

South Plainfield Observer



VOL. 8, NO. 14

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 10, 2004



101st Airborne Annual Tree Lighting Saturday

The New York Chapter's Association of the 101st Airborne will hold their annual 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.

This year marks the 19th anniversary of the US Army airplane crash in New Gander, New Foundland, which was carrying members of the 101st Airborne in which all 265 perished.

The 85 foot 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 in memory of the members of the 101st Airborne who died in the crash.

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 members of the community are welcome to attend.

Borough Hires Outside Ambulance Service

Due to the lack of volunteers that can provide ambulance coverage during daytime hours, South Plainfield has awarded a contract to Rural/Metro Ambulance service to cover the town during the day. The new service has already begun.

According to the contract, Rural/Metro Ambulance will have two EMTs and an ambulance in the borough and ready for emergency medical calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost of the service to the Borough is \$1,450 per month.

During the past year, it has become apparent there are just not enough volunteers available during the day to answer emergency medical calls.

Mock Drill Tests Town Readiness

County, Borough & Civilian Volunteers Collaborate on Bio Hazard Exercise

The South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management conducted a mock exercise to test their response to a bio-hazard incident. OEM Coordinator Michael Zushma has been planning this exercise for more than

the first municipality to hold a drill of this size.

The exercise began Thursday evening at a mock Board of Adjustment meeting, which was attended by more than 50 people. As the meeting



Police subdue terrorist in mock drill held last week. Photo by Patricia Abbott

six months, along with the Middlesex County OEM and several other departments and health organizations around the state. South Plainfield is

began, a man ran into the municipal courtroom holding a fire extinguisher and yelling, "Death to you all!" Before police could intervene, he began to spray the contents of the extinguisher at the audience. When police arrived, the man was quickly taken into custody. The simulation left audience members either covered with white powder, slightly covered or not touched by the contents of the extinguisher. The drill was now officially underway.

Borough Hall was evacuated and in just a few minutes, police, fire and rescue squad cars and trucks descended on the scene, with lights and sirens blaring. A triage was immediately set up to evaluate the injured. No one knew what the white substance was, but until it was discovered, precautions had to be taken.

Some patients were taken by ambulance to various hospitals. The rest were divided into groups and quarantined until results of the tests on the white powder were made.

(Continued on page 6)



Municipal Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri cuts the ribbon on the Automated Postal Center recently installed at the post office as Postmaster Michael Deignan looks on.

Automated Postal Machine Aimed at Saving Time!

A new automated postal machine was unveiled this week at the South Plainfield Post Office by Postmaster Michael Deignan. It will make purchasing stamps and mailing holiday packages much faster. South Plainfield is one of the post offices chosen to use the new automated device.

The automated machine is the first thing visitors see when they enter the post office. It is customer friendly and operates similar to an ATM machine. A touch screen walks customers through the transaction in record time and with ease. You can purchase stamps, weigh a package and get the correct postage for it, purchase insurance and even ask for return receipt by just touching the screen. All you need is a credit or ATM card and you are set to begin a your purchase. However, it cannot be used for mailing foreign packages, purchasing money orders or for registered mail items.

Supervisor Michelle Cooper-Wilson demonstrated the automated machine for Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri, CFO Glenn Cullen and the *Observer* on Tuesday. Buttiglieri

was so impressed he promptly purchased stamps for his Christmas cards in just a matter of minutes.

The section of the post office where the automated machine is located opens early every day at 6:30 a.m. and remains open until 6:30 in the evening for those who can't get to the post office during regular hours or those who need to access their mailboxes.

This recently added convenience is the result of the renovations that have been ongoing for the past two years. Last holiday season was a nightmare for postal customers who visited the post office while renovations were underway and the parking lot was under construction. But this year, post office employees are ready to serve customers at a faster and more efficient rate. This new automated machine is just part of the improvements they have introduced.

Postmaster Deignan added that since that the post office expansion is complete, there are 250 post office boxes available to rent. The cost of a post office box starts at \$44 and runs up to \$400 per year.



On November 13 South Plainfield senior citizens were treated to a Thanksgiving dinner dance held at the Senior Center. Over 100 guests enjoyed a evening of food, fun and music. See story on page 7.

Copy deadline for Dec. 17 issue is Monday, Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Hall Council Chambers

Meets twice a month on the first and third Monday.

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

Agenda Meeting/Public Meeting

2005 Dates to be announced

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
December 14 and 28

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
December 16

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.—Dec. 14,

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

Regular Board Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—Dec. 21, Jan. 18 2005, Feb. 15, March 15 and April 12

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

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

December 21

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
January 12

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in

the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

December 13, January 31 (No meeting February) and March 21

Riley Students Celebrate "Respect Week"



Joanne Gurske, Riley Music teacher with students she directed for their Respect Assembly.

John E. Riley School is celebrating "Respect Week." To kick off the week, the children wore green and white to show their support and unite for school spirit day. Then there was a brief assembly encouraging each child to celebrate the differences among people and to respect those differences. During the assembly, the children sang songs and spoke about celebrating how each person is unique. They even did a little script using Rodney Dangerfield's "I don't get no respect."

Respect Week was coordinated by Angela Raimondo. The committee included Eileen Stellakis, Barbara Harris and Kristen Soos. The assembly was directed by Music teacher Joanne Gurske.

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

Cheryl Papa and I, Margaret Pezzolla, would like to take this opportunity to thank the Thunder parents for letting us work with your children. We really enjoyed working with each and everyone of them. They are an outstanding group of kids.

The fall season for Thunder was our first time playing together as a team. For their first season, they show potential. Thunder had an interesting start at the Wall Fall Classic Tournament. Where they won two games, tied one and lost one. As the season progressed, their game improved to 3-7.

Goal keepers protecting our goal were Matthew Resende, Brittney Papa and Kaitlyn Hughes. They made some magnificent saves and a real asset to the team.

As full backs, we had Jorge Diaz, Marie Lanza, Charles Marsh, Brittney Papa and Annie Pezzolla. Protecting our goal, they really tried to back each other up, causing a strong defense. They were also an asset to our team.

Our mid-fielders were Brooke Penik, Charles Marsh, Marie Lanza, Kaitlyn Hughes, Brittney Papa and Annie Pezzolla. They found out what it's like to hustle. These players did a commendable job this season. They were also assets to our team.

Our offensive line were Keanu O'Neal, Justin Marks, Matthew Resende, Kaitlyn Hughes and Brooke Penik. Together they made an incredible forward line. They showed immense ball control and worked the field very well together. They were assets to the team also.

For eight- and nine-year-old players, they did a great job this season. We are very proud of them and are looking forward to working together in the spring.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!
MARGARET PEZZOLLA &
CHERYL PAPA**

Dear Editor,

Hail and farewell to Jim Lenox. "Offer a better bus trip (to Mets opening day); the fans will beat a path to your door."

You served so many years as Master Director of our Adult School—teacher, mentor, trip organizer, advisor and always with a smile. On one trip you and the driver were trying to get us to Shea Stadium and had to resort to using local streets. Results—always on time, even if freezing outside. Enjoy your retirement, but visit us when you can—we miss you already!

**BON VOYAGE,
FRED MADISON**

Dear Editor:

The Roosevelt Elementary School Student Council is hosting a Sweatshirt/Toy Drive for the needy families in our community. The proceeds from this drive will go to Marge Ackerman of the South Plainfield Social Services Dept. We are asking for a

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.

donation of either a new sweatshirt or new toy or both, with sizes being equivalent to your child's age. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to participate in a worthy cause, and at the same time teach them the art of giving. The drive began Nov. 22 and will end Dec. 10.

As always, your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

**SINCERELY YOURS,
MS. FERRARO AND MRS.
MOSLEY, STUDENT COUNCIL
ADVISORS**

Dear Editor,

If anyone is thinking of buying a dog or cat for Christmas should think about saving the life of one that needs

a home. Adult dogs or cats are super since they are house trained and make great pets.

