

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 11

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 12, 2004

## BOE to Ask State To Review Books

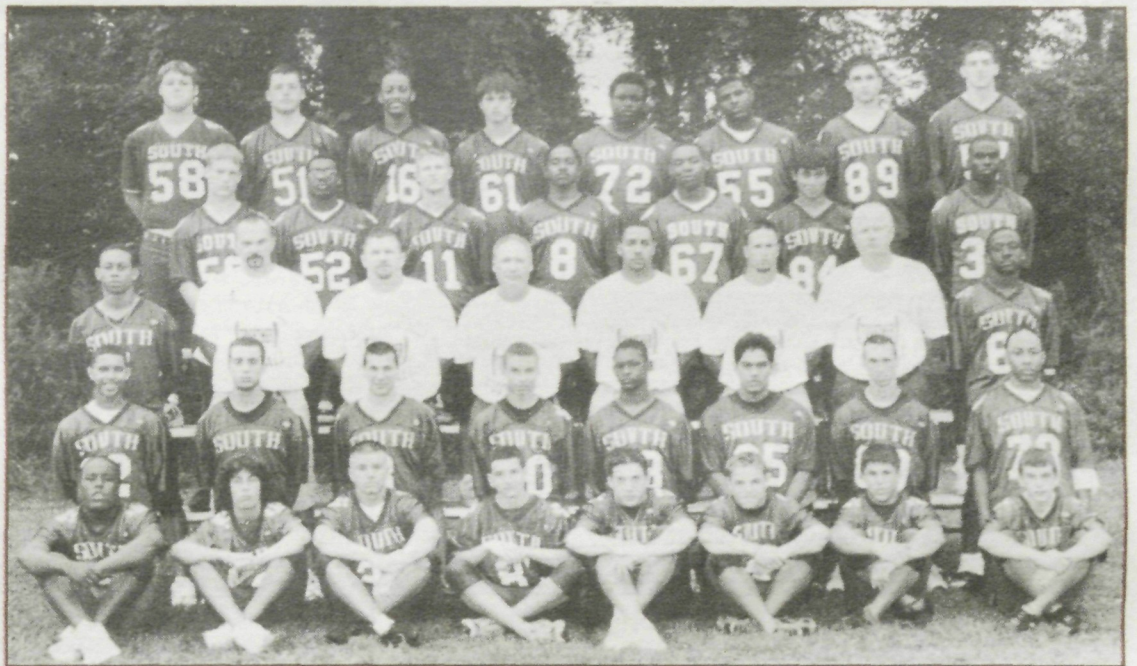
School Board President Pio Pennisi announced Tuesday evening that the board has instructed Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado to draft a letter to the State of New Jersey asking that they assign someone to review the districts' accounting practices during the last seven to eight years, and possibly up to 10 years.

The board also approved more than 600 line item transfers from various accounts in November. Interim Administrator Robert Davis explained that he was asked to look over the budget to see if there were accounts that were either over or under funded and make adjustments to

bring this year's budget into line with where it should be with regards to expenditures.

Pennisi further explained that even though the Board thinks it is getting a handle on everything that has happened fiscally, they decided to ask that a third party give their opinion to confirm their conclusions. By asking the state to come in and look at their finances during the past seven to 10 years, the board will get just that—an independent review. The state will provide an independent report, but not guarantee that the report will shed positive light on the board's fiscal practices. The state

(Continued on page 10)



## SPHS Football Team in Division Playoffs

The 2004 South Plainfield Varsity Football Team will face Emerson High School in the Division playoffs this Friday at 7 p.m. A bus will be available to transport students to Roosevelt Stadium in Union City for a \$5 charge. Bus will depart SPHS at 4:45 p.m. Reservations are mandatory. Sign up at the high school athletic department.

Team members are: seniors Chris Bojarski, Henderson Catlyn, Nick Curcio, Pete DeAndrea, Karim Drayton, Daryl Jackson, Ryan Kenny (captain), Johnny Martin (captain), Andrew Miller (captain), Billy Moates and Gary Smith; juniors Eric Alburg, Jamar Beverley, Alex Brown, Terrence Brown, Kevin Crilley, Jarrel Godette, Quaheem Jones, Charlie Leon, Ed McCray, Kelston Sabroache and Steve Tangora

and sophomores Anthony Cassano, Jeff Cianfrocca, Tom Deschaine, Nick Dorey, Bryant Draper, Mike Jakubik, Preston Johnson, C.J. Loiacono, Alan Maglaque, Opie Muse, Travis Noll, Julian Pantaleon and Thomas Pryor. Head Coach is Philip McGuane and Assistant Coaches are Bill Hamilton, Brian Bilal, Rich Fonti, Joe Cirigliano, Tom Rizk and Gene Bataille. For those who would like to find their own transportation, the directions

to Roosevelt Stadium, 318 18<sup>th</sup> St., Union City—Garden State Parkway to Exit 153; Rte. 3 East or NJ Turnpike to Exit 16E to Rte. 3 East. Follow the Lincoln Tunnel signs up ramp to Kennedy Blvd. (Toys 'R' Us on right). Turn right at the traffic light—Kennedy Blvd. South. Go approximately 1/4 mile south to 24<sup>th</sup> St. Turn left onto 24<sup>th</sup> St. At light make immediate left onto Kerrigan Ave. Roosevelt Stadium is on your right.



Presenting the Cappie Award to Charlie Decker, Sr. (center) are Bill DeNitzio, Chris Colucci, Bill Ashnault, Tulio Capparelli and Tom McCreesh. See story on page 6.

## Borough Roots Revisited at Town History

by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Historical Society's second annual Town History Day will surely go down in history as an unqualified success of major proportions. Over 200 people visited the event held at the Senior Citizens Center.

The hallway was lined with exquisite samples of antique clothing from 1850s to the 1940s. The display included shoes, hats, gloves and even swim suits.

Young and old enjoyed browsing through the many albums containing decades old photos and newspaper clippings. There were photograph reference binders, oral histories, WWII clippings, newspaper archives, histories of South Plainfield and publications from the South Plainfield High School archives.

The Sons of Union Veterans, Custer Camp #17 offered a roomful of Civil War memorabilia.

The main room was divided into two sections. Easels held large boards containing both photo copies and original photos and news

(Continued on page 6)



SPHS Assistant Vice Principal Steve Novak (left), Christina DiFrancesco and SPHS Director of Guidance William Beegle.

## DiFrancesco Named Commended Student

South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. Kenneth May announced that Christina DiFrancesco has been named a Commended Student in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation from SPHS and the National Merit Scholarship Corp. (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented by Assistant Vice Principal Steve Novak and William Beegle, director of Guidance, to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2005

competition for Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2005 competition by taking the 2003 preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.

Novak commended Christina by stating, "Christina truly understands the value of a good education which South Plainfield High School offers. She has been able to excel with her academics and corresponding three 'As'—arts, activities and athletics. Dr. May and I, and the entire staff, are very proud of Christina's accomplishments."



Anthony and Margret Mondoro study historical data at Town History Day.



**Copy deadline for Nov. 19 issue is Monday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m.**

## Mark Your Calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest meeting agenda

### council meetings

Hall Council Chambers

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.

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

**SPECIAL MEETING:** The Borough Council will hold a special meeting for the promotion of police officers on Monday, November 22, 7 p.m. in Borough

Agenda Meeting Public Meeting

Monday, December 6 ..... 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.

### 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

December 7

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

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

Nov. 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.—Dec. 14,

Jan. 11, 2005, Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—Nov. 16, Dec. 21,

Jan. 18 2005, Feb. 15, March 15 and April 12

### 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.

November 16 and December 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

December 7

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

December 8 and January 12, 2005

### 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 (No Meeting in August)

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave. November 15, December 13, January 31, 2005, (No meeting February) and March 21

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. 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: spobserver@comcast.net 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.

To The Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported me for reelection as councilman. As I promised and demonstrated over the last three years, I will continue to work hard to keep municipal taxes under control and preserve open space. I will also be sure to continue to improve the infrastructure of our town.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to continuing to make South Plainfield the best community in New Jersey.

SINCERELY,  
CHARLIE BUTRICO

To the Editor,

Last week voters made their choice for South Plainfield Borough Council. While our bid for office fell short, each of us feels good about the race we ran—an issue-oriented and ethical campaign. Despite what you hear about negative campaigning, personal attacks and the like, running for public office is a worthy endeavor and we enjoyed every minute of it.

