

# South Plainfield Observer

NEW YEAR  
*Greetings*  
2005

VOL. 8, NO. 17

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2004

## The Spirit of Giving Abounds

The spirit of the holidays was evident once again this year in South Plainfield. Many schools, organizations and churches collected toys and food for those less fortunate. Two generous families also took time out of their busy schedules to

give to those in need and make sure the spirit of Christmas was felt all over South Plainfield.

Bob and Fran Yurgel, with the help of South Plainfield Police DARE Officer Dave Franchak, spent Christmas Eve distributing

gifts and food to six families in need. The Yurgels spend the entire year gearing up for this special night.

Shirley Thompson, along with her family, extended family and friends, spent Christmas Day delivering 93 hot Christmas dinners and

gifts for 35 children.

These extraordinary gestures of giving are what the holidays are really about. These two generous families not only bring joy and smiles to those they visit each Christmas, in turn they also receive

a feeling that only those who give can explain. Just the twinkle in their eyes and the tears they try not to shed reveal how important giving is to them. Just seeing the smiles and gratitude at each stop makes their Christmases complete.

## Yurgels' Giving Extends Almost a Quarter Century



Police Officer Dave Franchak joins Santa (Bob Yurgel) and Fran Yurgel as they embark on their Christmas Eve deliveries.

For the past 22 years the Yurgels have spent Christmas Eve driving around South Plainfield, handing out toys, gifts and food to needy families. With the assistance of South Plainfield Social Services Director Marge Ackerman, the Yurgels are able to locate families in need. The last few years Police Officer Dave Franchak has joined the Yurgels during their evening of giving.

By Christmas Eve, the Yurgel's house is filled with wrapped presents, which are stuffed into bags with the names of the families who will receive them. This undertaking has grown each year. For a number of years the Yurgels did everything themselves. When word of their generosity began to spread, families and businesses began to donate to their holiday fund.

This year the Yurgels, along with the help of Dave Franchak, made Christmas for six families one they

will always remember.

After loading their sleigh (the DARE van), the trio took off on their annual trip to deliver their gifts to each family.

Dressed in full Santa gear, Bob Yurgel visits each of the homes, along with Fran, who purchases and organizes all of the gifts. Fran said she calls each "adopted" family to find out what the children need and want for Christmas. Simple requests are the norm for these kids, and the Yurgels never let them down.

Fran and Bob have raised five children, one of them a priest. They spend the entire year collecting money to buy gifts for these special kids. If they run short of money, they use their own. Some of their donations come as gifts, some money, but the end result is the same—the kids enjoy a Christmas they may otherwise not have been able to enjoy. This year

(Continued on page 12)

## Public-Spiritedness a Family Affair for Thompsons

### Thompson Family Prepares and Delivers 93 Dinners and Gifts

This is just the second year that Shirley Thompson has cooked Christmas dinner for the elderly and needy. Last year she delivered 61 dinners; this year a total of 93 hot dinners were delivered on Christmas morning.

It all began last year when she overheard an elderly woman complaining because the deli wasn't serving hot food on Thanksgiving. That very night Shirley began making plans to cook and deliver Christmas dinner to anyone in need who was elderly, handicapped or would not have a home cooked Christmas meal.

She asked her family if they would be willing to give up their Christmas dinner to help deliver these meals, and got their approval. Shirley said her greatest gift has been seeing her entire family and extended family embrace this enormous project with such enthusiasm and how they enjoyed doing it as much she did.

For the second year, the *Observer* ran an ad asking people to call Shirley if they were unable to cook Christmas dinner, and once again her phone started to ring. She also received some names from South Plainfield Social

Services Director Marge Ackerman.

During the course of compiling names, Shirley discovered several families with children who would also be needing gifts, 35 in all. Before she knew it, several of her own children adopted these families, and when their neighbors and co-workers found out what they were doing, the project grew even larger. By the time the *Observer* arrived on Christmas morning to take photos of the Christmas dinner volunteers, we found the entire living and dining room filled with wrapped gifts for the children of the families they would be feeding.

Shirley shopped for weeks to get ready to prepare 93 meals. She also had to take into account those with special dietary needs, such as diabetes and other health issues. Dinner included hot turkey, dressing, gravy, parsleyed potatoes, string beans, hot rolls, fruit cup or fresh fruit and a side of baked ziti.

Shirley also doesn't believe in cooking ahead and reheating things, so she and daughter-in-law Deneen did not sleep Christmas Eve, but cooked all night long. On Christmas morning



Sitting amongst the hoards of numerous donated gifts are some of the volunteers who assisted Shirley Thompson: Devon, Daniel, Danielle, Candice, Rob, Heather, Anthony and Tony.

seven drivers and an army of volunteers began to arrive shortly before 11 a.m. to begin their task of delivering the meals, gifts and food baskets.

Hot meals were driven to each family and hand delivered by volunteers,

who then returned to the Thompsons, to pick up the next meal until all were delivered. Everything went like clockwork. Bags of gifts were delivered along with the meals. With the help of a map of South Plainfield, the

organized group delivered 93 meals to 42 homes in South Plainfield in just a few hours. Many of those who volunteered shed more than a few tears along the way, but they were all happy

(Continued on page 11)



# IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Words cannot express the joy on my two children's faces when Santa and his helpers showed up at my door on Christmas Eve bearing gifts. These people were South Plainfield residents Bob Yurgel, who was dressed as Santa, and his helpers, his wife Fran and South Plainfield Police Officer Dave Franchak, who used the DARE van as their sled for the evening.

These wonderful, generous people took time away from their own families on a special night to bring the magic of Christmas to our family. After their brief visit, my son said to me, "There really is a Santa." That's what the Yurgels good deeds are all about. I can never thank them enough.

I would also like to thank Grace Bertucci from the Saint Vincent De Paul Society of Sacred Heart Church for all the phone calls and help throughout the year. Her concern for our family is more than anyone could ask for. And thank you to the United Family and Children's Society of Plainfield for the donation of a few more gifts to put under our Christmas tree this year.

Thank you everyone and may God bless!

**A GRATEFUL NEIGHBOR**

Dear Editor,

In a letter to the editor last week, while busy reigning down fire and brimstone and denouncing civil and woman's rights organizations, Ted Zychlinski forgot to name several people that would meet his definition of socialist traitors, such as James Madison, the other delegates at the Constitutional Convention and Thomas Jefferson. I would also like to thank him for demonstrating the goodwill, peace and tolerance that define the holiday season.

Anyone who read his comments last week has, hopefully, noted my sarcasm thus far. When Mr. Zychlinski described America as a battlefield between Christians and non-Christians, he affirmed what danger truly besets the United States; religious extremism in any form, Muslim or Christian. I am proud to live in a secular state and the founding fathers designed America to be this way purposefully, because

they had observed in Europe that state endorsed religion had consistently been the cornerstone for persecution of a nation's minority population.

I respect the fact that Mr. Zychlinski has strong religious convictions but faith is a personal thing and he should be willing to respect those who disagree with him. Instead, because he and others like him are too insecure in their own faith to allow pluralism or diversity, he advocates that those of other faiths or those of no faith at all be forcefully inundated and indoctrinated in his religious practices.

Mr. Zychlinski's idea of a great religious awakening in America consists only of intolerance and disregard for the legitimacy of other religions. Any American who truly believes in the freedom this nation stands for must reject this thinking.

**THOMAS J. DALY**

To the Editor,

After attending the Dec. 21 Board of Education meeting, I feel compelled to write a letter to you for two reasons.