Please go to your local shelters and adopt before buying that "puppy" or "kitten" your children wish for for Christmas. If you wish to really help a pet get a home, in Rome, Georgia there is a kill shelter that takes the lives of 6,000 pets per year. In the south they have an over abundance of animals. One such place is the Rome, Georgia Shelter which can be reached at (706) 236-4545.

You can then contact Acme Transportation, which is a volunteer group who will bring that dog or cat to you at no cost. You must first adopt the animal and then make plans of bringing it home. They only keep pets there four days, which is not fair. This shelter is funded by the US government.

I hope everyone will either go to their local shelter and adopt a pet for the holidays or again call the Shelter in Georgia to help out a poor animal.

I donate to them to help keep pets longer. Having a pet is a life-long friend. I hope anyone who thinks about buying will adopt instead.

**THANK YOU,
TONY PISANIELLO**

South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor

Web page:
www.spobserver.com
For subscriptions, advertising or
information, call (908) 668-0010.

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WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer/Photographer

CAROL GRENNIER
Editorial Assistant

TONI MARIE CICCIA
Production Assistant

CHRISANN ZUSHMA
Web Page Design

ROXANNE CORTESE
JANE DORNICK
WILLIAM TUTHILL
Advertising Sales

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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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South Plainfield Observer

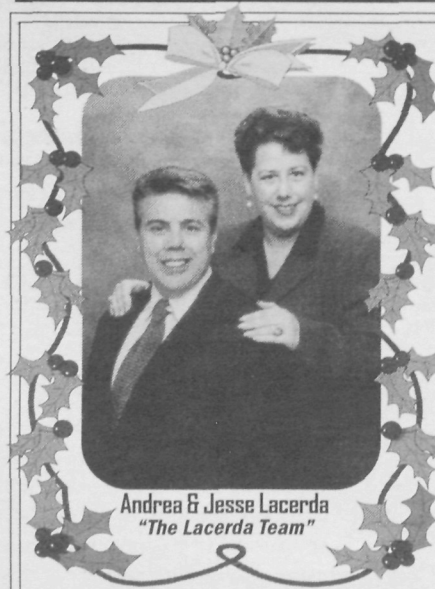
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Driver Charged With DWI After School Bus Accident

On Nov. 30, at approximately 2:30 p.m., a 2000 Bluebird school bus, owned by First Student Inc. of Piscataway, was involved in a motor vehicle crash with a 1993 Ford Explorer, owned and operated by Christopher Langer, age 32 of Lakewood. The school bus was operated by Anna Szwast, age 36 of Metuchen.

The crash occurred at the intersection of Plainfield Ave. and Geary Dr. in front of the South Plainfield Middle School. The investigation revealed that

Langer struck the school bus in the rear as the school bus was slowing for a traffic signal. There were 19 students on board the bus at the time. The students, ages 10-16, were students at Grant Elementary School and the South Plainfield Middle and High Schools. There were no reported injuries.

Officer Vincent Campagna, who is the investigating officer, charged Langer with driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

Sacred Heart Collects 300 Pair of Socks for Veterans



The Sacred Heart School Student Council had a drive in the school to collect white tube socks for the veterans for Veterans Day. This was part of their celebration of this most important day. The students donated over 300 pair of socks to these veterans. We are very proud of their support and

donations.

Students in the picture, along with advisors and representatives the veterans are: Bob Gillespie and Joanne Semon, advisors; Ashley Forbes, Michael Muglia, Ryan Hohner, Khaliah, Kate Salvatore, Sister Nadine and George Hosjoke.

"Communities of Light" Supports Women Aware

Communities of Light 2004 is underway for the first time in Middlesex County. The project will benefit Women Aware, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing crisis intervention and support services for victims of domestic violence. Residents and businesses will light luminary candles along driveways and sidewalks in and around the county as a powerful symbol of hope for all those who struggle with violence in their homes. Neighborhoods will be united around the belief that peace begins at home.

Women Aware is joining Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset counties who successfully presented the event in 2002 and 2003. Working together we will spread awareness and hope to victims in all four counties, lighting more than 100,000 candles across central New Jersey on Dec. 19 at dusk.

Sunday was chosen for the lighting because it is the day that most cases of domestic violence are reported, according to the 2003 New Jersey Uniform Crime Report. Rain dates for the lighting are Dec. 26 to 31. Each luminary kit will cost \$10 and include materials for six luminaries to light approximately 100 linear feet. Luminary kits will be available until Dec. 17. All proceeds in Middlesex County will benefit Women Aware, ensuring that victims of domestic violence and their families have a safe place to turn when in crisis.

Now approaching the end of their 26th year, Women Aware, Inc., is the only nonprofit, comprehensive provider of services to victims of domestic violence. Women Aware offers emergency shelter and crisis services, including a 24-hour hotline, counseling and legal assistance for victims, survivors and their families.

Luminary candle kits are available through volunteers, Women Aware, Inc. and at retail locations in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset counties or contact Eve Hook at Women Aware, (732) 249-4900.

Women Aware, Womenspace, Resource Center for Women and Their Families and Women's Crisis Services are grateful for the support from our volunteers, businesses, faith-based organizations and all those in the community who have contributed to the success of this project.

Christmas With Santa

On Sunday, Dec. 19, from noon to 2 p.m., Santa Claus will be visiting with South Plainfield children ages one to 10 at the Senior Center. To participate in the Santa visit, register at the PAL.

When this program is finished, everyone is invited to walk over to Spring Lake Park for carolling.



Army Specialists Zebulon Schoen (right) with his wife, Samantha, sisters Kira and Dominique and dad Bernie at Roosevelt School.

Former Roosevelt Student Return to Speak to Students

Roosevelt fourth graders were treated to a special visit by U.S. Army Specialist Zebulon Schoen last month. Schoen graduated from the old Roosevelt School and attended the Middle School in South Plainfield. In fact, fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Wilson, was his one of his teachers when he attended Roosevelt.

Zebulon was on leave visiting his family before being deployed to Iraq. He lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado with his wife, Samantha, whom he met while stationed in Midland, Texas.

Attending the program were two of his sisters, Kira, a fourth grader and Dominique, a second grader. Both are students at the new Roosevelt School. Also attending were his wife, Samantha and dad, Bernie.

Schoen started the program by explaining that he is a mechanic and what his duties consist of. He demonstrated the equipment he carries, which weighs over 50 pounds. He brought a samples of army rations, which is the food soldiers eat while on patrol.

He has no problem holding the attention of the children during the entire hour he spoke, which included a lengthy question and answer period. Some of the questions asked by the fourth graders were poignant. Asked if he was afraid, he said no, but added

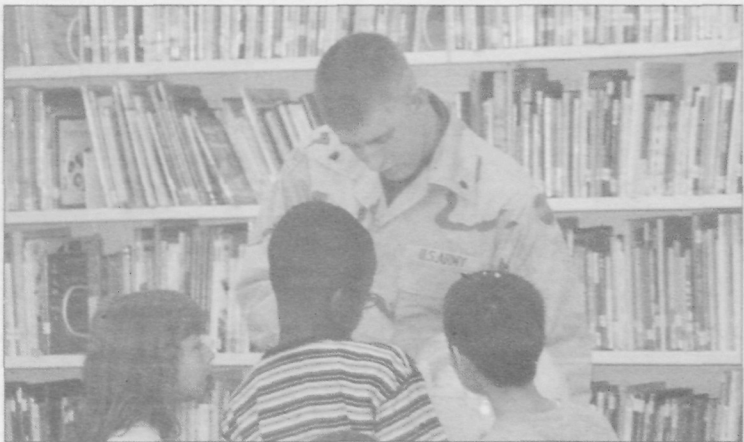
that he is always nervous about the unknown. He said that he felt was well trained to fulfill his duties while serving in Iraq. He said he will probably not see much combat duty since he is a mechanic and will be stationed on a military base with his squadron.