We owe our gratitude to many. First, to the over 3,600 voters who made us your choice, we thank you for your support. For each of the past three years, Republicans have received an increasing share of the vote and that kind of support shows that people are starting to hear our message. Hopefully we've raised some important issues that will help push our town back in the right direction.

We also want to thank our countless volunteers. The number of people who stuffed envelopes, made phone calls, put up lawn signs and attended fundraisers awed us. It's difficult to compete with the other side's financial resources and the power of incumbency. But we'd take the enthusiasm of our volunteers over those resources any day. Our volunteers were simply incredible.

Finally, to our opponents, we wish you the best of luck. We know you have the good judgment and intelligence to do what's best for our town. Be independent, trust your own judgment and you'll do well.

The election is over, but the work is just starting. We promise to continue to work to better our town and to watch over the governing body. The council will have our complete support when they do what's right, but we will staunchly oppose them when we think they are going in the wrong direction. We hope that by serving as watchdogs we can challenge the mayor and council to better serve us all.

Again, thank you to the people of

# IN YOUR OPINION

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. 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.

South Plainfield for a truly amazing experience.

BOB JONES, RAY RUSNAK AND  
MARGE REEDY

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the voters of South Plainfield for electing me and my running mates, Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico, to the Borough Council on Election Day.

During the campaign, as we walked door-to-door, I was touched by the encouragement and support I received from residents. People whom I had never met before took the time to talk, some offering suggestions and others just saying thanks for the job we do. I want to thank these residents for taking time from their busy schedules and please remember that we are always available to listen to your concerns.

I would also like to thank my friends and most importantly my family for their unwavering support, friendship and love. I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve the residents of this great town and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead.

KATHY THOMAS

To the Editor,

Dear South Plainfield residents, I am sincerely grateful for your vote and support, enabling me to continue to serve the residents of South Plainfield for a fourth term. I'm looking forward to several projects in the works, which will ultimately have a positive impact on our environment, infrastructure and quality of life for all of South Plainfield. I want to thank the residents for supporting my running mates as well, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas. Together will be able to implement plans that will greatly benefit the Borough of South Plainfield.

Your voice will always be heard; your concerns will always be addressed.

THANK YOU,  
DENNIS J. CERAMI, COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT

To the Editor,

On a recent night I found that my cat was missing. After calling his name repeatedly and searching my entire house, my son and I went on a late night search of our neighborhood. Shiloh had never been outside, except in his carrier to go to the vet, since the day we found him when he was six-weeks-old. During our desperate search of the neighborhood we did not find Shiloh, but we did find four other cats—one beautiful calico who ran away from us and three older kittens huddled together in someone's bushes. Our exhaustive search ended fruitlessly and, in our frustration, we sadly didn't worry enough about the cats we did find. Fortunately for us, we found Shiloh sound asleep in the lower cabinet of our entertainment center a few hours later.

A few days after our search, I saw a policeman stop in the middle of my street. After looking closely, I realized he was moving a dead cat from the middle of my road. Apparently it was the beautiful calico who I had encountered on my search a few nights earlier and she has been hit and killed by an unknown driver.

My point in writing this letter is to ask anyone who will listen—PLEASE keep your cats indoors. They are domestic pets who face many dangers when allowed to run freely. With winter just a short time away I can't imagine anyone who reads this would enjoy being left outside, even with a "fur coat" on. Also, please be responsible and have all pets spayed and neutered. If this could spare just a few stray kittens from huddling in bushes this winter, I'd feel as though I'd made a difference.

THANK YOU,  
ROSEMARY PETRIELLO



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## OEM to Conduct Emergency Test; 800 Volunteers Needed

The South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will be conducting mock exercises on Dec. 2 and Dec. 5. These exercises are meant to test South Plainfield's emergency plans regarding their response to a bio-hazard event. Additionally, plans will be tested concerning the opening of a pharmaceutical distribution site in South Plainfield.

According to Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Zushma, in order to make these exercises a success,

## Make 'n Take Craft Program

The South Plainfield Free Public Library will host another "Make 'n Take" craft program on Monday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski will instruct participants in how to make "Kaleidoscope Cane Pens". Students will create a kaleidoscope "cane" using polymer clay and use slices of the cane to cover a standard ballpoint pen.

Participants should bring a straight-sided, label-free glass jar to use in rolling out the clay. The Library will provide all other materials. Registration is required by Tuesday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>; there is a \$2 materials fee payable upon registration.

The library is located in the Municipal Complex. For information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit their website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

more than 800 volunteers will be needed from the community.

The exercise will include two phases. Phase one will take place on Monday, Dec. 2 at Borough Hall starting at 6 p.m. This phase will test the town's plan regarding a response to a bio-hazard event. South Plainfield departments and agencies that will be participating include emergency management, the police and fire departments, the rescue squad and CERT managers. Participating from Middlesex County are the hazmat team, health department, prosecutors office and office of emergency management, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other necessary agencies.

Phase two of the exercise takes place on Sunday, Dec. 5. This exercise requires setting up of a pharmaceutical distribution site. In this exercise, the health department work force include public health professionals, registered nurses, physicians, clinical health professionals and health administrators. Also in attendance will be the NJ State Dept. of Health.

To simulate a crowded room and a large pharmaceutical distribution, many volunteers will be needed. Anyone interested in volunteering in this exercise is asked to call the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management at (908) 753-3775. Leave your name, address and telephone number. All volunteers will be contacted and invited to attend an upcoming meeting explaining their roll during the exercise. Please come out and volunteer.

## Trick or Treat Doctors Collect 80 Pounds of Candy

Drs. Peter A. Wishnie, Robert P. Thiele and Amit K. Shah of Family Foot and Ankle Specialists of Piscataway, along with staff, held their annual Candy Buy Back on Monday, Nov. 1. Over 80 pounds of candy was collected from local trick or treaters.

They came in droves, dragging their pillowcases, back packs, plastic pumpkins and bags filled with treats. Each one received a \$1 for every pound of candy. Many children were delighted to trade in their candy for cash. A few trick or treaters brought over 10 pounds of candy each.

"There are many drawbacks to eat-

ing candy. I was thrilled to see how many kids were willing to trade their candy for cash. Not only is this healthier for them, but it teaches them responsibility, and a way to achieve their goals by saving their own money," said Dr. Peter Wishnie.

The 80 pounds of candy collected that evening was donated to a church that makes clothing for needy children. The treats will be distributed with each piece of clothing donated to the less fortunate children.

The staff of Family Foot and Ankle Specialists started the Candy Buy Back program in 2001.



On Friday, Oct. 29 Troop 493 from Franklin School bridged to Junior Girl Scouts. Pictured from left to right beginning in the back row are Shannon McMahon, Catherine Emery, Michelle Lesniak, Zoya Hodge, Victoria Maino, Gabrielle Smith, Jenna Clemente, Kelly Outerial and Tara Dunn.

## Celebrate America Recycles Day!

Mayor Gallagher has proclaimed Nov. 15 as South Plainfield Recycles Day in conjunction with America Recycles Day.

In honor of this event, Wolf Cub Scouts of Den 5, Riley School will sponsor a Thank You for Recycling day on Saturday, Nov. 13, at the South Plainfield PAL. From 2 to 5 p.m., the Scouts will be on hand with refreshments, recycling information, and gifts. There will be a games table and a craft table for children to make recycled-product crafts. Middlesex County's M.C. Blue will visit. M.C. Blue is the nation's first fully recyclable recycling robot. He explains the importance of recycling through songs and audience participation. Sparky from the Somerset Patriots will also be on hand as well. Cub Scouts who are organizing this event are: John Michael O'Sullivan, Anthony Santone, Christopher and James Markey, Zachary Henderson, Jason Lowery, Frank Ferraro, Daniel Pechecco, Brandon Rickert and Italo Cordosa.

### What is America Recycles Day?

America Recycles Day started in 1997 as an offshoot of Texas Recycles Day. There were 750,000 participants in 37 states. National corporate sponsors such as Home Depot and Ford have helped spread the event, and last year there were 3.3 million participants in all 50 states. The heart of the event is each citizen's pledge to commit to making recycling work - by both source-separating recyclable waste, and by buying products made with re-

cycled materials ("closing the loop") - everyday. Participation is measured by how many pledge cards are received.

