Safe and Secure Communities Program administered through the Div. of Criminal Justice, Dept. of Law and Public Safety was authorized.

## District Music and Art Festival Revises Format

The South Plainfield Public Schools will present its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual District Music and Art Festival on Wednesday, April 7 at South Plainfield High School, starting at 6:25 p.m. The festival will feature performances of instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as displays of art created by the district's many talented students.

The music performance this year will take place in the auditorium, while the displays of art will be located in the gymnasium. The concert this year will be performed in three smaller segments instead of one longer continuous program. The first part of the concert will be devoted to orchestral music. After a short intermission, the second part of the program will feature vocal music performances. Following another short intermission, the concert will conclude with performances of symphonic and jazz bands. Each segment of the program will feature ensembles from Grant School, the Middle School and the High School. Each of the three concert segments will require a separate ticket. Tickets will be made available first, on a limited

basis, to the families of the performing students starting on Feb. 23. Additional tickets may then be made available to the general public starting March 8.

More ticket information will be provided as the District Music and Art Festival draws near.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact Andrew Veiss, the District Team Leader at [aveiss@spnet.12.nj.us](mailto:aveiss@spnet.12.nj.us).

## Senior Housing Applications

Seniors who are interested in living at the Senior Residence, located at 151 Morris Ave., can pick up applications at Borough Hall in the Clerk's office.

The Senior Residence is run by the Lutheran Ministries and there is a long waiting list, so it is important to add your name to the list as soon as possible.

If you would like to speak to someone at the residence, call Ivonne Kyle at (908) 755-6600.

# Dining Out!

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**For more information, call 908-668-0010.**



# Around Town

## Valentine's Day Cake Sale at Library

February 14

There will be a Valentine's Day Treat Cake Sale sponsored by the Friends of the South Plainfield Library on Saturday, Feb. 14 starting at 9 a.m. at the library. Anyone who would like to donate cookies, cupcakes, cakes or more are asked to sign up at the library.

Stop by to buy a sweet for your special sweetie.

## American Gymnastics Sports Clinic Planned

February 15

American Gymnasium Academy, located at 4475 So. Clinton Ave., is offering a sports psychology and wellness clinic on Sunday, Feb. 15. Registration begins at 1 p.m. Special guest speaker is Dr. Goldberg. Other sessions include nutrition, health screening, stress reduction and sports injuries.

The clinic is \$50 for athletes and \$75 for athlete, parent or coach. For registration, call AGA at (908) 753-2421.

## 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. A meeting schedule for 2004 will be posted in the *Observer* in the near future.

## Free Seminar at the Senior Center

February 18

Met Life Financial Services will present a free seminar on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center's monthly meeting.

The seminar is called "How to Protect Your Estate" and will cover topics including protecting your assets, cutting out the IRS, bypassing probate, long term care insurance and market trends. Steve Horvath and Brett Feldman will be on hand to help sort through the myriad of issues facing our seniors and their families by giving guidance, suggestions and clarification.

The seminar is open to our seniors and their family members and friends.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

February 19

Since the Senior Center is closed for Presidents' Day, AARP Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will instead meet on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m. Lawrence Walker, president of Bulls-Eye Production, Inc., is making

## 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
<b>Monthly meetings will now be on the third Thursday of the month</b>				
<b>EVENTS</b>				
	Feb. 18-Monthly Meeting features speakers from Met Life Financial Services Feb. 22-Black History Month Program sponsored by the Cultural Arts Council March 17-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"		Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10am to 11am	Center Closed
16 Center Closed President's Day	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Ladies Social Group 10am Lunch Available Income Tax Prep 9am-Noon	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm Monthly Mtg. 1pm Topic: Various Financial/Estate	18 Shopping at Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10-11am	19 Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Avail. 20 Bridge Club 12:30pm Men's Forum Steering Comm. 1:30pm
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

a documentary on the lives of notable blacks in New Jersey and will speak to our group on "The Life of Paul Robeson."

We are taking reservations (you do not have to be a member of our group) for an overnight trip on April 28 to the Delaware Park Racetrack and to see "Annie" at Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater. Accommodations at the Holiday Inn, full American buffet breakfast on April 29 and day at an Atlantic City Casino with bonus return. First day lunch on your own, \$160 dbl., \$200 single includes meals, taxes, trips and baggage handling.

For information, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

## Baked Chicken Dinner at VFW

February 20

The VFW Memorial Post 6763, 155 Front St., will hold a baked chicken dinner on Friday, Feb. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Donation for adults is \$7; children up to age four is \$4.

Awards will be presented to the Post's Voice of Democracy contest winner and the Outstanding Law Officer at 7 p.m.

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

## "Open Your Heart Foundation" Gala

February 20

The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation is currently sponsoring a Gala, honoring Dr. Barton Kamen as the man of the year, on Friday, Feb. 20 at the Berkley

Plaza in Berkley Heights. 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.

For information or for donations, 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 Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

## Polish Home Plans Atlantic 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 (908) 757-3428, Ann at (908) 561-6551 or the Polish Home at (908) 668-9442.

## Terra Nova Garden Club Meeting

February 25

The Terra Nova Garden Club will hold its February monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:45 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Ave., Edison. The program for the evening is "The History of Lyme Disease." Jim Occi will be the presenter. The presentation is free and open to the public.

The Garden Therapy committee will meet at 1 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield.

## Morris Ave. Seniors Atlantic City Trip

March 9

The seniors at 151 Morris Ave. are planning a bus trip to Atlantic City on Tuesday, March 9 to the Showboat Casino. The cost is \$15 and you receive \$15 from the casino. The bus leaves the senior residence at 151 Morris Ave. at 9 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m. The trip is open to the public. Bring a friend. For information or to purchase a ticket, contact Frank (908) 753-1083 or Cricket at (908) 753-7027.