When asked about the dangers of being in Iraq, he explained how every soldier wears a bullet proof vest as well as other protection that covers most of their body, including their neck. He added that he has received medical training which allows him to give first aid, IV's and attend to the injured.

He handled every question from the students very well, never avoiding talking about any subject and answering each difficult question on a level the students could understand. "The aim of war is to make your enemy not able to kill you, not just to kill the enemy," was how he answered one of the students questions.

At the end of the program, Schoen promised to write the students and asked them to write to him. The students were reluctant to leave, since they still had many questions to ask.

His equipment has already been placed on a ship and is on its way to Iraq and will arrive about the same time as he gets there at the end of December.



Schoen shows some of the students army equipment he uses.

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Events

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, milk or juice.

Bring your cameras. Santa will be on hand.

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. 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 their annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The price (which includes eggs, bacon, French toast and much more) is \$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.

American Legion 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. Santa will be on hand to talk to the kids. Adults are \$5 and children are \$3. Children under six are free. All profits will benefit our So. Plainfield Scholarship Fund.

Senior Holiday Turkey Dinner

December 21

The South Plainfield High School

Send Us Your Around Town Events

South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B
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email: spobserver@comcast.net

What's happening in DECEMBER

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

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
December 13—Hunterdon Hills Christmas 10 a.m. December 21—Holiday Concert at the High School 12 noon			Weekly Shopping 9 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 10 Pizza lunch available
Knitting/Crocheting 13 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 14 Ladies Social Group 10am	Exercise 8:30am 15 Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10, 11:30, 1pm Listening to Kids 9:30am	Weekly Shopping 16 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 17 Pizza lunch available

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

Student Council will be sponsoring a Holiday Turkey Dinner for seniors on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at South Plainfield High School.

Entertainment by the SPHS Orchestra and Chorus takes place from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Dinner is at 1:15 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Senior Citizen Center, PAL or SPHS office. Dinner is limited to 130 seniors. Cost is a \$1 donation. For information contact Steve Novak at 754-4620, ext. 350 or Tom Baker at 754-4620, ext. 300.

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.

Sports Auction-Raffle

January 8, 2005

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club presents their annual Sports Auction-Raffle on Saturday, Jan. 8, (snow date: Jan. 15.). Doors open at 6 p.m. and auction begins at 7 p.m.

Some of the prizes include exciting NEW baskets, sports-themed baskets, sports tickets, a DVD player and a television.

Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission includes 25 auction tickets. For tickets or more information, call the Georges at (908) 755-4633 or Kevin Lykes at (908) 756-3671. No one under 18 years of age will be admitted.

— Out of Town —

WOWs Dance

December 10

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers (WOWs), Cateret Chapter, will hold a dance Friday, Dec. 10 at St. Demetrius Community Center in Carteret. Admission is \$8 and guests are \$9. For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

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.

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. 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 information, call (908) 322-9300 or visit evangelchurch.com.

Evenings For Singles

December 11

Christian/Spiritual Single Professionals 25-49 will meeting on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Dinner Annex Restaurant, on Nassau Street in Princeton. Cost is \$5 service fee, plus cost of whatever you order for dinner.

RSVP required by Dec. 10 to Diana or Taryn Decker (732) 764-9073 or angelicbutterfly@iwon.com.

Volleyball Clinic

December 11-12

On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11-12, Olympic Gold Medalist, Pat Powers, will conduct a volleyball skills clinic at 5 Points Sports Complex in Deptford.

For more information and registration please visit www.vbclinics.com or call (760) 635-3994.

Edison Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert

December 12

The Edison Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are currently on sale at the Edison Arts Society for \$35/adult and \$25/student. Group rates are available. Call (908) 753-ARTS to reserve seats. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

Mozart & Beethoven.... with a Twist!

December 13

Mozart and Beethoven....with a Twist! will be performed on Sunday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m. by the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Theater in Bridgewater.

General Admission is \$15, students are \$7.50. For information, call (908)



Ever See A Talking Christmas Tree?

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Noon - 3 pm

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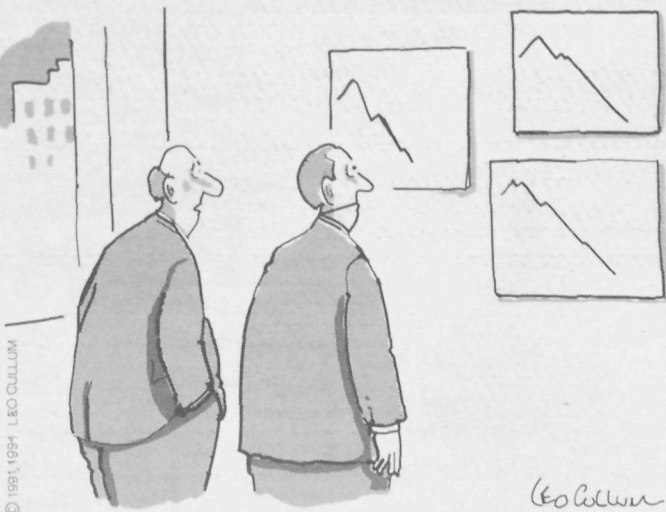
Future Stars Celebrate Turkey Day

Future Stars preschoolers celebrated Thanksgiving in school by listening to stories about the Pilgrims and baking and eating traditional foods of the day.

Students churned their own butter which they used on corn muffins that they had helped bake for their own Thanksgiving feast. They also enjoyed mashed potatoes with gravy, deli turkey slices and apple juice.



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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Twelve High School Students Receive AP Scholar Recognition for Their Achievements

Twelve students from South Plainfield High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 17 percent of the more than one million high school students in almost 15,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Students took AP Exams in May 2004 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performances on AP Exams.

Two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3.0 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Anuj Patel and Ravi Patel.

Two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3.0 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Ashley Ritchey and Josef Raoul Rodriguez.

Eight students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations with grades of 3.0 or higher. The AP Scholars are Jacqueline Arango, Michael Carmon, Ryan Decker, Wajdi Kanj, Pauline Lee, Daniel Sierzega, Alexander Tierney and Adam Toth.

Most of the nation's colleges and

universities award credit, advanced placement, or both based on successful performances on the AP Exams. More than 1,400 institutions of award a full year's credit (sophomore's standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades. Thirty-

four AP Exams are offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions (except for the Studio Art exam, which evaluates students' original artwork).



Carolyn Yankowski with Father John Skwara, former Pastor of OLC, who attended her retirement party.

Carolyn Yankowski Retires From OLC After 30 Years

Carolyn Yankowski, who has worked at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church (OLC) for past 30 years, has retired.

A farewell retirement dinner in her honor was held on Sunday, Nov. 21. More than 65 friends and relatives attended, included Father John Skwara, former pastor at OLC, who came to say his own personal farewell to Carolyn.

During her 30 years of employment at OLC, Carolyn has worn many hats. She was the secretary for the pastor, as well as the organist for all services and functions at the church. She also served as president of the Rosary Society and head of the religious educa-

tion department and managed to handle each and every one of her duties with efficiency.

The retirement dinner was arranged by the Rosary Society and catered by the Fountainblue Restaurant.

Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays

(908) 756-1333

Tues-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass

Thurs-Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10am

Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm

Sunday mornings 8am and 11am



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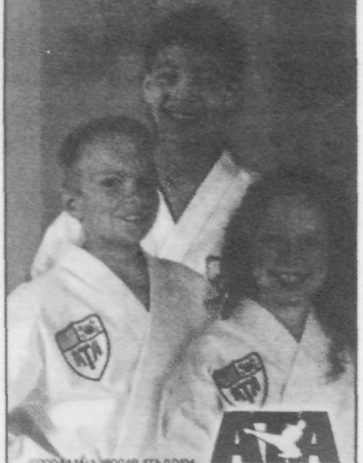
*If you would like dinner or know of
someone who is need of dinner.*

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

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

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Gift wrap a uniform
this holiday season.
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Drill Tests Towns Readiness



Victims of the mock terrorist attack were held until results of testing of the white powder was completed.

