

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 13

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 3, 2004



The 2004 SPHS Homecoming Court celebrates before the annual North vs. South Game. (See centerfold)

Photo by Patricia Abbott

Homecoming Festivities Successful At SPHS

By Michael Duquette

South Plainfield celebrated its annual Homecoming festivities last week; arguably, it was one of the most memorable weeks in a long time. Despite several worries set upon the students and teachers by

the less-than-perfect weather, spirits could not be dampened.

The celebration kicked off last Tuesday with the annual Homecoming Pageant, in which the Homecoming King and Queen were selected from a group of thirty-seven nominees—twenty-six

girls and eleven boys. In the end, the Homecoming Court consisted of six finalists: Michael Benak, Shaker Beverley, Adam Bianchi, Gerry Butrico, Mallory Christ, Nicholas Curcio, Cassandra D'Urso, Carolina Gomez, Ryan Kenny, Andrew Miller, Jacqueline Muglia, and Abby Papa.

From there, the king, queen, and runners-up were selected. Miller and Beverley took second runner-up, Curcio and D'Urso won first runners-up, and Benak and Muglia were selected king and queen. The pair would represent South Plainfield

(Continued on page 8)

District Test Scores on the Rise

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado released the latest test scores from the 2004 Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR) at last month's school board meeting.

While most scores showed improvement, Rosado said he still expects to see more improvement in future test scores.

The high school showed improvement in language arts, 84.4% to 91.5% and in mathematics, from 62.5% to 74.4% students got pass-

ing grades.

In the middle school, language arts tests were lower, going from 79.3% to 78.8%. However, in mathematics scores went up, going from 50.1% to 70.5%.

Grant School, where students take the Terra Nova test, reading scores went down slightly from 74% to 72%. Mathematics scores were up, from 73% to 84%.

The grade schools test scores were reported individually.

BOE to Get \$120K Languages Grant

Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblymen Peter J. Barnes and Patrick J. Diegnan announced that the South Plainfield Board of Education will be the recipient of \$120,000 in aid from the Property Tax Relief Fund to pay

for World Languages education.

"School budgets require towns to walk the fine line between providing the best education possible and keeping property taxes reasonable,"

(Continued on page 16)



Outgoing Chief Robert Merkler welcomes Capt. John Ferraro as his replacement.

Merkler Retires, Ferraro Gets Top Spot

The council held a special meeting last week to announce that Capt. John Ferraro will be promoted to acting police chief, replacing retiring Chief Robert Merkler. Since Merkler has accumulated vacation and will still be on the payroll, the position of chief cannot officially be filled until Jan. 31. It is expected that he will then be named chief officially.

Acting Chief Ferraro, a 23-year veteran of the South Plainfield Police Department, has moved up the ranks since joining the SPPD in Jan. of 1981. He was promoted to sergeant in Sept. of 1989, lieutenant in Sept. of 1993 and has been a captain since Feb. of 2001.

Ferraro served as a patrolman

and watch commander in the patrol section and as a detective, detective supervisor and division commander in the service division. He also served on a temporary assignment with the Middlesex County Narcotics Task Force and as a defensive baton instructor for the SPPD. He is a graduate of Trenton State College.

Ferraro has been married to his wife Cindy for 21 years. They have two daughters, Dana and Jaclyn. Ferraro was raised in South Plainfield. Before joining the SPPD, he owned a painting business. He is the son of former South Plainfield residents John and Margaret Ferraro and has two brothers, Tom and Ray,

(Continued on page 11)

Santa's Coming To Town... on a Fire Engine

To help raise money for their upcoming 100th Anniversary (May 2007) and Firemen's Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine?

Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$25 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$25 should be a check made payable to the SPVFC 100th Anniversary. 100% of the \$25 goes directly to the 100th Anniversary fund. We also ask that you wrap a small gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no

(Continued on page 7)

**Merry
CHRISTMAS**

PROJECT SANTA 2004



Members of area churches in South Plainfield participated in ecumenical Thanksgiving services last week at Sacred Heart Church.

Enter the Junior Journalist Contest today!

Junior Journalist Corner



Olivia Butler Named "Junior Journalist"

Olivia Butler, Grant School sixth grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Her poem, "What's Happening?" has won her a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to a banquet in June of 2005.



Left to right Grant School sixth grade teacher Cathy Pompilio, Olivia Butler and School Principal Janis Burchell.

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

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.

What's Happening? By Olivia Butler

I don't know what's happening,
I don't know where to start.
My life has turned upside down,
And it has been bought.
I don't where to go,
Or what to see and do.
I wish my life was normal,
Just about like you.
Too many things, too little time.
My life is going right on by.
I cannot waste it, I cannot stop.
Keep on moving 'till I drop.

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

The Pop Warner Jr. Midget Cheerleaders have just finished an outstanding season by advancing and winning fourth place at the Eastern Region Championships on Nov. 21. As their coaches, we are not only very proud of them for all of their accomplishments, but for the spirit and commitment they have shown throughout the season, win or lose. These 21 girls have dedicated months to practices, games and competitions without a complaint. It was obvious that they truly enjoyed cheering every time they arrived with a sparkle in their eyes and smiles on their faces. Each and every girl was an important member of this talented team.

Coaching these girls was a truly rewarding experience, but not without the assistance of many wonderful people who deserve thanks. We were fortunate this year to have high school student demonstrators, Dana Alexa, Danielle Heilmann, Mallory Christ, Lisa Primavera and Lauren Primavera, who volunteered their time and expertise to this team. We also thank Cathy Scarpitto, cheer commissioner, whose hard work, dedication, and commitment over the years has enabled our cheering program to reach a new level. Her constant support and guidance has been an inspiration to the girls and coaches.

Abra Hodge, assistant cheer commissioner, has also been a very important part of the cheering program and was there to cheer on all the girls and coaches at every competition. We would also like to thank the South Plainfield Football Eagles Board for their support of the cheering program and the Jr. Midget cheerleaders. Our team moms, Terry Alexa and Donna Hanley, deserve thanks for all they have done for the coaches and girls. Thanks to Roosevelt School, the Middle School and the Senior Citizen Center for their cooperation in the use of their facilities and especially Michael English for the use of the PAL and all he does for the Pop Warner Eagles. We also thank the many individuals, friends, families, businesses and community for their outpouring of support and generosity to the Pop Warner Eagles and the Jr. Midget cheerleaders. None of this would be possible without them, year after year!

Finally, the parents of the Jr. Midget cheerleaders deserve special thanks for their cooperation and commitment throughout the season! Their constant support was more important to us than they can ever imagine!

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.

We have enjoyed working together this year and are looking forward to another great season next year!

JR. MIDGET CHEERLEADING COACHES, DENISE KELLY, SHANNON COLUCCI AND ROBIN PRENDERGAST

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the South Plainfield High School Girls' Soccer team, we would like to thank John Ziminski and Stephanie of Flanagan's Restaurant for the team's dinner well done.

The accommodations were warm and inviting. Dr. Rosado, Dr. May, Mr. Novak, trainer Bob Reilly, Coaches Hunt, Dana, Fig and Greg Young—thanks so much for your presence; it was really appreciated by everyone. And to the girls, for whom this dinner was all about—you all came together as a team and had a great time.

Thanks to Lori Little for all her hard work on the certificates and to Millie Hunt for working along with us. Great team effort! Great job, all! Remember, it's all about the kids, all the time!

**SINCERELY,
DEBBIE BOYLE AND BRENDA HRUTKAY**

Dear Editor,

I am a fifth grade student from Fishkill, NY. My class is studying the history and geography of the United States. To help us learn about New Jersey we are trying to collect as many postcards of interesting things or places as we can. Please send them to: Olivia Dufour c/o Mr. Neevel, Brinckerhoff School, 16 Wedgewood Rd., Fishkill, New York 12524.

Thank you very much for your help with this project.

**SINCERELY,
OLIVIA DUFOUR**

To the Editor,

The girls of Junior Girls Scout Troop 530 would like to thank Karen of Park Travel for taking time out of a busy day to show the girls what a travel agent does (no, they are not FBI agents, like Gracie thought), how she

does her job, details about exotic locations and about the business of travel in general. The girls chose locations they'd love to go to someday. These ranged from Japan, to Florida and from Africa to Hawaii. They were fascinated by all the places and by what it means to be a travel agent.

**THANK YOU, KAREN!
SARAH, GRACIE, ALYSSA,
ALISON, ASHLEY, RENEE, ASHLEY
AND HALEY**

Letter to the Editor,

I want to thank many businesses for helping the South Plainfield Education Foundation with our annual golf outing that was held Sept. 27. Ampco Office, Commerce Bank, Dunphy-Smith, G&K Shipping Supplies, Hall's Warehouse, Just Packaging, Frank Licato, Jr., McAllister Towing, New Image Landscaping, Piscataway Funeral Home, Conroy Funeral Home, Plainfield Animal Hospital, RT Tech Electric, Schwartz Simon, Sodexo Marriott, South Plainfield Democrats, Stewart Industries, Valley National Bank, Horizon Dental and Medical, Benecard, Columbia Bank and Lynn Steel Corp.

Without the support of the above, as well as individuals that came to play golf that day, the outing would not have been a success. We will be able to continue the scholarship in the name of Emil Leporino—one of the founders of the Education Foundation. The next golf outing will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005.

The Education Foundation will be holding their annual telethon the week of Dec. 6. The students from the High School will be calling members of the community each night between 6 to 8 p.m. Last year we received over \$11,000 in pledges for the foundation. When you receive a call from the students, you will be able to pledge a certain dollar amount, as well as tell us where you would like to see the money distributed. This has been a huge success for us in the past and we hope we can continue to count on your support of our students.

Again, thanks to all who helped with our outing and also our telethon.

**SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT
— SOUTH PLAINFIELD EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleaders would like to thank all their "Proud Sponsors"—individuals, organizations and businesses that pledged support in our "Sponsor a

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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

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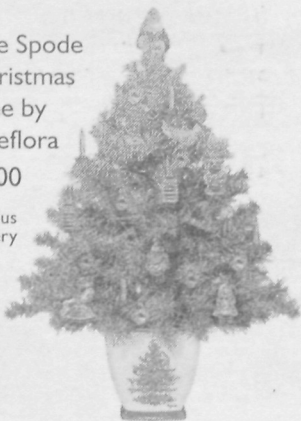
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NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

FBI TO SPEAK AT SENIOR CENTER: Assembly Speaker Peter Barnes and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan will be bringing FBI agents to the Senior Center to present an important and very informative program dealing with the dangers on the Internet. Do you know what your children and grandchildren are doing when they go on line? You don't have to be a computer expert to monitor and protect yourself and those you love from potential problems. The FBI has a very successful program that teaches people how to recognize and protect you and your family. This program is open to the public. All interested residents are welcome. The program will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 1

p.m. Please join us.
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: The Phil-Am Lions Club of South Plainfield will again be hosting a Christmas luncheon at the Senior Center. The festivities will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18 beginning at noon with an Italian luncheon, entertainment and caroling. Reservations are filling up fast so stop in at the Senior Center to sign up.
SENIOR CITIZENS HOLIDAY CONCERT: The annual Holiday Concert and luncheon for our senior citizens, hosted by the South Plainfield high school music dept. will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at noon. Any senior planning to attend should stop by the Senior Center to sign up. The

cost is \$2 with all proceeds going to the Senior Center's scholarship fund.
SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELLING AVAILABLE: If you have questions or need assistance solving problems with Medicare, Medicaid, supplemental insurance coverage, or disability, counselors are available by appointment through the South Plainfield Office on Aging. The program is called "SHIP", Senior Health Insurance Program. Counselors are trained by the state and have the most current information available from the various agencies and insurance companies. If you need assistance, please call the Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047 for an appointment.

101st Airborne to Attend Annual Tree Lighting

The annual New York Chapter's Association of the 101st Airborne will hold their Memorial Service and Tree Lighting ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. under the tree on

the front lawn of the McCriskin Home For Funerals located on Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield. This will mark the 19th year of the US Army Airplane crash in New

Gander, New Foundland which was carrying the members of the 101st Airborne in which all 265 perished. The 85' tree on the front lawn of the funeral home was first decorated to mark the holiday season in 1985. While in the process of preparing the tree for the lighting the 101st Airborne crash occurred. It was then that the McCriskin family decided to dedicate the tree to the memory members of the 101st Airborne who perished in the crash.

Ever since 1985, the McCriskin Family has lit the tree and the NY Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association has conducted a memorial service. After the service, refreshments will be served at the VFW Memorial Post 6763 on Front St. in South Plainfield. All member of the community are welcome to attend.

Suburban Woman's Club News

Marie Kasner will be the guest speaker at the G.E.W.C. South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club December meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave. The program will be "The Joy of Quilting." Quilting has become more popular recently as creative art. Quilters see their work as self-expressive, using color, shape and texture as new dimensions. With the new popularity, there now are quilt shops, classes, competitions and exhibitions. There are also

annual festivals held world wide. At the festivals there are classes, demonstrations, shops and fashion shows of quilted clothing. Quilt enthusiasts are given a chance to meet other quilters and exchange ideas. Quilters are industrious women and men who use their time and talent to produce the beautiful work we enjoy and share. The South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club meets monthly with a variety of interesting programs. Women interested in joining should call (908) 757-3527 for further information.

McCriskin's Announces a "Coping With Grief During the Holidays" Seminar

The McCriskin Home For Funerals and the South Plainfield Office on Aging is pleased to announce they will host a grief seminar entitled "Coping with Grief During the Holidays," on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center. The program will be presented by Carol Burner, MA certified grief recovery specialist. Re-

freshments will be served immediately following the program. Facing the holiday season without a loved one who has died can be one of the most challenging and difficult experiences. At a season when everyone is supposed to be happy, you may be feeling sad and lonely. No one has to suffer passively through this season.

Whether your loss occurred a week ago or many years ago, this seminar may help you to cope with the emotional pain that often accompanies the winter holidays. Come join us and learn about some steps for grieving which will ease your pain and make the season more enjoyable. All are welcome. For more information, contact McCriskin Home For Funerals at (908) 561-8000 or Joann Graf at the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047. RSVP is requested by Friday, Dec. 3.



Seniors Take Advantage Of Health Fair Screening

The Senior Citizen Health Fair, held recently at the Senior Center, offered a plethora of information for the many seniors who attended. Tables were set up throughout the center with a variety of organizations sharing their knowledge on every kind of health issue. There was free screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure, HIV and diabetes which was sponsored by The Diabetes Center and Solaris Health.

Doctors were also on hand to test vision and hearing, as well as feet and teeth. Numerous vendors from the medical, pharmaceutical industry, as well as home health care providers spoke with and handed out information from companies such as Merck, Pfizer and Bayer. Pharmacists from Twin City Pharmacy on Park Ave. were also available to answer any questions about their services.

"Books to Keep" Donations

The South Plainfield Free Public Library is accepting donations of new children's books from now until Dec. 15 for distribution to disadvantaged boys and girls in Middlesex County. Please bring new books to the South Plainfield Public Library at your convenience. Financial contributions may be made payable to Libraries of Middlesex and mailed to Leah Wagner, Monroe Township Public Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 or brought to the library.

Your donation makes a big difference to a child who has never owned a book. Contributions foster literacy and a love of reading that will directly impact a young child's life. South Plainfield Free Public 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.

Rec Christmas With Santa Moved to Sunday

On Sunday, Dec. 19, starting at 12 noon and running until 2 p.m. Santa Claus will be visiting with South Plainfield children ages one to 10 at the Senior Center on Lakeview Ave. This event was previously scheduled on Saturday, but was moved to coincide with the caroling at the park program on Sunday.

To participate in the Santa visit you must register at the PAL. There is a \$5 fee per participant. Everyone will receive a gift and a picture with Santa. When this program is finished, everyone is invited to walk over to Spring Lake Park for carolling. For more information contact the PAL at (908) 226-7713.

Slim and Tone,
the 30 Minute Workout Center for Women
is celebrating 150+ members in the first year in South Plainfield.

CIRCUIT TRAINING IS THE FASTEST GROWING TREND IN AMERICA!

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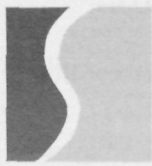
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Holiday Giving for Needy Pets

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is accepting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2201 Park Ave., 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays. Food will be distributed to local non-profit pet organizations. Thank you for your generosity and may you have happy and healthy holidays.

AIDA SANTOS
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

Durham Ave. & Hamilton Blvd.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 757-5868
Fax (908) 757-0494

PARK Avenue Barber Shop

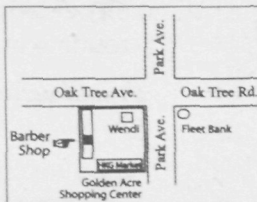
Jack Russo, formerly of Hilltop Barber Shop, has joined our team!

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HOURS
Monday-Friday 9-8
Saturday 9-6
Sunday 11-4



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Events

Doo Wop Nite

December 4

The American Legion will be holding a Doo Wop Nite, featuring the South Plainfield High School Class of 1957, on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 8:30 p.m. Beer, wine, soda and snacks are included (cash bar is also available). Proceeds benefit the J.J. Frank Cancer Fund. Price is \$15 pp. Advanced tickets available at the American Legion. For information, call (908) 756-7549.

VFW Breakfast

December 5

Memorial Post 6763 VFW located at 155 Front St. will be holding a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person and all proceeds will go toward parties at Lyons Veterans Hospital. For more information call (908) 668-9751.

Christmast Concert at Cedarcroft

December 5

"An Evening of Christmas Praise" with pianist Marc Stasio and Friends, in concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel on Kenyon Ave. Admission is free. The evening features fresh, contemporary arrangements. Ensemble includes Joan Stasio and lead members of the CBC Choir. Come enjoy the sounds of the holiday!

Annual Pearl Harbor Observance at VFW

December 7

Memorial Post 6763 VFW will observe the 63rd anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. with services at the post home, 155 Front St. Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

Send Us Your

Around Town

Events

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

Hot Christmas Dinner

to any elderly or disabled person residing in South Plainfield.

We will deliver to your home on Christmas Day at no charge.

If you would like dinner or know of someone who is need of dinner.

CONTACT: Shirley Thompson 131 Montrose Ave., South Plainfield (908) 756-7686

Please call between 10-12 Monday through Friday by December 17.

What's happening in DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
December 1 Atlantic City-TajMahal Bus Leaves at 9 a.m.				
December 13—Hunterdon Hills Christmas 10 a.m.				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Red Hat Society 2pm	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10, 11:30, 1pm FBI program 1pm Listening to Kids 9:30am	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available
6	7	8	9	10
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

VFW to Hold Dinner

December 17

The VFW, located at 155 Front St., will be hosting a dinner on Friday, Dec. 17 from 5-8 p.m. The public is welcomed to attend. For more information, please call (908) 668-9751.

Recreation Hosting Visit With Santa

December 18

South Plainfield Recreation invites all children, newborn to 10-years-old, to visit with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 19, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Senior Recreation Center on Lakeview Ave. Pictures with Santa and gifts for all children will be handed out. You must register at the PAL; registration begins on Nov. 18 and ends on Dec. 6. The fee is \$5 per participant. Immediately following, you are invited to walk over to Spring Lake Park to join in the holiday carolling. For more information or to sign up, visit the PAL on Maple Ave.

Knights Plan Annual Breakfast with Santa

December 19

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding there annual "Breakfast with Santa" event on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The price for the breakfast (which includes eggs, bacon, French

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

toast and much more food) will be \$3 a child, \$5 a adult or \$15 for a family. Seats are limited, please contact Steve Belanger at (908) 791-0640 or (908) 755-6203 for more info or to make your reservations.

Breakfast With Santa at SP Elks

December 12

Come enjoy breakfast with Santa at the South Plainfield Elks, located on New Market Ave. on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost for adults is \$6, children ages 5-12 are \$4 and children under five are free. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, eggs to order, coffee, tea, mike or juice. Bring your cameras. Santa will be on hand.

Pancake Breakfast

December 19

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. at the Post on Oak Tree Ave. Adults are \$5 and children are \$3. Children under six are free. All profits will benefit our So. Plainfield Scholarship Fund.

Candlelight Services at Wesley Church

December 24

Wesley Church will celebrate the Christmas Season with two Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. At the 7:30 p.m. family friendly candlelight service you will hear and experience the story of Christmas through the children. Wesley would like to welcome friends, guests and members to hear the music from two Bell Choirs. The candles are lit to express that this is a season of hope. The 11 p.m. candlelight services will share the message of Christmas and music of the season. The 9 a.m. Contemporary Service will present a hymn sing on Sunday, Dec. 19 to help you get into the holiday spirit. On Dec. 26, join the Contemporary Worship team at 9 a.m., who will present the story of the Little Drummer Boy. All are welcome. Wesley Church is located on Plainfield Ave. Contact Pastor Thompson at the church at (908) 757-2838 or home at (908) 756-1044 for any spiritual needs.

