

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 31

50 CENTS

MARCH 26, 2004

## 2004-2005 School Budget Introduced

The 2004-2005 Board of Education School Budget was introduced at a meeting recently. The total proposed budget introduced is \$44,185,421, an increase of \$1,413,624 over last year's approved budget. The amount to be raised by property tax will be \$32,564,229.

If the budget is approved by voters in the school board elections held on April 20, there will be an increase of six points in the school portion of property taxes. If the voters reject the budget, it will be up to the Borough Council to cut or pass the budget.

Last year the school portion of the property tax bill was 2.247 per \$100 of assessed value of a home. The average assessed value of a home in South Plainfield is \$117,250 and the school portion of the tax bill was \$2,634.61. The six point increase in school taxes will result in an increase of approximately \$70.35 per average household. The proposed 2004-2005 school budget can be found on page 9 of the *Observer*.

A public hearing will be held on Monday, March 29 at 8 p.m. in the gymnasium of Roosevelt Administration before a vote is taken on the budget. The public is welcome to attend that meeting, to ask questions and to express their support or objections before a vote on the budget is taken.

In addition to the budget, voters will elect three school board candidates, who will serve for three years.

This year the choice for voters will be very easy since board incumbents are running unopposed. The three board members running this year are Board President Pio Pennisi, Steve Bohn and Terry Alexa, who was appointed to fill the seat vacated when Dawn Jefferys resigned last year.



A SPHS freshman skateboarding in the high school hallway (which is against school policy), crashed into an exterior door near the gym. The student's arm went through the glass, leaving a gaping hole in the door and cutting the student's wrist. He was taken to an area hospital, treated and released. The accident occurred just before the National Honor Society induction ceremony. Guests were re-routed to doors on the other side of the auditorium.

## Sewer Fees to Increase

Residents will notice a \$50 increase in their annual sewer bill. The assessment will be noted on the next bills sent to homeowners.

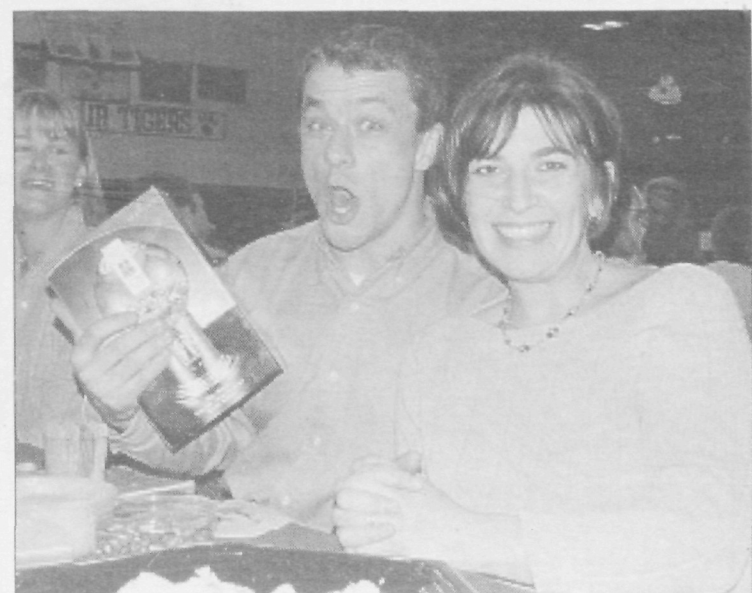
The increase in fees is due to an increase from the Plainfield Areas Regional Sewage Authority (PARSA).

According to Borough Administrator Glenn Cullen, this is not a tax, but a utility fee, which is set by PARSA and then passed on to home-

owners. All fees collected are put into a separate fund and accounted for in accordance with the law.

A legal notice, which appeared in last week's *Observer*, amended the sewer codes in South Plainfield. A public hearing will be held on Monday, March 29 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall to officially pass Sewer Ordinance #1654. The public is invited to attend and ask questions.

## SPHS Grads are the Real Winners at Auction



It's always fun to win! A happy auction goer displays his prize.

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The March 13 South Plainfield High School Project Graduation auction/raffle has become a favorite night out for many over the past five years. Those lucky enough to obtain tickets were lined up outside the door well before previews began. Experienced "auction-addicts" loaded down with goodies and wallets full of cash were ready to party.

Over 30 parents worked as volunteers from set up to clean up. Fifteen senior students were kept busy running prizes to the lucky winners. Ellen Melanson and Pat Anderson have been chairing the event since its inception. Project Graduation 2004 tickets were sold out days in advance. Approximately 485 people attended.

(Continued on page 6)

## Former Borough Clerk Bill DeSabato, Dead at 82

South Plainfield has lost one of its life-long residents who spent most of his life serving the borough. Bill DeSabato, 82, known throughout the town as a well respected man, died last Friday afternoon at his home.

Bill was the second Borough Clerk in South Plainfield and held that position for almost 25 years. He also served as borough administrator for 10 years. During those years, he set a very high standard for those who followed in his footsteps. He was always there to guide, help and teach many of the newly elected officials, both Republican and Democratic, on what their duties and responsibilities were. Everyone who spoke of Bill's long career at Borough Hall agreed that he treated everyone equally, no matter what their party affiliation, and always conducted himself in a highly professional manner.

Bill officially retired as clerk in 1985, but he was always available to those who followed him, giving advice and answering questions. He continued to attend council meetings for years after his retirement.

Bill was very active in the Republican Party and served as borough councilman from 1952 until 1955. He also ran unsuccessfully for Middlesex County freeholder.

He was an Army veteran, serving during World War II, and was the recipient of a Bronze Star. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and Veterans of

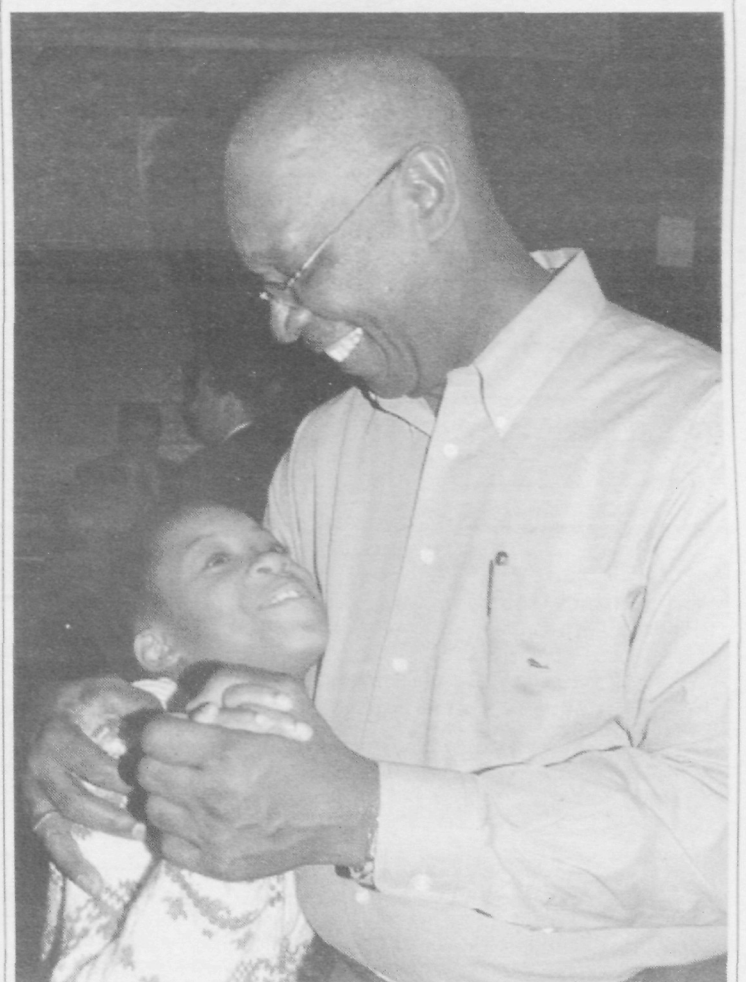


William DeSabato

Foreign Wars Memorial Post 6763.

In 1985 he was honored by being chosen as Honorary Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal. He was also a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and the South Plainfield Exempt Firemen's Association.

"Bill embodied all the good things South Plainfield embodies. He was a trusted friend, a good neighbor, a tireless volunteer and a caring public servant. His dedication to our town goes all the way back to the early 1950's when he was a member of the Borough Council, and it continued until now when he remained active in our organization — 50 years later. Bill helped make South Plainfield a better place and we will miss him dearly," commented Republican Chairman Bob Jones.



Riley School Father's escorted their daughters for an evening of dancing sponsored by the PTA. See page 12 for more photos.



## Mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

### councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.

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

	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, April 5	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, April 19	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 4	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, May 17	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, June 7	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.

### planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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.

### zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

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

### boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: April 6.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: April 13.

### taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

### siteplansub-committee

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

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

### recreationcommission

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

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

### environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

### businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

## South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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### To the Editor,

The South Plainfield Junioresettes would like to thank everyone who made a generous donation to Catherine's Closet. The box, located at the library from March 8 to 13, collected a total of 13 dresses.

The Junioresettes also want to thank the South Plainfield Library for allowing them to use the library as a collection spot.

You can still help support the Junioresettes at the Riley School Craft Fair on April 2. The girls will be selling hand decorated aprons and beautifully scented bath salts in hand painted glass bottles.

For information on Junioresettes email at [njjunioresettes@yahoo.com](mailto:njjunioresettes@yahoo.com).  
**SOUTH PLAINFIELD JUNIORESSETTES**

### Letter to the Editor:

Who would have ever thought I could get in so much trouble because I prefer Dunkin Donuts coffee? I love South Plainfield, where I have been honored to serve as Mayor for 14 years.

My comment in the *New York Times* about Starbucks being too "high class" was said in jest. I was interviewed for almost three hours and one silly, off the cuff comment was taken out of context. Who would have thought that it would be the lead quote in the article about South Plainfield?

As a letter writer said in last week's paper, I guess I need a speechwriter.