### Why celebrate America Recycles Day?

Once upon a time, most people in America were farmers. They didn't have a lot of money, and most of them ate what they grew and wore clothes they made themselves. Milk came from the family cow, not from the supermarket. There was no plastic jug to throw out when the milk bucket was empty. "Canning" tomatoes meant packing them in glass jars. When the

family ate those tomatoes, the glass jar was cleaned and saved to use again for next summer's tomatoes. There was no trash hauler to come by twice a week and take the garbage away to a landfill. The milkman delivered milk in glass bottles and took back the empties to be filled again. Flour came in large cloth sacks, not small paper bags and the thrifty housewife cut up the empty sacks for kitchen towels.

Most of us today would have a hard time handling our waste that way.

(Continued on page 6)



Lyons Hold Charter Night—On Nov. 5, members of the South Plainfield Lyons Club celebrated Charter Night at the Water & Wine in Watchung. During the dinner, President Ron DeSclafani presented a past president plaque to Bob Desch.

# Find Your Way.

Follow the ups and downs of the borough in the Observer, an independent newspaper for the residents and businesses of South Plainfield exclusively.

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# Around Town

## Class of 1979 Reunion

November 13

A gala reunion is currently being organized for the South Plainfield High School Class of 1979 for Nov. 13. If you are a member of this class, please write to Reunions Unlimited, Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown, NJ 07726 or call (732) 617-1000.

## VFW Country Western/50's Dance

November 13

The VFW Post 6763, located on Front St., will be holding a Country Western/50s Dance on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 8 p.m. to midnight. There will be a cash bar and light refreshments. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

## Fall Dinner Dance

November 13

Reservations are now available for the Fall Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 6-10 p.m. at the Senior Center. The Al Smith & Assoc. Orchestra will provide the music and a full Thanksgiving style dinner is the menu for the evening's festivities. Cost is \$10 per person.

If you would like to join us, stop in the Senior Center or call (908) 754-1047. You do not need to be a member to attend this event. Come and see all we have to offer at the Center.

## Going to Atlantic City

November 14

South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Atlantic City Resorts Casino on Sunday, Nov. 14. The bus leaves the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per person. Everyone gets \$15 in coins. There are only 55 seats available. Purchase tickets at the PAL building on Maple Ave.

## Lancaster Trip

November 17 & 18

The Senior Center is sponsoring an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pa. on Nov. 17 and 18. The trip includes tickets to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre to see the breathtaking production of "The Miracle of Christmas," accommodations at the Ramada Inn, dinner at the Maple Shade Smorgasbord, buffet breakfast at the hotel and visit to the Farmer's Market and Kitchen Kettle Village. The cost is \$165 per person double and \$205 single. For reservations, please call the Senior Center at (908) 756-4135 or stop in.

## What's happening in NOVEMBER

### EVENTS



Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am  
Yoga 10:30-11:30am  
Drawing Class 11:30am

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Ladies Social Grp 10am  
Woodloch Pines Trip 9am

Exercise Club 8:30am  
Line Dancing 10am  
AARP Crafts 1pm  
Computer Class 10am, 11:30am, 1pm  
Movie 11:30am

Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am  
Practical Crafting 10am  
Computer Class 11&1pm

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Lunch available

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

Daily Events  
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake  
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool  
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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

## Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>November 13</b> <b>Fall Dinner Dance 6 to 10 PM</b>  <b>November 14</b> <b>Cultural Arts Program 2 PM</b>  <b>Nov. 17 &amp; 18—Lancaster Pa. 9 AM</b>			<b>11</b> Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10-11am Computer Class 11 & 1pm Moretti Vender Night 6:30 to 9:30 pm	<b>12</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available
<b>15</b> Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	<b>16</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Grp 10am Woodloch Pines Trip 9am	<b>17</b> Exercise Club 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Movie 11:30am	<b>18</b> Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafting 10am Computer Class 11&1pm	<b>19</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch available

## VFW Polish Night Dinner

November 19

The VFW Post will be holding a 'Polish Night' dinner on Friday, Nov. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. For information call (908) 668-9751.

## Cultural Arts Country Western Line Dancing

November 20

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is sponsoring an evening of Country Western Line Dancing for all ages on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Georgianne Valis, country western instructor from the Colorado Cafe, will lead the evening activities. Come and enjoy a free evening of country western line dancing.

## Longaberger Basket Bingo/Raffle

November 20

The Sacred Heart Home School Association is sponsoring a Longaberger® Basket Bingo/Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 (\$5 for admission and \$15 for Bingo sheets). In addition to the Bingo prizes, Longaberger® baskets will also be raffled. To reserve tickets call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891 or Sacred Heart School at (908) 756-0632.

## Night of Holiday Shopping

November 21

Join us for a Night of Holiday Shopping on Sunday, Nov. 21 at Menlo

Park Mall, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's Women Auxiliary and the Simon Youth Foundation.

Tickets are \$10. The evening includes discounts in all the stores, WPLJ radio station, WABC soap star "Maria" (*All My Children*), yule tide carolers, winery, entertainment, a silent auction and promotional giveaways. For tickets or information, contact Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531 or Nancy Jakubik at (908) 757-5070.

## Rec to See Finding Nemo on Ice

November 26

The South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Meadowlands to see Disney on Ice's Finding Nemo on Friday, Nov. 26.

Join the search for Nemo, the curious Clownfish with a "lucky" fin, as Marlin, his overprotective father and absent-minded, yet lovable Dory search high and low in the big blue.

The bus leaves the PAL at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person. There are only 45 tickets available, so purchase your tickets at the PAL now.

## Fr. Alphonse Stephenson at Sacred Heart

November 28

Father Alphonse Stephenson and his 45 member symphony orchestra, St. Peter by the Sea, will present a Christmas concert at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. This will be Father Stephenson's fifth appearance at Sacred Heart.

The Nov. 28 performance will take place at 3 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church. The concert has proved to be a big hit with many, so purchase your tickets now.

General admission is \$25. Students and seniors will receive a reduced ticket price of \$20. Members of the Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society are selling tickets after all masses. Ticket information is available by calling the Parish Center at (908) 756-0632 ext. 10. Additional concert information can also be obtained by contacting (908) 755-6416 or (732) 549-9633.

## Send Your Around Town Events

to: South Plainfield Observer,  
1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
or fax (908) 668-8819  
email: spobserver@comcast.net

## — Out of Town —

## Open House at Brass Lantern

November 11-12

The Brass Lantern in Metuchen will be holding an open house on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 11 and 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be entertainment, refreshments and door prizes. This is an annual event enjoyed by all.

## "Oliver" At Middlesex County College

November 12, 13 and 14

Middlesex County College Performing Arts Department, located at 2600 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison, will perform "Oliver" on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m.

General Admission is \$10, students, staff and seniors \$7. Open seating. For reservations call (732) 906-2589.

## Circle Players Present Twelfth Night

November 12-20

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night opens at Circle Players, the community theater on Friday, Nov. 12.

Performances Fridays, Nov. 12 and 19; Saturdays, Nov. 13 and 20 at 8 p.m. Sunday matinee Nov. 14 at 3 p.m.

For more information, call (732) 968-7555. Circle Players is located at 416 Victoria Ave. in Piscataway.

## Walk for Diabetes

November 12

Students and faculty members of Watchung Elementary School in Middlesex will walk between one and two miles along school campuses. Register at 1-888-DIABETES.

## Middlesex Wows Dance

November 12

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Nov. 12 at St. Demetrius Community Center in Carteret. Admission is \$8; guests \$9. Live music and refreshments from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

For information call (732) 541-2174.

## Wine Tasting Event for Young Singles

November 13

For Young Professional Singles 25-49, Saturday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m., wine

Tasting Cocktail Party, Morristown Headquarters Plaza Hotel, 3 Headquarters Plaza, Morristown. \$37 in advance includes wine and cheese, \$42 on day of event.

Professional attire required. RSVP required by Nov. 12 at (732) 764-9073 or angelicbutterfly@iwon.com.

## Depression/Bipolar Support Alliance

November 17

The Depression and Bipolar support Alliance meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, located on Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. There will be no meeting on Nov. 30

For information, call (973) 994-1143.

## Women's Club Holds Charity Auction

November 19

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club is planning a charity auction on Friday, Nov. 19 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave., in Metuchen.