Senior Center EVENTS

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

— Out of Town —

Messiah Church Movie Night

December 3

Messiah Lutheran Church & School on Front St. in Plainfield will hold their monthly movie night on the first Friday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. We will provide the snacks. For more info call (908) 755-4525 or (908) 755-8430.

Reception at Metuchen Art Works

December 4

An Artist's Reception will be held at Metuchen Art Works on Dec. 4, from 7 to 10 p.m. at 15 Station Pl. in Metuchen. Featured artist is Madeline Tolins-Schlitt. The new cooperative gallery is the brainchild of Ms. Tolins-Schlitt and showcases 14 diverse local artists whose works range from abstract expressionism to surrealism. For information call (732) 603-9299.

'Henna Lecture and Demonstration

December 5

On Sunday, Dec. 5, at 2 p.m., Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey present *Mehndi: Henna Lecture and Demonstration* at East Jersey Olde Towne Village on River Rd. in Piscataway. This program is free; however, registration is required. If you would like to attend this Folklife program, call the Commission at (732) 745-4489.

"Holiday in the City"

December 5

The Edison Arts Society presents "Holiday in the City," a Dance Spectacular on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. at the J.P. Stevens High School Auditorium in Edison. This performance features students from three area dance schools: Yvonne's School of Dance, Spotlight on Dance and Summit School of Dance. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased by calling (908) 753-2787, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

WOWs Woodbridge

December 8

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will

have a business meeting and social hour on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Main Public Library, George Frederick Plaza in Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

WOWs Carteret

December 9

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center in Carteret. Light refreshments and socializing to follow. All widows and widowers are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515. Carteret Chapter meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month.

WOWs Dance

December 10

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers (WOWs), Cateret Chapter, will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Dec. 10 at St. Demetrius Community Center in Carteret. Admission is \$8 and guests are \$9. There will be live music and refreshments. The dance is from 7:30-11:30 p.m. For more information, please call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

World Children's Relief Fundraiser

December 6-11

Chiropractor Dr. Perry Wolk-Weiss, owner of The Get Well Center in Bound Brook, will be educating patients and friends on World Children's Relief during the week of Dec. 6-11. They will be passing out literature and presenting a video in the reception room. All new patient's first visits will be reduced to \$50 from \$124 and a percentage of all established patient's fees for that week will be donated to the children's relief. For more information call (732) 356-1155 or visit Dr. Wolk-Weiss's website at www.getwellcenter.com.

Christmas at Liberty Hall Museum

December 10, 11, 17, 18

Take a moment away from the holiday hustle and bustle and step back in time at Liberty Hall Museum to celebrate the season the old-fashioned way. From St. Nicholas to Santa Claus Candlelight Tours span more than 200 years of Christmas, demonstrating to visitors five styles of the holiday: Dutch, English, the Night Before Christmas, Victorian Christmas and World War II Christmas. Tours are Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 10, 11, 17 and 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. Each tour is one-hour. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$6 for children. Reservations are required. For information or for reservations, call (908) 527-0400.

Two from Galilee

December 10, 11, 16, 17

The public is invited to see the performance of *Two from Galilee* on Thursday, Dec. 16; Fridays, Dec. 10 and 17 and Saturday, Dec. 11. Performances are at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:45 p.m. Admission is always free. The performances will be at Evangel Church, 1251 Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains. For more information, call (908) 322-9300 or visit evangel-church.com.

Pictures With Santa



Compliments of:



Sunday, December 5th

Time: 11–2 p.m.

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Holiday Music Provided By:

High School Band Members

No Appointment Necessary

southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Tulio and Prudence Capparelli at their wedding in 1954 (above) and celebrating their fiftieth anniversary (below).

Tulio and Prudence Capparelli Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary



Tulio and Prudence Capparelli celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 7 at Café Vivace.

Prudence and Chuck were married Oct. 2, 1954 at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

Tulio was Deputy Chief of Police before retiring in 1984. Prudence worked at Hematology-Oncology for many years, retiring in 1990.

The Capparellis are the parents of Robert of Forked River and William, Debbie, Donna and Brian, all of South Plainfield. They also have eight grandchildren, Heather, Michael, Brian and Nicolette Hanley; Trisha Capparelli and Jennifer, Ashley and Cassie Capparelli. Congratulations!

SPHS Graduate Richard Gebauer Listed In Who's Who

Richard Dominick Gebauer of South Plainfield is one of 36 Franklin & Marshall students named as outstanding national leaders in the 2005 Edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Selection is based on academic achievement, services to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. Students are selected from more than 2,300 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations. Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934.

Gebauer, a senior psychology major and English minor, is a 2001 graduate of South Plainfield High School. He is the son of Donna and Richard Gebauer of South Plainfield. A Dean's list student, he has served as president of Student Senate, chair of the College Entertainment Committee and co-chair of Students for Christ. He was also an orientation adviser and is a member of the varsity wrestling team.

Founded in 1787, Franklin & Marshall is a coeducational, liberal arts institution. Approximately 1,860 students are enrolled in the college's 39 academic disciplines. The college's 125-acre campus is situated on the outskirts of Lancaster, Pa., a vital, historic city located in the heart of Central Pennsylvania.

VFW Essay Contest Winners Announced

Students in Ms. Alissa Pecora's Creative Writing class were asked to submit and record an essay on the topic of "Celebrating Our Veteran's Service." The essays and tapes were submitted to the local VFW post, where they were reviewed by the veterans. All of the students wrote fine essays that shared a common sentiment: the admiration and gratitude South Plainfield's young people feel for those who have served our country. The winners are as follows: first place—Krystal Williams and Steven Tietjen; second place—Katie Mott and third place—Elyse Kanaley, Anthony Romano and Adam Bianchi.



Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Prybella were married on October 30.

Taryn Decker, Nicholas Prybella are Wed

Taryn Decker and Nicholas Prybella were married at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield on October 30.

Taryn Decker is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Decker of South Plainfield. Nicholas Prybella is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prybella of South Plainfield.

The ceremony was held at Sacred Heart Church, with Pastor Father John Alvarado officiating. The reception was held at the Atrium Country

Club in West Orange.

The bride is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and The College of New Jersey in Ewing. She is employed by the South Plainfield School District as a high school math teacher.

The groom is a graduate of South Plainfield High School and Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. He is employed as an engineer by Turner Construction.

Roseller Lapitan Selected for National Young Leaders Conference

Roseller Mervynne P. Lapitan, son of Roseller and Pat Lapitan of South Plainfield, has been selected to participate in the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) in Washington, D.C. from Nov. 30 to Dec. 5. NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Lapitan will be one of approximately 400 outstanding scholars from around the country at the conference. Lapitan is a junior at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen.

The theme of NYLC is *The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today*. Throughout 10 days, Lapitan will interact with a variety of personnel who operate within the three branches of government, the news media and the international community.

"We often hear from members of Congress, political appointees and members of Washington's press corps that it is a privilege to meet and interact with students like Roseller Lapitan because they are the face of our country's future," said Mike Lasday,



Roseller Lapitan

executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, the organization that sponsors the Conference. "What these students learn at the National Young Leaders Conference will enable them to build coalitions with one another and exercise their own leadership skills within communities around the country."

Highlights of past conferences have included welcoming remarks from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and a panel discussion with prominent journalists at the National Press Club, in addition to meeting with senators and representatives or appointed staff members to discuss important issues facing the nation.

To complement the schedule of special meetings and briefings, Lapitan will also participate in a number of leadership skill-building activities and simulations. In one role-play activity titled *If I Were President*, students act as the president and cabinet members responding to an international crisis. Students also participate in *Testing the Constitution*, in which they examine actual Supreme Court cases. The Conference culminates with the *Model Congress*, in which scholars assume the roles of U.S. Representatives and debate, amend and vote on proposed mock legislation.

CYLC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization. Founded in 1985, the Council is committed to inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential.



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Redesigned Carousel Salon Offers New Services

Carousel Salon owner Marty Papa has completely redecorated her beauty salon on Oak Tree Ave. and is now offering more services, including facials, manicures, pedicures and in-home visits.

Customers who frequent the Carousel have witnessed the transformation of the shop into a tropical motif, complete with a lighter color scheme, curtains and new furniture. Marty said she felt the shop needed a new look, something with more color and light and she has definitely succeeded with her vision.

Marty also decided to take it one step further by adding more services. She has transformed one of her rooms into a relaxing oasis, where she does

facials, manicures and pedicures.

Marty recently invited Nancy Grenier, publisher of the *Observer*, to sample some of her new services. Last

week Nancy spent three hours at the Carousel, receiving a facial, hair treatment, waxing, paraffin treatment on her hands and feet, as well as a manicure and pedicure. Nancy, who had never experienced a facial or a manicure, was given the full treatment, complete with mood music. She summed it up by saying it was one of the most relaxing and uplifting experiences she has ever had under the tender loving care from Marty for the entire three hours. The facial was done in several phases—

steaming, cleaning the pores, a mask and in between each treatment Nancy's face was bathed in creams and lotions. Any explanation of what the facial was like is very hard to describe, just relaxing and mind cleansing. When finished, her face felt soft and smooth and she was completely rejuvenated.

The facial takes at least an hour, so if you plan on getting one, give yourself enough time to enjoy the entire experience. Not only is it relaxing and therapeutic, it is beneficial to your pores, your complexion and your soul. It was also a surprise to learn that men can benefit just as much as women with a facial treatment.

Prior to the manicure and pedicure, both hands and feet were dipped in paraffin wax.

Marty also has decided that she will make house calls for customers who are unable to come to the shop. She has been doing this for sometime, but is willing to add more homebound customers as time allows.

With Christmas just around the corner, a gift certificate from Carousel is a great idea for your wife, mom, daughter, dad, or just about anyone on your shopping list. It's the perfect way to put a smile on someone's face—just ask Nancy.

For information, pricing, gift certificates or to make an appointment, call Marty at (908) 668-8397.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, here we are in the midst of what many cultures refer to as the "Holiday season". Hanukkah begins next week, Christmas will arrive on the 25, Kwanzaa starts on Jan. 1. (I guess that's all of them, let me know if I missed any.) In any case, let's take a break from holiday preparations and look at upcoming events at the library.