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or fax (908) 668-8819; email ggann@aol.com.

## Senior Center EVENTS

For more information, call (732) 727-1410 or (908) 757-0515.

## Wardlaw-Hartridge Open House

February 21

The parents and children of pre-school ages three through grade twelve are invited to The Wardlaw-Hartridge School Open House scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21 at 9 a.m. that will introduce the new PreK3 program, explain the early learning philosophy espoused by the teachers and give tours for all of the divisions including middle school and upper school.

Student- and faculty-led tours are available of the college preparatory facility located at 1295 Inman Avenue in Edison. Directions to the school are available on the school's website at [www.whschool.org](http://www.whschool.org).

Admission screening for the PreK3 program readiness is now underway, so interested parties are encouraged to call the school at (908) 754-1882, ext. 156 to speak with Associate Director Hagan as soon as possible.

## CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

February 23

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. The topic will be "Adoptive Parents Speak Out About Reunion." Open sharing of adoption-related stories are welcome and there will be light refreshments available.

Check our website at <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> or call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for more information.

## Jamaican Film Festival

February 26

Books for Jamaica is presenting a Jamaican Film Festival. Three documentary films will be featured: "Life of Bob Marley," "Marcus Garvey: Toward Black Nationhood" and "Haile Selassie's 1966 Visit to Jamaica."

Books for Jamaica is a non-profit solidarity organization affiliated with the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. Books for Jamaica ships books and computers to community based organizations, schools and other public institutions in Jamaica.

The Jamaican Film Festival will take place on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church Auditorium, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. For information and directions call (908) 755-2781. All are invited to this free event.

## — Out of Town —

## Middlesex WOW's Valentine Dance

February 13

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers (WOWs), Carteret Chapter, will hold a Valentine's Day Dance on Friday, Feb. 13 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8. There will be live music and refreshments will be available. The dance is from 7 to 11 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## Woodbridge WOWs Dance Planned

February 15

Woodbridge Area Widows or Widowers (WOWs) is hosting a dance on Sunday, Feb. 15, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. The cost per person is \$8 and there will be entertainment by "Sentimental Journey" DJ Ron. Refreshments will be available. The dance will be located at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## B'nai B'rith Ketubah Meeting

February 15

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will be meeting for brunch on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kenilworth Inn, Boulevard and So. 31st Street in Kenilworth.

The cost is \$12.95 per person, plus tax and tip. Prospective members are welcome to come. Please RSVP to Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by Feb. 13.



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## Curves Opens in South Plainfield



Curves of South Plainfield owners Jerri Hochron and Elissa Bennett are joined by the Monday morning staff on opening day, Feb. 9.

By Roxanne Cortese

I was very fortunate to be one of the first people to see the new Curves on its opening day, Monday, Feb. 9, as well as being the first to transfer from another location.

At exactly 9 a.m. the doors opened and people began arriving one right after another to sign up for a membership or transferring. I have been to a few Curves in the area, but this one truly has the most unique and warm feeling of them all. I also heard the

same comments coming from other members visiting the new location.

Both partners, Jerri Hochron and Elissa Bennett, have put a lot of thought and feeling while designing the interior, incorporating many beautiful personal touches and colors which makes the atmosphere a pleasure to workout in.

The group picture left includes just a few employees who you will see at Curves. Actually besides the co-owners and a mentor for the week, the other girls are the Monday crew.

Curves will always have two training employees on-hand during workouts, so no one is ever left unattended while working the machines and to make sure you are always using them correctly.

I could see by the response of the ladies signing up that Curves is a very much welcomed addition to our town. See you at Curves ladies...



Franklin School Daisy Troop 521 held their Investiture Ceremony. Pictured left to right are Briana Spinella, Gina Cummings, Danielle Bowlbliss, Kaitlyn Scarcella, Sydni Surowiec and Hannah Arntz. Troop leaders are Lorie Cagle and Michelle Arntz.

## Rotary Clubs Wine Tasting Fundraiser Set For March 1

The South Plainfield and Edison Rotary clubs are sponsoring a Wine Tasting on March 1 at The Clarion Hotel on Rt. 27 in Edison from 6 to 9 p.m. Price of a ticket is \$20.

Tickets may be purchased from any Rotary member or at Oak Tree Buy Rite Wines & Spirits (across from

A&P and McDonald's), 902 Oak Tree Rd. in South Plainfield or VW Liquors in the Wick Plaza Shopping Center, 561 Rt. 1 in Edison. For further information, call (908) 561-0051.

## SPHS PTA to Hold Annual Auction/Raffle

Committee Seeks Donations To Benefit Project Graduation

The South Plainfield High School PTA will be holding their Seventh Annual Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 13 at the high school. The doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for admission and are on sale now while quantities last. The committee is actively seeking gifts from our high school parents and local businesses. Every student in our community will one day benefit from Project Graduation.

If you wish to support our event through donations or purchasing tickets to our Auction/Raffle, please contact Ellen Melanson at (908) 756-3731 or Pat Anderson at (908) 756-6512. Each year we sell out our tickets, so call now. All proceeds from this event will benefit Project Graduation and scholarships for the Class of 2004. Thank you.

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



### Melissa Prysak Re-enlists in Navy

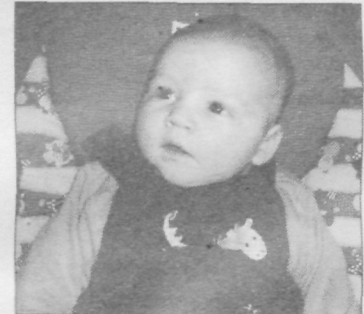
Petty Officer 2nd Class Melissa Prysak, pictured above, is congratulated by her commanding officer after re-enlisting in the U.S. Navy. Prysak was stationed in Afghanistan the day after Sept. 11 and is now a participating in Iraqi Freedom and was awarded a medal for her work. Her ship, the USNS Arctic, is due into

homeport on Friday, Feb. 13. The Arctic's homeport is Earle, based in Middletown.