Preview starts at 6:30 p.m. Bidding will begin at 7 p.m.

Funds raised will be donated to Amanda's Crossing, serving single parent families in Middlesex County.

Light snacks, home made goodies and beverages will be available at no extra cost. Any question or to make a donation, call Cassie Dutka at (732) 985-7583.

## St. Joe's High School Arts & Crafts Show

November 21, 22

The Father's Club of St. Joseph High School of Metuchen is having their 26th annual Fall Arts & Crafts Show at the school on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Refreshments, parking is \$2, No strollers.

For more information call (732) 549-7600 ext. 241.

## Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar

November 20 & 21

Sons of Norway Noreg Lodge of Marlboro is sponsoring their 24th Annual Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar. This event will be held at the Old Bridge Community Center, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge on Nov. 20 and 21. The bazaar will be open to the public between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Noreg Lodge is a non-profit fraternal organization and offers its members classes in rosemaling, sewing, embroidery, knitting, carving, music, folk dancing plus language classes. These classes are also offered to the public. Anyone interested in joining a class or for membership, please call the lodge at (732) 946-0450.

## CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

November 22

Adoptions Support CHATS will meet on Monday, Nov. 22 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at Watchung Avenue Church in Watchung. "Everything That's Wonderful About Adoption" will be the topic of the sharing meeting on happy adoption experiences of adopted adults, adoptive parents and birth parents. For information call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

## SPHS Class of 1989 Reunion

November 27

If you have not yet RSVP'ed it's not too late! The South Plainfield High School Class of 1989 will hold its 15 year reunion on Saturday, Nov. 27 from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Edison Sheraton Raritan Center. Cost is \$90 per person (no refunds). There are over 100 people already coming to eat, enjoy the open bar, win door prizes and most importantly, reconnect with old friends.

Email [sphsclassof89@yahoo.com](mailto:sphsclassof89@yahoo.com) to respond and make payment arrangements today. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact us if you know the whereabouts of the following alumni: Peter Avalos, Kevin Blackburn, Richard Campanelli, Michael Dunbar, Veronica Garza, Mildred Gateau, Anthony Guarraci, Adrienne Hollis, Kim Hendriksen, James Hunter, Garey Joaquim, Stephen Knoff, Matthew Lofaro, Chris Llewellyn, Julian Lynch, Aftab Mahmood, Carol Mangum, Paul Mazer, Chung Pham, Christopher Piro, Jan Quiwa, Josette Santos, Sandy Seredocha, Michael Shane, Leung Man Shiu, Lisa Ann Siegel, James Stockman, Jodie Stroupe, James Shomo, Steven Sylvester, Kazembe Taylor or Elliot Zinn.



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### SPFD Makes McCue Wedding Day Extra Special

By Patricia Abbott

Every bride dreams of a picture perfect wedding that has that little 'something extra' people will talk about for years to come. South Plainfield resident Beth Pizzolato found that 'something' in an extra special surprise for her husband-to-be Michael McCue.

Michael, a lieutenant, has been with the Plainfield Fire Department for 25 years. Beth said, "Michael has a true passion for firefighting and is probably the most devoted firefighter I

know, so when we got engaged I wanted to do something special and different for him."

She knew that the "something special" had to be related to his career as a fireman. "I thought about it for a long time and decided what could be better than arriving at the church on a fire engine! I knew that he would love it and remember it for the rest of his life," Beth explained.

Her biggest obstacle was how to make the arrangements. She contacted two of Michael's co-workers who are

also volunteer firefighters in South Plainfield, Jeff Courtney and Tom Scalera. Beth was thrilled when they told her they could arrange for her surprise. "The hardest thing was keeping this a secret from Michael. Thanks to Jeff and Tom, I was able to have this dream come true!" she said.

On Oct. 16, just as the wedding party was ready to leave for the church, a South Plainfield fire truck pulled up in front of Beth's home and drove her to her wedding at Holy Cross Church in North Plainfield. A friend was in charge of ensuring that Michael was in place behind the church for the arrival. A block before the church, the firemen began to sound the trucks sirens. Michael said, "The moment I heard the sirens I knew it had to be Beth!"

Michael was surprised and happy with her rather unorthodox arrival. Beth said, "The fire truck was great! My guests got a real kick out of it. They thought it was a wonderful tribute to Michael. I think that it was something only a firefighter could appreciate and he did!"

The reception was held at Madeline's in Bound Brook. Attendants for the newlyweds were sister of the bride, Stephanie Mann, Matron of Honor. Best man was Michael's friend Jeff Rodgers.

Bridesmaids were Beth's sister Cristine Evans and niece Alexandra Evans of Las Vegas, Nevada. Groomsman were Gerry Conway of South Plainfield and Beth's nephew Andrew Pizzolato of Fanwood. Flower girl was Megan Mann and ring bearer was Sera Mann, both of South Plainfield.

"I would like to thank the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for making this dream come true for me. I truly appreciated it," Beth added.

The couple were introduced two years ago by a mutual friend. Beth said "I knew on our first date that we were going to get married. I fell in love with him right away." Beth and Michael will reside in South Plainfield.

Michael's sister Mary Anne McCue stated, "They are truly a fairytale couple. I couldn't ask for a better brother and my new sister-in-law is the best thing that has happened to him!"

### Christie Schueler Receives Fulbright Grant

Christie M. Schueler of Williams College has been awarded a Fulbright grant to China to study the practice of psychology by the U.S. States Dept. of States and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Schueler is the daughter of Paul and Doris Schueler of South Plainfield. She graduated from Rutgers Prep first in her class in 2000, attended William College in Williamstown, Mass., where she graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2004.

Schueler is one of approximately 2,000 U.S. grantees who will travel abroad for the 2004-2005 academic year through the Fulbright Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the rest of the world.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. Among the thousands of prominent Fulbright alumni are: Craig Barrett, chief executive officer of Intel Corp.; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former secretary general of the United Nations; Dame Ivy Dumont, governor-general of the Bahamas; Renee Fleming, opera singer; Dolores Kendrick, poet laureate of the District of Columbia; Daniel



Christie M. Schueler

Libeskind; architect; Daniel Patrick Moynihan, former US senator; Robert Shaye, founder and chairman of New Line Cinema; Javier Solana, foreign policy chief of European Union; Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel laureate in economics and Muhammed Yunus, managing director and found of the Grameen Bank.

Fulbright grantees are among over 30,000 individuals participating in U.S. Dept. of State exchange programs each year. For more than 40 years, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has supported programs that seek to promote mutual understanding and respect between the people of the US and the people of other countries.



Photos courtesy of Mary Anne McCue

Beth Pizzolato (above) boards a firetruck for a ride to the church to meet her groom, Plainfield firefighter Michael McCue, on her wedding day. Below, the couple are pictured with their wedding party after the ceremony.



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# Junior Journalist Corner

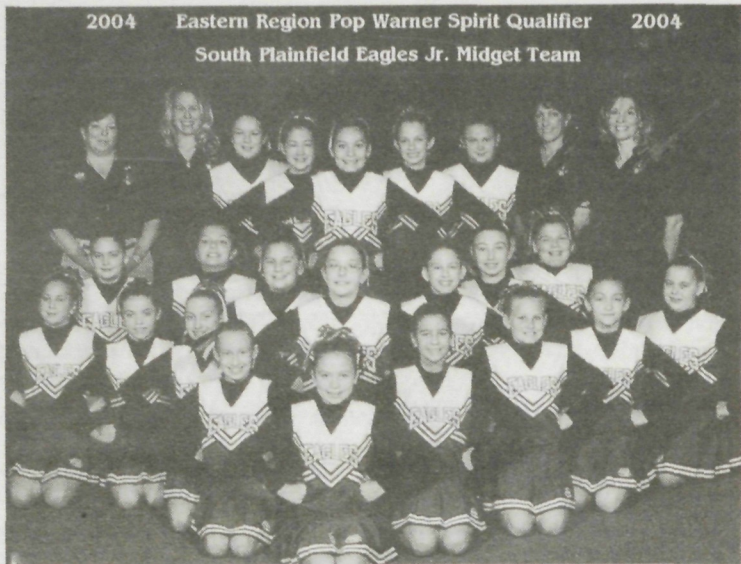


## Jr. Midget Cheerleaders Trying to Get to Orlando

The Pop Warner Jr. Midget Cheerleaders took second place in the Central Eastern Region Qualifiers at Sovereign Bank Arena on Oct. 31 and will be advancing to the Eastern Region Championship on Nov. 21 at Sovereign Bank Arena. If they place at that competition they will be heading to the Pop Warner National Finals in Orlando Florida, which take place Dec. 8-11. This would be the first ever Pop Warner team from South Plainfield to advance this far!