At this writing, there's still space available for the next adult "Make 'n Take" craft program on Monday morning at 10:30. Practical Crafting instructor Ronda Wisniewski will teach participants how to make a kaleidoscope cane pen using polymer clay. Participants must pre-register at the library, and there's a \$2 materials fee payable upon registration.

Next week, we'll stick to our normal schedule of children's Storytime programs. These programs are for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. And don't forget our Books-N-Babies program next Friday morning at 10:30. That program is for children under age three. For more information, please

call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The library is still participating in two charity drives for the holiday season. There's "Books to Keep," which provides books to disadvantaged children throughout Middlesex County. We're accepting donations of cash and new children's books. Also, the Friends of the Library are collecting hats, gloves and scarves for the needy. Items will be distributed locally by the FISH, Inc. organization. Donations will be accepted for both drives until Dec. 15.

The latest group of items from the Video Circuit is now available. (The list of titles from this group was unavailable at press time.) Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. This group will be available until Dec. 27.

And here's a reminder regarding our phones. On occasion, we'll allow patrons to use our phones free of charge. We usually do this in cases when the patrons have an urgent need, like when they need to arrange for a ride home. However, we must insist that patrons not abuse the privilege by calling on our phone for non-emergency reasons (like gabbing with a friend about which DVD to borrow). Be advised: If we find patrons repeatedly making frivolous calls, those patrons will be barred from using the phone at all.

Reminder number 2: Please be careful when handling CDs and DVDs that you borrow. Some people have bought into the notion that those discs are indestructible; that is not true at all. They can be scratched, cracked and broken rather easily. To keep them usable for the longest possible time, we ask that you take care when you handle them, especially when you remove them from their cases.

That's about all for now. We'll have more news next Friday. Until then, we hope you're having a happy and safe Holiday season.

Santa's Coming to Town

(Continued from page 1)

more than \$20. Please no expensive gifts! After you wrap the gift, please put your child's name and address in big letters securely on the gift. Firefighters will visit every block in the borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. Bring your camera. Families must reside within the Borough of South Plainfield.

Stop by the South Plainfield Fire Department to fill out a form and drop off your check. Gifts can be dropped off at fire headquarters from Monday, Nov. 29 through Friday, Dec. 3 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5 between 1 and 4 p.m. and Dec. 6, 7 and 8 between 6 and 9 p.m. No packages will be accepted after Dec. 8.

Santa will be delivering presents on

Dec. 13 through Thursday, Dec. 16 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. A delivery schedule will be announced at a later date. This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department so please be sure your address and child's name are on each gift.

Santa's hotline number is (908) 412-8868. Call if you have any questions; leave a message.

BOE to Get \$120K Languages Grant

(Continued from page 1)

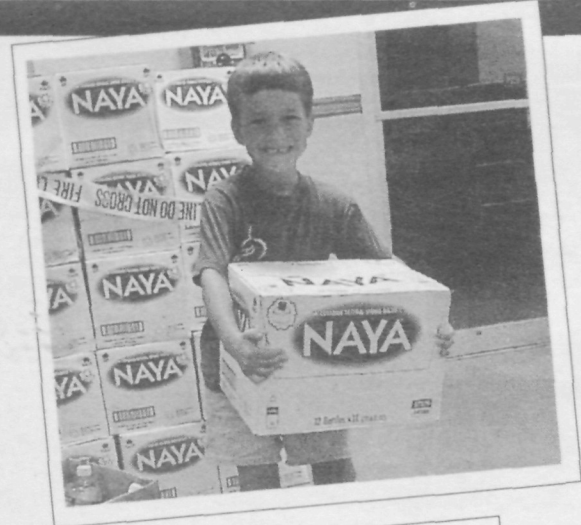
keeping property taxes reasonable," said Senator Buono, D-Middlesex. "This year, the South Plainfield World Languages program was on that line. This grant makes sure that the students of South Plainfield benefit from foreign language education without requiring cuts in other important programs."

The \$120,000 grant, one of the

grants provided by the Property Tax Relief Fund, will fund the World Languages program in South Plainfield schools. The World Languages program teaches a secondary language to the students in the district while at the same time exposing students to other cultures. This year the school district didn't have the money to fund this program through the annual budget. The Property Tax Relief Fund helps

municipalities pay for programs like these without having to raise local taxes.

"Learning a second language is an essential component to a well-rounded education," said Assemblyman Diegnan. "The additional state aid will enable South Plainfield to continue its world languages program without placing the financial burden on the backs of property taxpayers."



Take a look..... South Plainfield's a great place to live.

There's so much good here in the Borough of South Plainfield, so many volunteers coming out to aid those in need. And every week the *Observer* is here to support those endeavors.

Get involved in the community. Take the lead and others will follow. And you can be sure the *Observer* won't be far behind.

South Plainfield
Observer

Always finding the good.



Photos by Patricia Abbott



Banners Put Students in the Mood for Homecoming

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Battle of the Banners is likely to become an important part of the school's Thanksgiving Football Game tradition. Twelve high school clubs immersed themselves in school spirit while designing banners for the annual South Plainfield vs. North Plainfield Thanksgiving Day football game.

The Tiger Marching Band's work of art took first place, winning \$100 for their account. Runners up included the Asian Cultural Club, The Academic team and Tiger's Tale, a literary magazine put out by the English Department. The entries were judged by members of the high school faculty.



The huge banners, approximately 5 x 16 feet, were hung from the roof of the school during the few days leading up to the game. Using color and creativity the teens expressed their pride in the Tigers football team. Each team provided the materials to create their banner. Several of the banners were displayed in the gym during the pep rally. They were also placed on the fence to support the players during Thursday's game.

Homecoming Festivities Successful

(Continued from page 1)
High School in Thursday's North-South football game.

Wednesday saw a spirited pep rally take place in the high school gymnasium, which was adorned by the winning banners in SPHS' Banner Contest, followed by a bone fire. In the banner competition, top honors went to the Tiger Marching Band, with accolades also given to the Academic Team, Math Team, and *Tiger's Tale* literary magazine. On that exciting night, Tiger fans crowded the stands to cheer on the football team, the cheerleaders, and the marching band. Although the bonfire was undeterred by the drizzling weather that occurred intermittently throughout the day, the rain unfortu-

nately made a casualty of the highly anticipated Powderpuff Football match, which was consequently postponed to a later date.

On Thursday morning, the weather held out long enough for the long-awaited North-South football game to take place at Jost Field. Fans from both North and South Plainfield braved the threat of ominous clouds to support their home teams. The score was somewhat bleak at halftime; North Plainfield led 6-0 with a touchdown in the second quarter. But the Tigers scored a touchdown and extra point in the third quarter to turn the tide of

the game. Then, with mere seconds left to go in the fourth quarter, a field goal by North Plainfield upset South Plainfield's hopes for victory with a final score of 9-7.

Despite this painful loss and the rainout of the Powderpuff game, the overall spirit and fun of the 2004-2005 Homecoming Week was another wonderful experience for South Plainfield High School students to give thanks for over the holiday weekend. The *Observer* sends its congratulations to all the students and faculty members who helped make this year's Homecoming worth celebrating!



Homecoming 2004



Tradition Continues on Thanksgiving Day at SPHS

By Patricia Abbott

The dictionary describes the word tradition (noun) as “the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction.” The 2002 return of the South Plainfield vs. North Plainfield Canucks Thanksgiving Day football game marked the return of decades-old school rivalry and long-standing tradition. The annual contest has once again become a community-wide event. Despite the Tigers loss to the Canucks, the SPHS students have strengthened the growing sense of tradition that lives in the memories of many alumni. This alone makes all the students winners.

The newfound competition created a major resurgence of school spirit and saw the birth of a new tradition, a school spirit banner contest. Twelve high school clubs created original works of art in hopes of winning the \$100 prize and the honor of sporting the most school spirit. The SPHS Tiger Marching Band took first place.

The busy week continued with Homecoming Pageant, an event that has undergone numerous changes over the years. This year over 38 seniors competed for the title of Homecoming King and Queen.

Another fine example of old SPHS traditions taking root with a new generation of youths occurred at the pep rally and bonfire on Wednesday. Reminiscent of the pep rallies of olden days, aka the 1960s and ‘70s, cheerleaders and band members worked the crowd of students, family and alumni into near frenzy. As always, the football players took center stage.

The adrenaline charged pep rally was followed by the renewal of yet another favorite SPHS tradition, a huge bonfire outside the school. Missing from this year’s blaze was the traditional fir tree, representing the opposing team, the Canucks. The Tiger Marching Band competed with the roar of the fire as the crowd gathered along the fence to watch the flames. It is difficult to say which held more heat, the supercharged, ready-to-beat-the-Canucks teens or the bright flames shooting sparks high into the night air. Hopes for a victorious Thanksgiving Day grew even as the flames began to diminish.

Thanksgiving Day dawned bright and warm, an unheard of 64 degrees. Fans arrived in hats, gloves, old SPHS varsity jackets and even a few sporting shorts. Cheerleaders stripped off their warm leggings and shed their jackets. The hour of reckoning was at hand and the teams began their ferocious time-honored battle.

North Plainfield scored early in the game, causing a deafening cacophony of groans and cheers. Not to be outdone by all the hoopla, Mother Nature offered her own conflicts. The sunny day turned dark and threatening. The temperature dropped considerably and droplets of rain fell before the sun returned. Could that have been an omen? Maybe so, but for which team?

When the friendly rivalry ended in 1983, the record stood at SP-14 wins, NP-14 and one tied game. North Plainfield also went home victorious in 2002 and 2003. A successful goal for South Plainfield gave the Tigers a 7-6 lead. That single point raised spirits considerably. With just 12 seconds remaining on the clock, the crowd was uproarious, the scent of victory in the air. A Canucks field goal scored in the last 10 seconds crushed all hopes, yet the mighty Tigers roared on until the bitter end.

More Than A Game, Homecoming Offers a Chance to Connect to the Past

by Patricia Abbott

Thanksgiving Day found South Plainfield High School alumni Bill Seesselberg, Class of ‘72, at the fence ready to cheer on the Tigers as he once did years before. He said, “I think that it’s good to revive and continue traditions, especially ‘friendly rivalries’ like the South Plainfield-North Plainfield contests. Many students don’t realize where it began... it’s more than a game—it’s homecoming—a chance to catch up with fellow classmates from years past. And as years go by, to see the sons and daughters of high school classmates taking the field as players, cheerleaders, or in the band.”

