# South Plainfield

VOL. 8, NO. 15

**50 CENTS** 

Department of Environmental

Protection (DEP) Commissioner

Bradley M. Campbell announced

this week that the State Attorney

General has filed a motion on behalf

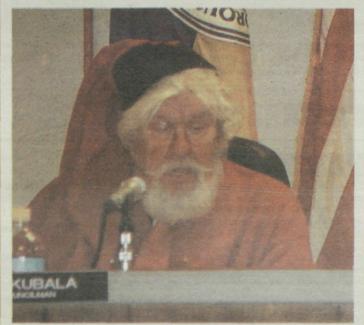
of DEP in Superior Court requiring

Boro Auto Wrecking Company in South Plainfield to cease operations so the contaminated site can be

"After years of delays and missed deadlines by Boro Auto Wrecking, it is time to shut this place down

cleaned up.

**DECEMBER 17, 2004** 



Councilman Ed Kubala gets prepared for annual role as Santa's helper.

#### Visit Santa Sunday at Senior Rec Center and Join Sing Along at Spring Lake Park

South Plainfield Recreation invites children, newborn to 10-years-old, to visit with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 19, 12 to 2 p.m. at the Senior Recreation Center on Lakeview Ave. Photos with Santa and gifts for all children will be handed out, but you must register at the PAL. Fee is \$5 per participant. Immediately afterwards, walk over to Spring Lake Park to join in the holiday caroling, led this year by the South Plainfield Chorus and Band. For more information or to sign up, visit the PAL on Maple Ave.

# Ambulance Service Covering Town, but what's the cost?

Due to the lack of enough volunteer rescue squad members, the borough has hired an outside company, Rural/Metro Ambulance, to cover South Plainfield during the daytime hours. The company will receive \$1,450 a month to cover the town during the day. However, the cost to residents is not clear.

Currently, most rescue squad volunteers available during the day are borough employees who have to abandon their duties in town to answer an emergency call for an ambulance. When no volunteers are available, those in need of an ambulance are forced to wait longer and longer. Left unaddressed, this practice could ultimately end in a tragedy.

According to the contract, Rural/ Metro Ambulance will have two EMTs and an ambulance in the borough available for emergency medical calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents who are transported by Rural/Metro will receive a bill for their services.

The Observer has made more than a dozen calls to Rural/Metro to ask about the costs to residents and what portion will be covered by insurance or Medicare. While we did receive a response, we were unable to obtain any cost information from them. We were promised additional information, but as of presstime, have not received any.

When we asked Councilman Dennis Cerami about the costs, he could not answer our questions, but promised he would also make inquiries about the charges.

and clean it up," said Commissioner Campbell. "Our court action is another example of DEP advancing protection of the Raritan River watershed from uncontrolled waste

Volunteers from the South Plain-

field Rescue Squad still respsond to

second calls during the day as well as

all calls during the evening hours and

Rural/Metro will cover South Plain-

field for 30 days free of charge so the

borough may evaluate their services.

on weekends.

DEP will authorize \$500,000 in public funds to begin testing and cleanup work at the Boro Auto site due to negligence by the responsible parties who have caused discharges of hazardous substances into the environment, including PCBs and gasoline. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 17 in Superior Court, Chancery Division, Middlesex County. "We will continue to protect land, water and air from contamination through aggressive environmental enforcement," said Attorney General Peter C. Harvey.

"I commend DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell for his persistence and diligence," said Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan. "Addressing the contamination at Boro Auto Wrecking will enhance the quality of life for all the residents of South

Plainfield."

DEP's initial scope of work calls for the classification and removal of on-site waste piles. Also, the site must be graded and a cap and storm water collection and treatment

Shut Down and Cleaned Up

**DEP Wants Boro Wrecking** 

system installed. In terms of off-site properties, a remedial investigation is necessary of the sites to determine the extent of contamination.

"The Edison Wetlands Associa-(Continued on page 11)



Holiday concerts highlight school events this month. Riley School students (above) perform their holiday program. For story about Riley and Franklin concerts, see page 7.

# Mayor Seeks to Fill Board Vacancies

accepting letters of interest and will be leaving. resumes from anyone interested in serving on a Borough board, agency, committees and commissions are committee or commission for the looking for members: calendar year 2005.

serving on the various 26 agencies, first Wednesday of the month at committees and commissions and 75 of those seats are expiring this

The Mayor and Council are year. Some will be staying and some

The following boards, agencies,

· Business Advisory Group There are a total of 135 people (business owners only) on the

(Continued on page 11)

# **Annual Tree Lighting Honors 101st Airborne**



McCriskin Home For Funerals was the site of the annual tree lighting ceremony honoring the 265 fallen members of the General Anthony C. McAuliffe 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles.

The General Anthony C. Mc-Auliffe 101st Airborne-New York Chapter-held their annual memorial service and tree lighting ceremony on Saturday under the tree on the front lawn of the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

A crowd of about 50-one of the largest in recent years-attended the service. Nothing could have made the 101st Airborne veterans, also known as the "Screaming Eagles," prouder than to see area residents and veterans from all services who came to partake in the event. The actual ceremonies only take a few minutes, but they mean so much to those in the 101 Airborne. Traffic was stopped on Plainfield Ave. during a portion of the ceremony and people could be seen on the opposite side of the road saying the Pledge of Allegiance along with those who gathered on McCriskin's lawn.

This year marked the 19th anniversary of the US Army airplane crash in New Gander, New Foundland, which left the 265 members of the 101st Airborne dead.

(Continued on page 10)

# 18-Year-Old Pedestrian Struck by Car

Last Saturday afternoon a pedestrian was struck by a car in the parking lot of Burlington Coat Factory on Hadley Rd. The victim was identified as Yesmy Molina, 18, from Dover. She had apparently been walking from her car to the store when she was struck by a vehicle driven by Thomas Miller, 19, of Piscataway. He stated he had entered the aisle and struck the victim while he was partly into his turn, hitting her with his front bumper. Molina was transported to Muhlenberg Hospital with the complaint of pain in her chest. Her condition is unknown at

The accident was investigated by Officer Peter Papa, who noted that the driver's inattention was a contributing factor to the accident. There have been no summonses issued at this

# SPHS Student Council to Host Holiday Dinner and Entertainment for Seniors

Student Council will sponsor a Holiday Turkey Dinner for all seniors on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at South Plainfield High School. You do not need to be a member of the Senior Center.

Entertainment by the SPHS Orchestra and Chorus takes place or Tom Baker at 754-4620, ext 300.