Melissa is the daughter of Kathie O'Brien, who is a resident of South Plainfield. According to her proud mom, Melissa wants to show her love for her country by serving in the Navy at least one more time.

### O'Briens Announce Birth of a Son

This is no fish tale! Mark and Joan O'Brien of South Plainfield have reeled in a whopper! Thomas James O'Brien was born on Nov. 6, 2003 and weighed in an impressive 10 pounds 8 ounces. Thomas's older brothers, Scott, 5, and John, 3, won't be bullying this one! Grandparents Ginny and Don O'Brien are very proud of this great catch and say, "This one is a keeper."



Thomas James O'Brien

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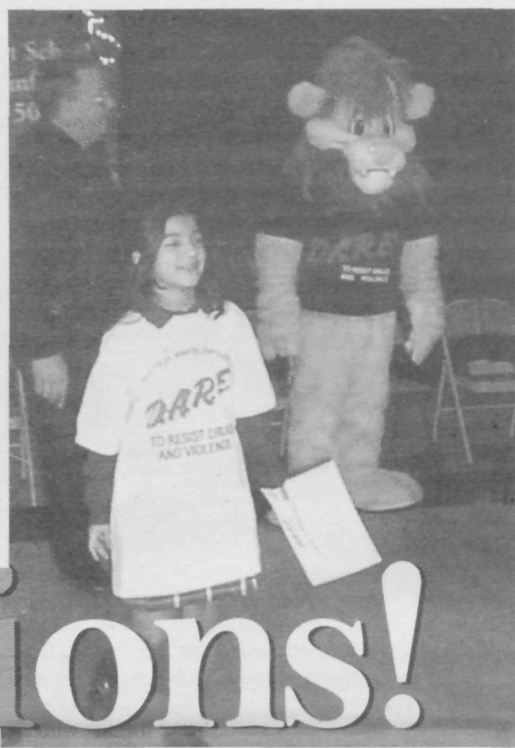
[www.temple-school-of-karate.com](http://www.temple-school-of-karate.com)



# D.A.R.E.

To keep kids off drugs

See next week for Grant School DARE graduation coverage.



## Congratulations!

### Sacred Heart School Students

Under the guidance of DARE South Plainfield Police Officers Allen LaMonda and Dave Franchak, Sacred Heart School recently graduated 22 fifth grade DARE students from the program. The annual poster contest winner was Allyson Ricarte and essay winner was SioBhan Barrington. A special guest at this year's graduation was 'Darren the Lion' (Jeff Kurtis).

Graduating students are Daria Ap-provato, Najah Artis, Edward Bandrowski, SioBhan Barrington, Frank Cem, Shelece Counts, Helena Cunicella, Sabrina Douge, Juan Edney Jr., Alexandra Evans, Damian Franklin, Christopher Gbogi, Joseph Landry, Allyson Ricarte, Djani Robertson,

Karla Rodriguez, Caresse Simmonds, Samantha Vella, Jennifer Villacres, Michael Vitello, Shannon Wingo and Timothy Zoda.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a collaborative effort by DARE certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents and the community to offer an educational program in the classroom for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse and violence among children and youth. Emphasis on helping students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants or

other drugs or to engage in violence.

The DARE program offers preventive strategies to enhance those protective factors—especially bonding to the family, school and community—which appear to foster the development of resiliency in young people who may be at risk for substance abuse or other problem behaviors. Researchers have identified certain protective and social bonding factors in the family, school and community which may foster resiliency in young people, in other words, the capacity of young people for healthy, independent growth in spite of adverse conditions.

These strategies focus on the development of social competence, communication skills, self-esteem, empathy, decision making, conflict resolution, sense of purpose and independence, and positive alternative activities to drug abuse and other destructive behaviors.

The program content for DARE is organized into seventeen 45- to 60-minute lessons to be taught by a law enforcement officer with suggested extended activities to be integrated into other instruction by the classroom teacher. A specially trained officer is assigned to the school one day a week for one semester to conduct weekly lessons.

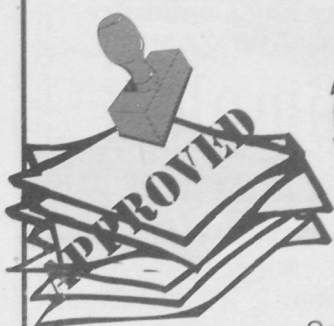
An important element of DARE is the use of student leaders who do not use drugs as positive role models in influencing younger students.

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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

The Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library will be holding a Bake and Book sale on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14 at the library. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please stop in and buy some books and goodies. The proceeds of the sale will go toward the new library building.

The Library will be closed Sunday, Feb. 15 and Monday, Feb. 16 in honor of President's Day. Get your DVDs and videos on Friday or Saturday and they won't be due back until Tuesday.

There will be a Kids Craft program at Friday, Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. in the library. Registration is requested. The regularly scheduled children's story times are on Tuesday morning, Wednesday night and Thursday afternoon. For more details, please call the library or check the library's website — [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us)

Get fit and ready for summer by starting a new lifestyle with Dr. Phil McGraw's *The Ultimate Weight Loss Solution: 7 Keys to Weight Loss Freedom* and *The Ultimate Weight Loss Solution Food Guide*. Change the way you eat and live by changing your behavior. It may be easier than you think. If Dr. Phil is not for you, try *The South Beach Diet: The Delicious, Doctor-Designed, Foolproof Plan for Fast & Healthy Weight Loss* by Arthur Agatston or *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert Atkins.

The library has these books and other weight and exercise books to help you get in shape.