A member of the Tiger Marching band, he recalled

attending every Thanksgiving Day game while in high school. His three brothers and sister followed in his footsteps. He shared his memories of the good old days of Tiger Fever with his children Jeff, a senior at SPHS and Chris, an eighth grade student at SPMS. Bill said “I told my kids a few things—the gentle pranks, “stealing” mascots, bonfires, capturing evergreen trees, and the like, along with homecoming dances, homecoming queen and king, etc. After the North Plainfield rivalry was suspended, and even though there was a Thanksgiving game, it just wasn’t the same.”

Others like Bill can hopefully look forward to watching the traditional rivalry continue to grow. The South Will Rise Again!



Borough Promotes Four Officers to New Posts



Lieutenant Paul Brembt is sworn in to his new position as Captain. With him are his fiancé Beverly Burton, her daughter Leslie behind Brembt's daughters, Hope and Allison.

At a special meeting held last Monday night, in addition to naming John Ferraro as acting police chief, four members of the South Plainfield Police Department received promotions

Department, having joined the department in January of 1985. Captain Brembt has served in the patrol section of the Operations Division his entire career. He has served as both a



Sergeant Peter Arancio is sworn in to his new position as lieutenant. With him are his wife Cathy and children Michelle, Marc and Christine.

and three new officers were sworn in.

Promoted were Paul Brembt to captain, Peter Arancio and Charles Siedenburgh to lieutenant and Daniel Noonan to sergeant. Hired were Chanta Hunter-Johnson, Peter Magnani and Daniel Hoppe.

Captain Paul Brembt, who was promoted to captain, is a 19-year veteran of the South Plainfield Police

shift supervisor and watch commander since 1990. Brembt was promoted to sergeant June of 1990 and to lieutenant in January of 1995.

Paul resided in South Plainfield for a number of years and has two daughters, Hope and Allison. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked as a special education teacher in Patterson. He is the son of the late Ralph

and Regina Brembt, and he has four brothers, John, Ralph, Robert and James and a sister, Jean. Captain Brembt is a graduate of William Patterson College and serves as a Deacon at the Stanton Reformed Church.

Captain Brembt will assume the role of Commander of the Service Division, which is comprised of one lieutenant, five general assignment detectives, two juvenile detectives, the department social worker and a secretary.

Peter "Pete" Arancio, who was promoted to lieutenant, is a 15-year veteran of the South Plainfield Police Department, having joined in August 1989. Lt. Arancio has served in the patrol section of the Operations Division, as well as brief tours as a juvenile detective in the Service Division and a member of the Special Problems Unit. For the past five years, he has served as a shift supervisor. He was promoted to sergeant in January of 2000.

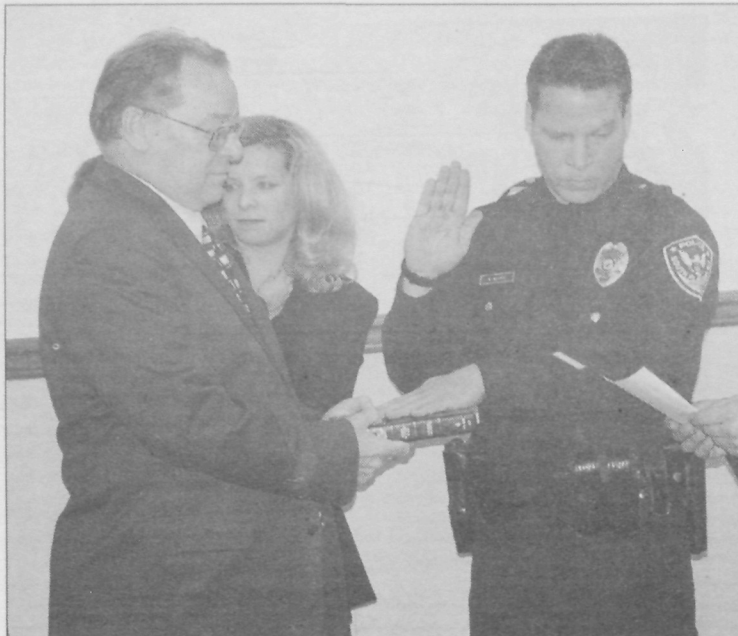
Pete has been married to his wife Cathy for 26 years and is a long-time resident of the Borough. They have three children, a son, Marc and two daughters, Christine and Michelle. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service. He is the son of the late Dominic Arancio and Martha Arancio and he has a brother, Joseph and a sister, Elizabeth.

Lt. Arancio will assume the role of patrol watch commander and supervise a sergeant and up to seven patrol officers.

Charles "Chuck" Siedenburgh, promoted to lieutenant, a 16-year veteran of law enforcement, began his career with the Plainfield Police Department in 1988. In January of 1993, he joined the South Plainfield Police Department. For the past four years, he has served as the department's training coordinator. He has also served in the patrol section of the Operations Division, as well as brief tours as a detective in the Service Division and as a member of the Special Problems Unit. He was promoted to sergeant in September of 2000.

Chuck and his wife Kathy have been married for 17 years. He is a life-long resident of the Borough. They have three children, two sons, Kevin and Christopher, and a daughter, Kerri. Prior to becoming a police officer, Chuck worked as a mechanic. He is the son of Charles and Doris Siedenburgh and has two sisters, Debbie and Donna.

Lt. Siedenburgh will continue in his



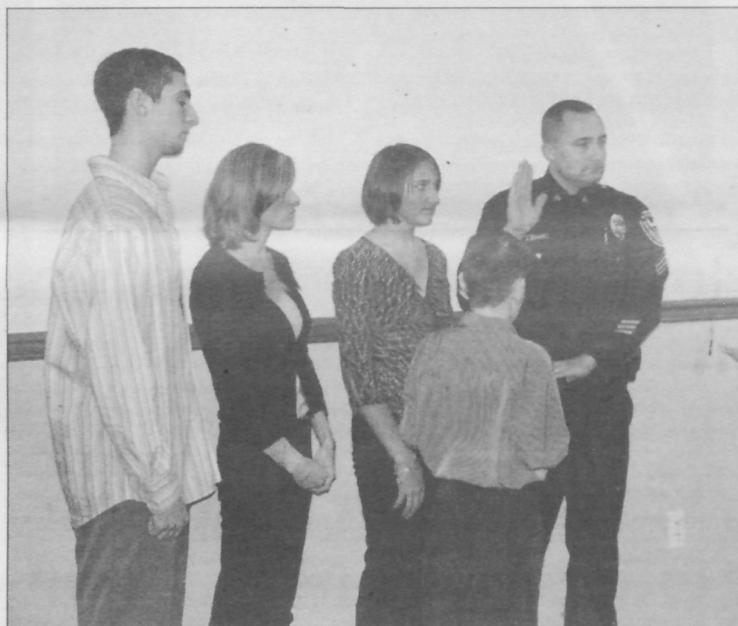
Police Officer Daniel Noonan is sworn in to his new position as sergeant. Holding the Bible for Daniel is his father Dan, will his sister Christine Faustini looks on.

role of training coordinator, commander of the Special Problems Unit/Community Police and will assume the additional role of Homeland Security Liaison for the SPPD.

Daniel "Danny" Noonan, promoted to sergeant, is an eight-year veteran of law enforcement, having joined the South Plainfield Police Department in August of 1996. In addition to serving in the patrol section of the Operations Division, Noonan served briefly as a detective with the

Service Division and most recently had been assigned to the Special Problems Unit-bicycle patrols.

Danny, who is a long-time resident of the Borough, has one son, Kyle. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked as an agent for the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. He is the son of Daniel and Theresa Noonan and he has two sisters, Denise and Christine. Noonan is a graduate of Rutgers University.



Sergeant Charles Siedenburgh is sworn in to his new position as lieutenant. He is accompanied by his wife Kathy and children Kerri, Christopher and Kevin.

Open Your Heart for Borough's Holiday Project to Benefit Needy

The Holiday Project run by the Social Services Department in the Borough of South Plainfield is again in full swing. We have numerous South Plainfield families who find themselves in need this holiday season.

As the world gears up for this year's pre-holiday commercial crunch, it is easy to forget the plight of those for whom poverty makes family living difficult and the Christmas season

bleak. With the welfare rolls down, little attention is given to those who no longer qualify for assistance but are forced from one low paying job to another. In the first study conducted, it was found that nearly half of the 500 mothers tracked are unemployed and most who found work move from one low paid entry level job to the next with few benefits and little hope of escaping poverty.

It is with this in mind that we are

trying to assist the working poor of our community. When the rent, food and other basic needs take up all your income, Christmas is often a nightmare for these families.

We have numerous families who have asked for your help. We accept any new item that you might want to donate. This includes toys, winter clothing of all types and sizes and all personal needs items.

Please give some thought to your own situation and try to remember the less fortunate of our community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The deadline for donations is Dec. 10. Any questions concerning this project can be directed to Marge Ackerman at (908) 226-7625.

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Borough Adds Three Newcomers To Police Force



Police Officer Chanta Hunter-Johnson is sworn in as a police officer while her husband Henry, father Darnell Hunter and son Chase look on.

At a special borough meeting last Monday night, the South Plainfield Police Department welcomed the addition of three new police officers to the department. Four members also received promotions (see related story on previous page).

Borough resident Chanta Hunter-Johnson was sworn in as a South Plainfield Police Officer at last Monday's meeting. Her appointment takes effect Jan. 7, 2005. Officer Hunter-Johnson is married to Henry Johnson and has an infant son, Chase. She is the 25-year-old daughter of Darnell Hunter of South Plainfield and Gewndolyn Hunter of Piscataway. Chanta has one sister (Chanda). Her father, Darnell, is a retired police officer from the City

of Plainfield. Chanta graduated from Bishop Ahr High School in Edison in 1997. She attended the University of Maryland until 2001 and is a few courses shy of earning a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. After attending college, Chanta has worked in various jobs, the most recent being Federal Management Systems in Washington, D.C. Chanta is scheduled to attend the Somerset County Police Academy from Jan. through June 2005.

Life-long Borough resident Peter Magnani, Jr., was sworn in as a South Plainfield Police Officer. The appointment takes effect on Jan. 7, 2005. Officer Magnani is the 27-year-old son of Peter Magnani, Sr., of South Plainfield and Julie Laureiro of Lake

Ariel, Pa. and he has one brother (Craig). Peter graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1995. After high school, he briefly attended Middlesex County College where he majored in Liberal Arts. While Peter had worked in a number of jobs since 1995, he settled into the position of full-time Communications Operator with the South Plainfield Police Department in 1997, where he is still employed.