1. The performance of the Riley School fourth Grade Chorus was outstanding. Not only is their chorus director Joanne Gurske, a teacher and mentor to be cherished, but my nephew Joshua Rochotte did a fantastic job introducing the performance. Never has a family been more proud!

2. The board meeting itself focused on the unpleasant business of leading us on the road to recovery. Some board member comments got me to thinking about our community. While the past few months have held many unpleasant surprises, I feel great confidence in the ability of these board members to make the right decisions for us. As Sue Peck and Terry Alexa spoke about the textbook action, I was reminded of a scene from my favorite movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. It's the scene when the townspeople are panicked over the bad financial news and they attempt to withdraw all their money from the Savings and Loan. George Bailey attempts to calm their fears by explaining to them that they must continue to support each other both in the Savings and Loan and in

the community. This is exactly what we must do during the coming months. Attendance at the board meetings was never more important than it will be as we head into the spring. We must come together to support each other, to ask the questions that need to be asked and to truly listen as they are answered.

It's said that life doesn't give us more than we can handle, and I believe that together we can handle anything.

**DAWN NOONAN**

To the Editor,

This letter is directed to the person(s) who abandoned an animal at my home and to the general public in the area of New Brunswick Ave. near 7th St.

On Saturday morning, Dec. 11 my son and I headed out for a very busy day. Imagine our surprise to find a pillow case stumbling around the porch, mewling in fear. A kitten had been tied into the pillow case. Perhaps the guilty party thought they were doing the animal a kindness. WRONG, we cannot care for nor afford a pet right now.

The tiny animal was shaking in fear. We had to take her with us the entire afternoon while I worked. Eventually an animal rescue adoption organization at PetSmart in Watchung Square Mall took her, but they were extremely rude about taking an animal without a donation. Luckily one of the volunteers understood our plight and agreed to take the tiny, beautiful ball of gray and white fur.

If anyone knows who might have abandoned this animal, please contact the *Observer* leaving a message for 'Kitten.' Appropriate action will be taken if possible.

**THANK YOU,  
KITTEEN RESCUER**

Dear Editor,

At the conclusion of the Dec. 21 Board of Education (BOE) meeting, I couldn't help but chuckle. It felt like a virtual pep rally. The BOE talked about how they planned on working through the financial mess that our district is in, how this happened oh so long ago and the BOE employees clapped. Although this dilemma may

## 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.

have begun many years ago, this current board is also accountable for the mismanagement of money during their term. I do feel that we need to move forward, but please don't insult the taxpayers of this district by making yourselves feel good about the efforts that you are making to get us out of the financial disaster we are in.

You are the same board who voted to give the superintendent not one, but TWO raises this year. Sadly, we can't even provide enough tissues for our children. Imagine how many boxes of tissues that could have purchased! You are the same board who had warnings that something was wrong, yet you chose not to listen and to believe that the money was there. Did any of you ever think to ask "show me the money?"

BOE member Sue Peck talked about reading the *Observer* and feeling "attacked." What did you expect? Were you thinking that the people of South Plainfield would be happy about all of this? Remember, you chose to run for a position on this board. We as taxpayers did not choose to have this district be placed in financial ruin. We chose you and the rest of the board to assure that this didn't happen. Ms. Peck also talked about having the community come out to meetings.

Again, might I suggest that the BOE put their listening ears on. At this last meeting, a South Plainfield High School senior approached the board with a concern and read a prepared statement. He began his statement by identifying himself and mentioned not once, but THREE times that he was a senior at the high school. Yet at the conclusion, this young man was asked several times what his name

was and what grade he was in.

I agree with the BOE that we need to move forward and work our way out of this situation, but please do not assume that we are all feeling as warm and fuzzy about this as you are. This is still very disturbing.

**A CONCERNED RESIDENT**

To The Editor,

The South Plainfield Historical Society held their second annual Town History Day in November. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for helping to make this day such a success: Joann Graf of the Senior Center, for allowing us the use of the center; Joahanna Foods, Pathmark Stores, Inc. and South Plainfield Cake and Bagel for their donations of refreshments; the entertainment, the Hungarian American Athletic Club Folk Dance Group under the direction of Eve Gonder-Feher; Tracy Glenn Murray, choral director at South Plainfield High School and the members of the high school chorus; the Jades, Peter Assad, Qur'an Ali, Christopher DeOlivera, Christopher Duquette, Michael Duquette, Darren Kaczowski, Paul Nicolosi, John Roesch, Jeff Seesselberg and Nathanael Udell; soloists Natalia Tamzoke, Peter Assad, Mike Duquette, Katie Mott, Darren Kaczowski and Cassie Krajak; our speakers, Dr. Richard Viet, Frank McGonigle and Larry Randolph; John Mazzeo of Classic Signs for the banner and Joe Nicastro for the donation of the banner; the classic car exhibitors Ron Spata, Joe Nicastro Sr., Joe Nicastro Jr., Kevin O'Shea, Glenn Mackenzie, Frank Mirra and Ron Erlichman; the other groups that joined us, the South Plainfield Police Department, Elks, VFW, Suburban Women's Club, Friends of the Woods, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Custer Camp #17 and the Senior Citizens Advisory Group; the set-up and clean-up group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes under the direction of Gene Baraille and the Jersey Club members. If there is anyone that was forgotten, thank you.

**SINCERELY,  
KATHY HORVATH  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.  
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
(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.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## AIDA SANTOS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT  
BRANCH MANAGER

## Valley National Bank

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

(908) 757-5868

Fax (908) 757-0494

## Invest in Yourself.

Spend \$15 a week on an ad in the B&P section of the *Observer*. Isn't your business worth the investment?

## South Plainfield Observer

Your #1 Source for South Plainfield News

For advertising  
information, call

**908-668-0010**

## Short on Time? Catch up with the Observer.

Follow the ups and downs of  
the borough in the *Observer*,  
the official newspaper of  
South Plainfield.

Send your check or money order for \$25/one year subscription (out-of-town \$30) to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or call 908-668-0010 and use your credit card.

We now accept  
VISA & Mastercard

☒ I would like home delivery of the *Observer*.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

(MC OR VS) EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_



## Borough Reorganizes Sunday Cerami, Butrico and Thomas to Take Office

The annual reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body will be held on Sunday, Jan. 2 at 1 p.m. in the Court Room at the Municipal Building.

Councilmen Dennis Cerami and Charlie Butrico will be sworn in for three-year terms and Kathy Thomas will be sworn in for a one-year term.

In addition, names of those who will be appointed to serve on the many Borough boards and commissions will be announced and they, too, will be sworn in.

The public is invited to attend. After the meeting all are invited to attend a reception held at the rescue squad.

## Board of Education Asks Voters for Input and Support

Last week's Board of Education meeting brought out more than 250 residents, most of whom were there to hear more about the money woes the board is undergoing and what steps are being taken to resolve the problem.

Board members Dan Smith, Sue Peck, Ed LaFreniere and Terry Alexa all acknowledged the crowd and asked them for their support and input. Not much was discussed about the budget problems except to ask the public to keep attending meetings and help in the discussion on what they have and will implement to help with this year's shortfall, as well as the process of striking next year's budget. Peck said that laying off teachers in the middle of this school year was not a viable option. She said that leasing the books was one way to get results without hurting the children in the classroom.

The board approved a resolution to participate in the New Jersey Textbook Lease Program. The district will be leasing their books to raise money to offset a proposed deficit of \$1.8M. The lease will run for five years. The proceeds from leasing the books will amount to approximately \$965,000. The lease agreement means we are selling the value of our books, which will

have to be repaid over the next five years. This action was necessary because the board cannot end a fiscal year with a deficit.