(Continued from page 1)

When police interrogated the suspect, he told them there was a bio-hazard material in the fire extinguisher. However the police never rely on the word of a suspected terrorist. Teams from Middlesex County Hazmat and Emergency Management, as well as the Health Department and FBI were called to report a possible terrorist attack.

When members of the Middlesex County Hazmat arrived, they suited up and entered the evacuated building. After testing the white powder in the extinguisher taken from the suspect, they found it was positive for anthrax. According to David Papi, director/health officer from the Middlesex County Public Health Department, "New testing equipment can detect several kinds of bio-hazardous material in less than 15 minutes. This includes smallpox, anthrax, plague, tularemia, botulism and staff. If we get a positive reading, we take another reading and if possible, we wait for directions from the FBI. The entire drill was carried out in real time and took into consideration how long each department would have had to arrive

on the scene.

All members of the audience were asked to fill out cards with their address and phone numbers on them. When the results were in, John Dowd, who is Risk Coordinator of Middlesex County Health Department, announced that tests were positive for anthrax. He said it would take 24-36 hours for the CDC to confirm the results. Wipes were handed out to everyone who was involved to wash their hands. They were told to go home, take off their clothes and put them in a plastic bag and take a shower immediately. The bagged clothing was to be saved, because it would be used for evidence.

Dowd went on to explain some of the facts about anthrax and handed out a fact sheet for each person to read. He added that anthrax could not be

passed from one person to another and they could go home. The group was further instructed to come to the PAL building on Sunday, where medication would be handed out to those who were infected.

On Sunday, the PAL building and surrounding area was a mass of activity. Sections, or pods, were setup to handle specific tasks, like registration, medical exam, counseling, etc. Holding areas were set up on the grounds to keep the crowds orderly. After each person registered, they were sent to a trailer for triage, where it was determined if they should get a red or green wristband or just needed counseling. Those who appeared sick were first sent to a sick bay area, where members of the rescue squad were on duty.

Red or green wristbands were used to determine if a person should be put on a fast or slow track. Almost 80 percent were put on the fast track, meaning they had no obvious health problems and could just receive the medication and go home. Those placed on the slow track were those with allergies and other health problems and each was dealt with separately. Those sent to counseling were the people who were not actually witnesses to the incident, but who were suffering with anxiety symptoms. There were several

counselors on hand to talk to them and a film about the facts of anthrax. Precautions were taken to keep the anticipated crowds under control by stationing police officers in and around the building. In addition, 30 Piscataway CERT and 25 South Plainfield CERT members were there to fill in for police duties. Also volunteering for the first time were members of the newly formed Medical Reserve Corps, who are medical personal who have signed up to help out in case of an emergency. More than 100 volunteers were participating in the drill, not counting those who were victims of the attack.

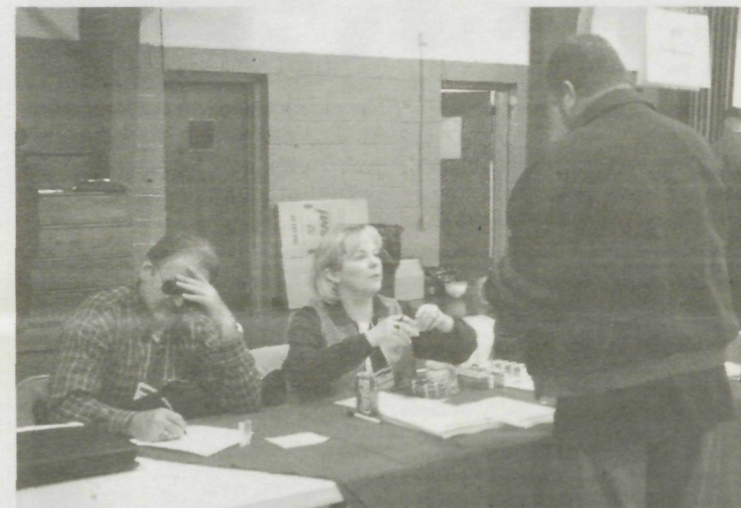
Many of these volunteers and agencies were created after, and because, of the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11. This simulated terror attack was necessary so that emergency



Officer Wayne Diana takes information from CERT member Wayne Grennier



John Dowd, Middlesex County Health Department announces that the results of the tests were positive for anthrax.



Debb Gash, a nurse from the Middlesex County Health Department, dispenses Ciprofloxacin to one of the victims of the mock terrorist attack.



Victims first register before being evaluated at the PAL on Sunday.

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Teleflora

Junior Journalist Corner



Briell Melendez Named "Junior Journalist"

Briell Melendez, Riley School second grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Her illus-

trated story, "Diary of a Bumble Bee," has won her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Winners and their parents receive



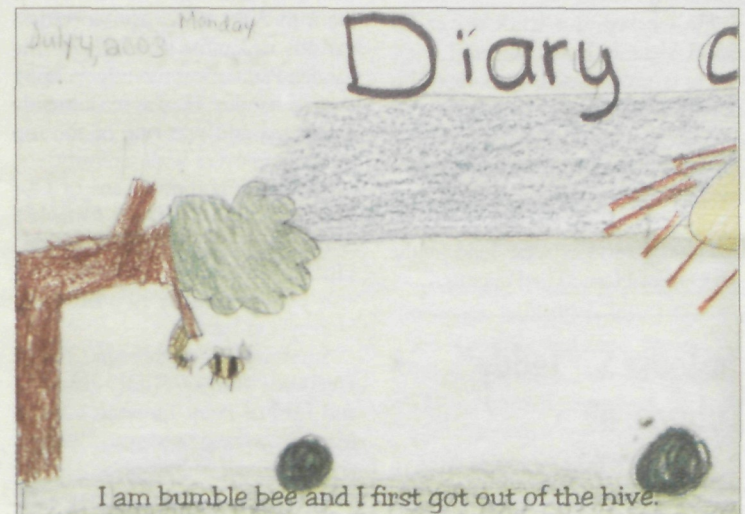
Pictured (l to r) Riley School Principal Randall Rosselli, Jr., homeroom teacher Linda Elster, winner Briell Melendez and Librarian Joanne Otlowski.

trated story, "Diary of a Bumble Bee," has won her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

All students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their

teacher, school principal, Hometown Heros located on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office.

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



Pictured here is the first panel of Briell Melendez's four panel story, "Diary of a Bumble Bee."

Students and Seniors Cavort at Dinner Dance

by Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield senior citizens were treated to a Thanksgiving dinner dance held at the Senior Center recently. Over 100 guests enjoyed a evening of food, fun and music. The feast included a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, hot and cold beverages and a choice of delicious desserts.

On hand to assist with the event were students from the South Plainfield High School Facilitative Leaders Club. The youths served the meal, cleared tables and danced with the guests. They also provided beautiful mums for each table.

Dressed to the nines, the seniors danced throughout the evening. They did the Polka, waltzed and hopped to jitterbug tunes. The most popular dance was a bit of a surprise, much to the delight of the high school students. The Electric Slide filled the dance floor with everyone from guests to Joann Graf, senior center director and the caterers and students.

Music was provided by a live band, The Associates. Spisso's Catering provided food for the party.

The event is one of two dances sponsored by the Senior Center each year. In May the Girl Scouts will sponsor a Country Western Hoedown.