I have dedicated my entire adult life to helping make South Plainfield the best community in New Jersey. I regret my bad choice of jokes and apologize if anyone took offense.

*But I still think \$4.75 for a cup of coffee at Starbucks is a little too "high class" for me!*

**MAYOR DANIEL J. GALLAGHER**

### To the Editor,

Last year, we initiated a Shared Services forum by inviting officials from Woodbridge, Highland Park, Metuchen, Piscataway and South Plainfield to meet to discuss ways to share costs. Since then, we have hosted and participated in several Shared Services forums in Edison. Our Shared Services forum is the largest consortium of towns in the state participating in such an arrangement.

Through the Shared Services forum, officials from these towns identify their respective resources, capabilities and needs. The goal of the forum is to increase government efficiency, which leads to lower costs and taxpayer savings. Examples of shared services could include transportation, recycling,

## IN YOUR OPINION

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

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), or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. 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.

paving, and public safety services. Through the forum, officials review their municipal operations and consider combining resources to reduce the cost of government operations.

In addition, our Shared Services forums explore cooperative purchasing. As any wholesale club customer knows, buying in bulk is cheaper than buying in smaller quantities. Similarly, if towns can combine their purchases, we can all get lower prices.

If municipalities identify programs, but are uncertain of the potential cost savings, the state's Regional Efficiency Development Incentive Program (REDI) offers feasibility grants to help

municipalities study and develop new shared service programs. In addition, the state's Regional Efficiency Assistance Program (REAP) offers tax credits to municipalities that participate in shared service programs such as shared fuel dispensing and street paving.

Historically, the REAP and REDI grant programs have been inadequately funded to support new shared service programs. As a result, municipalities lack funding (and hence the incentive) to explore shared service arrangements, which often have high start up costs. An effective state incentive program would encourage towns to work together over the long term.

Shared services is not about being a democrat or a republican, or about partisanship. It is about doing what is right for our residents and taxpayers. As towns are being squeezed by the need to maintain a stable tax base while fixed expenses continue to rise, the main benefit of shared services becomes very clear: it saves money.

During the next few years, we shall continue our Shared Services forum towards this goal.

**EDISON COUNCILMEN PARAG PATEL AND PETER BARNES**

## Transportation Available for Individuals With Disabilities

The One Community Integration Project of Jewish Family & Vocational Service (JFVS), Middlesex County Area-Wide Transportation System (AWTS) and Open Road have partnered to provide a pilot transportation service for individuals with developmental disabilities to access religious services. Individuals with developmental disabilities identify transportation as one of the primary barriers to attending worship. This service eliminates this barrier and permits adult persons with developmental disabilities to attend religious services. The partnership began in January 2004 and individuals have already begun accessing these transportation services.

AWTS is transporting developmentally disabled county residents who are

registered with the program under the provisions of the SPECIAL TRIPS service. Open Road, a non-profit organization committed to facilitating participation of people with disabilities in religious observance, is subsidizing the charge for this service. The service is available on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday to people with developmental disabilities of all faiths.

The One Community Integration Project is a program of JFVS. The project assists individuals with developmental disabilities in becoming involved in all aspects of the community; faith, work, social/recreational and volunteerism.

For more information or to participate in this service, please contact JFVS at (732) 277-1940.

## Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

invites you to join their parishioners in worship

### Regular Masses:

Daily at 8am, Wed. eve. at 7:30  
Saturday eve. at 5:30pm, Sunday morn. 8am & 11am

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



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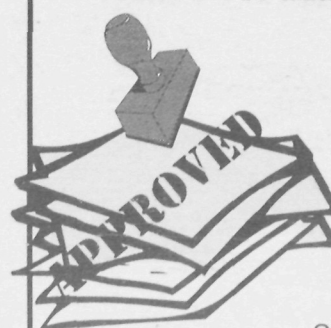
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## Area Course Addresses "Passion of Christ" Controversy



Mel Gibson's blockbuster, *The Passion of the Christ*, has been controversial for its graphic violence and purported anti-Semitic and homophobic overtones. Although a recent Gallup Poll stated over 70 percent of Americans intend on seeing the movie, many

are wondering where Hollywood leaves off and truth begins. In response, the 'Alpha Course' will begin on Sunday, April 18 and is free to the public from 5 to 8 p.m., at Timothy Christian School on Ethel Rd. in Piscataway. The course is free to the

public. Alpha is a ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith. Each weekly session begins with an informal dinner followed by a talk on topics derived from the movie such as guilt, suffering, forgiveness and fear of death. The guests end their evening with an opportunity to share their opinions in a relaxed small group setting. For more information or to register, call David Butler, Alpha Director, at (732) 406-7821, or click on [seeking.jesusanswers.com](http://seeking.jesusanswers.com) or [alphausa.org](http://alphausa.org).

According to Butler, Alpha provides an informal, fun and safe setting where people from all walks of life can enjoy free food while discussing great issues of faith. For example, in a recent course, Butler stated he had Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Palestinian people all in the same course. "Yet by the middle of the course, we had forged friendships and were learning from each other about life and God." Overall, Butler stated Alpha is mostly about breaking down barriers and misconceptions people have about God, other religions and each other. Butler maintained the Passion controversy, which pits one group against another, and the rise in reported hate crimes in our area are great reasons to offer a course like Alpha. "Once we break through these walls of mistrust, we are able to enjoy a deeper relationship with God and others, while celebrating our differences. This is exactly what our diverse communities need in these unsettling times."

Alpha originated in 1991 at the Holy Brompton Anglican Church in England, but is now offered in all denominations in over 130 countries. Due to its popularity, one of England's most watched television networks, ITV, launched a ten-week series in 2002 entitled *Alpha: Will it Change Their Lives?* David Frost, who hosted the show, called Alpha "a phenomenon, an extraordinary story." Last year, the course was offered at over 3000 locations in the U.S. alone, including businesses, schools and prisons.

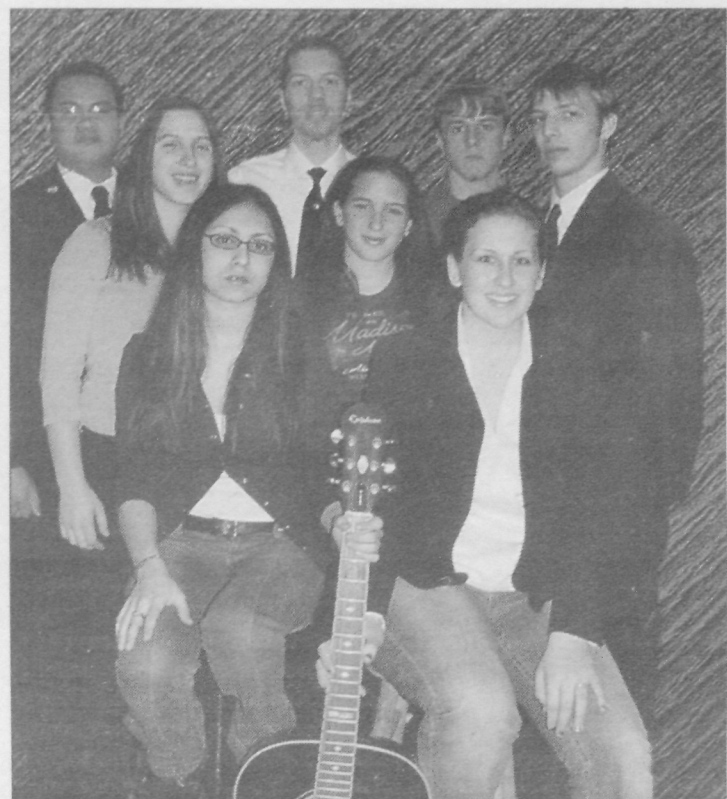


Photo courtesy of Almost Famous Players

Front with guitar, Justina Carubia and Abbie Falato, second row Katie and Susan Mott and back row, Joe Rodriguez, Dave Garatino, Tim Barkalow and Chris Abbott. Not pictured is Steve Ambielli.

## Almost Famous Fundraiser Coffeehouse on Saturday

Almost Famous Coffeehouse, an evening of entertainment featuring South Plainfield talent, will take place on March 27 at the PAL on Maple Ave.

The evening of music stars Justina Carubia accompanied by Steve Ambielli, featuring Abbie Falato as well as Chris Abbott, Joe Rodriguez, Katie Mott, Dave Garatino, Susan Mott and Tim Barkalow.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show begins 7 p.m. sharp. Cost of tickets for general admission are \$5, South Plainfield Tiger Gold and Gold card holders are \$4 and children 11 and under are \$3. Tables can be reserved for groups of six or more. Refreshments will be sold.

Call (908) 756-8011 for more information.

## 'Retiring With Confidence' Program at Library

The South Plainfield Library will present the program "Retiring with Confidence" on Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m. David Joshi of Prudential Insurance will be the speaker.

The program will review valuable information and specific ideas that can be used towards developing a well-defined strategy for retirement. The presentation is intended for both those

who have retired and those who are still planning for it. The program is presented free of charge, and no pre-registration is required.

The library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

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## VFW to Hold Blood Drive

The VFW will be holding a blood drive on Saturday, April 3 at Memorial Post 6763 at 155 Front St. from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 Noon weekends.

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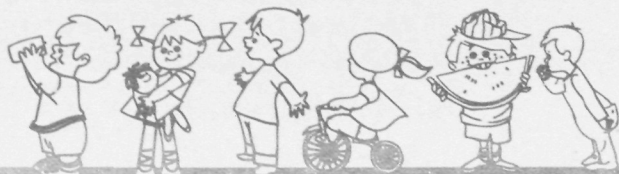
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# Events

## Czestochowa Plans Chicken Dinner

March 27

The Annual Parish Chicken Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 27 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall on Hamilton Blvd., sponsored by the Rosary Society. The donation is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children five through 12. Children under five are free. For pickup orders call the OLC Hall at (908) 753-4077 on Saturday, March 27 after 3 p.m. No tickets are necessary to attend the event.