While being snowed in, why not start planning your summer vacation. The Library has a new selection of travel books to help you get started. Maybe you want to go to the summer Olympics in Greece or take a cruise to Alaska. Maybe you want to visit historic Washington, D.C., Boston or Philadelphia. If you like to games of chance and have had enough of Atlantic City, how about a trip to Las Vegas? Do you like to stay in a Bed & Breakfast or a hotel on the beach? The library has travel books to help you plan your vacation.

Easter will be here soon. The library has a large number of craft books — both in the adult and children's departments to help you find crafts for the whole family to do. Dye eggs in a wide variety of styles. You can make Easter rabbits and a basket. Think Spring!

If you have read *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, you may also want to read *Angels & Demons* by Dan Brown. Barbara Taylor Bradford has a new book called *Emma's Secret*. John Grisham has a new book called *The Last Juror*. The library has the story in a number of formats—book, book on CD, and large print. You may place a hold on any of these titles but calling the library or using the library's website to place your hold.

## SPHS Alumni Remember When

Last week we published flashbacks from residents about when ice skating was a part of the winter recreation in South Plainfield.

Patricia Abbott been busy collecting memories from former SPHS graduates from all over the country and we couldn't fit them in the paper.

We would like to continue this week with a few more memories.

Anna (Klymec) Garelick SPHS class of '72—"I remember trying out my speed skating on the lake. I also remember a few people that were curling. I remember seeing this huge round thing, which I now know is called a stone. There use to be an ice skating rink on Hamilton Blvd. The first day of each season was free, I was always there on Opening Day. It's a big Tin-Can type of building that's still standing. Its on the right hand side as you make a right hand turn over the overpass down Hamilton.

An Especially funny tale came from Dirk Van Hart, SPHS class of 1959 who moved to town in 1955. His first winter here he discovered ice skating on Spring Lake. He said, "It was the number one activity for us kids. On the north side of the lake near Plainfield Ave. was a gas station with a pizza joint up on the second floor. My friend Tom Boyle lived on the south side of the lake. We'd build a campfire on the shore below his house, walk across the ice to get pizza and bring it back to eat by the fire. Once on the way back Tom went flying head over heels, fell



Photo courtesy of Roger Sheldon

flat on his ?\*#. The pizza levitated for a moment and then fell face down on the ice. We worked fast, scraped up what was left of the pizza and ate it by the fire! It wasn't as good as it should have been but — hey, it was a pizza! One of our classmate's, I'm not sure of his name, Ronny Bori I think, was the best skater and therefore had the honor of forming the head of the "whip." The whip would throw us, especially the ones near the end, to oblivion. Falling was never more fun. I kept those ice skates for many years. I distinctly remember dropping them in a Goodwill-type bin in Amarillo, Texas, I sometimes wonder what ever happened to those things. Not much ice skating in Amarillo!"

Roger Sheldon of California, class of 1969 said, "I recall a man with a tractor would pull us all over the lake for a small fee. Many times I skated from Spring Lake to Cedarbrook Park never going on a street. We'd start in the morning and wouldn't get home til way past the street lights were on. We'd be in deep trouble with our parents. Sledding at the Plainfield Country

Club was a great experience We used hoods from old trucks and inner tubes. Dad bought us all a toboggan. It was a space ship compared to what we use to ride. When we'd lose control, we would wipe out half the people on their way back up the hill.

John Abbott, Hamilton, NJ class of 1974, said, "I remember it was a place kids could gather safely to have a good time and hang out, flirt, practice skating backward, etc. I remember watching for the green flag that signified it was safe to skate. I'd hang out with my friends and—this was a bonus—there were kids from other schools we didn't normally get to see, like St. Pius in Piscataway. I even got a date or two out of it! There was a shed where we would thaw out and dry off after skating. It had a wood burning stove and I remember the hardwood scent and how we baked in the shed!"

Lory (Devries) J. Alcaro 1979 skated on Spring Lake many times as a child, but she has one very special memory. "My dad took me once to go skating with my friends. He held my hand and I had the best time with him."

## Cook From Your Heart on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day to make someone feel special, so why not let the meal you prepare reflect this feeling as well.

### Rhubarb Strawberry Delight

#### Ingredients

White cake mix

Rhubarb Strawberry Fruit Spread

White icing

Bake two-layer cake, cut layers in half. Fill inside of halves with Rhubarb Strawberry Fruit Spread. Put layers back together; frost with white icing. Swirl or dollop Rhubarb Strawberry Fruit Spread on top of cake.

### CHOCOLATE CARAMEL FONDUE

1 bag Ghirardelli® milk chocolate chips  
½ cup cream  
¼ cup Creamy Caramel

Truffle fudge brownie mix, prepared and cubed  
1 banana, cubed  
1 apple, cubed  
Marshmallows  
Pound cake, cubed

In medium saucepan melt choco-

late chips slowly; add cream. When melted, add caramel; heat thoroughly. Pour fondue into a bowl; place bowl on platter. Ring platter with cake, brownies, marshmallows and fruit. Serve fondue with skewers.

### SUGAR KISSES

Using a small scoop, drop refrigerated sugar cookie dough onto a baking stone or cookie sheet. Bake following manufacturer directions. As soon as they come out of the oven, place a Chocolate Kiss in the middle of each cookie. Sprinkle with red sprinkles if

desired. Remove, let cool cooling rack.

### CHOCOLATE HUGS

Using a small scoop, spoon refrigerated chocolate cookie dough into a greased mini-muffin pan. Bake at 350° for 15-18 minutes. Immediately place an unwrapped candy hug in the middle of each cookie.

For additional cooking tips, holiday ideas, or a free taste testing demonstration call (908) 755-3213 or email [marie.markey@comcast.net](mailto:marie.markey@comcast.net).