Board President Pio Pennisi said he plans to ask for a cap waiver from the county and the state on next year's budget. He also reported that the board and administration has met with the officials from the State of New Jersey after requesting them to audit the boards books. He said he is expecting to get a report from the State before the next public school board meeting on Jan. 18. The board asked for the audit to clear the air on what caused the budget difficulties which was discovered over the past few months. Blame has been placed on past boards, some going back more than 10 years. Dan Smith said the board is ready to accept whatever findings the state discovers and if anyone is found at fault, they will be dealt with appropriately.

Delaying insurance payments for three months in 1986 saved the district about \$67,000 back then, but to pay those three months back today is going to cost the district about \$900,000.

The board also approved an emergency contract to repair the rooftop HVAC units at the high school to Thermal Service of N.J. for \$127,250.

## County to Hold Walk-In Flu Shot Clinic

The Middlesex County Public Health Department will hold a walk-in clinic to distribute remaining flu vaccine to qualified high-risk residents throughout the County.

The County will administer about 2,500 shots on a walk-in basis at the clinic to be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 6 at the Milltown Senior Center, 60 Violet Terrace.

The clinic will be open to high-risk individuals from all of the County's 25 municipalities.

"The Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the County Health Department, feel this countywide distribution of vaccine will benefit all of our residents and it in the best interest of public health," said Freeholder John Pulomena, chairman of the County's Public Health and Education Committee.

The vaccine to be distributed is the remainder of the County's allotment. More than 8,000 doses have been administered in a number of clinics.

"The Middlesex County Public Health Department understands the

importance for individuals in high-risk groups to receive the flu vaccine and will continue to provide services to meet the needs of our county residents," Pulomena said.

If vaccine still remains after the Jan. 6 clinic, the County will decide what to do with it at that point.

Individuals considered high-risk include: people age 65 and older and residents age 18 or older with underlying chronic medical conditions, all women pregnant during the influenza season, health-care workers involved in direct patient care and out of home care givers and household contacts of children aged under six months.

For information call the hotline at (732) 745-4344.



Pictured are seventh grade student council members Brittany Alvarado, Andrew Nguyen, Ashley Nguyen, Mark Benak, Ryan Flanagan, Elizabeth Martin, Mercedes Rodriguez, Julianne Agrillo, Cassie Capparelli, Megan Cirini and Carlos Ruiz.

## Middle School Students Give Gifts for Kids

By Jane Dornick

The Middle School seventh and eighth grade Student Council ran their annual toy drive "Gifts for Kids" for the 1st Marine Corps Reserve NJ Chapter, which distributes toys to needy children throughout Central Jersey.

The drive starts right after the Thanksgiving break and students and faculty donate a new, unwrapped toy that is placed under a Christmas tree in the hallway. This year math teacher Linda Schwebel had her classes collect money which was used to purchase four CD players and gift certificates

from Sam Goody.

The week before Christmas, the toys were boxed up by the council members and picked up by the Marine Corps. for distribution. To show their gratitude, the Marine Corps return during the year and present the school with a plaque and give them a pizza party to show their appreciation for the school's effort.

Beside the seventh graders pictured above, the following members of the

eighth grade student council also participated: Samantha Barthel, Jeannine DeAndrea, Cornelius Mootoo, Brittany Okosko, Alyssa Sutherland, Jeanne Ulaia, Katie Baldassare, Corie Black, Mike Boyle, Danielle Butrico, Gina Curcio, Stephanie Dicindio, Chris Fierro, Jamie Giannakis, Stephanie Lanza, Scott Suleski, Kara Thomas, Gina Viola, Jacqueline Bosse, Sara Frazzano, Jessica Handwerker, Allyson Paterek and Kathryn Paterek.

## Recycling Center Holiday Hours

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed Friday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. Recycling will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30. The Yard Waste Site will also be closed on New Years.

Regular hours at the Recycling Center are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Yard Waste winter hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Trash Compactor on Kenneth Ave., which is open on the first Satur-

day of the month Oct. through May, will be closed Jan. 1, but will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 8.

2005 Yard Waste/Compactor Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

**Borough Hall will be closed on Friday, December 31**

## County Sets Reorganization Meeting

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders will hold its reorganization meeting at 3 p.m. on Jan. 6 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

Sheriff Joseph C. Spicuzzo, Freeholders Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina and Christopher D. Rafano, who were re-elected to three-year terms and newcomer Blanca Valenti, who won her first term in November's election, will be sworn in during the meeting.

The Freeholders also will select a Freeholder Director and Deputy Director. Currently, these positions are held by David B. Crabel and Stephen "Pete" Dalina, respectively. The Board also will appoint Freeholders to chair and serve various county committees that oversee the county departments.

Thinking about it...  
Give me a call.

**REAL ESTATE**  
Buying? Selling?

Local, East Coast, West Coast, or Any State

Deal with Licensed Experienced People!!

• NO OBLIGATION •

WAYNE GRENNIER, REFERRAL SPECIALIST

**Weichert**  
Referral Associates  
CO. INC.

LICENSED SALES REPRESENTATIVE NJ  
OFFICE: 800-937-6777  
RESIDENCE: 908-755-3138  
E-mail: wgrennie@ix.netcom.com

1625 STATE ROUTE 10  
MORRIS PLAINS, NJ 07950



"A COMPANY  
ON THE MOVE"



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

**CIRCUIT TRAINING IS THE FASTEST  
GROWING TREND IN AMERICA!**

For Women of all ages 13 and Up!

Get Results now while enjoying a healthy lifestyle

CALL TODAY FOR A COMPLIMENTARY TOUR AND WORKOUT

20 Station Circuit plus Treadmills, Free Weights, Personal  
Training and Customized Nutritional Counseling

CALL NOW TO ENJOY THE EXCITING BENEFITS OF  
SLIM AND TONE'S 30-MINUTE WORKOUT FOR WOMEN

HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



**SLIM  
AND  
TONE**

30-Minute Workout  
for Women

**Slim and Tone**  
It just got easier!

EXPANDED HOURS  
INDIVIDUAL TRAINING & NUTRITIONAL  
ADVICE NOW AVAILABLE

(908) 769-0009

ROSEMARY HOLT NANCY PASTERNAK  
Proprietor Co-Manager

2601 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield  
(Between Home Depot & Durham Ave.)

Brighten up someone's day  
with a gourmet gift basket  
or floral arrangement.

**Mohn's**  
Flowers & Fancy Foods

2325 Plainfield Ave.  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
(908) 561-2808



Corporate Accounts Welcome



# Events

## Pilgrim Covenant Worship Services

January 2

Pilgrim Covenant Church Sunday worship takes place at 10 a.m. The speaker will be the Rev. Wilfredo Rodriguez, a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Last year Rev. Rodriguez served as chaplain in Kuwait and Iraq. We also have a regular Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

Come join us. All are welcome.

## Free Worldwide Hypnotism Day

January 4

On Jan. 4 hypnosis experts will present three free seminars to make the public aware of the uses, benefits and procedures of hypnosis. An exciting day of presentations of stress management at 3:30 p.m., weight reduction at 5 p.m. and group past life regression experience at 6:30 p.m., plus questions and answers about hypnosis.

The event takes place at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. Call for a schedule and directions at (908) 964-4467. A \$5 donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is requested.

## Music Booster Meeting

January 5

There will be a Music Booster's meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 5 in the chorus room in the high school.