Peter has also served as a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad since 1993 and he is engaged to be married to Bonnie DelPiano. Peter is scheduled to attend the Somerset County Police Academy from Jan. through June 2005.

Borough resident Daniel Hoppe was sworn in as a South Plainfield Police Officer. The appointment takes effect on Jan. 7, 2005. Officer Hoppe, who is single, is the 25-year-old son of Charles Hoppe of South Plainfield and Merry Bucher, also of South Plainfield. Daniel joins his older brother Michael, who has been a police officer with the South Plainfield Police Department since 2000. In addition to Michael, Daniel has a sister (Jill) and two other brothers (Charles and Matthew). Daniel graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1997 and is currently attending William Paterson University where he is nearing his degree in Exercise Physiology. Daniel is a certified police officer, having previously served with the New York City Police Department and most recently, the Mount Olive Twp. Police Department. Daniel will be placed into the Departments' Field Training Program for the next two months prior to being assigned to solo patrol responsibilities.



Police Officer Peter Magnani, Jr. is sworn in as a police officer while his fiancée Bonnie DelPiano and their son Tommy look on.



Police Officer Daniel Hoppe is sworn in as a police officer while his mother, Merry Bucher, holds the Bible for him.

John Ferraro Gets Top Spot, Following Retirement of Robert Merkler

(Continued from page 1)

and five sisters, Mary, Lisa, Angela, Gina and Rita.

According to Ferraro, some of the goals he intends to accomplish as Chief is overseeing the completion of the new Juvenile Detective Office which will be located behind Borough Hall. The building will house the juvenile detectives as well as a conference room and forensics lab. It should be completed in May 2005.

He also intends to improve relations with the youth in South Plainfield by reactivating the police trading cards and expanding the Junior Police Academy from two weeks to three week sessions.

Police officers will also continue to visit the Senior Center on a regular basis in order to educate them about crimes committed against seniors.

Grants will be obtained to provide video cameras inside and outside of Borough Hall for security purposes and newly leased police cars will now be equipped with digital cameras versus video tapes. More grants will also be pursued to purchase more equipment and personnel.

Studies are currently by done by the Traffic Safety Dept. identifying traffic patterns during the day to work on trouble spots and residents complaints and enforce violations. These studies

are also necessary as the Hamilton Blvd. Project is slated for this spring.

"I will continue to keep the citizens concerns in mind and do what is best for the department and the Borough,"

said Ferraro. "Chief Merkler was a progressive leader and I intend to carry on where he left off."

Meanwhile Robert Merkler will not be moving to a retirement village to

play golf. This Monday he started his new civilian job with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, working with the domestic-preparedness unit. He act as a liaison between law enforcement, local officials and the private sector to identify possible terrorism targets and help set up plans to thwart those threats. His job is funded

by grant money.

Last Monday, which was his last day on the job, employees of the borough hosted a farewell breakfast and presented him with a hunting jacket. The *Observer* would like to wish Merkler good luck at his new job and to thank him for all of his help with the paper during the past years.

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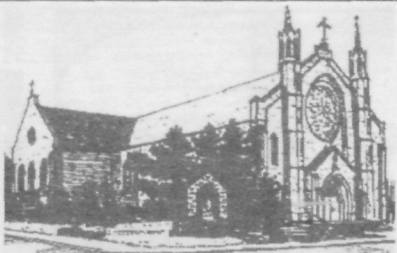
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Alvarado, Pastor

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Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 pm
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Our last early registration is this weekend Friday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be the last opportunity to receive the early discount. After those two 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 paper to manage and coach does not guarantee anything. We could use your assistance on the maintenance of our clubhouse at this point, your presence at our meetings, and/or on a committee at the SPJBC. Your time is valuable to the kids of South Plainfield Junior Baseball. Any questions about work to be done on the clubhouse, call Bob Bors at (908) 510-0746.

At our meeting coming up on Dec. 6, we will vote on Rules and Bylaws changes. We currently have 27 individuals who can vote on these changes. Club membership must be up to date for the 2005 season. Contact Chris Hansen if you think there might be a question on your voting status.

A big thank you goes out to the individuals supporting our efforts in the Fall Maintenance of the SPJBC Complex. I cannot stress enough those individuals who volunteer their time now will be given first consideration when selecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season.

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

Finally, our new scoreboard went up

on Field #2 recently. The scoreboard that was on Field #2 was refurbished and is now facing Field #1. We now have four fields with scoreboards and lights. The scoreboard quest was initiated by Chris Hansen when he started putting out collection bottles in businesses around town.

Thank you to everyone for helping contribute to this new addition to our complex.



South Plainfield Soccer Club Weekly Roundup

U-8 Storm—Defeated the Berkeley Heights Bucks 4-1 on the road in the Storm's last game of the fall season.

U-9 Thunder—played their second match with North Plainfield Jaguars on Nov. 20. Thunder pulled together and had an exceptional game, winning 4-1 bringing their record to 3-7. Thunder is looking forward to the spring season.

U-9 Rockets—Hosted their last fall season game and defeated the North Hunterdon Grizzlies 5-0.

U-10 Hotspurs—Had a busy weekend. The Hotspurs lost a close 4-3 game on Saturday to Hopewell Valley, and on Sunday, Nov. 21, the

Hotspurs traveled for the last game of the fall season to battle the Somerset Hills Fire to a 0-0 tie.

U-11 Bullets—Hosted the Millburn Gunners on Saturday, Nov. 20 in a game that was thrilling all the way to the end. It began to rain in the second half of the game. By the time the game was over it was pouring rain and the Bullets walked off the field flight champions. The season ended with the Bullets sharing the Flight championship with Franklin Township Warriors.

U-12 Power (Girls)—Hosted the final game of the season against Aberdeen-Matawan Lightning.

U-12 Spirit—Lost in the final game of the season to the Roselle Park Inter.

U-12 Sonics—Tied the South Brunswick Titans 2-2. Late in the game the Sonics were on a scoring drive when the Titans were called for a hand ball in the penalty box. The Sonics converted the chance into the tying goal.

U-13 Fire—Lost to North Brunswick Player Development Academy (PDA) 3-1 on Sunday, Nov. 21.

U-13 Ice—Defeated the Piscataway Lightning 3-2 on Sunday, Nov. 21.

U-14 Blast—Completed their season last week.

The South Plainfield Soccer Club would like to congratulate all of the players and coaches who played hard regardless of the outcome of their games. We hope that they continue to pursue success in the sport of soccer.

We would also like to thank the parents of the players who give these players the opportunity to travel and play soccer for the South Plainfield soccer club.

If your child would like to play traveling soccer for the South Plainfield Soccer Club, please visit our website at www.soplfdsoccerclub.com and e-mail the coach of age appropriate team.

Send your sports results to
spobserver@comcast.net

Girls U-12 Soccer Team Finishes With 9-3 Record

The South Plainfield Girls U-12 Soccer Team, known as the Power, finished a great fall season with a 3-1 victory over the Aberdeen-Matawan Lightning at the Kenneth Avenue Soccer Complex in South Plainfield. The Power finished with a 9-3 overall record, good for third place in their flight within the Mid-New Jersey Youth Soccer Association, which is part of the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association.

The season was full of many highlights, including winning First Place in the Spook-a-Rama Tournament held in October in North Brunswick. Coaches Sam Pauls and Ernesto Rodriguez did a great job with the girls, putting in the hard work and long hours necessary to increase the girls' soccer skills and get them to truly work hard as a team. More importantly, the girls had fun, whether it was running under the parents' "victory bridge" after a win or spray-painting their hair green in a show of team unity.

The Power's goalkeeper position

was shared between Samantha Pauls and Alyssa Villa, two girls with great athletic ability and aggressiveness. Supported by top-notch defenders Jamie Quail, who served as defensive sweeper and stopped multiple offensive runs by the opponent by keeping the ball out of the middle, and Vanessa Jimenez, who proved to be one of the toughest defenders in the league, Samantha and Alyssa combined for 4 shutouts.

The offense proved difficult to stop all year along, as the Power was shut out only once in twelve games. Forwards Candace Brown and Alliyah Williams kept the pressure on the opponents' defense and made some serious charges to the goal. Kerry Yorkanis, the team's leading scorer, used her tremendous speed and ball handling skills to register multiple "hat tricks" during the season. Carla Rodriguez contributed heavily to the Power's successful season by providing excellent defense, ball handling, pinpoint passing and goal scoring. Midfielder Juanita Adolphus had some

great blocks, and Danielle Tramultola and Brittany Plasse consistently kept the pressure on the Power's offense end. They were supported by Jasmine Aquinaldo, who provided some great passing and ball handling to keep the opponent on their heels, and Gina Albunio, who hustled and gave her all—a true trademark of this year's Power team.

After a winter break, the Power's season starts up again in March. The Power's website can be found at: www.soplfdsoccerclub.com. Be sure to check out our games in the spring as it appears that South Plainfield is turning into a future soccer "power" to be reckoned with in New Jersey.

PAL Weight Room Great Gift Idea!

Membership to the South Plainfield PAL Weight Room would make a great Christmas gift.

The weight room hours are weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fees are reasonably priced at only \$60 for six months or \$100 for one year. All members must have a towel and their ID cards at all times.

To purchase a membership, visit the PAL on Maple Ave. or call (908) 226-7713.

WINNER

junior Journalist Corner

Nina Bavosa, the Nov. 19 winner, pictured along with mom Angela, grandfather Angelo and dog Gelato, accepts dinner from Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros.

Sheryl Lipuma, the Nov. 12 winner, mom Nanette Babietz, brother Brian Babietz, dad John Babietz and grandmother Lee Roberts, accepts dinner from Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros. Not pictured are Sheryl's sisters Justice Lipuma and Alyssa Babietz.

Feed your soul...write!

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IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

Cheerleader" Promise Pledge Campaign. We would also like to thank the South Plainfield community who donated generously during our canning and other fundraising efforts. The South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleading Team was awarded 4th Place honors at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Championships at Sovereign Bank Arena on Nov. 21. Although they will not be advancing to the National Finals in Orlando, they have made history as the first Pop Warner Cheerleading team from South Plainfield to not only advance to the Eastern Region Championships, but to be named among the winning teams! Without the support of so many individuals, businesses and community, the dream of reaching the Nationals could not even be a possibility. We did meet our goal and we thank you all for being a part of that.