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Regular Masses:  
Daily at 8am, Wed. eve. at 7:30 starting Feb. 25  
Saturday eve. at 5:30pm, Sunday morn. 8am & 11am

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 - Ashes will be distributed at the 8am and 7:30pm masses and at the Service at 5:00pm.

Stations of the Cross - 7:30pm  
Every Friday during Lent

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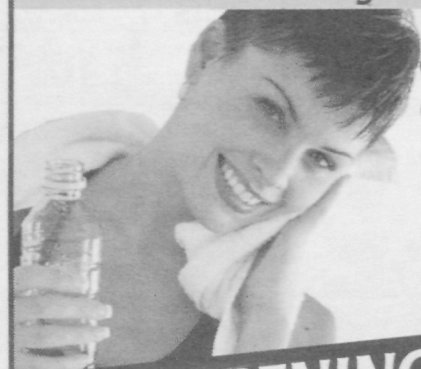
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# Sports

## Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter

### Tigers Win GMC Tournament

Continued from page 1

Colminsky of JP Stevens. He then faced Matt Marritt of Edison in the finals and coasted to a 7-2 decision. Severini was a returning GMC Champion.

Kevin Crilley (189), who was the number one seed, pinned Tom Wilkerson of JP Stevens at 5:41. In the finals Crilley scored first and cruised to a 7-0 decision over Chris Jones of Piscataway. Crilley is now 21-2 on the season.

Senior Ryan Elliot (275), claimed his title and the team victory with a fall over Tom Scanlon of South River at 1:41 of the first period. Elliot won

his semifinal match by major decision 16-5 over Angel Ramirez of Perth Amboy.

Mike Jakubik (119), was in a tough spot when he faced eventual champion Jeff Zannetti of JP Stevens in the semifinal round. Jakubik wrestled tough but was out matched. In the consolation round he finished in fourth place.

Pete DeAndrea (140) and Rob Maistickle (215), each wrestled back for fifth place, while Sam Martin (130), finished in seventh place. Senior Joe DeBiase (171), had to default due to a foot injury. Congratulations to the wrestlers and coaches.

### Middle School Tops Voorhees

The Middle School wrestling team defeated Voorhees 45-32 in a match that was far from competitive. The Tigers missing several starters still managed to handle the Vikings with little problems. Winning matches for the Tigers were Nick Heilmann 80, Nick Vetusehi 95, Mike Wagner 100,

Tim Gaughan 107, Danny Pompilio 112, Nick Vallone 119, Mark Wagner 132, Johnathan Conroy 140, Jesse Hay 150 and Sal Soto 175.

Next up is the League Tournament this Saturday at Phillipsburg High School.

### Rec Wrestlers Get By Kenilworth

It was another close match for the Recreation Wrestling Team, but they managed to escape with a 31-30 over league rival Kenilworth.

Kenilworth took the early lead but Anthony Ashnault 53, got the Tigers on the board with a Major decision over Nick Meclroy 10-0. The next Tiger win came at 63 pounds when Tyler Hunt scored another major decision 12-0 over Anthony Meclonia. Troy

Heilmann 67, kept things going with a 6-4 decision over Brad Piper. In a losing effort the pivotal match of the night was wrestled by Jeff Conroy 73, who had the task of wrestling state place winner Danny Ries. Conroy lost 6-0 but did not give any bonus points, which Kenilworth was hoping to get.

Ryan Sacco 77, pulled the team within 10 points with a 6-4 decision over Jesse Bell. Nick Heilmann 80, who needed a pin to put the Tigers back into the match, scored a tech fall 16-0 over Mike Celeste, cutting the Kenilworth lead to five. Corey Hay 85, then won a 4-2 overtime decision over Devon Geoghan. John Wylam 95, came up with a big win over Mike Minnitti 4-2 to put the Tiger's within two.

Mike Wagner 102, gave the Tigers their first lead of the night when he pinned Greg Rice at 0:43. Joey Vetusch, wrestling up to 110 pounds, found himself losing by seven points going into the final period, but battled back and put Nino Cantalupo on his back for a three-point near fall after scoring an escape and a takedown, to take away any chance Kenilworth had of scoring bonus points which they needed to win the match.

### Junior Tigers Win Medals

The future of South Plainfield wrestling looks bright with the next young crop of talented wrestlers. South Plainfield Pee Wee and Bantam wrestlers traveled to Middlesex for the Annual Novice Wrestling Tournament and had a great day crowning one champion, two seconds and two third place winners.

In the Pee Wee Division, winning the 52 pound final was Matthew Vargas.

Second place went to Dan Hedden 49, and Dakota Pauls 67.

Third place winners were Jake Smith 52 and Taylor Born Bantam 66. Congratulations.

Also winning matches, but not placing in the Pee Wee division, were Joe Penyak 45, Kyle Dipoldi 46, Kyle Dickerson 48, Mike Sloderback 50, Chris CJ Maszczak 56 and Mike Higgins 67.

In the Bantam division winning matches, but not placing, were Daniel Vargas 53 and Robert Penwell 53.

In the Midget division were Troy Division 43 and Ryan Bors 62.

Great job guys keep up the good work!

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By Lee Flanagan

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The 2004 Spring Baseball Season Registration up-date. The Pony B League will be strictly a 13-year-old league consisting of four teams, 12 players on a team. Pony B League currently has two players on a waiting list. The Pony A League will have ages 14 through 17 consisting of six teams with 13 players on a team.

In the Small Fry C League consisting of eight- and nine-year-old players. There will be ten teams, with 12 players on a team. We are still looking for five players to complete that league.

In Small Fry B, we are in need of a manager to fill out nine teams consisting of 10 and 11 year olds. We are now in a waiting list situation for that league. Finally in Small Fry A consisting of 12 and some 11 year old players; we have only three openings for 12-year-old players. There will be six teams in this league. Call Lee Flanagan at (908) 561-6348 for any questions.