The cheerleaders have begun a massive fundraising effort to help finance their trip to Orlando, which will cost \$700 per girl. There are 21 Jr. Midget Cheerleaders, bringing the total cost to \$14,700 to get them to Orlando. They held a bake sale last Saturday and will be canning at local businesses on Saturday, Nov. 13.

In addition, they are launching a "Sponsor a Cheerleader" campaign. They are asking friends, family, local businesses and patrons to make "Promise Pledges" in any denomination. They have already begun collecting Promise Pledges, but they will not



collect any money until after and if they advance on Nov. 21. Should they advance, all donations will be collected Nov. 22-24. Checks should be made payable to: S.P.E.E. (South Plainfield Football Eagles) and can be mailed to: SPFE, c/o Cathy Scarpitto, Cheer Commissioner, 562 Arlington Ave.,

South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

If you are interested in making a Promise Pledge or have any questions, contact Cathy Scarpitto, Cheerleading Commissioner, (908) 757-0686, or (732) 236-2472.

Let's help put South Plainfield on the map!



Left to right are History Teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough, Junior Journalist Sheryl Lipuma, Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage and Language Arts Teacher Ellyn Schwartz.

## Sheryl Lipuma Named "Junior Journalist"

Middle School eighth grader Sheryl Lipuma is this week's winner in the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Her poem, "That One Shiny Pearl," has won her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays.

Winners and their parents receive a

catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to a banquet in June of 2005.

You can submit your entries to your teacher, school principal, Hometown Heros located on Hamilton Blvd. or the Observer office.

For more information, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

## That One Shiny Pearl

By Sheryl Lipuma

I dream of a perfect world,  
where the sun constantly shines like a new pearl.  
I wonder why I made the choices that I did,  
and why I tried not being a kid.  
I tried to grow up way too fast,  
my childhood gone, all in the past.  
Now I know what my future must be,  
to help those that are in need.  
He put in my hand a small, little pearl,  
and said "here's your future, your roll in the world."  
This is what God picked me to do,  
and not to be greedy or mean, but true.  
I sit and wonder why God chose me,  
to help everyone how can that be?  
And I feel like God chose me to help lead the world,  
So I guess it all starts with that one shiny pearl.

## Night of Holiday Shopping at Menlo Park Mall

Join us for a Night of Holiday Shopping on Sunday, Nov. 21 at Menlo Park Mall from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Woman's Auxiliary and the Simon Youth Foundation. Tickets are \$10. The evening includes discounts in all the stores. WPLJ radio

station and WABC soap star "Maria" (*All My Children*), yule tide carolers, winery, entertainment, a silent auction and promotional giveaways will all be part of the evening.

For tickets, call Stacy at (908) 757-9531 or Nancy at (908) 757-5070.

## Celebrate America Recycles Day!

(Continued from page 3)

Hardly any of us are farmers anymore. We buy our food in the supermarket, and nearly all the food we buy comes in some kind of packaging. All the packaging is disposable. If we buy a new sofa, we put the old one out at the curb, and the public works comes and takes it to the landfill.

So, what's the problem? We live in an affluent society. Why shouldn't we take advantage of the convenience of disposable packaging and single-serve juice boxes? Why shouldn't we enjoy the luxury of discarding an old TV, even though it still works, for an improved cable-ready model with picture-in-picture and on-screen programming?

Because . . . The waste has to go somewhere. Most people do not want to live next to a landfill or an incinerator. But, on average, each one of us is now producing about 4.5 pounds of waste every day. That's over three tons a year for a family of four. If we keep making garbage, we need to find places to put new landfills and incinerators.

Because . . . A lot of our waste can pollute the air or groundwater when it gets into the environment. Burning plastics in an incinerator releases carcinogenic dioxins into the atmosphere. The lead in TVs and monitors can leach out of a landfill into the groundwater.

Because . . . The goods we throw out are made from raw materials from the Earth. Glass is made from silica (sand); aluminum is made from bauxite; steel is made from iron ore. These are all dug out of the ground, and in

the process, a lot of energy is used and a lot of pollution is created. Trees that are cut down to produce paper could have been making oxygen for us to breathe and taking carbon dioxide out of the air. Glass bottles melt at a lower temperature than silica, so making new glass from old bottles uses less energy. Making soda cans from used aluminum cans takes 95% less energy than making aluminum cans from bauxite ore.

Because . . . Recycling instead of disposing saves landfill space, reduces pollution, and saves raw materials

and energy.

We celebrate America Recycles Day because all across the country, people have been waking up to the wastefulness of our "throw-away" society. In 1990, only 15% of the population had curbside recycling. This year, 48% has access to curbside recycling.

To save America's resources, to clean the air and the water, to save energy and landfill space, let's practice the three R's: Reduce waste, Reuse products instead of throwing them away, and Recycle the throw-aways.

Love America? Recycle!

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

If you don't have your Thanksgiving dinner planned yet, the library has rows of cookbooks for you to choose recipes for the whole dinner, from appetizer to dessert. If you look on the library's web site, [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us) and click on websites of the month, you will find links to online recipes and other helpful Thanksgiving sites.

On Friday, Nov. 19 there will be a Kids craft for youngsters aged six and older. Please register for this craft program. Children's story times and crafts will be held as usual on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., Thursday after-

noons at 1:15 p.m. and Books and Babies on Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Do you know where your children are after school? If they are at the library, they should be doing homework or other library related activities. This library is too small for groups of young people to congregate and fool around. The library is also not a babysitting or after school latch key service. The library staff is not responsible for keeping an eye on children and young people in the library. Please do not expect your children to stay in the library for three or four hours every day after school. When young people become loud and disruptive, they are asked to leave the library. We want everyone to be able to use the library whenever it is open. We do not want adults to feel like they must vacate the building at 2:30 p.m. every day when school lets out. We would like everyone to use appropriate behavior in the library and be considerate of other people using the library at the same time. Also be aware that the library closes at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Fridays. Please make sure your children have a way to go home when the library closes. Otherwise they will be taken to the Police department to wait for a parent to pick them up.

One of the library's employees, Judi Jones, will be retiring on Nov. 26 after 21 years working at the South Plainfield Public Library. She is irreplaceable. We will all miss her. Please feel free to stop by and wish Judi well on her retirement.

A reminder from the circulation staff of the library: Please REWIND videos before you return them to the library. Please also return the circuit check-out cards with the circuit videos and DVDs.



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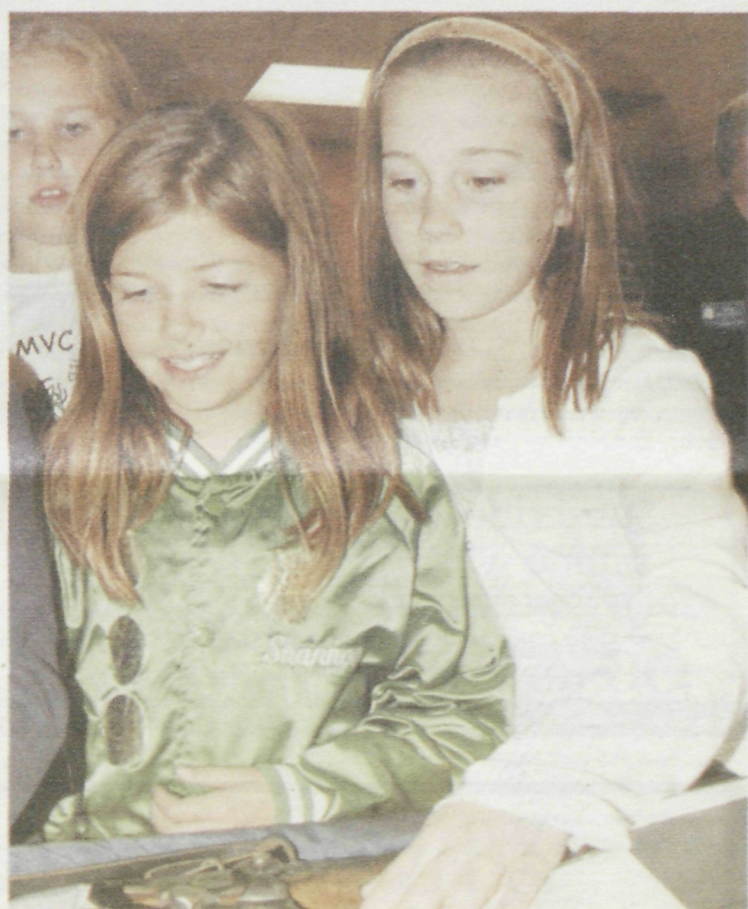
## Borough Roots Revisited at Town History Day



(Continued from page 1)

articles. The front half of the room held seating for the lectures and slide shows. During the course of the afternoon Richard Veit spoke about the history of South Plainfield. Larry Randolph, town historian, talked about the Grist Mill at New Brooklyn and Frank McGonigle of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War spoke about recruitment practices and the New Brooklyn Five who gave their lives in defense of the Union.