All band, chorus and orchestra parents are encouraged to come and find out what is going on! The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

## Financial Aid Workshop

January 5

On Wednesday, Jan. 5, the SPHS Guidance Department will be hosting a Financial Aid Workshop. Ben Curtis, associate director of admissions from Elmira College, will provide useful information regarding financial aid for continuing education.

Curtis brings a wealth of background in financial aid planning with topics focusing on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and explanations on obtaining scholarships, grants and loans. He will help workshop participants understand programs such as CSS, TAG, SEOG, SAR and EFC, kinds of loans, choices available for selecting loans and loan accounts will be discussed.

For information about the workshop, contact Cheryl Fox, high school counselor at (908) 754-4620. The program will be held in Cafeteria A/B starting at 7 p.m.

## Suburban Woman's Club Meeting

January 6

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will meet on Thursday, Jan. 6 at 1 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave.

The program for the meeting will

## Send Us Your Around Town Events

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

## What's happening in JANUARY

### EVENTS

Knitting/Crochetting  
9:30-11:30am 3  
Yoga 10:30-11:30am  
Drawing Class 11:30am

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Ladies Social  
Group 10 am 4

Exercise 8:30am 5  
AARP Crafts 1pm  
Computer Class 10 am  
11:30 am, 1pm

Weekly Shopping  
Pathmark 9am 6  
Practical Crafts 10am  
Computer Class  
11am & 1pm

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Pizza Lunch Available 7

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

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

March 7—Best of Branson at  
Hunterdon Hills

April 7—Oklahoma at NJPAC

May 19—Cactus Flower at  
Hunterdon Hills

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

Center Closed  
Happy New Year 31

focus on Long Term Care Insurance. The speaker will be Anthony Cancela, Jr. Included in his presentation Cancela will discuss reasons for purchasing Long Term Care Insurance and important features and options of individual policies. He will also address any questions club members may have on the benefits of this insurance. Cancela operates Cancela Brokerage Insurance LLC in South Plainfield.

Women interested in attending or joining the club should call (908) 767-3257 for further information.

## Sports Auction-Raffle

January 8

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

Prizes include exciting new and 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 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

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will hold a breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 8 to 11 a.m.

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

## Practical Crafting Workshop at Library

January 10

A "Practical Crafting" workshop will be held on Monday, Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the library.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making "pocket cards." Students are requested to bring a pair of scissors, a pencil with an eraser and a glue stick. There is a charge of \$1, payable upon registration, to cover the cost of other materials. Space is limited, so pre-registration by Tuesday, Jan. 4 is required. In case of inclement weather, the class will be held on Monday, Jan. 24.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Introduction to Polymer Clay at Library

January 10

The "Practical Crafting" program, "Introduction to Polymer Clay" will be held at the library on Monday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ronda Wisniewski will conduct the workshop, during which students will make a polymer clay candleholder. Completed projects will be collected for firing and glazing and picked up at the library after Friday, Jan. 14.

Class size is limited, so preregistration is required by Tuesday, Jan. 4. There is a charge of \$1, payable upon registration, to cover the cost of materials. In case of inclement weather, class will be held on Monday, Jan. 24.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Pierogi Sale at Blessed Virgin Church

January 13

A pierogi sale will be held on Thursday, Jan. 13 at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave. (corner of Belmont and Delmore).

The pierogi are \$4 a dozen and are handmade and freshly cooked to order by parish Sisterhood and Brotherhood members.

There are two choices offered: potato with cheese or sauerkraut.

Please order by 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10 for pickup on Thursday, Jan. 13. To order or for more information, call (908) 561-6366 and leave your name, phone number and order. For more information or questions, contact Dorothy at (908) 756-7223.

## Fire Department Wine Tasting

January 22

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department is hosting their annual Wine Tasting, sponsored by Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 6-11 p.m. at Embassy Suites in Piscataway. The tickets are \$40 per person and include the wine tasting reception from 6-9 p.m. and a cash bar, DJ and dancing from 9-11 p.m. Special rate hotel rooms are available for an overnight stay.

For tickets and information, please call Mike Gallagher, (908) 755-9874; John Celentano, (908) 757-5691 or Buy-Rite Liquor, (908) 561-0051.

## "School Readiness" Seminar

January 6

Community Nursing School of Metuchen will host a program for parents and educators, "School Readiness, What is it?" on Thursday, Jan. 6 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in First Presbyterian Church, Education Building, Chapel.

Child care will be provided in the nursery. Please RSVP by Jan. 3 if you plan to attend. For more information, call (732) 549-5015.

## Professional Happy Hour at MCRCC

Jan. 6

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Young Professionals Happy Hour." The event will be held on Thursday, Jan. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sheraton at Woodbridge Place Hotel in Iselin. Light appetizers and a cash bar will be available. Cost for members is \$10, member walk-in's \$15 and non-members \$30.

For information, call Erin Clarke at [erin@mcrcc.org](mailto:erin@mcrcc.org) or (732) 821-1700

## Five Women Wearing The Same Dress

Starts January 7

*Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, a touching, bittersweet comedy by Alan Ball, opens at Circle Players on Friday, Jan. 7.

Circle Players is located in Piscataway. For information, call (732) 968-7555.

## Playwriting Workshop Series Offered

January 12-March 6

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo), will offer a playwriting workshop series at the North Brunswick Municipal Building. Workshops will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, Jan. 12 through March 6.

The program is free and open to those ages 16 and over. For information, call (732) 745-3885. Registration deadline is Jan. 4.

## — Out of Town —

## Jay Lander at Metuchen Art Works

January 1

Metuchen Art Works will hold a one-person show of the recent paintings of Jay Lander in January. Jay constructs large shaped canvases using advertising images from magazines of the 1940s and 50s.

The gallery currently represents 15 diverse artists. Their works range from abstract expressionism to realism and are evocative of the philosophy of a true cooperative gallery.

## Woodbridge WOWs

January 5

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a business meeting and social hour on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Main Public Library on Amboy Ave. in Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served.

Call (732) 297-1775.



**Junior Journalist WINNER**

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros present dinner to Junior Journalist contest winner Emily Reineke, her parents Hank and Christa and sister Sara.

**Feed your soul...write!**





## Six Public Works Retired Employees Are Recognized

The South Plainfield Department of Public Works paid tribute to six retired individuals during their annual Christmas party. On hand to present the honors were Joseph Glowacki, superintendent, far left and Vincent Buttiglieri, administrator, far right. Retirees starting second from left are as follows: Pasquale Politi, Blase Coppola, William Woodel, Robert Doyle, Ralph Cotone and not shown, Vincent Robustelli. We would like to take this opportunity to thank these individuals for their many years of service to the South Plainfield community. Your professionalism will be missed. On behalf of the South Plainfield Department of Public Works, the Office of Emergency Management and the Recycling Department, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

## "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" Holiday Enforcement Project

Law enforcement officers from Bergen, Essex and Middlesex Counties will be stepping up impaired driving enforcement as part of *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project*.

The holiday season is traditionally a time of social gatherings, which often include alcohol. The goal of this program is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high visibility enforcement and to arrest motorists who choose to drive impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Impaired drivers kill nearly 18,000 people on our nation's roads each year. In New Jersey, 39 percent of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol related. The National Highway's Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that nearly 97 percent of Americans view drinking and driving by others as a threat to their families and themselves. Indeed, Americans support tougher enforcement and rank drunk driving ahead of healthcare, poverty, the environment and gun control as an important social issue.

Law enforcement agencies partici-

pating in the *You Drink, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project* offer the following advice: Be responsible and don't risk it...you will be caught. If you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out. Take mass transit, a taxicab, or ask a sober friend to drive you home. Report impaired drivers to law enforcement and always buckle up—it's your best defense against an impaired driver.