## Rescue Squad Auxiliary Basket Bingo

March 28

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Auxiliary presents their Second Annual Basket Bingo on Sunday, March 28. Doors open at noon—calling begins at 1 p.m. sharp! The Basket Bingo will be held at the rescue squad building on Plainfield Ave. Advanced tickets are \$20, at the door \$25 and include 16 games, four specials and door prizes. Raffle, 50/50 and extra boards are available. Proceeds benefit the Rescue Squad. To purchase tickets in advance, call Denise at (732) 261-8942 or Tracy at (732) 841-4844.

## Recreation Plans Trip to Atlantic City

March 28

The South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino, Atlantic City on Sunday, March 28. The bus leaves the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and returns to the PAL at 8:30 p.m. The price is \$13 per person and you receive \$15 in coins. You can purchase tickets at the PAL every weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Music Boosters Meeting

March 31

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 31 at 7 p.m. in the band room.

## Free Egg Hunt and Gymnastics

April 2

On Friday, April 2 at 11 a.m. the American Gymnastics Academy, located on So. Clinton Ave., is sponsor-

## What's happening in MAR/APRIL

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 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>April 7: Atlantic City Trip to Taj Mahal</b> <b>May 26: Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Everyone Loves Opal"</b> <b>June 10: Trip to the NJ Performing Arts Center "Les Miserables"</b>				
<b>EVENTS</b> Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am 29 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am-12:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 30 Ladies Social Group 10am Lunch Available Income Tax Prep 9am-Noon Computer Class 12-2pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 31 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm Line Dancing 10-11:30am	Shopping Pathmark 9am 25 Practical Crafting Income Tax Preparation 9am-Noon Pinochle Club 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 26 Pizza Lunch Bridge Club 12:30pm
Weekly Shopping at Pathmark 9am 1 Practical Crafting 10-11am Pinochle Club 1pm	Mediation Group 9am 2 Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Avail. Bridge Club 12:30pm	<b>TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.</b>		

ing a free egg hunt and gymnastics class for children ages 20 months to age six. Bring your own Easter basket. For information, call (908) 753-2421.

## PAL Easter Egg Hunt

April 3

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt at the PAL on Saturday, April 3. The event is open to all South Plainfield children ages one to 10.

The hunt will start at 1 p.m. behind the PAL building. The rain date is Saturday, April 10. Easter Bunny will be on-hand for pictures and all children who attend will receive a gift.

## VFW Country Breakfast

April 4

The VFW Memorial Post 6763, located on Front St. will be holding a Country Breakfast on Sunday, April 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. There will be a varied menu. The donation is \$5 and the children's menu 12 years and under is \$3. For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and 12 Noon weekends.

## Athletic Booster Meeting

April 6

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club will meet a week earlier than normal. The next meeting is April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. We

will be discussing officers for next year, upcoming track meets, the senior letter winner dinner to be held on June 15, 2004, boxing snack stand, spring sports and any requests from teams and coaches.

We are in need for members to step up and fill some key officer positions for next year. Please attend this very important meeting.

## Sign Ups for Back Handspring Clinic

April 7

American Gymnastics Academy is offering a back handspring and tumbling clinic for students and coaches on Wednesday, April 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. \$20 for AGA members, \$25 for non-members. Advanced tumbling coaches offers expert advice and spotting drills for tumblers of all skill levels. For registration and more information, call AGA at (908) 753-2421.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

April 17

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, April 17, 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 ParentWatch, an internet viewing service.

In addition to the Open House, you are invited to visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Historical Society Reunion Sunday

April 25

South Plainfielders! Renew old friendships and reminisce of times gone by at "Reunion Sunday" on April 25 from 1-4 p.m. The "Reunion Sunday" is sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society. It will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Light refreshments will be available and there is no admission fee. All are welcome. Don't worry- there's ample parking!

## Senior Center EVENTS

## — Out of Town —

## A Celebration of Greek Dance

March 27

On Saturday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m., the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission will present *A Celebration of Greek Dance*, at the Plainsboro Community Middle School, 55 Grovers Mill Road in Plainsboro.

*A Celebration of Greek Dance* is offered free of charge; however, registration is required. To attend, call (732) 745-4489.

## Livingston Symphony Orchestra Concert

March 27

The Livingston Symphony Orchestra (LSO) will present the music of Handel, Weber and Beethoven at a spring concert to be held at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 at Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston. The event, "Springtime Serenade," under the direction of Istvan Jaray, will feature guest artist Douglas Bish in performance of Weber's *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra No. 1 in f minor*.

Tickets may be purchased at the door (\$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors; \$5 for children) or in advance at three Livingston locations: Gail Lowenstein Realtors, (973) 994-4323; Prudential New Jersey Properties (from Punam Bhargava), (973) 992-6363 and R. E. Menzel Violins, Inc., (973) 994-1083.

## Depression and Bipolar Support Meeting

March 31

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance meeting on Wednesday, March 31, will feature Nancy Block, M.D., who is a Board Certified Psychiatrist with a private practice for adults, children, adolescents and families in Scotch Plains.

Her topic will be "Observations on Managing Depression and Bipolar Illness."

The meeting takes place monthly at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. Meetings are open to the public; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

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

## Breakfast/Discussion of Passion of the Christ

April 3

People of all ages in the community are invited to join in discussing Mel Gibson's new movie *The Passion of the Christ* at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, on Saturday, April 3 at 8 a.m. over breakfast. The Men's Fellowship Group of the church will provide a free pancake and sausage meal to all who attend.

Advance reservations by April 2, but you are welcome without a reservation. For reservations, call (908) 232-5678 and leave a message. You may also e-mail your reservation at [wilgrv@netzero.com](mailto:wilgrv@netzero.com).

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Rd., across the street from the Scotch Plains Southside Firehouse, off Martine Ave. The building is handicap friendly.

All are welcome to attend.

## Experience Philippine Palm Weaving

April 3

On Saturday, April 3 at 1:30 p.m., the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey present will Palaspas, a traditional Filipino palm weaving workshop, at East Jersey Olde Towne Village on River Rd. in Piscataway.

Participants of this hands-on workshop will learn how to create this special folk craft under the instruction of master artists from Samahan Cultural Heritage, Eastern Seaboard, Inc.

The workshop is presented without charge, however registration is required. To register call (732) 745-4489.

## First Presbyterian Holy Week Programs

April 5

As part of a series of Holy Week Programs, the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen will present a dramatization based on Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting, *The Last Supper* on April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This program is free and open to the public.

## Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Meeting

April 7, 25, May 10-24

Join the monthly meeting of the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club, an organization dedicated to benefiting our communities since 1961, on Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. (on the corner of Rt. 27) in Metuchen.

The organization will participate in the Metuchen Townwide Garage Sale on Sunday, April 25 at the home of Meghan Shannon, 293 Woodbridge Ave.

A "Diaper Drive" to benefit Amanda's Crossing, a transitional housing program for homeless single parent families located in Edison will soon be taking place. For additional information she can be reached at (732) 287-2893. The drive will be held from May 10 to May 24. Drop off locations are as follows at What's the Scoop, on Main St. in Metuchen and Donna's Hometown Deli, 1018 Amboy Ave., Edison.

For information about the Metuchen-Edison Women's Club meetings and membership, please call Diana Degnan, vice president, membership chairperson at (732) 548-0925.



## Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club

Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947....

When: Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004

Where: South Plainfield High School Cafeteria

Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Ticket Price: \$5.00

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member.

For information please call 908-755-2289.





Joshua Pauls in action at a recent game sits on a sled designed for athletes with little or no mobility in their lower extremities who participate in sled hockey.

## Joshua Pauls to Participate in Canada Tournament

Joshua Pauls, son of Anthony Pauls of South Plainfield and Deborah Pauls of Green Brook and the grandson of Stan and Nancy Pauls of South Plainfield, will be participating in the Ninth Annual Sledge Hockey Tournament at the Windsor Classic Indoor Games for the Physically Disabled on March 26-28.

He will be joining an all-star team comprised of players from teams in the Atlantic Sled Hockey District, which include The Woodbridge Warriors, for whom Josh plays for, as well as The Wings of Steel from Voorhees and The Sled Stars from Vineland. The Woodbridge Warriors are a sled hockey team in their first year of existence because of the efforts of several people. Mike Pickett was instrumental in getting the equipment for the team, which came from donations

from around the area. John Eberhardt was able to secure the ice time needed from the Woodbridge Community Center, which was also donated to the team. The team is coached by Kevin Fee and managed by Angela Fee.

Sled hockey, known as Sledge hockey overseas and in Canada, was developed for athletes with little or no mobility in the lower extremities. Athletes sit with their legs strapped down to a sled-type piece of equipment, which has two blades along the length of the bottom. In their hands athletes carry two miniature hockey sticks, which have picks on the end. They use these picks to propel themselves on the ice and the other end of the sticks to manipulate the puck. Good balance and upper body strength are some of the most challenging requirements.

### ALERT SPECIAL MEETING DATE

#### Board of Education Meeting Change

Be advised that the South Plainfield Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for April 6 at 7 p.m. has been changed to 6 p.m. The Regular Public Meeting, originally scheduled for April 13, has been changed to April 6 at 8 p.m., immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meetings are held in the gymnasium at the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue.

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## International Taste Fest Held at Franklin School

An international taste fest was recently enjoyed by the children in Mrs. Stemmler's and Mrs. Furka's class in Franklin School. Culinary contributions prepared by the children's families included pasta fagioli, ziti, Irish potatoes, pupusas, fried chicken and sweet potato pie.

In preparation for the event, the children had discussions about their native countries and made flags. Foods presenting Italy, Ireland, El Salvador, Germany and southern parts of the United States made for a delectable variety for all to enjoy.



Seated (l-r) are Teraye Garry, Mrs. Stemmler, Tanner Painton, Bryan Gonzalez, Brandon Shea, Mrs. Furka and Jy'Neer Green; standing are Mr. Maroney, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Painton, Miss Erickson, Mrs. Shea, Christian Shra, Mr. Shea and Mr. Gonzalez.

### Sacred Heart Alumna is Published Author

One of Sacred Heart's alumna is a published author. Samantha Crane, Class of 2003, had her poem (Untitled) published in the Feb. 20 issue of *Read* magazine, a national publication.