The South Hainfield High School 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 more information contact Steve Novak at 754-4620, ext. 350



Asst. Principal Steve Novak Jr., along with students Stacey Diana and Gerry Butrico admire the new sign above the high school emphasizing the four A's.

# SPHS is "Leading the Way"

SPHS Asst. Principal Steve Novak, Jr. introduced a new theme for the school this year entitled "Leading the Way." The emphasis of the new program is to encourage students to excel in the four A's; academics, athletics, activities and the arts. Various emblems and a new sign has been placed outside the

school entrance. According to Novak, "these symbols will show the community the importance of developing a well-rounded student."

Additional signs will also be placed throughout the school in 2005. The signs were crafted by the graphic arts department under the direction of teacher Rich D'Urso.

> WAYNE GRENNIER Associate Publisher

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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.

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

#### You can subscribe or contact us at: spobserver.com. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Scouts from Troop 124 at Riley School attended December's council meeting to earn a badge. Pictured are Scout Master George Smith, Asst. Scout Masters Tony Sarao and Harry Chiovarou, Sr. Patrol Leader Michael Slattery, Max Butler, Tim Ratti, Patrol Leader Joshua Biggs, Jonathan Sakenik and Stephen Wagner.

To the Editor,

I thought it would be appropriate to write to you regarding our First Annual Mother/Daughter Charity Tea and Clothes Drive.

Earlier in the year I asked my two daughters, Nia, 10 and Kiara, 15, to come up with suggestions on what we could do to give back to others less fortunate than we are. We have truly been blessed and it was time for us to "do something." They brainstormed and came up with an idea to ask each of our friends as they unpack their winter clothes, to donate an outfit to a girl their same age or size.

They decided to have a mother/ daughter charity tea and clothing drive, on Dec. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. Each girl will bring an outfit to be donated for two organizations. The tea will be held at Port Africa on Stelton

The two organizations are: Homefront, a non-profit organization located in Trenton, which serves thousand of homeless families of Mercer County and F.I.S.H., a non-profit organization located in Piscataway, that services approximately 60 families weekly from Middlesex County.

#### SINCERELY, **DEBORAH MUSE-CARTY**

To the Editor,

As described on page 3 in this issue of the Observer, the South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop 655 recently held a coat drive to benefit Jersey Cares. Thanks to all those who participated through donations. Your generosity is overwhelming! We exceeded our goal of 175 coats by collecting over 250 coats and jackets! Also, thanks to Janice DelBeni and Gail Shea for helping to sort and deliver the coats. Last but not least, thank you to those persons from the South Plainfield school system, including Dr. Rosado and Mrs. Veirs from the South Plainfield Board of Education, Mr. Lenox and the staff from Future Stars, Ms. Erickson and Mrs. Smith from Franklin School, Ms. Keogh and Ms. Colon from Roosevelto School and others who helped make this effort possible.

Thanks for supporting Girl Scouts in your community.

#### **MADELINE CHRISTILLES**

Parents of South Plainfield:

As a parent with children in the school system, I would like to ask you to learn first-hand about the terrible budget crisis affecting South Plainfield schools. The way that you can do this is not by reading my letter or anyone else's, but by attending Board of Education meetings and listening to the discussions about possible cuts that may affect our children in the future.

I realize this is a very busy time of year, but the quality of your child's schooling is at stake. Among the

#### 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.

things that you need to hear for yourself are what kind of cuts may be required for next year.

Will it involve programs that your child is involved in or looking forward to? Will it involve electives that are only available in the high school? What if such severe cuts need to be made that it affects staffing in the schools and directly affects your child by causing an increase (possibly a large increase) in the number of students in each classroom?

Please try to attend Board of Education meetings before decisions are made without your input. Students need as much individual attention in the classroom as possible and the larger the number of students in a class, the less likely that is to happen.

It is also important to learn why our budget is in so much trouble.

Too many times people only hear rumors or finger-pointing; they don't get to hear the facts. It appears that the money troubles stem from as many as 10 years ago-wouldn't you like to hear what has been found out and what may possibly be done about it? Don't accept second-hand information get out to a board meeting, hear what is going on and be in on the discussions and make yourself heard. It may be your child's education you are sav-

As a last note, if you would like to get involved, but absolutely cannot at this time of year, make yourself a New Year's resolution to start attending board meetings in January and then do it before it is too late. And while you are at it, take another parent with you.

SINCERELY, DONNA M. EGAN

# Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

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Saturday 10-11 a.m., 4-4:45 p.m. and after 5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m. 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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VFW Commander Metro Kopchak

Story/photo by Christopher Abbott

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese

bombed Pearl Harbor in a surprise

attack on our country and 63 years

later on the same date, a small somber

group of veterans paused to pay trib-

ute to the 2,400 American service

men and women who lost their lives

was held at the VFW Post on Front

St., which began with the National

Anthem and a prayer by Chaplan

Mike Panczar. Vice Commander

A brief, yet meaningful ceremony

that day in the attack.

# New Laser Technology Dispersing Geese from Spring Lake Park

The Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department is using new laser technology to disperse Canada geese from five County parks, including Spring Lake Park

Deputy Freeholder Director Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, who chairs the County Parks and Recreation Committee, said employees have already seen a difference in the number of geese at the parks since the program was implemented Dec. 1.

Metuchen-based Goose Control Technology of NJ will be paid a total of \$7,000 for four continuous months of work. The laser technology can only be used when the geese can fly, usually between Oct. and March each year. If the technique is successful, the Parks Department will expand it to more parks next year.

"The technology has been tested and used effectively in Europe for 10 years and in the very short time it's been used in this country, it has yielded positive results," Dalina said. "The lasers do not harm the geese and are safe to park users.

"The County has recognized that Canada geese have been a major nuisance to our residents and we have used various techniques to help alleviate the problem," said Freeholder John Pulomena. "I applaud the Parks Department for seeking out this new method and for putting it to use to the benefit of everyone who visits our

Canada geese, which gather in large numbers and each produce 1.5 pounds of feces a day, have been considered nuisances for years by parks and school officials and residents throughout NJ.

A number of methods have been used, with varying degrees of success, by the Middlesex County Parks Department to disperse the geese, including the use of chemicals that are safe to park goers or playing fields. The laser technology is being used in conjunction with treating eggs before they hatch in April.

Employees from Goose Control Technology go twice daily to Spring Lake Park. The lasers make the birds uncomfortable and disrupt their move-

ment patterns. "The large number of geese concentrated in relatively small areas can wreak havoc with turf, as well as present a health nuisance," Dalina said. It is our goal to redirect them from areas of the park most highly used by the public to portions of the parks that are less likely to cause a nuisance to our park visitors, without harming the

Pearl Harbor Remembered at VFW Rudy Poczak spoke about Pearl Harbor and read a poem. Also speaking was VFW Commander Metro Kop-

> On Dec. 8, 1941 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed Congress saying, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941-a date which will live in infamy- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked ... '

> Sadly, few residents attended the ceremonies at the VFW, since Dec. 7, 1941 is one of the dates in our history that deserves to be remembered.