"The holiday season is a time for celebration, not tragedy," said Roberto Rodriguez, director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "The law enforcement community of the state is committed to eradicating impaired driving from our roads."

The South Plainfield Police Department, as part of the *You Drink, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project*, will conduct numerous drunk driving patrols and a drunk driving sobriety check point on Dec. 30. These details will be focused on detecting and arresting impaired drivers traveling within the Borough of South Plainfield.

## Middle School Honor Roll—Marking Period 1

### High Honor Roll

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**—Jenna Alexander, Ashley Aya, Mark Benak, Jimmy Bijlani, Megan Cerini, Kristie Crilley, Ryan Flanagan, Matthew Galinsky, Steven Grzenda, Ryan Harrington, Alexander Horn, Arham Jain, Frank Licato, Thomas Loalbo, Christopher Marrone, Nicole McDonough, Amber Miller, Christopher Oprysk, Emily Pickarski, Katelyn Rems, Manraj Singh and Jonathan Sukenik.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**—Jorge Alvarez, Michael Boyle, Ashley Capparelli, Ashley Cardinale, Allison Clawans, Audrey Cupo, Jeannine DeAndrea, Rebecca Deffler, Michael Dezmin, Lindsay Fredericks, Christopher Fulton, Caitlin Herriott, Nicholas Jeglinski, Joseph Lacerda, Christopher Lesniak, Anthony Louise, Jeremiah Magpile, Cornelius Mootoo, Lyndsey Murtagh, Timothy Opet, Michael Pachytel, Parth Patel, Allyson Paterek, Kathryn Paterek, Rachel Smith, Nora Stasio, Kara Thomas and Isabel Vordzorgbe.

### Honor Roll

**Grade 7**—Stephanie Alexander, Brittany Alvarado, Shyam Amin, Jhemarr Anderson, Angela Ang, Anthony Balasarré, Stephen Balzer, Morgan Betha, Scot Bishop, Aleksandra Blazewicz, Matthew Brazza, Cassie Capparelli, Amanda Cerini, Leiloni Chepulis, Kevin Coffey, Ray Coletta, Natalie Colucci, Stephen Coppi, Marilyn Cruz, Frank DeBiase, Jennifer Deligne, Justin DeOliveira, Francisco Dias, Christian DiCarlo, Bianca DiDolce, Katherine Douglas, Elizabeth Fasullo, Alana Franco, Amanda Freitas, Kyle Freuler, Joseph Gonzalez, Jessica Gregorio, Michelle Gustafson and Teresa Gustafson.

Jaimie Handwerger, Nicholas Heilmann, Gregory Herbster, Eric Hernandez, Paige Herriott, Sheena Higgins, Kyle Hughes, Courtney Irber, Nacia Jackson, Kyle Junge, Kyle Kaczka, Jenae Keith, Megan Kerper, Maher Khan, Kelly Kline, Andrew Kovalevich, Dung Le, Philip Longo, Meghan Makowski, Karthik Marpadga, Jennifer McClary, Parin Mody and Andrew Muhlgeier.

Jessica Napolitano, Kellen Naranjo, Chelsea Ng, Ashley Nguyen, Thang Nguyen, Kristina Palazzo, Brian Palma, Dylan Papa, Brittany Pasquarella, Victoria Pasquarella, Robert Paster-

nak, Kishan Patel, Ashley Pierce, Amanda Plum and Kayla Prins.

Frederick Reichert, Ryans Rhoads, Valeria Rivera, Filipe Rodrigues, Jillian Rutowski, Ryan Sacco, Robert Sacks, Katherine Samul, Alexandria Santos, Matthew Santos, Courtney Schaefer, Matthew Schaefer, Alyssa Scrudato, Joao-Rafael Simoes, Aleandra Skula, Nichole Slatky, Daniel Smith, Italia Spallieri, Davide Stogowski, Michael Sullivan, Samantha Swierc, Richard Szeliga, Bryant Villamarin, Kimberly Werner, Tyler Whalen, Andre Williams, Briana Williams, Sara Wojewodka, Seth Yocum, Heba Younes, Thomas Zazzara, Ashley Zeccardo and Kaitlyn Zielinski.

**Grade 8**—Jonathan Addesa, Daphne Aguinaldo, Michelle Arancio, Katherine Baldassaré, John Barry, Samantha Barthel, Lindsay Barton, Francesca Bayak, Jacqueline Bosse, Barry Brown, Kyle Buck, Michael Bumback, Giuliany Burgos, Michael Burton, Maxwell Butler, Danielle Butrico, Kurt Carlson, Henry Carrillo, Suneet Chandler, Alex Cihanowyz, Sean Coffey, Ian Collins, Jonathan Conroy, Gina Curcio, Jared Czech, Lauren Diana, Stephanie Dcindio, Jennifer Disch, Quynhhu Doan, Courtney Easterday, Tina Foscolo and Kelliann Friday.

Allen Garcia, Stephen Garry, Jaime Giannakis, Viktoriya Glushko, Mariela Gonzalez, Keri Gould, Ashleigh Gray, Jennifer Gustafson, Jessica

Handwerger, Richard Harzula, Joseph Hernandez, Antoinette Hudak, Chelsea Hunt, Nicholas Jankoski, Christopher Kedmenec, Garrett Kelly, Stephen Kelly, Michelle Kobilis, Matthew Kopchak, Catherine Krawiec, Jaclyn Kukuch and Alexa Kunch.

Phong Lai, Stephanie Lanza, Zane Lesky, Nicholas Levendusky, Sheryl Lipuma, Daniel Maistickle, Kelly McCormack, Alyssa McCreesh, Joseph Mennuti, Jeffrey Moncada, Timothy Moskal, Brittany Musolino, Joanna Nastarowicz, Victoria Nguyen, Patrick Nolt, Eric Nuber and Kristen Nuber.

Nosavoen Ogbevoen, Brittany Okosko, Emily Orlandini, Kaitlyn Pangborn, Eric Pascale, Dharti Patel, Kunj Patel, Priya Patel, Nicholas Pauls, Sandra Pleeter, Douglas Porzio, Matthew Praul, Brian Pullen, Kyle Quail, Wilfred Quesada, Timothy Ratti, Patricia Robles, Anthony Salerno, Kyle Schroeder, Amber Scott, Christopher Seesselberg, Saira Sheikh, Richard Sierzega, Sagar Sindha, Theodore Skwiat, Michelle Slover, Taheem Smith, Christine Snogans, Nicole Soisson, Mark Sprenger, Andrew Staynings, Heather Stolloff, Spencer Stubbs, Scott Suleski and Alyssa Sutherland.

Susan Tian, Elizabeth Tran, Victoria Tran, Jeanne Ulacia, Anthony Usuriello, Alexander Vajda, Nicholas Vallone, Andrea Vedutis, Gina Viola, Stephen Wagner, Erik White, Kaleigh White, Steven Wiczorek and Kristen Yorkanis.

## "A Day in the Life" of Plainfield Public Schools

The Historical Society of Plainfield located on West Front St., known as the Drake House, is presenting Plainfield public school students' artwork through Jan. 31.

Over 85 pieces of artwork from the thirteen schools in the district will be on display. The works of art are personal interpretations of the African American artist Romare Bearden (1922-1988) collages.

The Drake House exhibition is running concurrently with the Whitney Museum of American Art's exhibition in New York of The Art of Romare Bearden. Romare Bearden's signature style of modern-

ist collage incorporates the fractured approaches of Cubism and its original impetus, African art.