A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card and they must have completed the Rutgers Certification course. This includes the third and fourth coach that is in the dugout. This situation will be monitored during the season. Call Mike English to register for this course if you need it, at (908) 226-7713.

The months of February and March are big planning months for us. With the "New Beginning" come many new ideas. March 6 is our big tryout day



for all Small Fry players. Tryouts are at the PAL Building at the following times: eight-year-olds—8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.; nine-year-olds—10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; 10-year-olds—12 p.m. to 1 p.m.; 11-year-olds—1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 12 year olds—2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

On March 6 we will be holding our "Base-Brawl 2004" Jersey All Pro Wrestling Show at the South Plainfield Middle School Gymnasium. Bell time is 8 p.m. Advance tickets will be available at Sportworld.

Other planned events are:

March 27 at Franklin School—Pancake Breakfast;

April 17 at Roosevelt School—Spaghetti Dinner

May 1 at VFW—Casino Night once again, by the Women's Auxiliary.

Managers and coaches for each league will be announced in next weeks *Observer*, along with the Commissioner's Award winners and Lifetime Member award.

### Trip to Yankee's Game Planned

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Yankee Stadium to see the Yankees vs. Rangers on Sunday, June 6. The game's start time is 1 p.m. and the bus leaves the PAL at 10:30 a.m. The fee is \$45 a person for Main Box Seats. You may purchase tickets at the PAL on Maple Avenue.

### South Plainfield Tournament Celebrates 30 Years

The annual South Plainfield Wrestling Tournament will be celebrating their 13th anniversary this weekend at the High School Gym. This Tournament is one of the states largest and best run events. Wrestlers from around the tri-state area will compete for top honors in this two day classic. A special thanks goes out to all of our corporate sponsors who have so generously supported the wrestling club and wrestlers. For some good wrestling action stop by the high school Saturday or Sunday to get a preview of the future high school wrestlers.

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# Sports

## SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

### Tigers Place 19<sup>th</sup> in Central Jersey Boys Sectionals

In a strong field of 41 teams, the boys' bowling team finished a respectable 19<sup>th</sup> as the GMC Red Division captured all four qualifying slots with newcomer North Brunswick, the champion, followed by GMC rivals Woodbridge, Monroe and East Brunswick. The Central Jersey Sectional comprises all schools in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties.

Shawn Ferguson earned top honors firing games of 204-185-211 for a high series of 600. Vinnie Genova was right behind with games of 199-211 and a 585 set. Matt Boley 197 and John Roesch 190 also chipped in for the Tigers, who concluded their season.

### Lady Tigers Edged by Edison But Clobber Old Bridge

#### First Round GMC Playoffs

(8) SPHS	865	733	794
(9) Edison	763	755	895

The Tigers easily won the first game, but let the Eagles claw back into the match with a low second game. The swing in momentum could not be stopped as Edison poured in on in the finale, despite Vicki Boley's sparkling 661 set on games of 255-211-195. Angelique Rualo and Lindsay Hunsicker chipped in with 170 games.

SPHS	702	833	736-2271
Old Bridge	632	719	742-2093

The Tigers completed their dual match season, coasting to an easy 3-1 victory and upped their record to 17 and 9. Vicki Boley took scoring honors with games of 190-176-198. Teammates Kim Gaub and Angelique Rualo added games of 184 and 173 respectively. The Lady Tigers complete their season as one of the 15 teams in NJ completing for the all-groups state crown Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. at Carolier Lanes.

### Tiger Bowlers Bumped by JFK But Rally Over Old Bridge

(12) SPHS	881	926
(5) JFK	904	1105

The Tigers could not take advantage of a low scoring game by the usually hot-shooting JFK squad that eked out a 23-pin win. Although the Tigers picked up the pace, they could not keep up with the high scoring Mustangs. High scores for SPHS were Matt Boley 244, George Kleinknecht 206, Nick Grego 181 and Shawn Ferguson 192-182.

SPHS	954	868	971-2793
Old Bridge	923	872	833-2628

Shawn Ferguson led the boys' bowling team with a big 643 set on games of 201-229-213. Teammate Matt Boley was right behind with 206-237-613 set as the Tigers caught fire in the third and deciding game. Also chipping in were Vin Genova 206, John Roesch 186 and Dave Eichler 178. The Tigers completed their dual match schedule in the rugged Red Division with a 6-19-1 log.

### Middle School Boys' Basketball Team Enjoying a Fine Season

The Middle School Boys' Basketball Team is on its way to another fine season. The team is led by the offense of Benny Gibson, Dale Johnson, Troy Russell, Scott Hunterdon, Brendan O'Shea, Christian Cole, Chris Pennisi, Tremane Miller, who at times each started in different games. The rest of the team consists of Tommy Smith, Ryan Bunting, John Mills, Ryan Crouch, Danny Espin, Bobby Harrington, Chris Kedmenec, Michael Burton, Kenny Lucky, Chris Fulton, Michael Dezmin, Chris Lesniak, Teddy Skwiat and Joey Grenier.

At present the team has a record of 17-3, which includes two seventh grade games against South Brunswick. They won the first one but lost the second by two points. As for the rest of the games, the team started by winning the South Plainfield Awareness of Substance Abuse Tournament, defeating Sacred Heart and then East Brunswick for the championship. The two eighth grade losses were to two usual powerhouses: Piscataway and Sayreville. Our wins came over four Edison schools, Dunellen twice, Old Bridge twice, East Brunswick three times and South Brunswick three times. Two of our best games were

against Perth Amboy and Sayreville, which after several lead changes South Plainfield came out on top. This was only the second time ever that South Plainfield beat Perth Amboy.