# Automobile Flips Over on Maple Ave., One Injured

On Mondy evening at approximately 9:15 p.m., a 1998 Ford Taurus, owned and operated by Shelley Sills, 23, of Edgewater, was struck by a 2003 Chevrolet Pickup, owned and operated by Filemon Rodriguez, 57, of South Plainfield.

Sills, who was traveling westbound on Maple Ave., pulled to the north side of the roadway near Joan St. and stopped her vehicle in an effort to obtain directions from her glove box. Her vehicle was then struck by Rodriguez, who was also traveling westbound on Maple Ave. The Taurus was pushed approximately 80' west as a result of the crash, and the Chevrolet Pickup overturned, trapping Rodri-

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department extricated Rodriguez from the vehicle. The South Plainfield Rescue Squad transported Rodriguez, who was complaining of pain to his

#### COMING SOON.

A new and improved website for the South Plainfield Observer. Watch for details.

head and upper body, to Muhlenberg Hospital. Sills complained of pain but refused medical treatment.

Based on witness statements and the at-scene investigations, Filemon Rodriguez was charged with driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

Anyone with additional information regarding this crash should contact Sgt. Kevin Murtagh of South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit at (908) 226-7679.

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Girls from South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop 655 sort coats for the Jersey Cares ninth annual coat drive.

# Girl Scouts Coat Drive Surpasses Goal

Girl Scout Troop 655 wrapped up their coat drive to benefit Jersey Cares. The girls made posters and placed collection boxes at Franklin and Roosevelt Elementary Schools and at Future Stars. Troop members include Samantha Christilles, Jennifer Del-Beni, Shannon Hogan, Courtney Shea, Kayla Smith, Sydney Smith and troop leaders Madeline Christilles and Karen Hogan.

The Girls of Troop 655 would like to thank all those who participated through donation. The generosity of friends and neighbors in South Plainfield has been overwhelming! Through your support Troop 655 exceeded their goal of 175 coats by col-

Recently, South Plainfield Junior lecting over 250 coats and jackets, 60 sweaters and 23 other winter items. Also donated were off-season clothes and shoes which have been forwarded to NI Cares and the D.A.R.E. collection program.

All coats collected through the Jersey Cares Ninth Annual Coat Drive will be distributed to those in need through over 170 non-profit agencies in New Jersey, including inner-city schools, shelters, soup kitchens, churches, child services, and hospitals.

This drive was held in cooperation with the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council. For information on Girl Scouts, please call (908) 232-3236. For information on Jersey Cares, see www.jerseycares.com.

# 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 -Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacr

Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

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# 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 dinner will feature a special performance by the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir under the direction of Tracy Glenn Murray.

The public is welcomed to attend. For more information, please call (908) 668-9751.

#### Recreation Hosting Visit With Santa

December 19

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.

# SPHS Senior Holiday Dinner and Entertainment

December 21

The South Plainfield High School Student Council will be sponsoring a Holiday Turkey Dinner for all seniors on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at South Plainfield High School. You do not need to be a member of the Senior Center.

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

# Send Us Your

### **Around Town** Events

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

What's happening in

**Daily Events** 9-11 AM Coffee & Cake 9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool (908) 754-1047

# Senior Center

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
EVENTS	December 18 Christmas Lunched December 2 Holiday Concer	on & Caroling 1, Noon	Weekly Shopping 16 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 17 Pizza lunch available
Knitting/Crochetting 20 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am Ladies Social Grp Bingo 10am-2pm	Holiday Concert Luncheon at SP 21 High School at noon	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10, 11:30, 1pm Listening to Kids 9:30am	Weekly Shopping 23 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Center Closed Happy Holidays 24
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

is a \$1 donation. For information contact Steve Novak at (908) 754-4620, ext. 350 or Tom Baker at (908) 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 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 at home (908) 756-1044 for any spiritual needs.

#### Sports Auction-Raffle January 8, 2005

The South Plainfield High School

annual Sports Auction-Raffle on Saturday, Jan. 8, (snow date: Jan. 15). Doors open at 6 p.m. and the auction begins at 7 p.m.

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

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.

#### VFW Breakfast

January 9, 2005

The South Plainfielf VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will hold a breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 8

The public is invited. Proceeds benefit the Lyons VA Hospital. For information call (908) 668-9751.

#### Recreation Trip to Italy March 6-14, 2005

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a nine-day classic Italy tour from March 6-14, 2005. There will be sight-seeing tours to the Vatican, Ancient Rome, the Trevi Fountain and more. Per person is \$1,699 including airfare. A valid US passport is required

For more information call the Recreation Dept. at (908) 226-7713.

#### — Out of Town —

# Two from Galilee

December 16 & 17

The public is invited to see the performance of Two from Galilee on Thursday, Dec. 16 and Friday, Dec. 17. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Admission is always free. Evangel Church, 1251 Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains. For info, call (908) 322-9300 or visit evangelchurch.com.

#### Christmas at Liberty Hall Museum

December 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.

# **WOWs Dance**

December 19

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of

Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a dance/social on Sunday, Dec. 19 at the Elks' Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge from 7:30-11:30 p.m. The price is \$8 a person and there will be a live band and refreshments served. For information, call (732) 297-1775.

#### Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

December 26, 27 & 28

Tickets are on sale for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," presented by Middlesex County's Plays-in-the-Park at the State Theatre.

Performances are 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26 and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. All seats are \$6. Seating is reserved.

Purchase tickets at the State Theatre Box Office, call (732) 246-7469 or (877) STATE-11, or purchase tickets online at www.statetheatrenj.org. There is an additional charge for telephone and online orders.

For info, call (732) 548-2884.

### Community Nursery School Open House

January 27

The Community Nursery School of Metuchen invites parents and their young children to visit the school on Thursday, Jan. 27 from 9:30-11 a.m. or from 1-2:30 p.m. The director is Susan B. Kozo. The school is located at 270 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, next to the train station. Registration begins Feb. 7. Call (732) 549-5105 for additional information.