The Plainfield public school students in elementary, middle and high school were asked to be reflective of their immediate environs by depicting "A Day in the Life" of their schools in the collage technique of Romare Bearden. This art project required the students to be introspective using their own autobiography as a source for the artwork. The students were successful in capturing in composite and abstract forms the visual evidence and artifacts of their schools.



### WE DELIVER!

- Gourmet Sandwich Trays
- Sloppy Joe Trays
- Assorted Sub Trays
- Homemade Salads
- Grilled Chicken Heros
- Assorted Sandwich Trays

**3-6 FOOT SUBS**

**BUY 6" HERO GET 2ND 6" HERO 99¢**

Expires January 23, 2005

**\$5 OFF Super Bowl Catering Order Over \$50**

Exp. Jan. 30, 2005

**HOMETOWN HEROS**

340 Hamilton Boulevard  
(BY THE DARE BLDG)

**908-755-HERO (4376)**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

*"Quality Food For Everyday Heroes"*

### 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**



## Give her what she really wants this holiday season!

### The Carousel Manicure...

...Choose from either a "Hot Oil" manicure, complete with hand and arm massage or a "Paraffin Dip" and regular manicure

**Only \$16, Seniors \$15 ~Paraffin Dip Only-\$7**

*Gift Certificates Always Available*

Flexible hours to suit your needs,  
Wednesday-Saturday  
Closed Sun, Mon & Tuesday

**ALSO AVAILABLE...**

**"The Carousel Facial"**—includes skin analysis, cleansing, hot towels, steam, peel, extraction, massage of the face, décolleté and mask

**& "The Carousel Pedi"**  
Call for details.

Where you are always treated like one of the family



**Indulge yourself in our newly redecorated salon at 307 Oak Tree Ave.**

**908-668-8397**

**Soon to Come: MASSAGE**

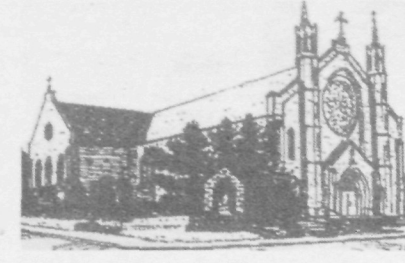
### Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

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

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







## SPHS Student Council Treats Seniors to Tunes and Turkey

By Patricia Abbott

The SPHS Student Council gave senior citizens an early Christmas gift on Dec. 21. The afternoon began with a concert of select numbers from Vivaldi's "Gloria" performed by the chorus and orchestra. After the concert the seniors moved to the cafeteria where they were served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

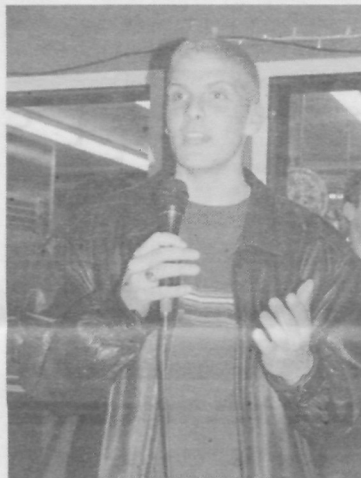
Student Council members, many dressed as elves, served the meal and chatted with the guests. Proceeds from tickets sales (just \$1) were donated to the South Plainfield Special Olympics.

Also on hand were VFW Commander Metro Kopchak and past Commander Julius Peterson, who presented Choral Director Tracey Murray and Band Director Mark Tweed with a check for \$500. The traveling choir had performed at the VFW earlier in the month.



The SPHS Student Council consists of 52 members. There are four officers and eight representatives from each class and an executive board of four members. Advisor is Tom Baker.

Food for the event was donated and prepared by Marriott. Event organizers were Student Council President Cassie D'urso and Steve Novak, assistant principal. Graphic Arts teacher Rich D'urso donated the tickets. Decorations were donated by student council members.



## Santa's Got to Eat Too!

Debbie Boyle and Shirley Affinito, co-chairs of Riley School's pasta dinner with Santa on December 17, were thrilled with the overwhelming attendance at the event. First time cooks struggled to keep up with the constant stream of diners who came out in support of the Riley School children and PTSO. The event's success has slated it as an annual event for the school. The co-chairs are grateful for the many volunteers who made the event a success and to Roma Foods, who donated the food and supplies, and of course, the star of the show - Santa (Chris Kulawiak), who had to step in on a minutes notice after Santa got sick.

**G&G Graphics**  
1110 Hamilton Blvd.  
Suite 1B  
South Plainfield  
New Jersey 07080

Publishers of the  
South Plainfield Observer

Call  
(908) 668-0010

**G&G Graphics, Inc.**

PUBLISHERS OF THE OBSERVER

Providing design and prepress services for:

NJNEOA Narcotic News • Lions of New Jersey  
NJ Restaurant Guide • Chimney Rock Inn  
New York Bar Association • Print Tech Products

Add your company to our list of satisfied customers

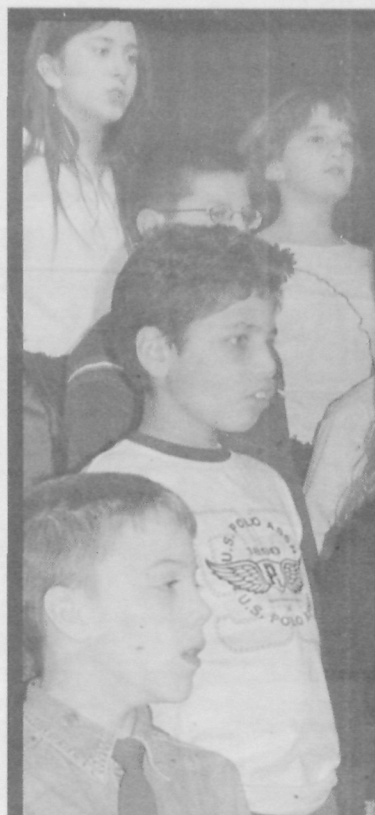
## Consistency Pays Off.

There's a reason the B&P advertisers find success week after week - exposure. Get a slice of success. Advertise in the Observer.

**South Plainfield Observer**  
Your #1 Source for South Plainfield News

For information, call  
**908-668-0010**



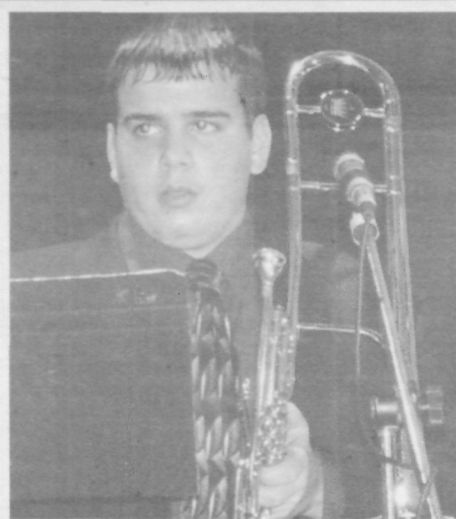


## Roosevelt Holiday Concert Features Strings, Chorus

By Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt Elementary School's recent performance was the last in a lineup of wonderful holiday concerts. The December 21 show featured the third and fourth grade strings and chorus. The strings, conducted by Bruce Mikolon, played "Beginner Medley," "Lightly Row," "Song of the Wind" and "March of the Cadets."

The Chorus, directed by Sharon Perez, sang "Riding in a Sleigh," "Hanerot Hallalu," "The Best Gift of All" and "A Holly Jolly Holiday." The children and audience enjoyed refreshments afterwards.