Written while in eighth grade at Sacred Heart, the poem was submitted to *Read* last spring by Michelle Geene, eighth grade English teacher.

Samantha is the daughter of Ralph and Sharon Crane of South Plainfield and is presently a freshman at Mount St. Mary Academy.

(Untitled)

Darn the bigot  
And the biased too  
Who cock an eye  
At me and you  
What's life  
Without variety?  
The differences  
In those we see  
I pity them  
Who must abide  
With their true opinions  
Locked inside  
Why can't we all  
Just let it out  
Tell what our hearts  
Are all about

By Samantha Crane

### Junior Baseball Club Accepting Applications for Scholarship

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for their college scholarship. Applications can be picked up at the guidance department of the South Plainfield High School or by contacting the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduating high school student this June. Must be a South Plainfield resident and must have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years.

Please note that the filing deadline is April 1, 2004

### Philip Longo Wins State Gymnastics Championship

Philip Longo finished first all around in his age group at the 28th Annual New Jersey Men's State Gymnastic Championship, held this past weekend in Kenilworth.

Philip is a Class 5 gymnast and competes in all six events; Floor Exercise, Pommel Horse, Still Rings, Vault, Parallel Bars and High Bar. Individual scores from each event are combined for the "all around" total.

Philip finished first all around with a personal best score of 56.0. He placed third on Floor with a 9.0; second on Pommel Horse with a 9.3, first on Rings with a 9.0; first on Vault on 9.5; first on Parallel Bars with a 9.8, and first on High Bar with a 9.4.

Philip is coached by Vladimir Karvachy from Hendersons Gymnas-



Philip Longo

tics Academy in Edison, where he trains for three hours a day five days a week. Philip has been competing in USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic sanctioned events for the past four years.

Philip's performance has earned him a trip to the United States Regional Competition, scheduled for next month in Pennsylvania. At the regional competition he will be competing against the top gymnasts from seven states.

#### Correction

Please note that in March 12 issue, the story "Gundersens Celebrate 60th Anniversary" under "Milestones" incorrectly spelled the name of the Gundersen Family. We apologize for the error.

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## policereport

• On March 17 a So. 10th St. resident reported the theft of his cell phone and CD's from his unlocked vehicle.

• A Cumberland St. resident reported that the rear door knob and window of her home had been broken and an undetermined amount of items had been taken.

• An Edison resident returned to his BMW after shopping in Million Dollar Video on W. 7th St. and found two men trying to break in. The men walked away and struck his vehicle from behind as he traveled down W. 7th St. Both cars pulled to the side of the road, words were exchanged and one of the men jumped in the BMW and drove off. The owner had an engine cut-off switch which was activated. The two men were charged with criminal attempt theft in South Plainfield and carjacking in Plainfield.

• On March 19 Marisol Jorge, 29, of Bound Brook was arrested at the DMV for motor vehicle title fraud.

• A Plainfield resident reported that four silver Ford hubcaps had been taken from his car while parked at Regal Cinema.

• Ronpak on New Brunswick Ave. reported receiving harassing phone

calls possibly from a former employee.

• On March 20 Nelson R. Cruz, 24, of Middlesex was arrested on W. 8th St. for driving while intoxicated after his van struck another parked car.

• A Dumont Ave. resident reported receiving harassing phone calls over the last three weeks.

• A Piscataway resident reported that his wallet was stolen after leaving it at the cash register at Bravo Supermarket on W. 7th St.

• A Piscataway resident reported the theft of two fishing poles and rods, an electric guitar from the trunk of his car and the radio faceplate while parked at Regal Cinema. There were no signs of forced entry.

• On March 21 Kevin R. McGrath, 33, of South Plainfield was arrested on Clinton Ave. for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle accident.

• A gas station attendant at Mobile Gas on Durham Ave. reported that a woman left without paying for \$5 worth of gas. She pulled away with the hose and nozzle, which broke of the pump.

• On March 22 Carmelo Melendez, 44, of Edison was arrested on Jerome Ave. for an outstanding warrant and hindering apprehension at a motor vehicle stop.

• On March 22 a Norwood Ave. resident reported that the rear basement window had been smashed and slid open. Nothing was taken.



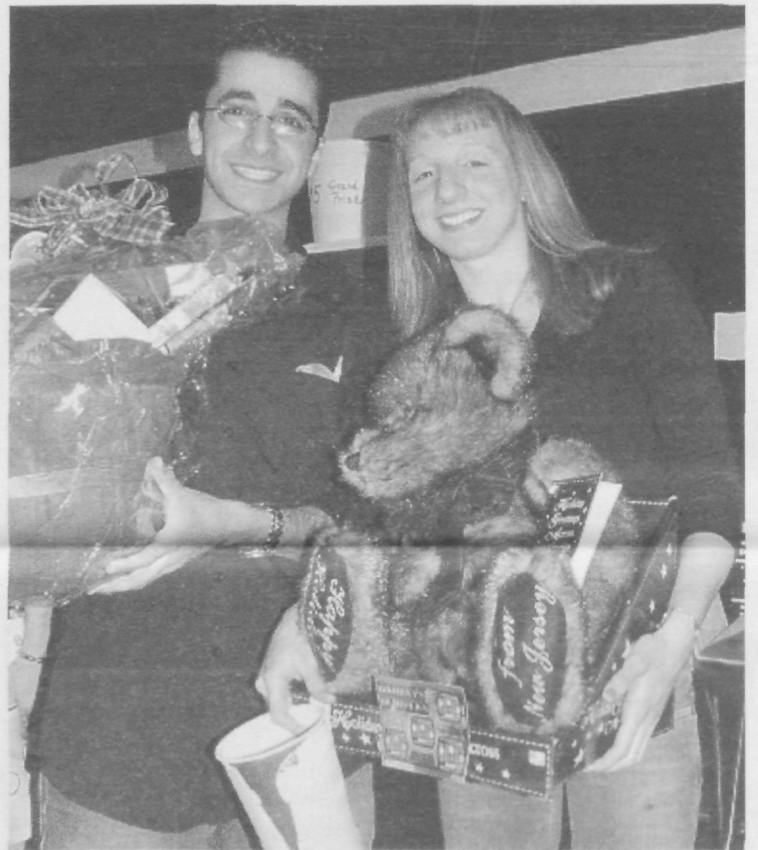
## SPHS Grads are the Real Winners at Auction

(Continued from page 1)

Despite the efficiency and speed the final prizes were not called until after 11 p.m.

The highly successful event pays for the entire Project Graduation night. Expenses for the extravaganza usually run about \$20,000 plus. This includes food, entertainment and the rental of The Club at Ricochet.

Although this year's auction is over, donations are accepted throughout the year, and planning for Project Graduation 2005 will begin as early as September. During the course of the year organizers solicit donations from local businesses as well as ask for a con-



tribution from Senior parents in the form of cash or a gift basket.

Grand prize winners were Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb-adirondack chairs, Kathy Wolff-gas grill, Shelly Granziano-\$350 Macy's gift card, Donna Helgesen-Fuji Film digital camera, Mary Beth Vasquez-27" Akai DVD/VCR, Ray Jazikoff-tickets to Broadway hit "Movin Out," Debbie Mahovetz-Gardens Dream Wheelbarrow and Joyce Santone-portable DVD player.

Mega prizes went to Tracy Grotta who won the cruise, Bob Smith won

the Dell Computer and Elsie Burgos won the 50/50 raffle.

The Project Graduation party began as a means of providing a substance free party for all graduates. The party begins at about 10 p.m. and continues through the night until 5 a.m.

Once inside the guests are not allowed to leave until morning. Each year the event becomes bigger and better. In addition, the recent grads enjoy an all night DJ, swimming, racquetball, basketball, contests and giveaways. About 95% of the class attends.

## Craft Vendors Needed

Vendors are needed for a Craft Fair on Friday, April 2, from 5-9 p.m. at the John E. Riley Elementary School.

For additional information, call (908) 561-2530 and ask for Laura.

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149 South Plainfield Ave.  
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); 6:30 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Marcia Lubansky

Here is a snapshot of upcoming activities at the South Plainfield Public Library. We can help you round out your calendar with a variety of events. Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 8 at 7 to 8:30 p.m. for the program "Retiring with Confidence." In light of fluctuating retirement account values and continued employment insecurity, it's best to start now with a well-defined strategy for your retirement goals. Dave Joshi, of Prudential Insurance, will be sharing valuable information and discussing specific ideas about how you can effectively help grow, manage and protect your retirement assets and income with insurance and financial products. This presentation will be beneficial regardless of whether you are planning for or nearing retirement or are already retired. Also on Monday, April 5, from 10:30 to 11:30 AM here at the library, Ronda Wisniewski, Practical Crafting instructor will present another in our series of "Make 'n Take Craft" programs. This time, take home a completed decoupage candle. Please register by March 31. If you or anyone you know is interested in teaching an adult craft program, please contact Millie Condon at the library.