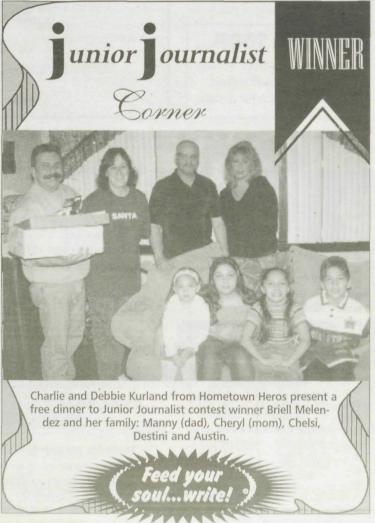
# Music/Movement and Art Program

February 5-April 16

Classes for the Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement and Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors will resume in Feb. Workshops will be held on Saturdays, Feb. 5 to Apr. 16 in New Brunswick, Morristown, Waldwick and Glassboro. These workshops are offered free of charge.

To register, contact Karen Singer at VSA arts of NJ at (732) 745-3885.







# Future Stars Dine with Santa at Annual Breakfast

'Tis the season, as Future Stars Preschoolers spent the morning eating and crafting at their annual Breakfast with Santa held on Saturday, Dec. 5. in the SPHS cafeteria.

A buffet of bagels, muffins, fruits and juices was available for parents, students and their siblings to dine on. Volunteers from high school and middle school Girl Scout troops, as well as Sacred Heart Confirmation students, helped the preschoolers make glittery take-home holiday crafts. Santa was waiting in the wings and the little ones couldn't wait to have their picture taken with him and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. The annual breakfast usually means that the "big day" is just around the corner.



# Riley Teacher **Finds Creative** Ways to Educate

Scott Culver, second grade teacher at Riley Elementary School, displays pictures from a trip he took to Plymouth Colony.

Culver has been developing quite a following with regards to immersing students in instruction through theatrical dress.

Students were glued to his every word and were proud to share how "special" their teacher was for displaying his academic spirit in this man-

Culver has also appeared at Riley School as Martin Luther for Halloween, and Uncle Sam for Veterans Day.



Second grade Riley Elementary School teacher Scott Culver uses theatrical dress to get kids interested in learning.

# South Plainfield Business Association Meeting Notes

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) held its final general membership meeting for 2004 last month at Sherban's Diner. The main topic discussed was the Business Advisory Group (BAG) and its many activities.

The SPBA was formed to organize and unite South Plainfield businesses. In response to the SPBA's desire for better communication with the borough, Mayor Dan Gallagher formed the Business Advisory group, or BAG as it is commonly referred to. The

group is chaired by SPBA vice president Robert Longo, a partner in Cornerstone Architectural Group. Other appointees include SPBA president Jack Pedersen, Noel Mazar of Ferro Corporation, Anthony Giammarino of Motorola, Susan Krystopek of KLK Trucking, Robert Bengivenga of Trebor Development and Gaetano Di-Pietro of GTD Asset Management. Councilman Charles Butrico and Zoning Officer/Construction Official John Pabst represent the borough at these open public monthly meetings held at

5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in Borough Hall. The rolling agenda includes progress reports on The Hamilton Boulevard Reconstruction Project, The Helen Street Project, The 333 Hamilton Superfund Site, Downtown Redevelopment and many other issues that impact South Plainfield Businesses. The open communication has helped head of many problems before they occur.

One of the SPBA's goals for 2005 is to raise awareness of the BAG and their relationship. The SPBA meets once a month September through June. There are four general membership meetings which usually feature a local speaker. Past speakers have included borough CFO Glenn Cullen, Author Mark Csordos, former Jersey City mayor and gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler, and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, a charter member of the SPBA. The remaining calendar is split between luncheons and evening networking events made possible by the generosity of members. This year's sponsors include Cornerstone Architectural Group, Enterprise Rent a Car, Hometown Heroes, Newco Data, New Pak Inc., Palace of Jaipur and Sherban's Diner. Annual dues are \$50 and include free admission to these events.

The first general membership meeting of 2005 will be 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20, will feature an update on the Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction. This meeting will include presentations by professionals involved with

For more details on the SPBA visit www.SPBA.biz, call (908) 757-08811 or email SPBA@comcast.net

# **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 Red Cross offices in Elizabeth (203 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth) or Plainfield (332 W. Front St., Plainfield). All donated items must be dropped off by Monday, Dec. 20. If any groups or indi-

viduals are interested in doing a collection of items for the holidays and are seeking an organization to distribute them, call us at (908) 756-6414 ext. 21 or ext. 24

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

# **Antiques Emporium Accepting Donations For Toys For Tots**

The Antiques Emporium is collecting toys and holiday gifts for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots

Dec. 18 is the deadline for donating toys and gifts as they have to be delivered to the Marines in time for Santa to do his work. Toys should be wrapped, designated whether it is for a boy or girl and marked with the approximate age of the child.

Antiques Emporium is located at 29 Division Street, Somerville, and is open 11-5 p.m. every day. Please call (908) 218-1234, if you need additional information or directions.

#### **December 18 & 19** Savings 11 am - 3 pm

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# Brian Schilleci, Franklin Second Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Franklin Elementary School Language Arts teacher with this week's winner, Brian Schilleci.

Brian Schilleci, Franklin School second grader, is this week's winner in the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. His letter to Santa has won him dinner for his 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.

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

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

My Letter to Santa By Brian Schilleci

December 6, 2004

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the motorcycle controller from last year. I like it because when I hook up my Gamecube I am going to play with it. I am sorry about the time I said a bad word. I hope you saw when I gave my spot in line to my friend Angelo because he has never been first in line his whole entire life. I did that because he is my best friend. I'm really going to try to help other people and do good things for them.

It would be great if you could bring my family a movie because my whole family could watch it. This year I would love to get a bell from one of the reindeer's collar. And most of all I want a new teddy bear. I really want a dog for Christmas. Merry Christmas Santa, I hope you have a good trip.



VFW Essay Winners

VFW Essay Contest first place winners are high school students Krystal Williams and Steven Tietjen, pictured with English teacher Alissa Pecora. Both students received \$200 for their essays. Second place went to Katie Mott, who took home \$150 and third place winners were Elyse Kanaley, A.J. Romano and Adam Bianchini who received \$100 each.

# **Pilgrim Covenant Church Announces Services**

Pilgrim Covenant Church Sunday worship takes place at 10 a.m. The speaker for Dec 19, 26 and Jan. 2, will be the Rev. Wilfredo Rodiguez, who is a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Last year Rev. Rodiguez served as chaplain in Kuwait and Iraq. We also have a regular Bible Study

on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 (except for Dec. 22 and 29)

We are studying Corinthians. The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:30 on Dec. 24, and a Christmas Morning Service, with refreshments takes place at 10 a.m.