## SPHS Band Puts On Spirited Holiday Concert

By Michael Duquette

This past holiday season, one of the greatest gifts given to South Plainfield High School was a spectacular outpouring of music by various student ensembles. The Jazz Band and Concert Band's Holiday Concert on Dec. 20 was a prime

example of the wonder of the season that SPHS student musicians managed to capture.

The show kicked off with a set by the Stage Band, under the direction of Mark Tweed. The set started off with a bang with the jazzy "Operator," featuring an alto sax solo by John Roesch. High-

lights of the Stage Band set included "Green Onions," featuring Charles Decker on trombone, Scott Rann on alto saxophone and Brian Schulte and Ike Ejiochi on tenor saxes; "Slam," which showcased John Roesch on tenor sax again, as well as Katie Pollock on mallets; and "Duke It Out," which had a multitude of solos—Wael

Kanj and Taylor Mandel on trumpets, Ike Ejiochi on tenor sax, Scott Rann on alto sax and Charles Decker on trombone.

The Concert Band, again under the guidance of Tweed, performed the second set. This set focused on the wonderful feelings that the music of the holidays bring us all, with perfor-

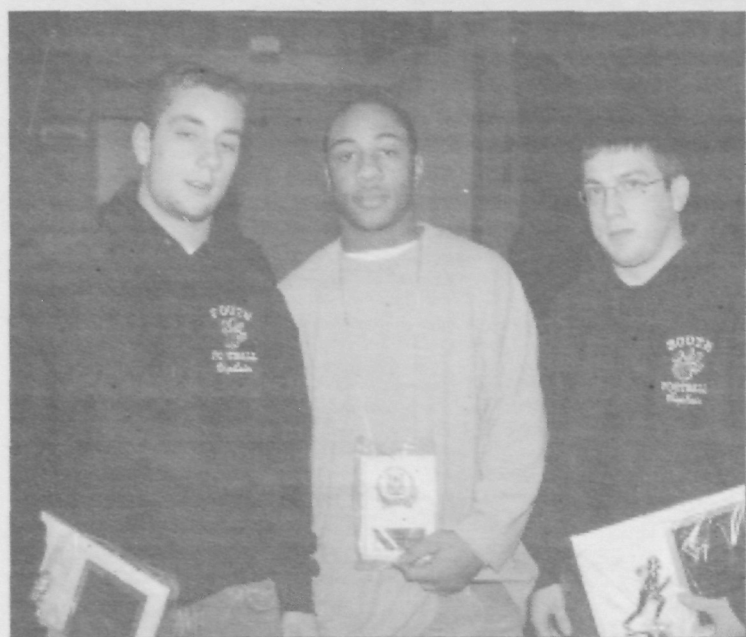
mances of "Do You Hear What I Hear/Snow Bells," "The Budapest Carol," "Merry Christmas or Bust," "Hanukkah Festival" and "Christmas Rhapsody," to name a few.

Congratulations are in order to the band and all the musicians who helped spread some holiday cheer this year.





# Sports



Most valuable player in football was a tie between Andrew Miller and Ryan Kenny. Quaheem Jones (middle) was named Rookie of the Year.

## SPHS Fall Sports Awards

The SPHS Athletic Boosters hosted their annual Fall Sports Awards last month and awarded letters and pins to students who participated in the fall sports program. In addition to the letters and pins, coaches from each sport announced their Most Valuable Player and the Rookie of the Year choices.

Results are as follows:

Receiving letters for Girls Cross Country, coached by Bill Milone, were senior Dawn Besser, sophomore Jessica Hill and freshmen Ashley Alverado, Nicole Cosma and Rachel Milliron. Receiving pins were senior captain Kathleen Morgan and junior Katie Fasolo. The season's MVP was Kathleen Morgan and the Rookie of the Year was Dawn Besser.



Named "Most Valuable Player" in Cross Country was Kathleen Morgan, (right) and Dawn Besser was named "Rookie of the Year."

Football Cheerleading, coached by Georgeann Larsen, Amy Curcio and Jennifer Orzepowski, presented letters to juniors Vanessa Cassano and Alyssa Kurilew; sophomores Dorothy Cameron, Lauren Primavera, Leslie Quichua and Kyla Rouse. Earning pins were seniors Mallory Christ, Alissa DeCarlo, Kaitlynn Disch, captain Melanie Foscolo, Allia Ghanim, Erin Gyuris, captain Eva Humber, Lisa Primavera, Christina Scavone, Erin Sikanowicz and Alisha Stasenko; juniors Jennifer Chiang, Amanda Deba, Brittney Ditmars and Julie Hudak. Melanie Foscolo was named MVP and Vanessa Cassano was named Rookie of the Year.

The football team, coached by Philip McGuane, Bill Hamilton, Brian Filal, Rich Fonti, Joe Cirigliano, and freshman coaches Bill Schulte, Scott Horowitz and Anthony Guida, awarded letters to seniors Henderson Catlyn; juniors Quaheem Jones and Eddie McCray and sophomores Tommy Deschaine, Nick Dorey, Bryant Draper, Mike Jakubik, Opie Muse, Travis Noll and Tommy Pryor. Pins were presented to seniors Chris Bojarski, Nick Curcio, Pete DeAndrea, Daryl Jackson, Billy Moates and captains Ryan Kenny, Johnny Martin and Andrew Miller and juniors Jamar Beverley, Kevin Crilley, Jarell Godette and Charlie Leon. MVP honors went to Andrew Miller and Ryan Kenny, and Quaheem Jones was named Rookie of the Year.

See next week's Observer for more sports awards.

## Sacred Heart Girls and Middle School Boys Win Holiday Basketball Tournament

The Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament for grades seven and eight was another great success again this year. This 13<sup>th</sup> annual event featured boys' and girls' teams from middle schools in Dunellen, East Brunswick and South Plainfield, as well as Sacred Heart School.

The purpose of the tournament is two-fold—to provide a quality, healthy, athletic event and to disseminate information regarding the dangers of smoking, drinking and the use of controlled dangerous substances, including steroids. Bill Beegle, SPASA Coordinator and Director of Guidance for the South Plainfield School District and Tom Baker, High School Student Assistance Counselor, presented the video, "Ryan's Story" and led a discussion on the dangers of drinking alcoholic beverages. They stressed that athletic performance on the court and the playing field is greatly diminished when athletes abuse drugs, alcohol and smoke cigarettes.

Many volunteers spent countless hours preparing and running this tournament and deserve to be recognized. Volunteering and serving as members of the SPASA Board of Directors are Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy; David Franchak, DARE officer and Tom Baker, high school student assistance counselor. Many thanks go out to these individuals for their dedication in making the SPASA organization and this tournament a continued success.

Joe Romer, resident of South Plainfield and owner of Joe Romer's Trophy Shop of Woodbridge, donated the team trophies and individual awards to the winning team players. Joe has been donating trophies and awards for all of the 13 years of this tournament's existence and his gracious support is greatly appreciated.

Shirts with the anti-drug message, "Put the Jam on Drugs" were given to each player, coach and manager, along with substance awareness information. Jeff Spezio, graphics technology teacher in the middle school designed the artwork for the shirts with silk screening provided by D&D



The Sacred Heart Lady Hawks won the South Plainfield DARE Tournament on Dec. 16. Pictured above, front row: Julia Caruso, Katie Salvatore, Andrea Aguilar, Ashley Venino and Sarah Rusk. Back row: Coach Pat Muglia, Khaliah Douglas, Alex Livingston, Jackie Thomas, Marika Simons, Katie Muglia, Gerianna Pinto, Branda Eke, Ashley Forbes and Ashley Smith. Missing is Assistant Coach Rich Salvatore.