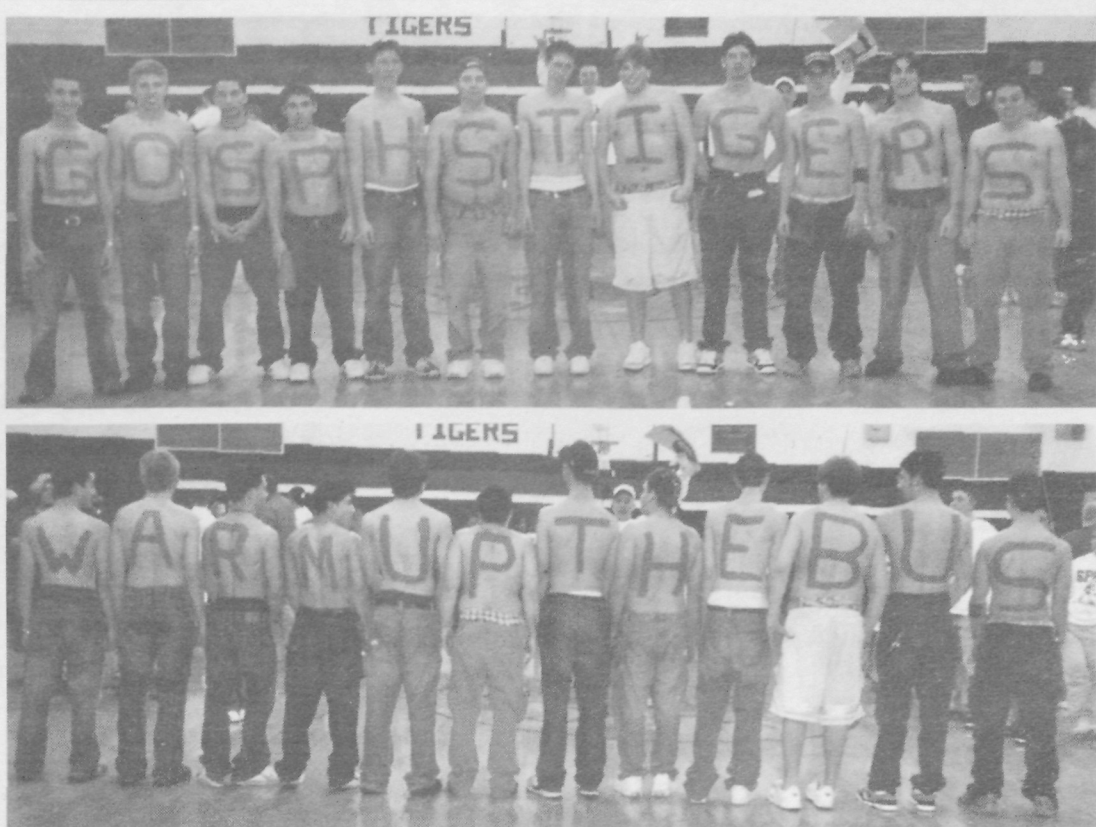
For children's programming, you have a choice of three different days for story hour: Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. or Thursday at 1:15. Kids, ages three and up, can enjoy stories and a craft. The Books 'n Babies program on Friday morning at 10:30 is designed for infants up to three years of age, with nursery rhymes, action songs and simple stories. It's never too early to enjoy a book.

Can't get to the Library? Visit us

from home at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). Our web site offers a "Link Library." With a few quick clicks, we offer all sorts of pertinent information. For last-minute tax information, click on "Useful Websites," then on "Taxes," where you can download both federal and state tax forms. After you finish those taxes, perhaps you can plan a vacation; click on "Useful Websites," then on "Travel." If you have no inclination to travel, just take home a good book! If we don't have the title you are looking for, try our website again. Also from our homepage, link to "Interlibrary Loan" and follow the links to "JerseyCat," the statewide interlibrary loan system that allows access to over 2 million titles. Your local library can open a whole new world for you.

Are you looking for a good volunteer opportunity? Do you know someone needing assistance with literacy? From our homepage, we also provide a link to Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex. The Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex is the only organization of its kind in Middlesex County that can tutor adults at no cost to them and at a time and place that is easily accessible to all. They provide the following services: free training for volunteers to become tutors; free one-on-one instruction to adults who need to learn to speak, read, or write English; optional free conversation groups to immigrants who wish to practice speaking English. For further information, visit them at [www.lva-middlesex.org](http://www.lva-middlesex.org) or call (732) 432-8000.

Please take a moment to pick up and complete a survey at the library. Let us know what services you need, expect, and want from your library, as we move forward in planning for the future. As you pick up that survey, drop off your book donations. We continue to accept used books in good condition (sorry, no textbooks or encyclopedias) for our continuing book sale. We'll be glad to help you with that spring cleaning. And if you say, "the heck with spring cleaning" and would rather read a good book, we can certainly help you with that. Visit us often. We love company.



Pictured above are a group of avid fans who attended many of the South Plainfield High School Basketball games during the past season. The students painted their chests, both front and back, to cheer the team on each week during the season.

## Business Association Plans Golf Outing

The South Plainfield Business Association is sponsoring their 7th Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, May 4 at the Cranbury Gold Club in West Windsor.

Entry fees include the 18-hole event; use of locker room, greens, fees and cart; continental breakfast; complimentary beverage cart; hot dog and chips "at the turn"; open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a BBQ luncheon. Casual attire. No metal spikes are to be worn on the greens.

Prizes will be awarded for hole-in-one prize, the longest drive, closest to the pin (two holes), low gross, low net and the most honest golfer.

The day starts with the registration and a continental breakfast from 8 to

8:45 a.m. The shotgun start will begin at 9 p.m. and the open bar begins at 2 p.m. The BBQ luncheon starts at 2:30 p.m. and the day comes to a close with the 3:30 p.m. award ceremony.

The entry fees are as follows- Corporate: Eagle (includes foursome/flag/tee)- \$1,000, Birdie (includes two-

some/tee)- \$500; Corporate Underwriter: Breakfast Sponsor- \$250, Beverage Cart Sponsor- \$250, Flag 1st and 18th Green- \$175, Flag 2nd-17th Green- \$125 and Tee Sign- \$100.

RSVP by April 18. For more information, call Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004 or Ed Koznowicz at (908) 754-8900.

## ALERT SPECIAL MEETING DATE

### Special Meeting Notice

Please be advised that there will be a Special Public Meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body at 7 p.m. on March 29, 2004 for the following item:

1) Adoption of Ordinance #1654 amending Ch. 157 of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield entitled: "Sewers."



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# Sports

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Let's Play Ball! Despite the rumors you may have heard in the community, opening day at the SPJBC is still on as scheduled for Saturday April 3. In order to meet that goal, we still need to work on our fields this weekend. We are asking not only the individuals who are scheduled for work detail, but anyone else who can volunteer their time this weekend to help us out, it will be greatly appreciated.

The club has ordered 20 yards of top soil to spread in the outfield at Field #4. Pat Muglia is the Field #4 Captain, if you can attend, please bring a 'wheel barrel' to help move the top soil to the specific areas in the outfield. A group effort will make this go smoothly. Field #3 captain is Chris Hubner and he has generated a list of twelve items that we would like to see accomplished this weekend. Bob Bors is the Field #2 captain and he has been working with volunteers getting ev-



everything in order. But some work still needs to be done there. Finally, Mike Salici is the Field #1 captain. Field #1 parents have been doing an outstanding job in getting that field ready and it will be due to the hard work of those parents.

This Saturday is our Pancake breakfast fundraiser at Franklin School starting at 8:00 am. Come on down and support the club at this great event. Prices are reasonable and the food will be great!

*Please remember:* Do not use the fields at the complex; you can use the batting cages. When the red flag is up that means to stay off the fields. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Future Fundraisers

April 17 at Roosevelt School will be our Spaghetti Dinner

April 24 at the Complex, we will have a Flea Market, vendors are needed.

## Boys' 5/6 Grade Basketball Team Ends Season With 11-5 Mark



The South Plainfield Boys' fifth and sixth grade basketball team.

The South Plainfield 5/6 Grade Boys' Basketball Team ended its season last Friday night with a 37-36 loss against Westfield. The Tigers ended their season with an 11-5 record with four of their losses by only one point.

The Tigers were members of the Garden State Basketball League, for the first time this season and they competed against teams from Scotch Plains, Readington, Flemington, Madison, Branchburg, North Plainfield and other area schools. The Tigers played their home games at Grant School and finished their season by playing at home in the South Plainfield High School Gym.

The Tigers were coached by Rich Fonti and Andrew Miller. The team consisted of Captains Mark Benak and Dontae Johnson and included Mark Brinley, Lenny Casiero, Matt Cesare, Gagan Dhaliwal, Tyler Driscoll, Zach Haupt, Alex Horn,

Mike Jefferys, Troy McNair, Iyanosa Ogbevoen, Robert Pasternak, Kishan Patel, Gerry Pinto, Carlos Ruiz, Bobby Sacks, Ryan Smith and Tyreek Watkins.

The basketball team has practiced since early December when it had fifth and sixth grade tryouts. A total of 58 players tried out for the team and the roster was kept at 21. The team practiced five days a week and usually practiced from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The team focused on fundamentals and having each player know his responsibility.

The 5/6 Grade Basketball Team is the first school-sponsored team that these student-athletes have ever participated on. They have learned the importance of the team concept and sportsmanship. They have improved daily by working on individual and

team shooting and defensive drills. Over the past three months, the individuals have become a team.

Coach Fonti would like to thank the parents who have traveled with us to all for our away games, have picked up and dropped off their sons at various times throughout the season and have given their emotional and physical support at all of our games. The faculty, administrators and custodial staff are to be thanked for their support and assistance throughout the year, especially Miss Panuzzo, Mrs. Burchell, Mr. Whalen and Mr. Young. The students who have supported the team throughout the year were a vital part of the team's success.

Coach Fonti would like to thank the players for making this a special season and the most enjoyable in his last 18 years of coaching. He wishes them the best of luck in the future. Managing to coach 21 players would not have been possible without the assistance of Andrew Miller, who took the time out of his busy schedule and helped teach the players the importance of commitment and hard work.



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By James Bishop

• Saturday March 27th at 9 a.m. we will again try to clean up the fields in preparation for the coming season. Parents we could use your help. Anyone willing to help, please bring your leaf blower and a rake.  
• Pictures will be held at the PAL building on April 3 starting at 8:45 a.m. Check with your coach for the

forms and your teams assigned time.

• Games will begin on April 12 and opening day ceremonies will be on April 17.

• Tag dates are set for May 6th through the 8th.

• Summer traveling team tryouts will be held on May 8 at 4 p.m.

## South Plainfield Eagles Football Registration And Coaching Applications Being Accepted

The South Plainfield Football Eagles are now accepting football coaching applications. All applications may be downloaded at [speagles.com](http://speagles.com) or email [FOOTBALL@speagles.com](mailto:FOOTBALL@speagles.com).

All coaching applications must be received by March 31 and can be

dropped off at 138 Rahway Ave. There is a black box on the porch.

Football registration will be held on April 2, 6 to 8 p.m. and April 3, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Eagles Fieldhouse.