Outside the front entrance of the senior center was an exhibition of vintage cars. Inside, Historical Society members manned an information center and greeted visitors. Also on hand were the Friends of the Woods, Elks Lodge #2298, VFW Memorial Post 6763, the Suburban Woman's Club and the South Plainfield Police Department.



The afternoon began with a welcome by Marjorie Reedy, a life member of the South Plainfield Historical Society. Mayor Daniel Gallagher was on hand to welcome residents as well. Entertainment included the Hungarian American Athletic Club Folk Dance Group, the South Plainfield High School Jades and the South Plainfield High School Singers. Soloists were Natalia Tamzoke and Peter Assad.

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# Sports

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Our last early registration is on Friday, Dec. 3, 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be the last opportunity to receive an early discount. After these dates registration will go up \$20 per child.

Also, numerous individuals have signed up to manage and coach our kids in the 2005 season. REMINDER TO EVERYONE, you must have your Rutgers certification and must be a member of the club in good standing. Just signing up on a sheet of pa-

per to manage and coach does not guarantee you anything.

We could use your assistance on the maintenance of our complex before the winter sets in. Also we need your attendance at club meetings and help on a committee at the SPJBC. Your time is valuable to the kids of South Plainfield Junior Baseball.

A big thank you goes out to the individuals supporting our efforts in the fall maintenance of the SPJBC Complex. We still need to work on the

complex.

I cannot stress enough that those individuals who volunteer their time now will be given first consideration when selecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season.

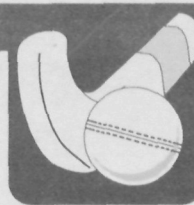
Tickets for the brand new Mercedes are now on sale and are available from Nancy Salici or any Executive Board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets at (908) 754-2090.



SPHS

BY SHARON MILLER

## Field Hockey Corner



### Rankings

The magic of this team never ends as they are ranked No. 1 in Section 2 Group III and No. 7 in the state Group III rankings, which includes all Group 3 teams! (Rankings as of Nov. 3.)

### Weekly Wrap-up

Congratulations once again to the varsity team. They add yet another win to bring their truly impressive record to 17-1-1, defeating Ewing 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the NJSIAA Pros For Kids North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 state tournament.

### Game Schedule

Week of November 7

Congratulations are in order as the team has gained the top seed for the

### Section 2

Group 3 state tournament.

**Wednesday, Nov. 10**—The team faced Hopewell Valley in the semifinal round of the state tournament at home. Results were not known as the *Observer* went to print.

**Saturday, Nov. 13**—The winner of our game will face the winner of the Ridge vs. Notre Dame game at the field of the higher seeded team.

Please come out and support a wonderful team of players. There are only a few games remaining and you won't want to miss seeing this team play.

The best of luck to players and coaches in the States. Go Tigers!

## South Plainfield Soccer Club Weekly Roundup

**U-8 Storm**—Defeated the North Hunterdon Gunners 1-0 last Saturday at North Hunterdon. Next up for the Storm is a home game against the Piscataway Anaconda on Veterans Day at 7 p.m.

**U-9 Thunder**—Lost to the Watchung Hills Eagles 5-0, on last Sunday in a tough game. The Thunder's next game is against the Hillsborough Vortex in Hillsborough on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 3 p.m.

**U-9 Rockets**—Lost to the Cranford Cavaliers 5-2 last Sunday. The Rockets travel to South Brunswick to take on the South Brunswick Earthquake Sunday, Nov. 14 at 2:30 p.m. at Sondek Park.

**U-10 Hotspurs**—Lost a close match to the Cranford Cyclones 3-2, last Sunday. The Hotspurs host the Lin-

den Youth Soccer Flames on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Kenneth Ave. Field 2.

**U-11 Bullets**—Kept their unbeaten streak alive by defeating Franklin Township Warriors 2-0 last Friday at Kenneth Ave. Then the Bullets traveled to Montgomery Township where they defeated the Montgomery Mach IV 3-0. Next week the Bullets play their final two matches of the season. On Friday, Nov. 12 the Bullets host the Millburn Gunners at Kenneth Ave. Field 1 starting at 7 p.m. Then on Sunday, Nov. 14 the Bullets finish their season by traveling to Franklin to compete against the Franklin Warriors at Sampson G. Smith Middle School at 3 p.m.

**U-12 Power (Girls)**—Defeated the previously undefeated West Orange Shooting Stars 3-1 last Sunday at Kenneth Ave. Field 1. The Power host the Somerset Hills Avalanche at home next Sunday, Nov. 14 at 1:30 p.m.

**U-12 Spirit**—Lost to the New Providence Rowdies 2-0 Sunday. Next week the Spirit travel to play the West Windsor-Plainsboro Eclipse.

**U-12 Sonics**—Defeated the Central Jersey Silver Bullet Carusos on the

road 2-0 on Sunday. The Sonics will host the Montclair United Mustangs at Kenneth Ave. Field 1 on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 3:30 p.m.

**U-13 Fire**—Defeated the North Hunterdon Rovers 2-1 in a close match on Sunday at Kenneth Ave. Field 1. The Fire will host the South Brunswick Comets next Sunday, Nov. 14 at Kenneth Ave. at 11:30 a.m.

**U-13 Ice**—Played the Central Jersey Silver Bullets Wolfpack on Sunday at Kenneth Ave. Field 1. The Ice will host the Manville Thunder next Sunday, Nov. 14 at Kenneth Ave. Field 1.

**U-14 Blast**—Lost 3-2 against the Union Rockets on Sunday. The Blast will travel to Lawrence Township to compete against the Lawrence Township Blast.

The South Plainfield Soccer Club would like to thank all of the men and women in the armed forces, both past and present, for protecting and keeping our country the greatest in the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, especially on Veteran's Day.

The next general meeting will be Nov. 18 at the VFW Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. Non-members are also welcome.

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## SPJBC Women's Auxiliary Annual Holiday Party

The SPJBC Women's Auxiliary will hold their annual holiday party on Thursday, Dec. 2 at Flanagans. The evening includes appetizers through dessert and beer, wine and soda. The cost is \$25 per person. All women are invited to attend.

They will also be holding a gift exchange that evening, so everyone attended is asked to bring along a wrapped gift.

Those interested in attending should call Cindy Eichler at 769-4047 or at Stacy Lake at 757-9531. Reservation deadline is Nov. 29. The

women's auxiliary is looking forward to seeing all of their members that evening.

### Girls U-13 Soccer Team

All girls age 13 interested in playing traveling soccer in the Spring of 2005 are invited to attend a meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 at the Kenneth Ave. soccer fields (next to recycle center). Wear shin guards and cleats, and bring a water bottle. For more info, go to [www.soplfdsoccerclub.com](http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com)

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## Can You Help Identify the People in This Picture?

This is a picture of the members of the Sacred Heart Holy Name Society at a retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch in 1963. We have identified some of these men, but not all. We have identified Henry Constantine, Adam Berger, Police Capt. Dominic Spinelli, Don Ventelli, John George, Connie Raccis, Bill Tuthill and Charles Yulick. Please contact Nancy at the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Bill Tuthill at (908) 756-9854 if you can identify any of these men.