The team is coached by two middle school teachers: Terry Allen, who is in his 25<sup>th</sup> and last year of coaching due to retirement and Mr. Bennett, who is in his first year as assistant coach. Four fine statisticians also aid the team: Clare Kelly, Kelly McLean, Jared Czech and Kara Thomas. The team still has a few games to go, so we wish them lots of luck.

### Doris Whitehead McLarnon, 76

Doris Whitehead McLarnon of Piscataway died on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Doris was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of Sarasota, Fla. and Somerville before moving to Piscataway 39 years ago.

Doris was a telephone operator before and after the introduction of the dial tone for New Jersey Bell Telephone in Plainfield. She then worked for the Piscataway Board of Education as a cafeteria assistant at the Grandview Elementary School and the Schor Middle School for many years.

Doris loved horse racing and spending time with her grandchildren and her family.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William G. McLarnon who died in 1986 and her sister, Eileen Zmunda.

She is survived by three sons, Scott and his wife, Shelley McLarnon, Bryan McLarnon and William G. McLarnon, III, all of Piscataway; a brother, Earl Whitehead of Toms River and five beloved grandchildren, Catherine, Melissa, Erin, Sean and Sara.

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

### George F. Vardy, 80

George F. Vardy died on Thursday, Feb. 5 at his home.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Vardy had lived most of his life in Brooklyn before settling to South Plainfield in 1994.

A United States Veteran of the United States Army, he served his country well during World War II.

He had been employed as a Federal employee as a planner and estimator for the GSA (General Services Administration) in Manhattan, retiring in 1981. Prior to the GSA he worked with the Army Corps of Engineer as a surveyor.

A former member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Mr. Vardy enjoyed his time wood working, studying genealogy, gardening, traveling extensively with his late wife and being that all-important doting grandfather.

He is predeceased by his wife, Loretta (Peterson), a son, George Jr., a daughter, Gabrielle and a son-in-law, Raymond Newman.

Surviving are his children, Loretta Vardy and her husband, Barry A. Herrmann of Manassas, Va., Ann Vardy-Newman of Plainfield, Eileen and her husband, Michael Titone of Westfield and Stephen Vardy and his wife, Cheilaugh Garvey of Guilford, Ct.; a sister, Evelyn Tiedemann and a brother, Edward Vardy, both of Brooklyn.

In addition, he is survived by six grandchildren, Fiona, Gemma, Co-

per, Gabrielle, Andrew and Matthew.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, 1340 S. Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

### Ella (Lawrence) Douglass, 75

Ella (Lawrence) Douglass died on Thursday, Feb. 5 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Asbury Park, Mrs. Douglass had resided in Scotch Plains before settling to South Plainfield in 1961.

She is predeceased by a brother, Melville Lawrence.

A homemaker for her family, she is survived by her husband of 53 years, Jeremiah "Jerry" Douglass; two daughters and their husbands, Patricia and Donald Swyt of Manville and Linda and Robert Damrau of Lawton, Oklahoma and two grandchildren, Alicia and her husband, Steven McGregor and Donald Swyt, Jr. Also surviving are two great grandchildren, Aidan and Lauren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society NJ Chapter, 845 Main St., Fords, NJ 08818.

### Ellen "Elsie" (Fischer) Stoeckel, 79

Ellen "Elsie" (Fischer) Stoeckel died on Thursday, Feb. 5 at her home.

She was born and raised in Newark, where she had graduated from St. Elizabeth's High School. Ellen has lived in South Plainfield since 1954

when she moved here from Newark.

Ellen had worked for the South Plainfield Board of Education as a teacher's aide in the high school for 30 years. She retired 15 years ago. Prior to that, she had worked as an assembler for RCA Corp. of Newark for many years.

She had been a long time avid Bingo player, playing in all of the Church Bingos in the area. She also enjoyed her trips to Atlantic City.

For many years, Ellen had been an Avon Representative and sold Stanley Products in the South Plainfield area.

She was a member of the Senior Citizens and Sacred Heart Church of South Plainfield.

Ellen was predeceased by her husband, John "Jack" Stoeckel who died in 1995 and a daughter, Bernadette.

Surviving are five sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and Robyn Stoeckel, Richard and Karen Stoeckel, James E. and Annemarie Stoeckel, all of South Plainfield, John R. and Joan Stoeckel of Hamilton Square and Robert and Nerina Stoeckel of Branchburg; a brother, Rudolph Fischer of Edison and her 15 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, the Alzheimer's Foundation or to Deborah Hospital would be appreciated.



#### In Memoriam Charles Weaver 7-6-22 — 2-9-97

Love, I'll always remember you.  
I loved you in the beginning and  
I loved you till your last breath.  
Some day we'll walk hand-in-hand  
in heaven. We'll watch the sun  
set together. Pop, my tears  
I cry are to tell you I love you.  
Rest in peace. Remember,  
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## policereport

• On Feb. 3 a Linden Ave. resident reported that the driver's side window of his Ford Explorer had been smashed in. Nothing was taken.

• On Feb. 4 police responded to a business alarm going off at Shop Fair Supermarket on Clinton Ave. A window had been broken at the church next door and a hole in the sheet rock leading to the supermarket was discovered. Thirty two cartons of cigarettes valued at \$1,613 were taken.

• On Feb. 6 a Coppola Dr. resident reported that their front door was ajar and the peep hole unscrewed. A bag of change worth un-

der \$100 was taken.

• On Feb. 7 Christopher T. Curran-Hogrelus, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested at the Ramada Inn for possession of a controlled substance.

• A Madison Dr. resident reported leaving his driver's license and social security card in the copy machine at 7-11 on Plainfield Ave. When he returned they were gone. A Wal-Mart charge card had been opened in South Carolina with his information.

### LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on **FEBRUARY 25, 2004 at \*\* 10 a.m. \*\*** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the Municipal building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public for:

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Specifications and other big information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the **BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD** in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of PL. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.S. 17:27 et seq.) the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25. Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2, EOE, ADA.

\$35.00 February 13, 2004

### LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY  
Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Brian J. Capparelli for public improvements at 829 Spicer Ave. in South Plainfield, Lot 8; Block 378.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Brian J. Capparelli for public improvements at 829 Spicer Ave. in South Plainfield, known as Lot 8, Block 378 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield.

Said public hearing will be held on **Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Brian J. Capparelli  
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### FOUND

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

### MORTGAGES

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### Last chance to purchase OBSERVER photos by Patricia Abbott!

There are many photos that have never been published! The following files will be deleted in March: SP Fire Dept. 02 & 03 FD concerts, FD Circus, 03 fifth grade class pics, 02 & 03 high & middle school graduations, '02 & '03 Jr & Sr. Proms, election 02 & 03, Girl Scout Gold Awards, 02 & 03 Bike Rodeo, All District Concert, SPHS Anything Goes, SPMS Yearbook, Grant's ANNIE Jr., MS girls basketball Grant 6th basketball, Kennedy Grandparent's Day, Bands for Riley, Skatepark, PAL concert, school concerts & events, Nat. Honor Soc. inductions, Franklin K&J and Suess, Dare Graduations, 02 & 03 Labor Day, MS Peer to Peer, SDW Footloose, 42nd St. SPHS players, Anything Goes! Hello Dolly!, Damn Yankees, Tommy, & many other files. For detailed info or to see proof sheets call 908-756-8011 or email Pattie at angelonly@aol.com.

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# Junior Journalist Corner



## Joseph Araujo Named "Junior Journalist"

Franklin School fourth grader Joseph Araujo Japanese haiku, "Snow," is this week's winning entry in the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program.



Joseph Araujo, Franklin School fourth grader, Language Art Teacher Janet Donnelly (L) and Principal Nancy Erikson (R).

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.

**Snow** By Joseph Araujo  
Snow glistening down  
A beautiful white sparkle  
Just like white cotton.

## Sacred Heart School 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Honor Roll, Principal's Lists

Principal's List, Grade 5-Edward Bandrowski and Caresse Simmonds.

Honor Roll-Sabrina Douge, Alexandra Evans, Joseph Landry, Allyson Ricarte and Djani Robertson.

Grade 6A, Principal's List-Alexandra Fee.

Honor Roll-Taurien Buffaloe, Katelyn Christie, Jilleanne Gulotta, Nicole McDonough, Nicholas Montuori, Jessica Napolitano, Richard Orregon, Patrick Ruiz and Jordan Simmons.

Grade 6B, Principal's List-Alfonse Muglia, Edward Amirault, Victoria Gaydos, Michael McHugh, Adrienne Novak, Gerianna Pinto, Alexandria Santos, Ashley Venino and Sarah Joseph-Dullon.

Honor Roll-Lily Altamirano,

Kaitlin Muglia, Aaron Pinkard, Zachary Sikanowicz and Jaclyn Thomas.

Grade 7A, Principal's List-Ashley Forbes, Alexandra Grant and Ryan Hohner.

Honor Roll-Douglas Avery, Kahliah Douglas, Michael Muglia, Amaral Joseph-Dullon and Kaitlyn Salvatore.

Grade 8A, Principal's List-Kadeem Gilbert.

Honor Roll-Davonna Approvato, Charles Eke, Danielle Johnson, Rita Landry, Siebidi Mills, Jennifer Napolitano and Camille Romano.

Grade 8B, Principal's List-Elix Colon.

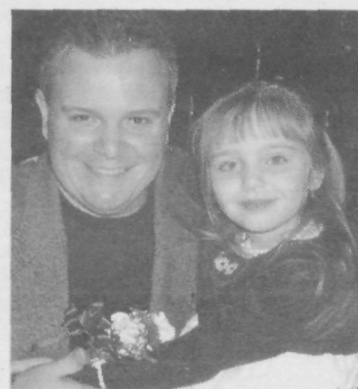
Honor Roll-Jonathon Abel, Olivia Gerlitz, Megan McHugh and Allison Whitefleet.

# Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!



Four of the girls who attended Kennedy's dance.

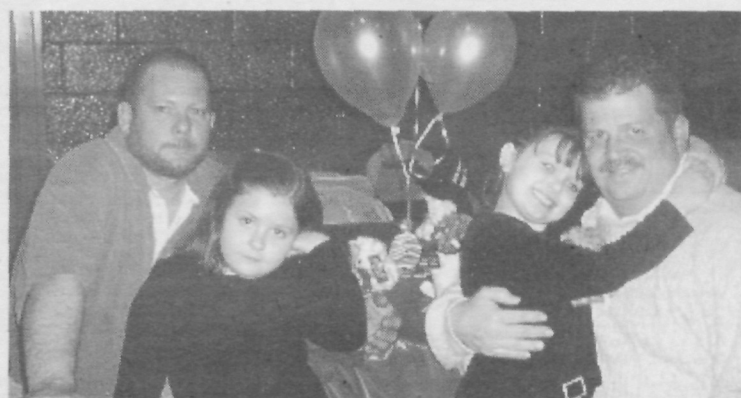
Kennedy School held their annual Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance last Friday.



Dan Ratti & Daughter Samantha.



Dave Franchak with daughter, Ashley.



Two dads enjoy an evening with their daughters.



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### PICK UP THOSE PENS & ENTER TODAY!



SPHS Senior Brittany DeNitzio, last week's Junior Journalist Contest winner, with parents Mary Jane and Bill, brother Joe and sister, Brooke, accept dinner from Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros.

# Junior Journalist

Win a catered dinner for your family from Hometown Heros through the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Contest! To enter, see story above or ask your language teacher at school.