Cheerleading registration is closed.

All squads have been filled and waiting lists are already at maximum numbers.

The Regular Board meeting of the SP Football Eagles has been changed from April 15 to April 2 at 8:30 p.m., all members are welcome to attend.

## 2004 GOLDEN GLOVE FINALS

All bouts sanctioned by: NJ Association of USA Boxing Inc.



Doors Open at 7 pm  
Bouts Start at 8 pm

**Friday ~ April 16, 2004**

South Plainfield High School

200 Lake Street, South Plainfield, NJ

General Admission ~ \$12.00

**GOLDEN RINGSIDE \$ 75.00**

includes **DINNER AT 5:00 PM**

at Flanagan's Restaurant

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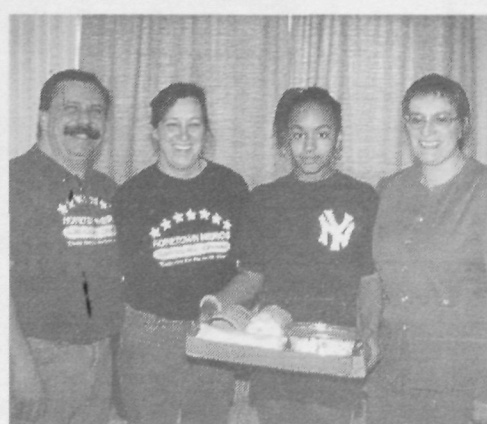
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Win a catered dinner for your family from Hometown Heros through the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Contest! To enter, ask your language teacher at school for details.

**PICK UP THOSE PENS  
& ENTER TODAY!**



Middle School Student Sara Johnson with her mom, Ingrid, welcome Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros.



South Plainfield Churches Observe the Passion of Christ At Lent

The Christian churches of the South Plainfield Ecumenical Association invite the community to join them during this Easter Season. Lenten Worship services will be held at the following locations: *Wednesday, March 31* at the Rescue House of Prayer on Roosevelt Ave. *Tuesday, April 6* at The St. Stephens

Proto Martyr Church on Lane Ave. Everyone is invited to establish a spiritual discipline at this season and sharpen their spirituality with your community. All services begin at 7:30 p.m. Wesley Church, located on Plainfield Ave. encourages everyone to reach out to those in need of His

love during its Five Weeks of Lenten Love program during Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. Each week a different area of love will be emphasized, beginning with love and prayer and later love and presence, love and gifts, love and service and love and the heart. The five-week Lenten observance will conclude with a Prayer Vigil to

be held at Wesley Church on Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome. Come back on Palm Sunday, April 4 and on Easter Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. for Sunday worship services. A Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. Share with us the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

On Good Friday we will join other Christians of the South Plainfield Ecumenical Association to celebrate the Lord's Tenebrae on Friday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. South Plainfield's traditionally held Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, April 11 at 6:30 a.m. at Spring Lake Park, rain or shine.

LEGAL NOTICE

**School District Budget Statement for the School Year 2004-2005**  
Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the school district of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, of a special meeting to be held in the gymnasium of the Roosevelt Administration Building Gymnasium, 125 Jackson Ave. South Plainfield, New Jersey at 8:00 p.m. on **Monday, March 29, 2004**. The Board will hold a public hearing on the following proposed budget for the **2004-2005** school year.

**Noticia de Reunion para Presentar el Presupuesto Escolar 2004-2005**  
Tenemos una reunion especial para los votantes legales de South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey, en la gymnasium de Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson, Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey **el 29 de marzo 2004** a las 8:00 de la noche. La reunion publico es para presentar el presupuesto escolar para **2004-2005**.

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO			
Advertised Enrollments			
ENROLLMENT CATEGORY	October 15, 2002	October 15, 2003	October 15, 2004
	Actual	Actual	Estimated
Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time	3379	3428	3428
Pupils on Roll Reg Accr. Adult High Sch	85	98	98
Pupils on Roll - Special Full-Time	432	441	441
Pupils on Roll - Special Shared-Time	3	8	8
Private School Placements	35	31	
Pupils Sent to Other Districts-Reg Prog	2	1	1
Pupils Sent to Other Dists-Spec Ed Prog	13	13	7
Pupils Received	6	3	3
Pupils in State Facilities	6	3	3
Resident Enroll. Per State Aid Calc.-Infor. Only		3944	3956

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO				
Advertised Revenues				
Budget Category	Account	2002-03 Actual	2003-04 Revised	2004-05 Anticipated
GENERAL FUND				
Budgeted Fund Balance - General Fund	10-303		1,311,680	900,000
Transfers from Other Funds	10-5200		504,873	
Revenues from Local Sources:				
Local Tax Levy	10-1210	28,610,587	30,802,735	32,564,229
Tuition	10-1300	98,827	50,000	100,000
Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues	10-1XXX	110,622	300,000	300,000
SUBTOTAL		28,820,036	31,152,735	32,964,229
Revenues from State Sources:				
Core Curriculum Standards Aid	10-3111	4,585,704	4,585,704	4,585,704
Transportation Aid	10-3120	584,735	584,735	
Special Education Aid	10-3130	1,961,944	1,961,944	1,961,944
Bilingual Education	10-3140	90,924	90,924	90,924
Aid for Adult and Post-Graduate Programs	10-3191	179,389		
Consolidated Aid	10-3195			669,985
Other State Aids	10-3XXX		432,736	
SUBTOTAL		7,402,696	7,656,043	7,893,292
Adjustment for Prior Year Encumbrances			1,167,471	
Act (Excess)Deficiency of Rev (Over)/Under Expnd		1,512,467		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		37,735,199	41,792,802	41,757,521
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Revenues from Local Sources	20-1XXX	6,954		
Revenues from State Sources:				
Demonstrably Effective Program Aid	20-3212	154,389	154,389	154,389
Distance Learning Network Aid	20-3213	202,206		
Instructional Supplement Aid	20-3214	66,072	97,863	97,863
Other Restricted Entitlements	20-32XX	227,065	182,879	144,773
TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE SOURCES		649,732	435,131	397,025
Revenues from Federal Sources:				
Title I	20-4411-4416	149,362	121,724	121,724
Title VI	20-4417-4418	60,015	54,795	54,795
I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)	20-4420	687,073	413,795	783,839
Adult Basic Education	20-4440		48,779	
Other	20-4XXX	195,340		
TOTAL REVENUES FROM FEDERAL SOURCES		1,091,790	639,093	960,358
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		1,748,476	1,074,224	1,357,383
DEBT SERVICE				
Budgeted Fund Balance	40-303			549,060
Transfers from Other Funds	40-5200	47,267		
Revenues from Local Sources:				
Local Tax Levy	40-1210	1,431,963	1,037,237	408,175
TOTAL REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES		1,431,963	1,037,237	408,175
Revenues from State Sources:				
Debt Service Aid Type II	40-3160	74,827	35,005	113,282
TOTAL LOCAL DEBT SERVICE		1,554,057	1,072,242	1,070,517
Act (Excess)Deficiency of Rev (Over)/Under Expnd		-228,187		
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND		1,325,870	1,072,242	1,070,517
TOTAL REVENUES/SOURCES		40,809,545	43,939,268	44,185,421

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO				
Advertised Appropriations				
Budget Category	Account	2002-03 Expenditures	2003-04 Rev. Approp.	2004-05 Appropriations
GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE				
Regular Programs - Instruction	11-1XX-100-XXX	14,735,585	15,014,703	15,754,127
Special Education - Instruction	11-2XX-100-XXX	2,636,041	2,462,649	3,184,940
Basic Skills/Remedial - Instruction	11-230-100-XXX	225,078	282,619	560,582
Bilingual Education - Instruction	11-240-100-XXX	152,759	243,128	188,104
School-Spon. Co/Extra-Curr. Activities-Instruct	11-401-100-XXX	79,169	139,050	145,307
School Sponsored Athletics - Instruction	11-402-100-XXX	472,137	543,654	568,844
Undistributed Expenditures:				
Instruction	11-000-100-XXX	1,409,241	2,277,736	1,986,205
Attendance and Social Work Services	11-000-211-XXX	113,757	105,875	68,102
Health Services	11-000-213-XXX	495,010	483,957	574,673
Other Supp Serv - Stds - Related & Extraordinary	11-000-216,217	581,435	557,078	585,439
Other Support Services - Students - Regular	11-000-218-XXX	1,075,891	1,098,614	1,203,924
Other Support Services - Students - Special	11-000-219-XXX	337,162	612,267	897,396
Improvement of Instructional Services	11-000-221-XXX	381,837	305,372	226,163
Educational Media Services - School Library	11-000-222-XXX	552,735	544,304	562,972
Instructional Staff Training Services	11-000-223-XXX	88,680	105,620	97,560
Support Services - General Administration	11-000-230-XXX	888,436	1,108,590	955,807
Support Services - School Administration	11-000-240-XXX	1,967,862	1,901,124	1,813,017
Central Svcs & Admin Info Technology	11-000-25X-XXX			986,536
Operation and Maintenance of Plant Services	11-000-26X-XXX	4,022,229	4,487,454	3,924,902
Student Transportation Services	11-000-270-XXX	1,365,321	1,456,996	1,218,558
Other Support Services	11-000-290-XXX	983,033	743,348	172,410
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	11-XXX-XXX-2XX	3,580,163	5,539,856	5,784,872
Total Undistributed Expenditures		17,842,792	21,328,191	21,058,536
TOTAL GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE		36,143,561	40,013,994	41,461,440
CAPITAL OUTLAY				
Equipment	12-XXX-XXX-73X	396,750	377,727	
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services	12-000-4XX-XXX	903,989	1,025,000	
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		1,300,739	1,402,727	
SPECIAL SCHOOLS				
Summer School:				
Instruction	13-422-100-XXX	33,639	74,196	164,257
Total Summer School		33,639	74,196	164,257
Accredited Evening/Adult High School/Post-Graduate:				
Instruction	13-601-100-XXX	41,609	99,486	
Support Services	13-601-200-XXX	54,487	42,780	
Total Accredited Evening/Adult HS/Post-Grad.		96,096	142,266	
Adult Education - Local:				
Instruction	13-602-100-XXX	70,997	64,640	125,579
Support Services	13-602-200-XXX	72,590	72,101	
Total Adult Education - Local		143,587	136,741	125,579
Vocational Evening - Local:				
Instruction	13-629-100-XXX	10,580	5,921	6,245
Support Services	13-629-200-XXX	6,997	16,957	
Total Vocational Evening - Local		17,577	22,878	6,245
TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS		290,899	376,081	296,081
GENERAL FUND GRAND TOTAL		37,735,199	41,792,802	41,757,521
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				