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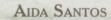
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List at Borough Hall The tax assessment list for the 2005

tax year will be open for public inspection on Monday, Jan. 3, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The list can be viewed in the office of the Tax Assessor in the Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Ave.



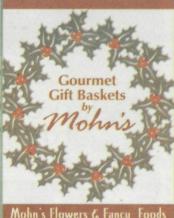
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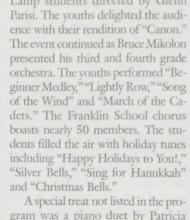
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# Holiday Concerts Highlight December School Calendars

By Patricia Abbott

The month of December brings a burst of festive holiday related events to South Plainfield schools. Franklin and Riley Elementary schools got an early start on the season, presenting Lamp students directed by Glenn their holiday concerts the first week of the month.

Franklin School's concert was held on Dec. 6. The musical extravaganza began with the fourth grade Music



gram was a piano duet by Patricia Landy and her fourth grade son David. They performed "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Jingle Bells." Franklin School is lucky to have Patricia as an addition to the school's music program. She has been accompanying the Franklin Chorus for the past five years. She is a teacher at the Westminster Conservatory of Music, Rider University, a professional accompanist and she gives privates lessons in the South Plainfield area.

Riley School took a different approach to celebrating the holidays. Their Dec. 7 event took the form of a mini-musical. "December Nights, December Lights" was presented by the third and fourth grade, along with the fourth grade chorus and about nine instrumentalists. The show consisted of seven scenes representing Holidays, including Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa and others. The scenes were entitled "December Nights, December Lights," "Light the Candles" (for Eight Nights), "La Fiesta De La Posada," "Light the Kinara for Kwanzaa," "Holiday Lights," "One Candle Lights the Way" and "December Nights, December Lights Finale." The show was directed by Joanne Gurske.

Watch the Observer for additional school concerts in the coming weeks.

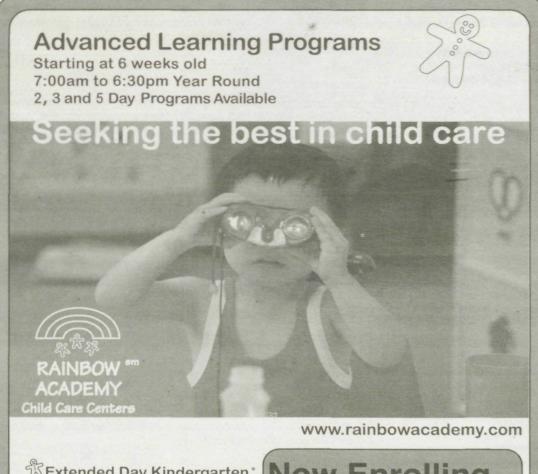












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\* programs and activities may vary by school

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# SHS Students Replicate Local Borough Sites



Sacred Heart School third graders replicated the borough with craft items.

Goetz's third grade class at Sacred Heart School recently, you might have felt like a giant strolling through the streets of South Plainfield.

In a project for Social Studies the students replicated their community from cardboard boxes, egg cartons, paper towel rolls, construction paper and lots of paint. The results were amazing. Included in the project were sites familiar to many of us, such as Sacred Heart Church and School, the Police Department, Hollywood Video, Commerce Bank, Payless Shoes, Regal Cinema and Spring Lake Park.

The students learned that a community is any place we share with others, such as a town, church or school. The children felt the most important lesson learned from this project is to become involved and give something back to their com-

# Hard Work Pays Off for Joe Maglaque

Plainfield residents Alan and Kathleen, has been playing hockey since the age of five and all of his hard

ed. The games will take place Jan. athletes from 50 countries are ex-

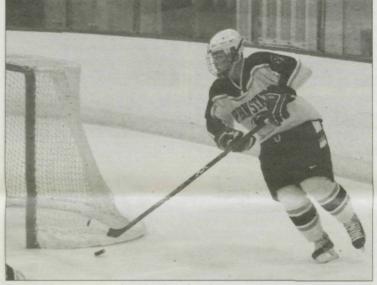
Joseph Maglaque, son of South with a total 69 medals to be award- in Wall Township. Michael Haviland Jr., Joe's coach, has helped to elevate 12 through 22. More than 1,500 and perfect his hockey skills. His team finished third in the 1999 Nationals championship.

When Joe attended South Plainfield High School hockey was not offered as a varsity sport, so he played traveling hockey. Continuing to play was a choice he was forced to make while his was a sophomore in high school. His baseball coach confronted him and told him he had to make a choice, either play baseball or hockey. He has never regretted his choice to stick with hockey.

Joe graduated from SPHS in 2001 and was awarded an athletic scholarship to play for Fairfield University's hockey program in Connecticut. Due to Title 9 rule changes, both the hockey and football teams there folded during his sophomore

Last year Joe transferred to Penn State University where he is currently a senior. He led the Nitny Lions defensemen in points, finishing fifth in overall points with 14 goals and 34 assists and was named Rookie of the Year.

In addition to being selected to the World Games, he was also named to the First Team on the ACHA National All-Tournament Team and Second Team ACHA All-American. He was also selected to play for the USA Hockey "Select 16" and "Select 17" teams. The USA Hockey Select teams made up of the top 200 players in the nation.



Joe Maglaque, who plays hockey for the Penn State Nitny Lions, will compete in the 2005 World University Games in Austria in January.

work and practice has finally paid off. Maglaque has been selected to compete in the 2005 World University Games, representing the U.S.A.

Played in Innsbruck, Austria, the 2005 World University Games is the second largest sporting event in the world next to the Olympic Games,

pected to compete. All major winter sports are part of the sports pro-

Joe began playing hockey in Long Island at age five. For a while he played as a Mite for the Old Bridge Wings, but most of his youth hockey was played with the American Eagles

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# Sports

# **SPHS Bowling**

# Boley (676), Genova (634) Sizzle For Seventh Place Tigers

983

976

The boys' bowling team rolled their season's best in the tough Warren Wheeler Memorial Westfield Invitational, which attracted the state best teams. Matt Boley crushed the pocket with games of 203-224-249 for a brilliant 676 set, third best in the tournament. Teammate Vin Genova was right behind with a 186-235-213 and 634 set. Other scores for SPHS were Shawn Ferguson 185-207-545, George Kleinknect 186-202-546, as the Tigers turned in a solid team effort. Jersey Lanes in Linden hosted the 25 top team event, which saw Linden slip by GMC powerhouse Carteret for the team championship.