Facilitative Leaders club members are Cristina Sa, Cristina Dias, Chris Stallone, Daniel McCreesh, Jane Merlo, Jackie Muglia, Marquis Jones, Courtney Sacco, Jeremy Rodas, Cassie D'Urso, Gerry Burtico, Gina Severini and Krystal Williams. Advisors are Maryellen Martko, Mr. Hajduk, and Ms. Vandermark.



Members of the South Plainfield High School Facilitative Leaders Club.



Senior citizen Tina Tedesco dances with SPHS student Danny McCreesh, 16.



Sil Gover of South Plainfield dances with SPHS student Marquis Jones, 18.

police report

• On Nov. 30 Anthony S. Grey, 42, of Plainfield was arrested for exhibiting a fraudulent insurance card when trying to get a release for a towed vehicle.

• Lynn Steel on St. Nicholas Ave. reported the theft of six Bell XP computers worth \$9,000 and various office supplies. There was no forced entry.

• Flanagan's on Plainfield Ave. reported that an attempt had been made to pry open an outside office door located on the roof of the building.

• A Clark Ln. resident reported that the power cord had been cut which lit Christmas ornaments on his lawn.

• On Dec. 1 Victor M. Benalcazar, 47 was arrested at the DMV for exhibiting a fraudulent passport to renew a drivers license.

• On Dec. 2 Theresa Coccozza, 35, of Piscataway was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting wrapping paper, pins, rings, a toy, purse and assorted clothing valued at \$397.98. Additional items shoplifted from Kohl's were also

found in her car which totaled \$2,328.66.

• On Dec. 3 Adaobi C. Nwadiogu, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to inspect, driving on a suspended license, unclear plates, driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Dec. 4 Raymond Anthony Capone, 39, of Lucy Ct. was arrested for driving on a suspended license, driving an unregistered vehicle and

two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Hado Machinery on Kennedy Rd. reported that a Mac truck, John Deer excavator and two back hoes had been damaged by rocks and sledge hammers.

• On Dec. 6 Sara N. Bermudez, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, failure to stop for a red light and driving an unregistered vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

"Books to Keep" Donations

The 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.

Bring new books to the library at your convenience. Financial contributions may be made payable to Libraries of Middlesex and mailed to Leah Wagner, Monroe Twp. 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.

For more info, call (908) 754-7885 or visit www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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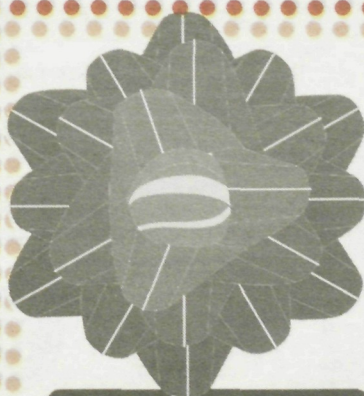
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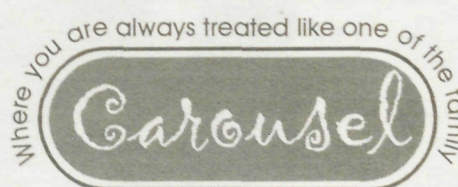
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South PlainfieldScouting

Scout Troop 207 Attends Camporee

Boy Scout Troop 207 attended the first annual State Police Camporee recently. The camporee was located at the State Police Academy in Sea Girt. Through the cool weather and freezing wind, Troop 207 found themselves enjoying the well planned Camporee.

While attending, scouts were presented with a variety of activities such as live tactics demonstrations, firearms simulations, and even rappelling from roofs. The Camporee provided many hands on activities for the scouts, including lessons and department walk-throughs. They were even invited to tour of the State Police Crime Lab, which normally is off limits to everyone except the science staff.

The events concluded in the evening when the State Police honored 50 State Troopers as Eagle Scouts, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. In addition, the superintendent of the State Police presented those Eagle Scouts in attendance with the first commemorative coin issued for their accomplishment in attaining that rank, including the two Eagle Scouts from Troop 207, Dan Lahey and Purav Patel.

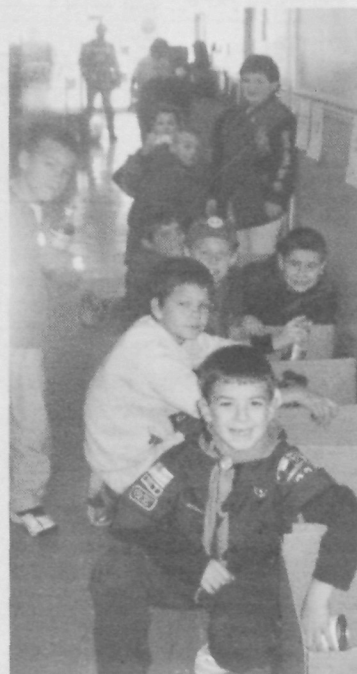


Cub Scout Pack 324 of Kennedy School went on their first fall camping trip to Ten Mile River. Ten Mile River is located in Narrowsburg, New York. The scenery there was magnificent, complete with caves for the scouts to explore. They had such a great time that they may return there in the spring! Pictured from left to right are Brian McCarthy, Chris Duffy, Garrett Cusick, Kevin Belanger, in front Troy Kurilew, Tommy Riccardi, Ryan Riccardi, Shane Cusick, Raymond Jazikoff, Connor Skelly and Brandon Pauls.

Scouting for Food a Success

The Cub Scouts of Pack 224, John E. Riley School would like to thank the Riley area residents for their continued support of their annual Scouting for Food Drive. On the weekend of Nov. 6, Cub Scouts put out bags throughout the Riley School area and then on Nov. 13 the boys returned to pick up the bags. The response was overwhelming. More than 284 bags in all were collected, which averaged to 1,420 items. The items were given to Marge Ackerman of the South Plainfield Social Services to help local families. Ann Buckelew is to be commended for organizing this event.

Scouts that participated in this project were: first grade Tiger Den: Daniel Sprenger, Alex Kelly, Trevor Abood, Dion Pender, Jonathon Conrad, Matthew Siepmann, Brian Csohor; second grade Wolf Den: James Markey, Frank Ferraro, Anthony Santone, Zachary Henderson, Brandon Rickert, John Michael O'Sullivan, Daniel Pecheco; fourth grade Webelos 1: Christopher Markey, Anthony Austin, Joshua Siepmann, Joshua Coupe, Joseph Affinito,



Zachary Smithline and fifth grade Webelos 2: Stewert Buchelew, Daniel Kelly, Luke Sprenger, Eric Rodrigues, Matthew Manning, James Conrad and Nii Sackey Mills.

Obituaries

Joe Alfano, 87

Joe Alfano died on Friday, Dec. 3 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born and raised in the Ironbound section of Newark, Joe lived in Port St. Lucy, Florida for 10 years before settling in Bridgewater in 1997.

He was employed as a truck driver for many years with Grammar Dempsey and Hudson Trucking Co., retiring in 1982.

A beloved father and grandfather, Joe was an avid horse player and was also known as a storyteller and comedian. He was a member of the Somerville Elks Lodge #1068 and a member of the Teamsters Local #478 Trucking and Allied Industries in Newark.

He is predeceased by his wife, Helen M. (Janus), who died in 1996; a daughter, Beverly Milacek, who died

in 1995 and by all of his brothers and sisters.

Surviving are a daughter, Yvonne Alfano of Bridgewater; a granddaughter, Kelly Marie Rodillas and her husband, Matt of Toronto, Canada and by a nephew, Brooklyn of Union.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joe's memory to the American Diabetes Association, 19 Schoolhouse Rd., Somerset, NJ 08873.

Frank T. Vedutis, 50

Frank T. Vedutis entered eternal life on Friday, Dec. 3. His last hours were spent with family members by his side at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. He was born on Feb. 16, 1954, in Summit, the son of Robert and Mildred Vedutis.