## Obituaries

### Christopher D. Ruhnke, 45

Christopher D. Ruhnke died suddenly on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at J.F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Summit, he had resided in South Plainfield for the past 20 years.

He was employed by Infineum of Linden for the past 25 years as a pipefitter.

Chris was a loving husband and devoted father. He was involved with his children's scouting troops in South Plainfield. Chris was always proud that he sewed the patches on his daughter's girl scout uniform. He was also an avid fisherman and woodworker.

His is survived by his wife, Tina M. (Ascolese); a daughter, Angela Marie;

a son, Sam; his mother, Mary Beth Ford of Morristown; his father, Bruce of Champion, North Carolina; a brother, Craig of Belmar and three cousins, Susan, Michael and Gail.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

A college fund account has been set up for the children. Anyone wishing to make a donation can send checks to the Ruhnke Family Fund, c/o Franklin School, Franklin Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. For more information please contact MaryEllen Oehler at (908) 757-8812 or Mary Cargill at (908) 755-9717.

### Reese Porter, 50

Reese Porter died Tuesday, Nov. 2 at Robert Wood Johnson University

Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Plainfield, he was raised in South Plainfield before moving back to Plainfield in 1976.

Reese was employed as a software engineer for SAIC (formerly Telcordia) in Piscataway for the past 35 years.

Surviving are his wife, Ellen (Anderson) and a daughter, Lauren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

### Diane H. Martin, 61

Diane H. Martin died on Sunday, Oct. 31 at her home.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, she grew up in New York and graduated from Valley Stream High School. She married and resided in Georgia before settling in South Plainfield 32 years ago.

An office manager for 27 years with JK Vreeland Moving & Storage, she also worked at Drug Fair in South Plainfield for the past seven years.

Mrs. Martin loved her family and cats. She also enjoyed spending time reading. For a short time she also volunteered on the South Plainfield Environmental Commission.

She is survived by two sons, Richard and Christopher Fraser; a sister, Carol Hamel and three grandchildren.

Services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

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

### Irene (Kallis) Katsotis, 88

Irene (Kallis) Katsotis, the wife of the late George Katsotis, died on Monday, Nov. 1 at her home.

Mrs. Katsotis was born in Lynn, Mass. on Jan. 8, 1916. She had been a resident of South Plainfield for over 40 years and recently had been resid-

## County Food Bank Seeks Donations as Holidays Approach

The Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (M.C.E.O.O.D.S.) is asking area corporations and organizations to help increase its nonperishable food stock as the holiday season approaches.

M.C.E.O.O.D.S. is a centralized food collection service that distributes goods to food pantries throughout the county, ensuring that residents in need in every municipality have access to the items.

Community or youth organizations may sponsor a food drive by collecting food at local grocery stores. This has proven to be a very successful way of collecting donations. Group members give out program fliers to shoppers as they enter the store and as they exit, shoppers drop off their just-purchased donation.

Some of the most needed items at this time include canned and nonperishable items such as fruits, meats, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, canned tuna, brown rice and

snacks such as crackers and cookies. Also needed are personal products and baby items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers and wipes.

Individuals who cannot hold a food drive are reminded that food donations are accepted year-round at the libraries in Edison, Milltown, Monroe, North Brunswick, Plainsboro, South Brunswick, Spotswood and Woodbridge.

M.C.E.O.O.D.S. also accepts grocery store gift certificates if anyone is interested in making a monetary contribution.

Corporations, groups or individuals interested in holding a food drive or other collection event can contact Jennifer Apostol, M.C.E.O.O.D.S. coordinator at (732) 729-0880 or (609) 409-5033.

## Recreation Plans Trip to Niagara Falls

The South Plainfield Recreation Center will be sponsoring a five-day, four-night trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario, with a side trip to Toronto, Aug. 8-12, 2005.

The package includes four nights lodging in Niagara Falls, Canada, four breakfasts, four full course dinners, all day tour of Niagara, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, all day tour of Toronto, centering on a harbor cruise and Casa Loma, IMAX theater, Maid-of-the-Mist boat ride and tour of the falls, tour a local winery with wine sampling, visits to the Welland Canal or Niagara Fallsview Casino and Rossi Glass.

Total cost is \$575 per person, plus a \$20 tip, which includes all taxes, standard gratuities, luggage handling, Motorcoach and a White Star escort for the entire trip.

You will need a raised-seal birth certificate and photo ID or passport along with you to travel into Canada.

For reservations and information contact: Mike English at the South Plainfield Recreation Center at the PAL Building on Maple or call (908) 226-7714.

## Senior Center Plans Trip to Las Vegas

The South Plainfield Seniors Center will be sponsoring a trip to Las Vegas on Memorial Day Weekend, Friday, May 27 through Monday May 30, 2005.

The trip includes: round trip non-stop flight on Continental Airlines, three nights at the Paris Hotel and Casino, round trip airport transfers to and from hotel and all taxes and baggage handling. Cost is \$689 per person. A \$200 deposit per person is required when making reservations. Balance is due March of 2005.

For reservations, call Joann Graf at the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.



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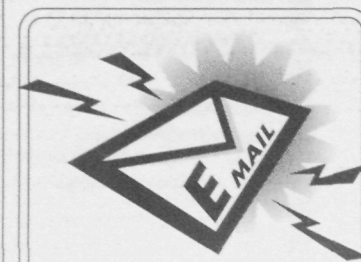
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# Decker Honored with "Cappie Award"



**Cappie Award Recipients**—From left, last year's recipient Ed Niemczyk, Charlie Decker and Tulio Capparelli, first recipient of the award.

Charlie Decker was honored last Saturday at a dinner held at the Senior Center. He was named the third recipient of the 'Cappie Award.'

Friends, family, borough officials, members of the Recreation Commission and Police Athletic League, as well as representatives from every sport in South Plainfield were on hand to witness the presentation. Also on hand was Tulio Capparelli, for whom the award was named, as well as last year's recipient, Ed Niemczyk.

It turned out to be a very emotional evening for all attending and when it concluded there was hardly a dry eye in the crowd.

Speaker after speaker talked of Charlie's dedication to the youth of South Plainfield and his contagious smile, which always seemed to make

everyone feel better after he greeted them, his sense of humor and his love of South Plainfield.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Bill Cochrane and Recreation Commission member George-ann DiGrazia said the invocation. Speaking were PAL President and Police Officer Chris Colucci, Councilman Ray Petronko, Athletic Booster Club President Mickey Wrublewski, Robert Golon representing the Little League, Charlie Decker, Jr., Thomas McCreesh from the Recreation Commission and Deputy Chief Tuilio Capparelli, for whom the award was named.

Charles Decker, Sr. has become a familiar face to every athlete who has played baseball, softball, football and basketball in South Plainfield at any

level for the past 35 years. He volunteered his time to show the children of our town what it means to be a good sport and a better athlete. Charlie always wore a smile which was infectious, always spoke words of kindness for those who needed to hear them and always helped out without ever being asked, is someone who everyone want to be like.

Charlie came to South Plainfield 43 years ago. He and his wife Lois raised three children, John, Charles Jr. and Ellen. He served in the Pacific during World War II and played semi-pro fast pitch in Pennsylvania. He has been actively involved in the Junior Baseball, various high school sports, the SPSHS Athletic Booster Club, Pony-tail Softball League and Pop Warner.

He has already been recognized for his commitment to South Plainfield with the following awards: Life Member, Commissioner's Award from the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, Life Member from the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club, Honorary Grand Marshal of the South Plainfield 2000 Labor Day Parade and Lifetime Member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars.

# BOE to Ask State to Review Books

(Continued from page 1)

will examine budgets, contracts and all fiscal practices.

The Board of Education has been dealing with financial difficulties during the past year. A tremendous number of line item transfers which occurred during the past year were the first hint there may be problems. Moving money every month from one account to another is not a normal accounting practice. Business Administrator Edward Izbicki resigned in the middle of the board's fiscal woes. At that time Pennisi said that there was no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, but rather a pattern of carelessness in financial matters.

The audit handed to the board last year also brought to light a number of items that the board was not aware of regarding their finances. Auditors revealed the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 budgets had several glaring inaccuracies which impacted on preparing the 2003-2004 budget, making it significantly underfunded, according to a statement read by Pennisi in September.