# Beverly Jamieson (513), Kim Gaub (572) Lead Eighth Place Lady Tigers

729

667

The girls' bowling team, almost at full strength, turned in a solid performance behind lead off Kim Gaub's 194-170—512 set and anchor Beverly Jamieson's 180-174—512 set. Anna Ferrer chipped in with games of 131-133 and Katie You a 132 game. The Tigers' goal is to finish at least in the top 10 in every tournament they enter. Powerhouse Woodbridge won the tourney with a 40 pin edge over NJSIAA State Champion Brick.

#### **BOYS RESULTS**

SPHS 838 947 2770 Piscataway 981 847 887 2715

The Tigers trailed the Chiefs by 143 pins after the first game, but came on strong and claimed the victory.

Matt Boley crushed the pocket on games of 205-213-244 662 high set. Vin Genova 214-205, George Kleinknecht 202, Shawn Ferguson 188-189 and freshman Chris Esposito 189 all joined in the scoring parade.

947 985 956 1010 903 2869

The Mustangs bolted out of the starting gate with a big 1040 game, putting the Tigers in a catch up mode. The Tigers did, however, come through with two big games but the rally fell short in the tri-match action.

2757 1052 1013 1093 3158 Woodbridge

The Tigers bowled well, but the Barons had too much firepower as they swept all three games from the spirited Tigers. Matt Boley was solid with 208-201-194 603 set, Vin Genova had the high game of 242-194 598 set and teammates Shawn Ferguson 210-191-538, George Kleinknecht 504 and Nick Grego 196-501 rounded out the scoring.

SPHS 866 978 1004 2848 2320 New Bruns. 773 864

The Tigers caged the Zebras as they rolled their best series of the young season. Matt Boley 206-256 high game 202-664 set was on fire, along with Vin Genova 201-195-245—638. Other Tiger scores contributing to the win were turned in by Brett Morris 208, John Roesch 195, Nick Grego 191 and George Kleinknect 181.

SPHS 1040 779 951 2790 979 2883 Colonia 908 996

Matt Boley's 244 high game and 655 high set were not enough as the Tigers suffered a second game meltdown and could not hold back the rallying Patriots. Also bowling well were Vin Genova 218-206-560, George Kleinknecht 218-525 and Nick Grego 183-513.

SPHS JFK 669 711 730 2110

The Tigers opened with a solid first game, but let this one get away as the Mustangs rallied for the win. Beverly Jamieson rolled the high game of 169 and 445 set and teammate Kim Gaub a 158 and 437 set. Also chipping in were freshmen Katie Yon 166 and Lindsay Hunsicker 162.

SPHS 745 639 1979 Piscataway 803 811 2389 775

The Chiefs bowled three solid games and defeated the Tigers in this debut of the GMC first tri-match format.

SPHS 688 679 652 2019 Woodbridge 903 979 2831

Despite Beverly Jamieson's 194-169-200-563 high set and Kim Gaub's 170-158-162-490 set, the young Tigers were no match for powerhouse Woodbridge.

SPHS 698 639 New Bruns. 582 1840 611 647

The Tigers won their first match of the season with an easy win over the Zebras. Beverly Jamieson earned scoring honors with games of 174-157-159-490. Kim Gaub added games of 170-165-455 set. Freshman Phuong Trinh chipped in with a 143 game.

SPHS 675 797 693 2165 Colonia 823 832 2429

The Tigers, not at full strength yet, keep improving their three game series. However, they were beaten by a strong Patriot squad. Kim Gaub took scoring honors for the green and white with games of 166-189-164-519 set. Also, scoring well for SPHS were Beverly Jamieson 181-476 set, Angelique Rualo 160-467 set and rookie Jennifer Vasquez a 160 game.

By Lee Flanagan

# JUNIOR BASEBALL **CLUB NOTES**

At our monthly meeting on Dec. 6, it was decided that the Pony League ages 13-17 will remain the same with a few exceptions.

A 12- year-old child 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. All Small Fry Leagues will remain the same. If you have any questions on Rules and Bylaws go to our website: spjbc.com or cal Commissioner Lee Flanagan at (732) 684-8347.

You have the remainder of the month of December to sign up at \$95. Beginning Jan. 1, 2005, registration will go up \$20 per child. You can register in person at the Baseball Club on Dec. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. This would be the seventh opportunity to register for the 2005 season.

Numerous individuals have signed up to manage and coach our kids in the 2005 season. A 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 any-

We could use your assistance on the maintenance of our complex at this point, visible at our club meetings, and/or on a committee at the SPJBC. Your time is valuable to the kids of

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Any questions about work to be done at the complex, please call Bob Bors at (908) 510-0746.

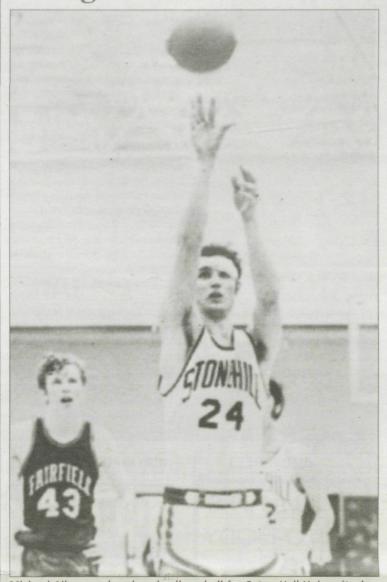
A big thank you goes out to the individuals supporting our efforts at the SPJBC. Individuals have worked on our equipment and complex for hours getting it in shape for the 2005 season. This has been an incredible help to us at the SPJBC. I cannot stress enough those individuals that volunteer their time now will be given first consideration when selecting managers and coaches for the 2005 season.

We still 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 #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. Thank you HBC Electric for running the electric to our new scoreboard. 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

# **AKA Founder Honored In New England** College Basketball Hall Of Fame



Michael Allocco, who played college ball for Seton Hall University, has been named to the New England College Hall of Fame.

By Michael Duquette

Mike Allocco, owner and founder of AKA, Inc. located on New Market Ave., was inducted into the New England College Basketball Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in September at the University of Rhode Island.

Allocco, a native of New Providence, has called South Plainfield his home for the past 22 years. He graduated from Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains in 1969 and attended Stonehill College for four years. While there, he started in every game he played and held the all-time offensive scoring and rebounding records. He still holds the record for points in a single game (52), career scoring average (24.75 points per game) and total career points (2,399). He also holds the second highest career rebounding record (1,250).

After Allocco graduated, his number (24) was retired and he was a consensus All-American, honored by both collegia. Mike closed out his career in the Belgian and Italian pro leagues in 1975. He continues to actively participate in basketball, serving as assistant coach of the Tiger Varsity Basketball team for nine years at South Plainfield High School.