Frank attended South Plainfield High School. He was a self-employed contractor (TBC & Sons). He enjoyed working with his sons in his business and riding his Harley. He also enjoyed eating licorice and taffy and was known very lovingly as the "Candy-Man."

With the gift of life from his brother William, prayers and encouragement from beloved friends and family, Frank was able to draw on his inner strength to battle cancer into remission. He will be remembered for his positive outlook, will to live and sense of humor. Special thanks go to all of his "angels" at Robert Wood Johnson whom he loved deeply for their never-ending support and services.

He leaves his wife, Jacqueline; two sons, Frank and Joseph; a daughter, Desiree; parents Robert and Mildred Vedutis of South Plainfield; a brother, Robert Vedutis, his wife, Debra and their children, Jennifer, William, Andrea and Anthony of South Plainfield; a sister, Donna Vedutis of South Plainfield; a sister, Diane Ford, her husband, Dan and their children, Jake and Riley of Branchburg; a brother-in-law, Albert H. Antoine II, his wife, Sheila and their children, AJ and Aimee of Scotch Plains as well as a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, 195 Little Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Donations are to be made directly to Hematologic Malignancies Research.

Dec. 5 at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton.

Born in Elizabeth, Stephen had lived in various sections of Somerset and Union counties.

He worked as a truck driver for B&H Metal in Bound Brook.

He is predeceased by both of his parents, Miklos and Vera Devar.

Surviving are a sister, Valarie Dvorsky and her husband, George; a niece, Mary and a nephew, Erik, all of Piscataway.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Tadeusz S. "Teddy" Lubach, 69

Tadeusz S. "Teddy" Lubach died suddenly at his home on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

Born in Cmolas, Poland, Mr. Lubach came to the United States in 1949, residing in Bayonne before settling to South Plainfield where he had resided for most of his life. He and his family also maintained a second residence in Ortleigh Beach.

A veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Lubach was honorably discharged in 1961. He was a longtime employee of General Motors in Linden, where he began his career with them in Aug. 1952. He worked in various capacities throughout the Linden Plant, most recently working as stock handler. He was still currently employed and was one of the top union employees with seniority.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church.

His wife, Dorothy "Dottie" (Turay) Lubach, died in 1998. He is also predeceased by two brothers, Stanley and John.

Surviving are three sons, Ted of Freehold, Tom of South Plainfield and Dan of Point Pleasant; a sister, Mary Brown and two brothers, Eddie and Bruno, all of Bayonne.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Emily, Erin, Kayla and Matty.

Funeral services were held in the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations to the American Heart Association, 2250 Route #1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 would be appreciated.

In Loving Memory

Erio Notino

1st Anniversary in Heaven
Dec. 14, 2003-Dec. 14, 2004

Carol papā, since heaven has become your home we sometimes feel so alone, and though we now are far apart you hold a big piece of our heart. We try to fill it with memories of your smile, humor and your loving heart, but now in heaven you kindly share them with our God.

Love you Papa,
Your Family



In Loving Memory

"One Year Anniversary in Heaven Together"

Eugene Ficorilli
1/21/22 - 12/14/03

Agnes Ficorilli
7/27/27 - 10/2/03

One year has passed and it feels like yesterday we were talking with you.

Only thing that brings us peace is knowing you are together in heaven - knowing you are our guardian angels looking after us.

We love you and miss you very much.

Love, Your Children and Grandchildren



Stephen W. Devar, 47

Stephen W. Devar died on Sunday,

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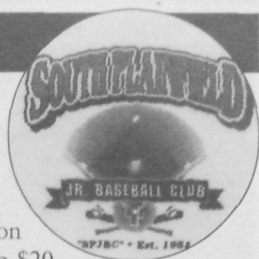
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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



At our monthly meeting held on Dec. 6, it was decided that the Pony League ages 13-17 will remain the same with a few exceptions; the 12-year-old kid that is in the seventh grade can play in the Pony League during our regular season. He then must continue to play in the Pony League during the All-Star season. Pony B will be comprised of 13-year-olds and 14-year-olds that wish to continue in Pony B. Those 14-year-olds that wish to play in Pony A can do so. They will be playing with the 15-17 year olds.

If you have any questions on rules and bylaws go to our website: spjbc.com or call Commissioner Lee Flanagan at (732) 684-8347.

You have the remainder of the month in December to sign up at \$95.00. Beginning January 1, 2005,

registration will go up \$20 per kid. You can register in person at the Baseball Club on Dec. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. This would be the sixth opportunity to register for the 2005 season.

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 you anything. We could use your assistance on the maintenance of our clubhouse at this point, visible at our club 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 at the complex, please call Bob Bors at (908) 510-0746.

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 that volunteer their time now will be given first consideration when selecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season.

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

Finally, our new scoreboard went up on Field II recently. The scoreboard that was on Field II was refurbished and is now facing Field I. 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

Girls U-13 Soccer Tryouts

Tryouts for all girls age 13 (born between Aug. 1 1991 and July 31 1992) interested in playing traveling soccer in the Spring of 2005 will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12 at the PAL gym. Girls should wear shin guards and be ready to play. For more info go to www.soplfdsoccerclub.com

U16 and U19 Soccer Tryouts

Soccer tryouts for the traveling soccer team, U16 and U19 will be held at the PAL on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. For more info go to www.soplfdsoccerclub.com

Send your sports results to
spobserver@comcast.net

Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter

High School Tiger Wrestling Preview

By Bob Hunter

Well, Turkey Day is over and the 2004-2005 wrestling season begins. The Tigers, who finished 13-2 last year and reached the sectional finals, look to improve over last year's accomplishments. With a strong core of returning starters from last year's team and a talented group of upcoming freshmen, they are looking forward to another successful season.

Returning for the Tigers are a strong group of starters, which includes seniors Nick Curico (130-140), third at Morris Knolls and third at District 12; Pete DeAndrea (140), a 24-6 record, District 12 champion and fourth place at Region 3; Rob Maistickle (215), an 18-6 record, District 12 champion and fifth/sixth at Region 3; Paul Ritchey (145), a 22-10 record, GMC runner up, District 12 runner-up, third at Region 3 and a state qualifier and Viet Vo (125), fourth at the Hunterdon Central Tournament, will provide the Tigers with the leadership needed for

a successful year.

The returning junior class is led by Jimmy Conroy (119), 34-0, GMC, District 12, Region 3 and NJ State champion and Kevin Crilley (189), 25-7, GMC runner up and a District 12 runner up. The Tigers also add transfer Ed McCray (135), who was a District champ and finished second at Region 3 for Rahway High School, to strengthen an already strong lineup. Also look for Bill Daly (171-189) to help increase depth to the lineup.

Returning to starting positions as sophomores are: Billy Ashnault (112), 24-10, GMC runner-up, District 12 runner-up, fourth at Region 3 and a state qualifier; Nick Dorey (130), 22-11, GMC runner-up, District 12 runner-up and fifth/sixth at Region 3; Mike Jakubik (145-152), 16-15, fourth GMC tournament, District 12 runner-up and fifth/sixth at Region 3 and Sam Martin (152-160), 20-11, District 12 champion and fifth/sixth at Region 3. Also look for big things this year from sophomore Bryan Hunt

(125), who had some varsity experience last year and looks to crack the lineup.

Two freshmen that will be cracking the Tigers lineup this year are Patrick Hunter (103), two-time kids state champion and Middle School national champion and Mark Wagner (160-171), kids state tournament runner-up and Middle School national tournament runner up, both of whom are expected to produce positive results.

Depth has always been a problem for the Tigers, but this year it's a different story with seniors Johnny Martin (160-171) and Erik Vespar (160-171), junior Jarrel "Snacks" Godette (Hwt.), sophomores Preston Johnson (189-215), Jack Dong (119-125), Robert Gentile (103-112) and Dan Pompilio (125-130) and freshmen Jake Smithline (119-125), Nick Vertucchi (112-119) and Rocco Petriello (215 - Hwt). Let's not forget senior Jennifer Braco (119-125), who will also be looking for some varsity action. She is the daughter of former South Plainfield High School state place winner Joe Braco.