Local Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	6,954		
Demonstrably Effective Program Aid:				
Instruction	20-212-100-XXX	154,389	154,389	154,389
TOTAL DEMONSTRABLY EFFECTIVE PROGRAM AID		154,389	154,389	154,389
Distance Learning Network Aid:				
Support Services	20-213-200-XXX	26,147		
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services	20-213-400-XXX	176,059		
TOTAL DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AID		202,206		
Instructional Supplement Aid:				
Instruction	20-214-100-XXX	66,072	97,863	97,863
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLEMENT AID		66,072	97,863	97,863
Other State Projects:				
Nonpublic Textbooks	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	23,299	17,342	17,342
Nonpublic Auxiliary Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	98,972	106,515	75,626
Nonpublic Handicapped Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	53,706	38,106	30,889
Nonpublic Nursing Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	24,608	20,916	20,916
Other Special Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	26,480		
Total State Projects		649,732	435,131	397,025
Federal Projects:				
Title I	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	149,362	121,724	121,724
Title VI	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	60,015	54,795	54,795
I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	687,073	413,795	783,839
Adult Basic Education	20-XXX-XXX-XXX		48,779	
Other Special Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	195,340		
Total Federal Projects		1,091,790	639,093	960,358
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		1,748,476	1,074,224	1,357,383
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS				
Debt Service - Regular	40-701-510-XXX	1,325,870	1,072,242	1,070,517
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		1,325,870	1,072,242	1,070,517
Total Expenditures/Appropriations		40,809,545	43,939,268	44,185,421
DEDUCT APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDED IN MULTIPLE FUNDS DUE TO TRANSFERS:				
Local Contribution - Transfer to Special Revenue	11-1XX-100-930			
Capital Reserve - Transfer to Debt Service	12-000-400-933			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES/ APPROPRIATIONS NET OF TRANSFERS		40,809,545	43,939,268	44,185,421

MIDDLESEX — SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO					
Advertised Recapitulation of Balances					
Budget Category	General Fund (Reserved) General Fund (Unreserved)	Gen. Fund (Reserved) Cap. Reserve Account	General Fund (Reserved) Adult Ed. Programs	Maintenance Reserve Acct	General Fund (Reserved) Legal Reserves
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-02 (Prior Budg)	856,497	0	0	0	0
Approp. Balances 6-30-02 (from Audit)	4,753,996	0	0	0	332,644
Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-03 (Prior Budg)	1,718,264	0	0	0	0
Approp. Balances 6-30-03 (from Audit)	1,095,831	0	0	0	1,311,680
Amount Budgeted during FY 03-04	0	0	0	0	-1,311,680
Add. Bal. to be Approp during FY 03-04	0	0	0	0	0
Add. Bal. Anticipated during FY 03-04	1,400,000	0	0	0	0
Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (est.) before Trans.	2,495,831	0	0	0	0
Anti. Excess GF Bal. Trans during FY 03-04	0	0	0	0	0
Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (est.) after Transfer	2,495,831	0	0	0	0
Amount Budgeted in FY 04-05	-900,000	0	0	0	0
A appropriation Balances 6/30/05 (est.)	1,595,831	0	0	0	0

Current state law requires that unreserved general fund balance (surplus) in excess of the established statutory limitation (generally 6% of the prior year budget) must be appropriated in the budget for tax relief purposes. Below are the amounts for the proposed and prior two years given the current statutory limitations:

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO				
Advertised Recapitulation of Balances				
Budget Category	General Fund (Reserved) Tuition Reserve	Debt Service	Special Revenue Cap. Reserve Account	Totals
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-02 (Prior Budg)	0	0	0	856,497
Approp. Balances 6-30-02 (from Audit)	0	320,873	0	5,407,513
Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-03 (Prior Budg)	0	0	0	1,718,264
Approp. Balances 6-30-03 (from Audit)	0	549,060	0	2,956,571
Amount Budgeted during FY 03-04	0	0	0	-1,311,680
Add. Bal. to be Approp during FY 03-04	0	0	0	0
Add. Bal. Anticipated during FY 03-04	0	0	0	1,400,000
Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (est.) before Trans.	0	549,060	0	3,044,891
Anti. Excess GF Bal. Trans during FY 03-04	0	0	0	0
Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (est.) after Transfer	0	549,060	0	3,044,891
Amount Budgeted in FY 04-05	0	-549,060	0	-1,449,060
Appropriation Balances 6/30/05 (est.)	0	0	0	1,595,831

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO					
Advertised Per Pupil Cost Calculations					
	2001-02 Actual	2002-03 Actual	2004 - 2005 Original Budget	2003-04 Revised Budget	2004-2005 Proposed Budget
Per Pupil Cost Calculations:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost	8753	8890	9188	9358	9861
Total Classroom Instruction	5350	5410	5716	5718	6197
Classroom-Salaries and Benefits	5041	5154	5421	5374	6000
Classroom-General Supplies and Textbooks	289	247	282	331	190
Classroom-Purchased Services and Other	21	9	13	13	6
Total Support Services	1134	1089	1187	1177	1293
Support Services-Salaries and Benefits	985	963	1036	1027	1172
Total Administrative Costs	1032	1124	1064	1054	1100
Administration-Salaries and Benefits	824	849	861	853	959
Total Operations and Maintenance of Plant	1043	1077	969	1159	1013
Operations & Maintenance of Plant-Salary & Ben.	59	102	0	0	0
Total Food Services Costs				0	0
Total Extracurricular Costs	162	162	210	208	218
Total Equipment Costs	35	152	98	98	0
Employee Benefits as a % of Salaries	15.4	14.6	23.0	23.0	21.7



# Middle School Students Fight for Prizes at Annual Battle of the Teams

By Jane Dornick

The sound of thunderous cheering rocked the Middle School gymnasium as students were pitted against each other and the clock at the annual

Battle of the Teams held on Feb. 6. Seventh grade classes are composed of three teams, the Monsoon, Avalanche and Cyclone. The eighth graders are divided into the Tsunami, Lightning and Thunder. Students

were chosen from each team to compete against each other in various activities such as the Tug of War, Hula Hoop Circle, Foul Shots, Baton/Hoop Relay, Alligator Crawl and Over and Under.

Master of ceremonies for the event was teacher Jim Makowski and John Limyansky got their blood pumping with spinning tunes. Judging the events were Kathy Thomas, Francine Flanagan, Jocelyn Aguinaldo, Kim Butler, Cathy Piwowar and Debbie Bishop.

Principal Fredrik Oberkehr feels that, "The Battle of Teams is another effort to assure students that they will be a part of a tradition here at South Plainfield Middle School and will have fun in the process." The event provides opportunities for "team unity for common goals and a sense of belonging."

The seventh grade winning team were the Cyclones. Placing first for the eighth grade was the Lightning. Gift certificates were awarded to the win-



ning teams through the PTA's Tiger Gold Program.

A spelling bee was arranged by Ms. Scarpulla and Mrs. Veiss where students competed in their individual Language Arts classes. Five finalists went on to compete against each other. Audrey Cupo, seventh grade and

Wesley Chotalal, eighth grade, were the winners.

Teams also competed in a hall decorating contest. Seventh grade winner was Avalanche and team Tsunami took first place for the eighth grade.

Tiger Gold certificates were awarded to all the winners.



## Obituaries

### William T. (Billy) DeSabato, 82

William T. (Billy) DeSabato of South Plainfield died on Friday, March 18 at his home.

Billy was born in South Plainfield and was a lifelong resident.

Billy was the Borough Clerk for the Borough of South Plainfield for 25 years before retiring in 1987. He also served on the Borough Council in the mid 1950's. He was a member of the South Plainfield Republican Organization.

He served his country during WWII in the US Army, where he received a bronze star. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 in South Plainfield and the VFW Memorial Post 6763 also in South Plainfield.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and the South Plainfield Exempt Firemen's Association. He was the Grand Marshal for the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade in 1995.

He was predeceased by a brother, Joseph DeSabato, who died in 1952.

He is survived by two sisters, Marie DeSabato and Josephine D'Alessio, both of South Plainfield; three nephews, Joseph and his wife, Patricia DeSabato, Thomas D'Alessio and Joseph and his wife, Ann D'Alessio; two nieces and their husbands, Linda and William Meixner and Joanne and Wayne Otowski; 12 great nieces and nephews and a great great nephew.

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

### Emily R. (Ginovsky) Waverka, 74

Emily R. (Ginovsky) Waverka died on Tuesday, March 16 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Scranton, Pa., she had lived in South Plainfield for the past 50 years. She had been a homemaker and was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, John Waverka; a son-in-law, John Glowacki; her father, John Ginovsky; her mother and step-father, Bertha and Stanley Dombroski and by a brother, Edmund Dombroski.

Surviving are a daughter, Grace W. Glowacki of Shenandoah, Pa.; two grandsons, John and Robert Glowacki of Shenandoah and a sister, Ann Moon of Mechanicsville, Va.

A private cremation took place under the direction of McCriskin Home For Funerals.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

### Willa A. Robertson, 48

Willa A. Robertson died on Wednesday, March 17 at the Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Willa was born in Plainfield and was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

Willa was a loyal employee of the Raritan Valley Workshop in New Brunswick for the last 27 years as an assembler.

She loved bowling and was a member of the Exceptional League at Strike & Spare Lanes in Green Brook. Willa competed in the bowling competition at the Special Olympics and qualified to advance to the medal round in Trenton, where she won the Bronze Medal in 2001. She placed sixth in the competition in 2004.