Allocco stated that he was "both pleased and honored to be considered among the finer players both past and present who have played in New England, the birthplace of basketball." He dedicated the honor to all of his past coaches, "who believed in me from the time I was 13 years old.'

# Avid Golfers Need Not Stay Indoors

As any avid golfer would tell you, there is never a bad time to hit the links and here in Middlesex County, golfers will be greeted with courses in top condition at anytime of the year.

All four Middlesex County courses, Tamarack's two Easy Brunswick courses, the Meadows at Middlesex in Plainsboro and Raritan Landing in Piscataway—are open dawn to dusk, every day year-round, ensuring golfers a venue to practice and perfect their games.

Golfers may register for 2005 at any one course to be a member of all the courses. They receive discounted rates and the ability to use the county's automated tee time system. The system allows golfers to schedule, change or cancel tee times.

The annual registration fee is \$35 for county residents, \$30 for senior and student residents and \$45 for noncounty residents.

For information, call (732) 821-8881 for Tamarack; (609) 799-4000 for the Meadows at Middlesex; or (732) 885-9600 for Raritan Landing, or visit the MCIA website at www.mciauth.com.

# Sonic's End-of-the-Year Celebration

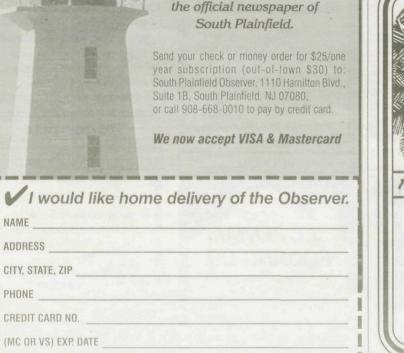
The Sonics U-12 Traveling Soccer team celebrated the end of their fall season at Flanagan's Restaurant. The buffet luncheon, attended by over 60 players, parents and family members, honored the team and was their annual holiday season kick off.

The team's coaches Bruce Hunt, Tom Lanza and Mick Dispenziere, Sr. agree that the Sonics record of 3-4-3 is an accomplishment for the team. Playing at a competitive level of flight four, six of their games were decided by a mere one or two goal difference.

The combination of defensive players on the field consisted of Shaun Alers, Lucas Goitiandia, Danny Sticco and Mike Zelasko. Between the pipes for the team were Will Mott and Nick Ross. Playing midfield for the Sonics this season were Charlie Huber, Danny Hunt, Kyle Junge, Shane O'Connor and Jake Salerno. Attackers for the fall season were Michael Dispenziere, Jeff Gillen, Kevin Green, Dana Hunt and Steve Lanza.

Congratulations on a job well done this fall and good luck this spring!







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# Annual Tree Lighting Honors 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles



Richard McCriskin lights the tree at last Saturdays ceremonies

(Continued from page 1)

The McCriskin family dedicated the 85 foot tree in memory of those who perished. Each year since 1985 the tree has been lit, and members of the NY Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association have conducted memorial services at the site.

The ceremony is not a celebration of the holidays, rather a memorial to the 248 military personnel and eight crew members who lost their lives in a plane crash in Gander, Newfoundland, Dec. 12, 1985. The servicemen and women members of the 101st Airborne, Screaming Eagles had been returning home from a peacekeeping mission in Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.

Each year members of the General Anthony C. McAulliffe Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division, NY-NJ chapter, Screaming Eagles travel to South Plainfield to perform the solemn ceremony. President of the chapter Frank Febus of Edison opened the brief ceremony. Chapter member Larry Anglin held a banner representing the group. Unfortunately the participants outnumbered those attending.

On hand this year were members of the Piscataway American Legion Post 26, Alex Giambra Commander, Kevin Dowd and Dan Radacoy. Duncan McCaskill of Piscataway played the bagpipes. Also attending were Joe Mekaulerin, George Nonestied, Ted Nonestied and Bob Malso. The General Anthony C McAulliffe chapter has been active in the community for over 50 years.

After the service, refreshments were served at the VFW Memorial, all courtesy of the McCriskin family.



Commander Kevin Dowd salutes while Joe Mekaulerin plays taps.

# policereport

· On Dec. 8 Jose A. Velez, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for having an expired inspection sticker and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle

· On Dec. 9 William R. Davis, 37, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

· A Westfield resident reported the theft of a 12 inch chop saw from his unlocked vehicle that was parked at Home Depot.

· On Dec. 11 Steven M. Krieck, 27, of Piscataway was arrested for possession of a controlled substance in the parking lot of Liquid Assets.

· Hermelindo Alvarado, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for being an unlicensed driver, having an unregistered vehicle, no insurance, fictitious plates and inspection sticker at a motor vehicle stop.

· A Melrose Ave. resident reported the theft of 200 CD's and cologne from his unlocked vehicle in the fire house parking lot.

# Meals On Wheels Drivers are Urgently Needed

Make a real difference this holiday season: during the critical winter months, Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County urgently needs caring volunteers to perform a valuable mitzvah (good deed)—delivering meals to homebound clients.

They are seeking regularly scheduled drivers, as well as substitutes to work on an on-call basis. Currently there are openings on the Highland Park route. The Kosher Meals on Wheels Program is a five-day-a-week service that provides two daily meals to seniors and disabled individuals who are temporarily or permanently unable to shop or cook for them-

Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of two delivery dates per month, with each route running approximately ninety minutes. Meals are distributed at our Edison office weekday at 10 AM. Call E. J. Berman today to set up a meeting-(732) 777-1940, ext. 121.

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# **DEP Wants Boro Wrecking Shut Down**

(Continued from page 1) believes the DEP must immediately move to close and cleanup the Boro Auto Wrecking site," said Robert Spiegel, executive director of the Edison Wetlands Association. "Twenty years ago the DEP ordered the owners to address contamination at the site and to date nothing has been done. The Edison Wetlands Association fully supports adding this site to the Raritan River Initiative to expedite its clean-

DEP announced its Raritan River Initiative in September to focus on contaminated sites where cleanup work needs to be don to address both ongoing discharges and long-term remediation has lagged in recent years.

Boro Auto is a salvage and metal recycling facility in operation since 1935. Located at 2271 Hamilton Ave., the facility has several buildings and concrete pads within a large, fenced-in storage yard used for offices, equipment maintenance and scrap storage. Ferrous and non-ferrous scrap are stockpiled in the open yard along with large soil and debris piles. Boro Auto processes automobile engines and transmissions and other types of scrap metal. The metal scrap is crushed, stripped of non-metallic materials, weighed and shipped off-site for recycling.