Middle School Places Third at Randolph Duals

By Bob Hunter

The Middle School Wrestling Team kicked off their 2004-2005 season with an impressive third place finish at the 15th Annual Randolph Dual Team Tournament. The Tigers got help from five recreation wrestlers to fill the five lower weight classes; Vinny Vetuschi (51), Ryan Walsh (56), Anthony Ashnault (61), Kyle Brady (66) and Troy Heilmann (71).

They faced Morris Hills in the first round. After losing the first match of the new season, the Tigers went to work winning the next 14 matches and coasted to a 79-12 victory. Winning matches were: Ryan Walsh, Anthony Ashnault, Kyle Brady, Troy Heilmann, Ritchie Szeliga (76), Ryan Sacco (81), Nick Heilmann (86), Nick Pauls (91), John Wylam (97), Corey Hay (103), Mike Wagner (110), Eric Niemeyer (117), Nick Vallone (124), Justin

Smith (131), JJ DeLillo (148) and Jonathan Conroy (Hwt).

Next up they faced powerhouse High Point, who edged out the Tigers last year in a league match and was once again the team to beat. In a tactical move, the Tigers had everyone from 71 pounds bump up a weight class. The move seemed to backfire as the Tigers dropped 10 of the next 12 matches. Winning for the Tigers were Anthony Ashnault and Nick Heilmann, each winning by fall and Mike Wagner and Nick Vallone. After several forfeits High Point prevailed 60-42.

In the consolation semi-finals, the Tigers faced host team Randolph and bounced back from their loss to High Point with an 84-18 victory. Winning matches for the Tigers were Vinny "Mini Me" Vetuschi (51), who won his first career match by fall, Kyle Brady (66), Troy Heilmann (71), Ritchie Szeliga (76), Ryan Sacco (81), Nick

Heilmann (86), Nick Pauls (91), John Wylam (97), Cory Hay (103), Mike Wagner (110), Nick Vallone (124), JJ DeLillo (138) Bacillio Alvarez (148) and Jonathan Conroy (Hwt).

In the consolation finals, the Tigers faced Montville and lost the first three matches before they woke up when Kyle Brady won by fall. Still trailing by 12, the Tigers got back in the match winning 11 of the last 13 matches for a 67-27 victory and a third place finish.

Also winning matches were Ritchie Szeliga, Ryan Sacco, Nick Heilmann, John Wylam (97), Cory Hay (103), Mike Wagner, Eric Neimeyer, Nick Vallone, Justin Smith, Bacillio Alvarez (148) and Jonathan Conroy (Hwt.). Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Next on the schedule is a tri-match in Phillipsburg on Dec. 11.

Junior Journalist

Corner

Olivia Butler and brother Sam (center) and her family are pictured receiving their free dinner from Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros.

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Sports

South Plainfield Soccer Club Season Wrapup

The South Plainfield Soccer Club finished the Fall season on Nov. 21. Congratulations to all of the players and coaches for a job well done. South Plainfield had 11 travel teams that played 110 games with an overall record of 49-45 and 16 ties. The teams traveled to all points of Central New Jersey.

This year, as in every year in the past, a huge effort was put forth by members performing the following tasks: maintaining the fields in excellent playing condition, coordinating game schedules, organizing referees to officiate the games played, ensuring training and practices were attended and valuable for the players, fundraising to supplement the costs of the training and field maintenance and perhaps the most enjoyable of all tasks, coaching the players.

U-8 Storm—The Storm finished their season with a victory against Berkeley Heights and improved their record to 8-2. This team had a phenomenal first season, outscoring their opponents by a four to one margin. Solid offensive play by Jose Guardado, Kevin Irving, Kevin Castebancho, Kevin Shulca, Marilyn Rivera and Dakota Pauls contributed to the team's 40 goals this season. Impenetrable defensive play by Anthony Rovayo, Kayla O'Neal, Sean Elliott, Allison Tuyp, Aidan McDermott and Mark Butrico stifled their opponents and kept them at bay. The keepers, Aidan McDermott, Mark Butrico, Kevin Castebancho and Sean Elliott were very stingy, allowing only 10 goals all season. The Storm is comprised of kids who really enjoy the game regardless of the outcome and are looking forward to the spring season.

U-9 Rockets—The Rockets improved their play this season and finished up

strong. They really came together as a team this fall. By playing their positions, passing and communicating to each other, the Rockets dominated their last two games. The Rockets had a strong goal tending presence, anchored by Jack Schiavo that was augmented by Michael Polizzano, Joe Valentino and Cody O'Connor. Defense developed to be quite formidable with the combination of Erich Kaiser, James Duhamel and Inan Sikel. The offensive lines were comprised of Ryan Temple, Cody O'Connor, Michael Polizzano, Jonathan Grennier, Carlee Gonzalez and Sean Flanagan. Different line combinations were used frequently causing a lot of pressure on our opponents and helped scored 21 goals. The Midfield of Carlee Gonzalez, Joe Valentino, Jonathan Grennier, Sean Flanagan and Michael Polizzano moved the ball very well. The Rockets are looking forward to playing this coming spring.

U-10 Hotspurs—Soccer is a team sport and the Hotspurs grew together as a team in the Fall 2004 season. The coaches were proud of the effort of each and every player on the Hotspurs. By means of training sessions and practices, soccer skills were developed and enhanced throughout the season. The team played with heart and determination, which put them in position to win every game. The Hotspurs played very strong defense all year long and worked hard to further develop their offensive skills. The players got the opportunity to play many different positions during the season so it would be difficult to identify them by position. The Hotspurs roster consists of the following players: Quinn Bolivar, Taylor Born, Chris Butrico, AJ Celentano, Jesse Deffler, Alexa Douras, Cory Harrel, Liam McDer-

mott, Austin Melendez, Bryan Rovayo, Dan Sanko, Paul Seyffart, Rodger Ventura and Matt Ward. The final record for the Fall 2004 Campaign was four wins, four losses and two ties. Following their strong performance in the Fall, everyone is very much looking forward to the Spring 2005 season. Hotspurs—job well done!!!

U-11 Bullets—With a record of 7-1-2, the Bullets closed out their season as flight champions! Captains Ryan Marcoux, Daniel Lyew and Albert Vill led the team on a victory lap of Kenneth Ave. fields after the Bullets downed Millburn to win the flight Saturday night. Rounding out the team are forwards Tony Franczak, Steve Biehler, Alex Lundy, Joey Skwiat; mid-fielders Kevin "freight train" Flanagan, Jimmy Gerber, Alex Valladares, Zach Noll and defensemen John E. Cotone, Ryan Aguiar and Shane McCoid.

U-12 Spirit—Although this was the team's first season together, these boys certainly showed their "SPIRIT". This U-12 boys team grew slowly over the summer until we had enough players to begin the fall season. The majority of boys never played traveling soccer before, but with practice and training, they strengthened into a team that surprised many. Not only have these players spent many hours working on their skills, they've become friends as well. Team Spirit is comprised of Jesse Allen, Ryan Billich, Ryan Hutchison, Joseph Krawiec, Cory Limone, Ryan Lind, Miguel Mejia, Edwin Molina, Marc Paez, Matias Palma, Jason Pattison, Andrew Sanchez, Brandon Stayings, Nicholas Tuyp, Agu Ufodu and Daniel Zwatschka. The coaching staff of Paul Billich, Rich Paez, Tony Stayings and Paul Tuyp kept the kids focused and motivated throughout the season. Looking forward to good things to come in the Spring!