Although the many individuals who supported us are too numerous to mention, we would like to recognize the following businesses for being "Proud Sponsors" of the 2004 SP Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleaders:

Abilities Unlimited, Inc, American Gymnastics Academy, AKA, Inc., Avis-Linden, Best Made, Buckhead Beef, Candyland Academy, C Q J Floors, Cedarbrook Landscaping, Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, Century 21 Moretti Realty, Corporate Auto Rentals, Corner Deli, Cornerstone Architectural Group, CRC Building Contractors, Creative Kids Academy, DeAndrea Associates, Di-Lux Trucking, Dr. Ronald Chatmann, DDS, Elaine's Hair & Nails, Frank P. Licato Agency, Friends at Crown Cadillac, Friends at Caswell-Massey Co., Ltd, Gift Emporium, Grant School PTO, Hall's Fast Motor Freight, Harris Steel, Hometown Heroes, Hunterdon Somerset Spine & Rehabilitation, JerTex Computer Solutions, J-N-J Sealcoating, JoAnn's Dance Studio - The Performing Arts Centre, Knights of Columbus, KC's Corner, Lavish Electrical, Licato Insurance Agency, Marsh Associates, McCriskin Funeral Home, New Pak Industries, Pace Productions, POPS Communication, Presto Printing, ProCare Physical Therapy, R A B Enterprises, Sal's Spirit Shop, Seamless Gutters, South Plainfield Business Association, South Plainfield Football Eagles, South Plainfield Observer, Sportworld, Spotlight on Dance, Survivor Technologies, Twin City Pharmacy, U.S. Mortgage, Walter K. Abrams, Whitehouse Labs, White Rose Foods.

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Obituaries

William J. Ryan, 86

William J. Ryan died on Wednesday, Nov. 17 in Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Scranton, Pa., Bill grew up and lived in West Orange until he enlisted in the Army Air Corp. soon after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He went through basic training at Ft. Dix and was transferred for further training at bases in Michigan and Florida before being shipped out to the Pacific.

A staff sergeant for the 3rd Airdrome Squadron of the 5th Army Air Force in the Pacific theater of World War II, Bill served in Australia, New Guinea, Philippines, Iwo Jima and Japan. His group served as an advanced team to prepare the communications and airfields for occupation by American troops. He was among the first 150 Americans to enter Japan around 9 a.m. on August 28, 1945 under the command of Col. Charles Tench in a C-47 Douglas Skytrain aircraft. This was the end of the war, but before the surrender was signed. This special group secured the Atsugi Airdrome outside Tokyo and prepared the airfield for the arrival of General Douglas MacArthur and other dignitaries that were to attend the signing of the surrender on board the *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

At the conclusion of the war, he moved to South Plainfield, where he was a resident of the borough for over 45 years. Bill served the community as a councilman for the Borough of South Plainfield and was a member of the Holy Name Society, an organization within the Sacred Heart RC Church and the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus. He also had a love for traveling.

Bill is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy (nee Phillips), who died in 1989; seven sisters, Elaine, Ann, Margaret, Dorothy, Magdalene, Alice, Florence and six brothers, Leo, Martin, John, Joseph, James and Patrick.

Surviving are a daughter, Kathleen Ryan-Wolff and her husband, Richard of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; two sons, James of Newton and Bill of Tinton Falls and six grandchildren, Matthew, Maureen, Katie, Bessie, Patrick and Michael.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Angie "Babe" (DiCenso) Serido, 68

Angie "Babe" (DiCenso) Serido died on Friday, Nov. 19 in her home.

Born in Plainfield, she resided in Piscataway for 25 years before moving to Scotch Plains in 1985.

Angie was employed by the former Dreier's Sporting Goods Store of Watchung for 32 years before retiring in 1999.

Surviving is her husband, Anthony P. Serido; three children, Carolann Brennan of Bear, Del., Anthony P. of Howell and David A. of Piscataway; two sisters, Dolly DiCenso of Edison and Nancy Parenti of Scotch Plains and seven granddaughters.

Funeral services were held at the

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105.

Josephine A. DeCesare, 88

Josephine A. DeCesare died on Monday, Nov. 22 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Manhattan, she had resided in the city for her entire life before recently moving to Plainfield in 2001.

She had been employed by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 91 of New York and had begun working at the age of 16. She worked until her retirement at the age of 62. She worked at the factory on the corner of Broadway and Lafayette.

Mrs. DeCesare is a former communicant of Most Holy Redeemer Church in Manhattan and a member of Our Lady Pompa Senior Citizens Group.

Her husband, Louis, died in 1985.

She is survived by two loving daughters, Rose Ann Amigroni and Sara Mancini, both of South Plainfield and two dear grandchildren, Rosalie Cardinale and Brian Amigroni.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Frank Ogonowski, 53

Frank Ogonowski died on Friday, Nov. 26 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Germany and had lived most of his life in South Plainfield before moving to South Bound Brook 10 years ago.

Frank was a welder for Harris Steel in South Plainfield. He was a U.S. Army medic during the Vietnam War.

Surviving are his fiancé, Arlene Schmid of South Bound Brook; a son, Matthew E. Ogonowski of South Bound Brook and three brothers, Casimer, Joseph and Marian, all of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were under the direction of James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to American Liver Foundation, 75 Maiden Lane, New York City, NY 10098.

Leo H. Beenders, 90

Leo H. Beenders died on Friday, Nov. 26 at his home.

Born in Haarlem, Holland, he came to the United States at the age of seven. He resided in the Plainfield area before settling in South Plainfield in the 1950s.

A veteran of the U.S. Army during WWII, Mr. Beenders served as a staff sergeant with the 331st Transportation Corps Harbor Craft Company in the Pacific. He was also present during the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

He was a millwright by trade, working for John's Manville for 40 years before his retirement in 1979.

Leo was a true outdoorsman who loved to fish and hunt. As a young man, he would trap animals and hunt

for bear and deer. Later, he enjoyed many days both salt and freshwater fishing while continuing to hunt deer. In addition, he was an avid bowler. He bowled in the former Friday Night Sportsman league with the Somerset Rec, the Tuesdays Mixed league, also with the Somerset Rec. and later with the Strike & Spare Seniors League on Thursdays.

His first wife, Doris, died in 1963. He is also predeceased by two brothers, Anton and Henry Beenders.

Surviving are his wife, Maureen (McGowan) Beenders; a son and his wife, Leo C. and Rae Jean Beenders of Somerset; his sister, Gladys Letter of South Plainfield and two grandsons, Christopher and his wife Lisa of Stewartville and Ryan Beenders of Phillipsburg. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Lore G. (Eberhardt) Smith, 77

Lore G. (Eberhardt) Smith died on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at home in South Plainfield.

She was born in Geislingen, Germany, the daughter of the late Hans G. and Helene Eberhardt. In 1931, Lore and her parents moved to the United States, settling in Mountain-side, where she grew up. In 1953, Lore married Grant A. Smith of Summit and lived in South Plainfield since 1954.

Mrs. Smith graduated from Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield in 1945 and also attended Seton Hall University in Newark for two years.

In the 1960s, Lore was a den mother for Cub Scouts Pack 207 in South Plainfield and was among one of the first members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

Lore had worked as a credit manager for Littman Jewelers in the Menlo Park store and later in the main office in Edison. She was with the company for nearly 30 years before she retired

in 1993. During her retirement, she and her husband spent the winters in Dunedin, FL on the Gulf Coast where they enjoyed their boat, the USS *Cepheus II* and the beach at Honeymoon Island.

She was a member of the Coast Guard's WWII USS *Cepheus* Alumni Club.

Her husband, Grant A. Smith, died in 2002.

She is survived by a son, David G. Smith of South Plainfield and her cousins Carol L. Hill of Niagara Falls, NY; Helen and her son Eric Andresen of South Plainfield; Jim and Jean Dalrymple of Thomasville, Ga. and Manfred and Elenore Kehlenbeck of Thunder Bay, Canada.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Henry Partika, 84

Henry Partika died on Monday, Nov. 29 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Jessup, Pa., he resided in Newark before moving to South Plainfield in 1953.


Henry was employed by Ford Motor Company of Edison, working on the assembly line for 10 years before retiring in 1983. Previously, he worked for the former Ballantine Brewery Co. of Newark for 26 years as a brewer.

He served in the United States Navy during WWII and was proudest of his four years of service on the PT boats, after being discharged as a Gunners Mate.

Henry was a member of Sacred Heart Church, VFW Memorial Post #6763 and the Polish National Home.

Surviving are his wife, Mary (Budris) Partika; three sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Maryann of Bridgewater, Brien and Linda of Fernandina Beach, Fla. and Mark and Debra of Blanchester, Ohio; a daughter, Janet Partika of Merrillville, Ind. and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.



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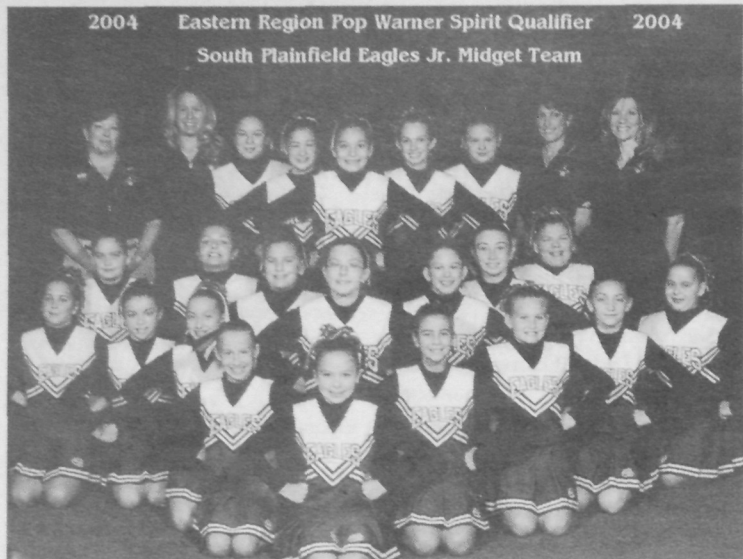
Sports

Jr. Midgets Soar at Eastern Region Championships

The South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleading squad made history once again on Nov. 21. They took fourth place honors in the Large Novice Division at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Championships held at Sovereign Bank Arena. This is the first South Plainfield Pop Warner squad to have advanced this far! The Eastern Region participants are comprised of the top teams from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Although only the first and second place teams will be attending Nationals in Florida, the South Plainfield Junior Midget team was awarded a trophy and plaque at the awards ceremony held at the competition to honor the top squads. These 21 girls have worked together as a team since their season began in early August.