Previous investigations performed

by the company found soil and ground water contamination related to discharges at the site. Tests of off-site properties revealed soil contamination from storm water coming from the site. To date, Boro Auto has failed to complete necessary remedial investigations and actions as required by a 1990 DEP administrative consent order (ACO), a 1997 judicial consent order and a 2003 DEP ACO.

The Lower Raritan Watershed covers 352 square miles in the central New Jersey counties of Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset and Union. It contains the Raritan River, Green Brook, South River, Lawrence Brook and Manalapan Brook. The land use is more than 50 percent urban, with remaining wetlands (19.7 percent), forest land (17.5 percent), agriculture, water and barren land.

With help from the Edison Wetlands Association, the DEP identified sites along the Raritan River with continuing discharges that included: Edison Township Landfill, Edgeboro Landfill, ILR Landfill, Harco and Rhône-Poulenc/Bayer CropScience. DEP is reviewing additional sites along the river. If appropriate action is not taken within new timeframes set by DEP to address the immediate concerns, the Department will proceed with formal enforcement measures against the responsible parties.

# Mayor Seeks to Fill Board Vacancies

(Continued from page 1)

- Cultural Arts Commission on the second Wednesday of the month at 8
- Environmental Commission on the second Wednesday of the month
- · Planning Board on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m.
- Public Celebration Committee to be determined.
- · Senior Citizen Advisory Commission on the first Monday of the month
- . Taxpayers Advisory Group on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- · Zoning Board of Adjustment on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.

Please forward your resumé, along with which board(s) you would like to serve on, to: Mayor Daniel J. Gallagher or Borough Clerk Vinnie Butiglieri at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080. Appointments are announced at the Reorganization Meeting held on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005 at 1 p.m..

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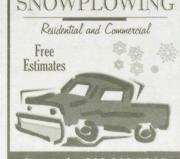


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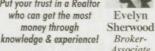
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From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

And here's some more Holiday season news from the South Plainfield Library:

First of all, be advised that the Library will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24; Saturday, Dec. 25 and Sunday, Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas.

We'll follow our usual Storytime schedule next week. For those who came in late, that means the programs will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. 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. We'll also hold our Books-N-Babies program this morning at 10:30; that program is for children up to age three. If you'd like more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

We're still collecting for another charitable drive: The Eco-Maniacs 4-H Environmental Awareness Club is collecting pet items for the Bridgewater Animal Rescue. They're looking for pet food, toys and animal care items for both cats and dogs. The collection will continue until Wednesday Dec. 22

Here's advance word on a couple of craft programs coming up. On Monday, Jan. 10, we'll hold two programs, one teaching how to make "Pocket Cards" at 10:30 a.m. and one on how to make polymer clay candle holders at 7 p.m. Class size for these programs is limited, so pre-registration is required. There's also materials charge for each program (\$1 for the pocket cards; \$2 for the candle holders). For more details, please call us or check our website at <a href="https://www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us">www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us</a>.

So, you're frantically looking for that one special gift for someone, you've maxed out your credit card and you're low on time. What do you do? Well, you might try coming to us. We're in the midst of a Holiday clearance sale for some of our Library merchandise. Summer reading T-shirts are available for \$3 each, while Library tote bags go for \$10 a piece. All sales are final, so make sure that you're getting the right size. Also, supplies are limited, so get 'em while they can be got.

According to the calendar, winter formally starts this Tuesday. Thus far, we've only experienced rain and some pretty chilly temperatures, but it's a fairly safe assumption that snow is in our future. This leads to the possibility that the Library may have to close due to weather conditions. So, if the snow gets really slippery or heavy, you might want to give us a call to make

Thinking about it... give me a call.

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sure we're open. Also, in case of an unexpected closing, we'll make an effort to get the word out via radio stations WCTC (1450AM) and WAWZ (99.1FM).

On occasion, when checking our catalog, you may note that an item is listed as "In Processing". This means that a particular item has been received, but is not yet ready to circulate. Contrary to some assumptions, books and other items don't go directly from the shipping box to the shelves. We have to cover them, affix labels and barcodes, list them in our computer, and clear them through the security system. Depending on the workload and available personnel, this process can take several days (though we do give priority to items that have been reserved by patrons). So, if you're waiting for such an item, we ask that you be patient. We'll attend to it as soon as possible and get it out to the public, where it belongs

That's about all for now. We'll be back next week with more. In the meantime, don't drive too fast in those crowded mall parking lots. Another space will open up eventually.

# Poetry Contest Winner Announced



Pictured are Tom Cassio from Twin City Pharmacy), social worker Gail Dougherty, Councilman Dennis Cerami, Lt. Paul Brembt and the poetry

The Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team, along with Twin City Pharmacy, held a poetry contest in November. South Plainfield High School students were asked to write a poem about what domestic violence meant to them. Six winners were chosen from more than 200 entries.

The winners are as follows: first place—Kristen Coffey, "The Hidden Truth"; second place—Peter Kelly, "Strangers"; third place—Melissa Sticco, "If These Walls Could Talk" and there were three Honorable Mentions—Joe Helgesen, Rosanna Mootoo and Jeff Cupo.

Prizes were donated by our friends at Twin City Pharmacy.

#### The Hidden Truth

The bruises are forbidden To be seen by them The truth remains hidden So no one is condemned

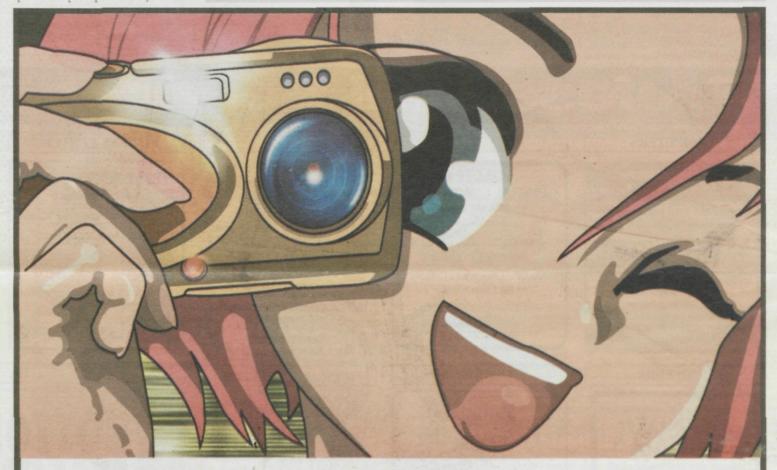
The glasses worn are dark And the shirtsleeves are long No one is able to see a mark Which makes them feel as if they belong

They won't let the pain show Even though they know there will be more But the endless tears do flow Behind the privacy of closed doors

Beyond any doubt

The real truth will never come out

—Kristin Coffey



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