U-13 Ice—The South Plainfield Ice team (U13, Boys) was formed this summer as a new team after a great deal of interest shown by the youth of this and surrounding towns to play competitive soccer. After a tough start at the pre-season Piscataway Fall Classic tournament, the U-13 Ice team started the season with an incredible explosion, winning their first three games against very formidable challengers. As the season progressed the Ice team continued with their pride and camaraderie. Although dropping their next two games (Ice's only losses of the season), the Ice team continued to gain momentum through the superior ball handling of midfield combinations including Jimmy Bijlani, Tyler Barnick, Nikhil Bylapudi and Michael Carrion. Adding to the strong midfield play, the team's constantly solid and impressive defense, made up of Justin DeOliveira, Christian DiCarlo, Shane Howard, Frank Licato, Luis Valladares, Chris Zwatschka, Anthony Albanio and Brian Palma allowed only 20 goals this season. The persistently tight defense allowed the Ice team's relentless offensive attack, led by Devin Evans, Tommy McGuire and Doug Porzio, to constantly pressure each and every opponent. While Ice's formidable offense added an impressive 32 goals, the team's sturdy defense was anchored by consistently outstanding goaltending by Derek Wilhelm, Justin DeOliveira and Doug Porzio. The ICE team ended the season with an exceptionally respectable 6-2-2 record and is looking forward to continuing their journey to the unbeaten season in the Spring.

The team is coached by Vijay Bijlani, George Barnick, Frank Licato and Luis Valladares.



From left to right: Charles Woodhull, Lenny Padula, Bob Besser, Bill Schulte, Ralph Fech, Joe Sosnak, Bill Lane, Jack Kudrick and Mike Sikanowicz. Missing from the picture is Tom Casavant.

2004 LBI Presidential Cup Champions

The season ending tournament was held at Sea Oaks Golf Club, Stone Harbor Golf Club and McCullough's Emerald Golf Links in Southern New Jersey.

Top scores in the two-man scramble at Stone Harbor were posted by Frank

Chirichillo and Jim Flannery 76, Ralph Fech and Jack Kudrick 77 and Bill Lane and Charles Woodhull 78.

The top individuals at McCullough's were Jim Flannery 83, Mike Sikanowicz 83, Lenny Padula 84, Jac Han 84 and Tony Pompilio 85.

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SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

Boys' Ruin North Brunswick Debut

SPHS	959	938	883	2780
No. Bruns.	845	883	885	2613

The boys' bowling team held off a talented North Brunswick squad in the first two games by finishing strong in the ninth and tenth frames. The Raiders managed to win the third game by two pins. Shawn Ferguson, 205-188-189—582 led the Tigers in the

season opener. Strong performances were also turned in by Vin Genova, 213—558 set, Matt Boley, 211—551 set, Nick Grego, 191-194—539 set and George Kleinknecht, 190-198—533 set. Freshman Ryan Pauls chipped in with a 162 game.

Girls Fall to North Brunswick

SPHS	652	621	703	1976
No. Bruns.	776	763	717	2256

Despite Kim Gaub's 159-140-177—456 high set, the girls' bowling team dropped all three games to newcomer North Brunswick as the Raid-

ers posted the 4-0 shutout. Beverly Jamieson rolled the high game of 171 and a 442 set. Teammate Angelique Rualo added a 147—425 set.



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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

December 3, 2004

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on November 30, 2004.

A. Case #665/JV—Northeast Developers, Inc. Block 473; Lot 1 and Block 473.03; Lot 7. The applicant's request for variances and site plan approval was hereby DENIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$20.00 December 10, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough wishes to install a new drywell at the Cedarbrook Pump Station; and

WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from CME Associates to perform the engineering design and bid phase services on behalf of the Borough for said project at a cost not to exceed \$9,415.00; and

WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a); and

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in the FY 2005 Engineering Budget, account # 05-01-20-165-000-235.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates to perform engineering design and bid phase services at a cost not to exceed \$9,415.00.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$36.00 December 10 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1680

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

Ordinance #1680 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$612,250 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, MORE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ROOF REPAIRS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMFORT STATION AND EXERCISE STATIONS AT PUTNAM PARK AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCESSION STAND AT THE PAL BUILDING was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2004 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$28.00 December 10, 2004

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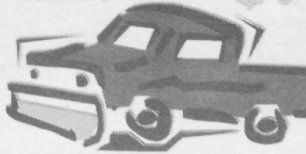
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Riley School Pilots Kids ID Program

By Jane Dornick

Riley Elementary School was recently chosen as the first school in Middlesex County to pilot a new mobile program called KidprintID.

One hundred and twenty students were digitally fingerprinted by Linda Dashuta, Middlesex County supervisor of passports and State/County IDs, along with Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn and her staff. Each child was given an identification card. The information is retained in a database by the County and is readily accessible to law enforcement officials in case of an emergency situation or for domestic travel identification.

According to Flynn, "Our ultimate goal is making government more accessible and user friendly to the residents of Middlesex County, while protecting our children the same time." Middlesex County is the second County in the State of New Jersey to offer the Kidprint ID program, but the first to offer it to children at their school. Right now parents or guardians must bring their children to the County Clerk's office in New Brunswick to get the card. County officials expect to bring the program on the road this spring.

The event even drew national media attention as ABC's Eyewitness News had a film crew there and the story was featured on the evening news.

The Tri-County Chapter provides service to 22 towns in Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties with offices in Elizabeth and Plainfield. We appreciate your support and remember, *together we can save a life.*

American Red Cross Toy Drive for Families in Need

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter is requesting donations of new children's clothing or new unwrapped toys to support local families in need during this holiday season. The new toys and clothing can be dropped off at one of two locations: Red Cross offices in Elizabeth (203 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth) and Plainfield (332 W. Front St., Plainfield). All donated items must be dropped off by Monday, Dec. 20. If any groups or individuals are interested in doing a collection of items for the holidays and they are seeking an organization to distribute them, please give us a call at (908) 756-6414 ext. 21 or ext. 24.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

The holiday season officially began with Thanksgiving. It is usually a very busy time of year, but don't forget how your library can help you get through these times.

First the food. We have many cookbooks and some that are particularly appropriate to the season are: the *Butterball Turkey Cookbook* and Marlene Brown's *Minutes to Mealtime: Chicken and Turkey Recipes* (yes, there is life for those turkey leftovers!). Then we have the *Christmas Cookie Book*, the *Mason Jar Cookie Cookbook*, and *Santa's Holiday Treats*, among cookie books.

Going to the next step we have *Christmas Crafts: easy-to-make cards, gift wrappings and decorations for all the Family*; *Brandywine Critters: Nature Crafts from "a Brandywine Christmas"*; *Christmas Crafts Made Easy*; *Classic Crafts and Recipes for the Holidays*; and for us last-minute types, *One Day Christmas Crafts*.

Of course, we have lots of holiday themed movies. We have *Bugs Bunny's Thanksgiving Diet*; *A Charlie Brown*

Thanksgiving; *Bob the Builder's White Christmas*; *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* and for adults, *Bad Santa* and *Elf*. And, of course, *It's a Wonderful Life*!

Musically we have Christmas CDs by Christina Aguilera, Michael Crawford, Linda Ronstadt, Chanticleer, Lonestar and many, many more.

And, for when you are finally ready to sit down and relax, we have new fiction by authors from Susan Wittig Albert to Lorenzo Carcaterra to Diana Diamond and Tim LaHaye.

Also, don't forget that an important part of the holiday season is giving and an easy way to give a gift to a deserving child is through the Books-to-Keep program. You can donate new books or money so that a child can have a book they can call their own. Either books or money (or both) can be dropped off at the library.

Finally, Miss Linda's storytimes are back to their usual schedule: Tuesday at 10:30, Wednesday at 6:30 and Thursday at 1:15.

Have a happy holiday season!

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Open Your Heart 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.