After weeks of practice, team work, and determination, they placed first at the Mountain Valley Conference Competition on Oct. 10. They continued their amazing run on Halloween, when they placed second in the Central Regional Qualifiers at Sovereign Bank Arena. They should be proud of their most recent accomplishment! Each and every girl should be commended for the spirit and commitment they displayed throughout the season. The team launched a Sponsor a Cheerleader Promise Pledge Campaign in the event that they advanced to the National Finals. Without the support of so many individuals, businesses and community, the



dream of reaching the Nationals could not even have been a possibility. They met their goal and they thank their "Proud Sponsors" for being a part of that.

Members of the South Plainfield Jr. Midget Cheerleading squad are Rachel Alexa, Lauren Annetta, Carly Ashnault, Chelsey Colucci, Jamie Glavasich, Nicolette Hanley, Kansas

Harmon, Laine Harris, Crysta Hay, Tori Huber, Brigitte Kelly, Gabriella Lewis, Natalie Madurski, Megan McMahon, Cassandra Prendergast, Deanna Ranger, Jessica Scarpitto, Stephanie Sherwood, Amanda Steger, Caitlyn Whalen, and Sara Yocum. Coaches are Denise Kelly, Shannon Colucci, Robin Prendergast.

Record Numbers for Middle School Tiger Soccer

Another very successful season for the Middle School Lady Tigers has concluded. Twenty-six seventh and eighth grade girls represented their school this past fall, setting a record for the middle school soccer program. The girls posted a fantastic record of five wins, one tie and only three losses during their very difficult season. The girls combined for a total of 23 goals while allowing only 12.

Some highlights include a six-game unbeaten streak, a 2-0 redemption win over Metuchen, game-tying goal with under a minute left against Franklin, a hard fought victory over West Orange (3-2), a huge save in a 1-0 victory over Perth Amboy and an end of the season party with the boys' soccer team that included a friendly soccer match that saw the boys win 3-1.

The players and Coach Richkus thank the parents, central administration, the Board of Education, Mrs. Savage, the Middle School teachers and Al Czech for their support.

The players included Heterpheres Ali, Katie Baldassarre, Alex Blazejowicz, Ashley Capparelli, Cassie Capparelli, Ashley Cardinale, Courtney Easterday, Faryn Evans, Elizabeth Fasullo, Ashleigh Gray, Jenna Heckel, Amanda Hunteerton, Jennifer Ibarra, Megan Kerper, Elizabeth Martin, Zakiya Mangum, Amber Miller, Brittany Musoline, Annie Polanco, Carlee Reuter, Valeria Rivera, Gabriella Samayea, Nicole Soisson, Alyssa Sutherland, Jennifer Urrutia and Kristen Yorkanis.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Ron Russomanno requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to relocate the existing lot line between existing lots 5 and 11 in Block 26. The proposed lot line relocation increases the overall area of lot 5 and decreased the overall area of lot 11. In addition, there is a proposed 6 square foot parcel of land to be dedicated to the Borough of South Plainfield for the Bullard Place right-of-way. Block 26 is located between Bullard Place, Plainfield Avenue, Wood Street, and Pershing Place. The affected lots are located in the center of Block 26 and border Bullard Place and Plainfield Avenue. They are located in the R-10 zone; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1624 Plainfield Avenue on Block 26, Lots 5 and 11 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 14, 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 December 3, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

November 19, 2004
Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on November 18, 2004.

A. Case #47-04—Robert and Susan Jonas. Block 61; Lot 23; 601 E. Hendricks Blvd. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance from Terrace Ave. for a power generator was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

B. Case #64-04—Michael Secula. Block 127; Lot 13; 142 So. Madison Dr. The applicant's request for the construction of a second floor addition to the home with a 5.8 ft. side yard setback was hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #65-04—Atondra Friday. Block 14; Lot 2; 121 Palmer Ave. The applicant's request for a use variance in order to reuse the structure for two separate dwelling units was hereby GRANTED with conditions.

D. Case #66-04—Chanda Cassett. Block 16; Lot 26; 123 Baker Ave. The applicant's request for a lot coverage variance for an addition and bilco doors and lot over coverage was hereby GRANTED.

E. Case #69-04—Nancy Pender. Block 64; Lot 6; 1906 Holly Ave. The applicant's request for a lot coverage variance in order to erect a deck was hereby GRANTED with one voluntary condition.

F. Case #70-04—Rosario Cabrera. Block 139; Lot 20; 1432 Walnut St. The applicant's request to erect a two story addition with a front yard setback from Walnut St., a second story addition to the existing home with the continuation of a front yard setback and the installation of a bay window on the first floor of the home with a front yard setback was hereby GRANTED.

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

\$50.75 December 3, 2004

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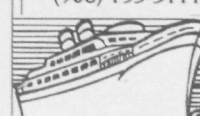
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policereport

• On Nov. 15 a Grove St. resident reported that he found a large dent in the front passenger side door of his vehicle while it was parked in the PAL parking lot.

• On Nov. 16 Carla Atkinson, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Robert Lee Caldwell, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to inspect and several outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• The owner of a business at 1437 Park Ave. reported that a window in the building was broken and a laptop computer was missing.

• On Nov. 17 Joseph E. DeVito, 29, of Freehold was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia being found unconscious in the parking lot of KC's Korner.

• Robert A. Watklevicz, 31, of Lawrence Harbor was arrested for fictitious or improper display of plates and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Nov. 18 Kristine L. Bernarducci, 36, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• An employee of Cedar Oaks Care Center on Durham Ave. reported that the drivers side of her vehicle had been keyed.

• On Nov. 19 Yolanda Ball, 31, of No. Brunswick was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Mohamed Mohamed Abdalla, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance outside Quick Chek on Sampton Ave.

• Marcelo Cando, 34, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting fraudulent government documents for identification at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Sprague Ave. resident a storm window on the rear porch had been broken and the door opened. Approximately \$700 in cash was taken from a bedroom dresser.

• On Nov. 20 Ken's Links on Hamilton Blvd. reported that plywood covering a window was struck with a cinder block in an attempt to gain entry. A piece of cinder block had also been thrown at the front display window. No entry was gained.

• A Randolph Ave. resident reported that the drivers side rearview mirror on her vehicle had been damaged. Another Randolph Ave. resident also reported damage to their driver's side rear view mirror.

• On Nov. 21 Rajendra Kumar Budham, 55, of South Plainfield was arrested for making false public alarms after dialing 911 twice without a reason.

• On Nov. 22 Bravo Supermarket on W. 7th St. reported that a male had stuffed 10 two-pound bags of shrimp into the sleeves of his jacket and fled the store.

• A Piscataway resident reported the theft of a wallet from her unlocked vehicle outside the Taj Mahal on Stelton Rd.

• On Nov. 23 Robert Alan Bradley, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested at Wachovia Bank on Plainfield Ave. for forgery and outstanding warrants.

• Joulé Technical on Corporate Blvd. reported that gas had been siphoned from three company vehicles.

• On Nov. 24 Anthony S. Grey, 42, of Plainfield was arrested for having a fraudulent inspection sticker, driving on a suspended license and outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Towannia A. Hawk, 43, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident on Clinton Ave.

• David Rosado, 30, of Bayonne

was arrested for displaying a fictitious inspection sticker, failure to inspect, driving while suspended and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Cream Ridge, NJ resident reported the theft of a Homelight air compressor worth \$400 from unlocked company truck.

• An employee of Pathmark reported that her wallet had been removed from her purse that was kept in a locked office.

• On Nov. 25 Bravo Supermarket reported that male approximately 40 years old have attempted to use a fake \$20 bill to purchase food.

• On Nov. 26 Darren D. Daniels, 36, of Plainfield was arrested at CVS for shoplifting seven packs of playing cards, four tubes of toothpaste and two boxes of condoms.

• A Lexington Ave. resident reported that several eggs had been thrown at his house.

• On Nov. 27 Joel Marrero, 24, of New Brunswick was arrested for driving while intoxicated, exhibiting a fraudulent inspection sticker and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• Zanita S. Greene, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for having an unregistered

vehicle, no insurance, fictitious license plates and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Ritter Ave. resident reported that paint balls had been shot at his vehicle.

• A Brennan Ct. resident reported the theft of a bicycle that was chained and locked in a stairway.

• On Nov. 28 Chevonne R. McRae-Cohen, 23, of Burnham, Pa. was arrested for driving on a suspended license and several outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Bravo Supermarket reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill from a customer.

• On Nov. 29 Michael E. Zielny, 28, of Fords was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• Juan Canahui-Xitumul, 34, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Faulks Pl. resident reported that strands of Christmas lights on their bushes have been cut on several occasions.

• A Wenzel Ct. resident reported that the headlights of a 2002 Nissan Maxima had been stolen.

Drunken Driver Creates Havoc

(Continued from page 1)

dai, later identified as Henry E. Burch IV, 31 of Plainfield, was found unresponsive outside the vehicle. Burch was treated by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and paramedics from Mercy 6. Burch was transported to JFK Medical Center for treatment and was released into police custody. Sacco received minor injuries as a result of the crash and was seeking her own medical care.

Burch was charged with assault by auto, a fourth degree crime, as well as

numerous motor vehicle violations, including driving while intoxicated, driving while suspended, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to report an accident.

Burch was arrested and is currently being held on \$25,000 bail.

The South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit is investigating the case. If anyone has additional information or witnessed any of these incidents, please contact Sgt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.

BOE to Get \$120K Languages Grant

(Continued from page 1)

said Senator Buono. "This year South Plainfield's World Languages program was on that line. This grant makes sure that students benefit from foreign language education without requiring cuts in other important programs."

The \$120,000 grant will fund the World Languages program in South Plainfield schools. The World Languages program teaches a secondary language to the students in the district, while at the same time exposing students to other cultures. This year the school district didn't have the money to fund this program through the an-

nual budget. The Property Tax Relief Fund helps New Jersey municipalities pay for programs like these without having to raise local taxes.

"Learning a second language is an essential component to a well-rounded education," said Assemblyman DiGnan. "The additional state aid will enable South Plainfield to continue its world languages program without placing the financial burden on the backs of property taxpayers."

"The world no longer speaks in only one voice and tomorrow's leaders must be prepared to compete on the global stage," added Assemblyman Barnes.

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