The past few months has seen

present board members assessing blame on past boards, and past board members blaming the present board. Even the auditors who took over last year have been questioned repeatedly by former board member Frank Mikorski on what he feels are inaccuracies in the audit report. When he began to ask a lot of detailed questions about their report, they asked to meet with him individually to address his questions. That was two months ago, and so far no meeting has been scheduled.

Dr. Rosado will be drafting a letter to the Assistant Commission of Finance asking him to appoint someone to review the district's accounting practices. There was no time given on how long this process will take to complete.

Meanwhile, the long anticipated auditor's report on last year's budget is expected to be available at next week's board meeting. This meeting is open to the public and starts at 8 p.m. It is also expected that someone from the auditing firm of Hodulik and Morrison will be on hand to answer questions from the public.

# Garden State Film Festival Issues Call For Entries

The third annual Garden State Film Festival has issued a "Call for Entries" from independent filmmakers from around the world. The deadline is Dec. 1. Filmmakers wishing to submit their films for screening should download an entry form at [www.gsff.org](http://www.gsff.org).

The festival returns to the Paramount Theater On-the-Boardwalk in Asbury Park, April 7-10, 2005 and will feature a film competition for independent filmmakers, panel discussions,

children's workshops and opening and closing ceremonies. Professional juries select the winning films from entries submitted from around the world.

"We look forward to viewing more great films from all independent filmmakers the world over," says Festival Executive Director Diane Raver. "Once again, we look forward to presenting films of the highest quality in production value as well as content."

For more information, write to P.O.

Box 751, Asbury Park, NJ 07712, call (877) 908-7050, or visit the festival web site, [www.gsff.org](http://www.gsff.org).

The Garden State Film Festival was founded to celebrate the independent film genre, offer an opportunity for independent filmmakers to exhibit their work, and provide New Jersey and other audiences an opportunity to experience new, cultural and artistic endeavors through the medium of film.

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## Santa Wants Your Letters!

Yes, it is that time! Santa will be visiting all the little boys and girls around the world in just a few short weeks, but there is still time to get your list in Santa's hands!

Santa's elves delivered a special mailbox to the South Plainfield Post Office just for little boys and girls living in South Plainfield. All mail placed in the box is magically delivered to Santa himself at the North Pole so he can write back to all the South Plainfield children who write to him.

Here's what you need to do. Write your letter to Santa. Put it in an envelope

addressed simply "Dear Santa". Put this letter in the special Santa mailbox at the post office no later than Dec. 18 and that's it! Santa will get your letter in time for Christmas!

Some hints: in addition to your list, why not tell Santa a little about yourself and what your greatest wish for the world is this year? What about your greatest hope for your family? Although Santa writes back to everyone who writes him, he especially likes reading letters that contain more than just a list of toys. Be sure to include your name and address in your letter.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1680

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

Ordinance #1680 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$612,250 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ROOF REPAIRS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMFORT STATION AND EXERCISE STATIONS AT PUTNAM PARK AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCESSION STAND AT THE PAL BUILDING was adopted on first reading and advertised in the Observer on Friday, November 12, 2004 and that a public hearing be set for Monday, December 6, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey

ORDINANCE NO. 1680

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$612,250 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE REPAIR OF THE ROOF AT BOROUGH HALL, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMFORT STATION AND EXERCISE STATIONS AT PUTNAM PARK AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCESSION STAND AT THE PAL IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the roof repairs at the municipal building, construction of a comfort station and exercise stations at Putnam Park and the construction of a concession stand at the PAL in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvements for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$612,250.00.

B. That the cost for said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the Capital Fund Balance (\$17,250) and the Middlesex County Recreation Grant (\$595,000), of which said funds are available for said purposes.

C. The estimated useful life of said improvements is hereby determined to be ten (10) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for Architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

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November 12, 2004

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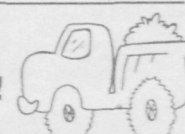
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## police report

- On Nov. 1 Israel A. Estrella, 23, of Newark was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle and an outstanding warrant, at a motor vehicle stop.
- A Plainfield resident reported that his stolen vehicle was recovered behind Harris Steel on New Market Ave., however a CD player, two speakers, an amplifier, a cordless drill, a car buffer, several CDs and tape, several car cleaning chemicals and a diamond ring were missing from the vehicle. There was no forced entry.
- A Harvard Ave. resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their house. No damage was caused.
- On Nov. 2 a Worth Dr. resident reported that their vehicle had been struck with an egg causing the paint

- to chip on the hood.
- On Nov. 3 an Oak Tree Ave. resident reported that \$1,300 in cash from a bedroom draw was missing. A door had been left unlocked while the resident was out.
- On Nov. 4 Marvin Levle, 25, of Piscataway was arrested for possession of a controlled substance at a motor vehicle stop.
- Park Ave. Exxon reported that a driver left without paying for \$5 worth of gas.
- On Nov. 5 an employee of Quality Cosmetics Inc. on So. Clinton Ave. reported that her vehicle had been scratched while in the parking lot.
- A Jankowski Ct. resident reported that someone had used her credit card to purchase Cablevision.
- Flexpac on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of two laptop computers from the office area.
- On Nov. 7 Prosoco Inc. reported that a large hole had been cut in their fence.
- On Nov. 8 Alvan Lugo, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and driving on an expired license.

## Little Miss Garden State Pageant Set

Crowning Achievements, LLC announces that the 2005 "Little Miss Garden State Pageant" will take place on Sunday, Dec. 19 at the Garden State Discovery Museum.

The event is open to young ladies who are New Jersey residents and who are between five through nine years of age. The participants will model in their "Sunday Best Dress" during the event.

Participants will be judged in poise, personality and appearance by a panel of local celebrity judges. The young lady who is selected "Little Miss Garden State" will receive a crystal "Miniature Miss America Style Crown," U.S. Savings Bond and other prizes, and will make appearances throughout the State of NJ at community and social events. Other prizes and awards will be awarded including selection of a "Queen's Court of Honor".

Space is limited. Contestants will be accepted based upon date of registration (first come-first serve). Families and friends are invited to be audience members for a "Family Fun Day" at the Garden State Discovery Museum. For information and an application for the Little Miss Garden State Pageant, please contact Crowning Achievements by visiting their website at: [www.crowningachievements.net](http://www.crowningachievements.net) or email at: [Crowningachievements@hotmail.com](mailto:Crowningachievements@hotmail.com) or by phone at (856) 782-9334.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Domestic Abuse Prevention.

## Cultural Arts Commission Offering Victorian Parlor Games

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present Victorian Parlor Games, featuring Judith Krall-Rowe, food historian and tea specialist on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Victorians loved games, and when they entertained in their homes they usually played parlor games. Some of the games they played were "Look About" and "Pass the Slipper."

Come and be prepared to play. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Natalie at (908) 756-8679.

## Celebrate the Season in Song

South Plainfield Rec and SPHS Band and Choir invite all residents to an afternoon of holiday caroling on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. at the Spring Lake Park gazebo. Refreshments will follow at the Senior Center. Come celebrate the season.



Employees at the A & P on Park Ave. were dressed in costumes and ready for Halloween on Saturday, Oct. 30 with plenty of free food and giveaways. Kids dressed in costumes received large goodie bags and their pictures taken for a prize drawing. There were raffles for in-store gift certificates, free hot dogs, veggie dips and root beer floats. Pictured are Deli Manager Jim Kwiatkowski with front end employees Allison Pietruszki, Lauren Miller, Eleanor Phelan, Samantha Gentile, Melissa McGuigan and Christina Dias, along with a trick-or-treater waiting for goodies.


## School Bus Crashes With Seven Aboard

Last Wednesday morning a mini-school bus carrying seven three- and four year-olds to the Sunshine Program at the Roosevelt Administration Building was rear ended in a two car accident on New Durham Rd.

A 1996 Honda Accord, driven by a 23-year-old Metuchen resident, saw the bus with its amber lights on and accidentally hit the gas pedal instead of the brakes. She clipped the rear end of the car in front of her, a 2000 Toyota Celica, driven by a 31-year-old Edison resident, causing the Celica to veer off to the left of the bus. The Accord kept on going and ultimately struck the right rear of the bus.

Everyone involved in the accident refused any medical treatment. The driver of the Accord was given a summons for careless driving.

Fortunately, the mini-bus was equipped with child restraint seats and all of the children were strapped in, so none of the children on board were injured.



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