Willa loved to sew and do embroidery and specialized in the design and creation of hook rugs.

She was predeceased by her beloved father, William Robertson, who died in 1999.

She is survived by her loving mother, Olga Nering Robertson; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Nancy and her husband, John Shearn of Toms River and Judy and her husband, Ted Klein of Westfield; two nieces, Nancy Ann Leduc and Erin Klein; two great nephews, Ryan and Michael and a great niece, Rachel.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, April 17 at the first Baptist Church of Westfield at 2 p.m.

Funeral arrangements are by the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

### Robert L. Callahan, 78

Robert L. Callahan died on Friday, March 19 in Norwood Terrace Health Center in Plainfield.

Born in Manhattan on May 5, 1925, Bob grew up in Plainfield. He moved to South Plainfield when he married his beloved wife, Esther May Smith, who predeceased him on December 24, 1988.

Bob was manager of the Old American Store in Plainfield and worked in many years for Sanitary Products in Plainfield. Bob was then employed for 22 years as a Life Truck Operator for Mack Trucks, formerly of Bridgewater, until his retirement in 1982. Bob served as Vice President of the United Auto Works Union Local #229 of Bridgewater from 1966 to 1982. He was also active for many years coaching little league baseball teams.

Surviving are three sisters, Gloria Corbin of Bridgewater, Muriel Henne of Piscataway and Marian Malanga of Warren and an aunt, Blanche Webber of Toms River. Also surviving are many beloved nephews and nieces and a very special great-great niece.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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*Ronald, Jacqueline & Jessica*

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**LEGAL NOTICES**

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE**

An appeal has been filed by Paul Zensky requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit construction of a second story add a level. Proposed add a level lacks required setback. 1. Proposed addition lacks 30' required front setback, 18.8' proposed; 2. Proposed addition lacks 20' rear setback, 17' proposed; and 3. Proposed 4 x 16.8' front porch with roof lacks 30' front setback, 15.8' being proposed, and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 125 North Madison Drive, Block 122, Lot 43 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, April 22, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 March 26, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE**

An appeal has been filed by Michael Molinaro requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit construction of new porch with roof, and left and right side additions. Proposed porch and additions all lack required setback. 1. Proposed new porch with roof lacks 30' front setbacks, 25' proposed; 2. Proposed left side addition lacks 30' front setbacks, 28' proposed; and 3. Proposed right side addition lacks 30' front setbacks, 28' proposed, and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 193 W. Elmwood Drive, Block 232, Lot 6 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, April 22, 2004 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 March 26, 2004

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE  
TO: TONSAR, INC.  
FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED AT  
SPICER AVENUE

LOT NO.: 6.03, 6.04 & 6.05 BLOCK NO.: 368

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Mayor and Council for the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by Tonsar, Inc. for public improvements at Spicer Avenue, known as Lot No.: 6.03, 6.04 and 6.05, Block No.: 368 listed on the official maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on Monday, April 5, 2004 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Applicant's Name: Tonsar, Inc.  
Vastola, Fackelman, & Sullivan  
Date: March 19, 2004

\$35.00 March 26, 2004



## All Star Pro Wrestling to be Held at Manville VFW

The local population here in Central New Jersey has responded with great enthusiasm for their NWS pro wrestling and on Saturday night, March 27. They will be at Manville VFW's Post 2290.

With the first area appearance of former WWF legend the Iron Sheik

as he leads his troops, collectively known as the Baghdad Bullies and JC Rage, it's no wonder that the terror alert in Manville just hit red.

Camp IWP's head instigator, Kevin Knight, along with former NWS regional heavyweight champion Biggie Biggs team up to wreak havoc on their unfortunate opponents, the popular duo of Gavin Quest and Fast Eddie Thomas.

For tickets, call (908) 722-3717 or visit the following locations for tickets: Midtown Deli, 111 South Main St. and Krauszer's, South Main St. and Rt. 623, both in Manville and Body Shop Total Fitness, 390 Rt. 206 in Hillsborough.

To charge tickets, call (732) 888-1704.



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**Saturday, March 27**  
**9:00 am-2:00 pm**

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## Open Your Heart Foundation Donates \$100,000

Century 21 Moretti Realty announced that the office's Open Your Heart Non-Profit Organization has donated \$100,000 to The Institute for

Children With Cancer, Child Oncology Department, in New Brunswick. "Century 21 Moretti Realty and The Open Your Heart Foundation are proud of its affiliation with the Institute and takes great pride in helping the children," said Guy Moretti, Broker/Owner, Century 21 Moretti Realty.

The Century 21 Moretti Realty has been affiliated with The Open Your Heart Foundation since 1999 and has raised more than \$200,000 for the Institute to help children with cancer and blood disorders. The Institute for Children is a non-profit, community-based, health agency dedicated to helping children with cancer and blood disorders.

Century 21 Moretti Realty offers full-service real estate capabilities, specializing in residential, commercial and

new home property sales in Middlesex, Union and Somerset counties in the surrounding area. Century 21 Moretti Realty has been the recipient of some of the highest sales and Customer Service honors throughout the Century 21 system.

Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is the franchiser of the world's largest residential real estate sales organization, providing comprehensive training, management, administrative and marketing support for the CENTURY 21 System. The System is comprised of more than 6,600 independently owned and operated franchised broker offices in more than 40 countries and territories worldwide. Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE:OD). See [www.moretti-realty.com](http://www.moretti-realty.com) for further info.

### ALERT



SPECIAL MEETING

The South Plainfield Board of Education will meet in the gymnasium at the Roosevelt Administration Building on 125 Jackson Ave. for a Special Business Meeting on Monday, March 29 at 8 p.m. to hold a Formal Budget Hearing on the 2004/2005 Budget; Adoption of the Final Budget and to proceed to go out for bid for the Traffic Study Project. Formal action will be taken.

## Dads Enjoy an Evening with Daughters



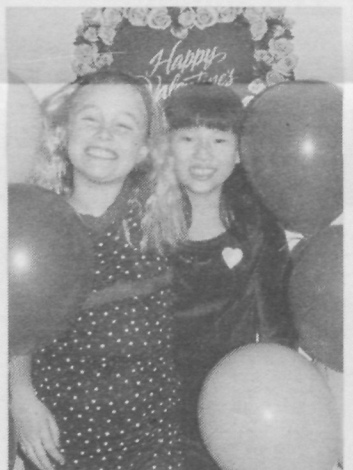
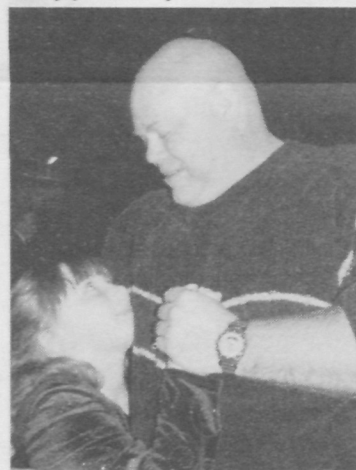
Young ladies recently stepped out to trip the light fantastic with their best beau, their dads, their uncles or favorite male chaperones at the annual Riley Father/Daughter Dance.

Attire for the dance varied. Some of the dads wore suits, complete with boutonniere, while others opted for more comfortable clothes. Most of the youngsters were dressed to the nines, looking older than their elementary school ages. They wore fancy hair do's, manicures and makeup to compliment their fancy dresses.

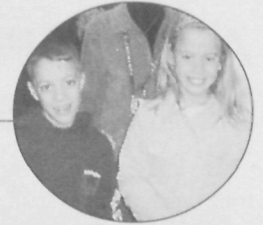
After arriving, fathers took a ring side seat as the children danced around the gym. Corsages, too big for little wrists, quickly ended up in daddy's care. The DJ kept the crowd hopping with songs like the Macarena, Twist and Cha Cha slide. Slow numbers brought daddy's little girl to his side for a formal dance.

The gym was transformed into a ballroom for the dance. Balloon festooned tables held snacks and offered dad's a place to sit. Everyone received a Polaroid photo of the special night. Over 100 attended the annual event sponsored by the PTA.

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott



## Junior Journalist Corner



### Brother and Sister are "Junior Journalists"

Roosevelt School third graders, Robert and Nicole Benwell, who are



Robert and Nicole Benwell with teachers Mary Beth Bochen, Principal Jacqueline Keogh and Lauren Lopez.

twin siblings, are this week's winners in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Their poem, "Twins," has won them dinner for their family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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.

By Robert and Nicole Benwell

### Twins

Being twins is lots of fun  
It is better to have two than one

Someone to play with when no one is around  
To make you happy and not frown

Being apart can feel a little strange  
Something in our hearts suffers the pain

Laughing and giggling when nothing is said  
Reading each other's thoughts in our heads

We're not just sister and brother  
We're twins!

## ASSE Area Representatives Needed

There are now over 98 million Americans who lend their time and talent to nonprofit organizations? Catch the spirit by joining ASSE international student exchange programs as an area representative.

We are a high school student exchange organization looking for people to help promote and assist in administering our well-respected program. By finding and interviewing

families interested in hosting and acting as a counselor for the international teenagers, you will meet some of the most interesting, wonderful people in your life! ASSE will provide training and reimbursement for your expenses.

If you are energetic, positive and love interacting with people of all ages, call ASSE international at (800) 677-2773. Visit [www.asse.com](http://www.asse.com) for more opportunities through ASSE!

### Latin American Programs for Students

The Interamerican University Studies Institute will offer two programs in Latin America this summer for high school students. Costa Rica Pura Vida! focuses on biology and includes Spanish immersion as well. Artes en Mexico provides an opportunity to work with professional Mexican arts teachers. Individual homestays, excursions and small group instruction are features of both. The programs are open to students between the ages of 15 and 17 who will have completed two years of high school Spanish by June. For more information, call IUSI at (800) 345-4874 or visit their website at [www.iusi.org](http://www.iusi.org).

# Dining Out!

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Why Cook? Enjoy one of these South Plainfield restaurants everyday.  
For more information, call 908-668-0010.