Graphics.

The preliminary games for the girls were held on Monday, Dec. 13. Dunellen defeated East Brunswick 25-19 and Sacred Heart defeated South Plainfield 53-27. On Tuesday, Dec. 14, the East Brunswick boys won over Dunellen 36-25, while the South Plainfield boys defeated Sacred Heart 52-21.

The finals were held on Thursday, Dec. 16. The Sacred Heart Lady Hawks won over the Destroyers from Dunellen by a 42-27 score. The boys' final was won by the South Plainfield Tigers, who defeated the Bears of East Brunswick by a 54-19 margin.

Congratulations to all participants!



Bill Beegle, SPASA coordinator and SPHS director of Guidance, hands out the trophies.

TAX RETURNS PREPARED • WILLS, CLOSINGS  
INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS • PERSONAL INJURY  
WORKERS COMPENSATION

**PAUL W. GRZENDA**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

HOUSE CALLS AVAILABLE

300 MAPLE AVE.  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD

(908) 754-8008

## ob.serve

(v.t.): 1. to celebrate ceremonially // 2. to notice (something), to pay special attention to // 3. (a) to look at with attention // 4. to perceive, notice, come to know by seeing // 5. to comment, to note attentively

Advertise in the official newspaper for South Plainfield

**South Plainfield  
Observer**  
Your #1 Source for South Plainfield News

Call 908-668-0010  
email: spobserver@comcast.net

Please Patronize  
Our Advertisers!

*It's Time To Go Girl!*

**3 for 1 or 66% OFF  
REGISTRATION**

Call for your reservation today!

- Designed for Women
- Full-Body Workout in 30 Minutes
- Fast, Safe, Simple
- All Ages and Fitness Levels
- Low Monthly Dues
- Heart Smart Facility

LADIES

**Workout  
Express**

www.ladiesworkoutexpress.com

**S. PLAINFIELD • 908 756-9911**

Oak Tree Business Center 902 Oaktree Road  
(Across from Super A&P)



# Sports

## SPHS Bowling BY RALPH FECH

### Lady Tigers Improving as Experience Posts Three Victories

SPHS	662	696	609	1967
Cardinal McCarrick	572	534	625	1721
Old Bridge	767	670	767	2164

In tri-match action, the Lady Tigers defeated the Lions 3-1, but fell to the Knights by the exact same score. A third game meltdown by the Tigers secured the win by a vastly improved Old Bridge squad. High scores for SPHS were Kim Gaub 190, Beverly Jamieson 182 and rookies Jenn Vasquez and Katie Yon 165 and 142, respectively. The Tigers coasted to an easy victory over the Lions of Cardinal McCarrick.

SPHS	753	684	698	2135
E. Brunswick	867	825	805	2497
S. Amboy	683	641	670	2014

The Lady Tigers swept all three games from the Governors to post a 4-0 shutout win. However, they were no match for the Bears who possess two 190 plus bowlers in the lineup. Kim Gaub 182-461 set, Beverly Jamieson 169-462, Angeliqe Rualo 169-437 packed the Tigers. Chipping in were Lindsay Hunsicker 172 and Katie Yon 156.

SPHS	724	722	772	2218
Perth Amboy	542	581	545	1668

The Lady Tigers notched their fourth win of the campaign in a lopsided win over the Panthers, highlighted by Kim Gaub's 191 high game and 507 high set. Beverly Jamieson chipped in with a 496 set.

### Tigers Sizzle (3030), Boley (269-685), Morris (252) Win 3 of 5 to Even Record at 7-7

SPHS	1013	1024	993	3030
E. Brunswick	1053	1065	969	3087
S. Amboy	599	803	748	2150

The boys' Bowling Team soared over the 3000 pin mark again, but could not win just one game from the Red Division leading Bears. The Governors of South Amboy were no match for the Tigers who romped to nearly a 900 pin victory. Matt Boley earned scoring honors with a high game of 269, followed by games of 202 and 214 for a blistering 685 set. Vin Genova tossed 178-238-223 for an excellent 629, while teammates George Kleinknecht 223-195-595, Shawn Ferguson 193-205-566, Nick Grego 196-189-541 all contributed to the solid team effort.

SPHS	1062	885	834	2781
Old Bridge	1025	1075	986	3086
Cardinal McCarrick	799	812	796	2207

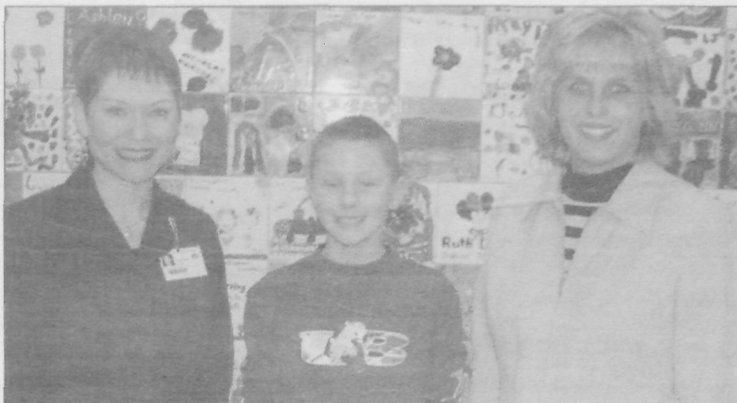
The Tigers exploded with a big 1062 first game to throw a scare into powerhouse Old Bridge, but the Knights rebounded soundly to take the next two games. Sixth man Brett Morris led all Tiger scorers with the high game of 252 and high set of 573. Vin Genova added 189-196-564, Nick Grego's solid 222-185-565 and George Kleinknecht's 220 game. The Tigers clobbered Cardinal McCarrick in the tri-match format.

SPHS	946	1064	1064	3074
Perth Amboy	870	630	701	2001

In a makeup match, the Tigers bombarded the Panthers after a close first game by posting a 4-0 shutout victory. Matt Boley 234-241-220-695 and Vin Genova 199-231-245-675 were the highlights of an outstanding day for the Tigers who evened their record at 7 and 7.

## Junior Journalist Corner

### Nick Brinks, Roosevelt Fourth Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Pictured (l to r) are Roosevelt School Principal Jacqueline Keogh with winner Nick Brinks and teacher Kathy Simpson.

Nick Brinks, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program.

His poem has won him 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.

Santa  
By Nick Brinks

Santa is cool. Santa is no fool. Santa goes out on Christmas Eve to bring presents to boys and girls, and maybe give mom a necklace of pearls. Santa should be careful riding in the snow because if he falls in the snow trust me he wouldn't be saying Ho, Ho, Ho.

# BUY RATE

LIQUOR

"The place for people of great taste"

**There's Still Time for Your Holiday Gift Selections!**

**COLUMBIA CREST GRAND ESTATES Cabernet** 8<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

This Cabernet has an open, clear-eyed style, nicely packed with black cherry, berry and spicy oak notes melding harmoniously as the flavors last on a long, silky finish. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 5 red wine values from around the world.

**HOLIDAY BEER SPECIALS**

BUSCH Near Alcoholics 44 Pack 1.5 liter Cans	8 <sup>99</sup>	MICHELLOB Ultra 1.5 liter Bottles	15 <sup>99</sup>
BUSCH Regular or Light 30 Pack 12 oz. Cans	11 <sup>99</sup>	ZIMA Hard Lemon Lime Hard Orange or Hard Black Cherry 48 Pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles	19 <sup>99</sup>
MILLER LITE or MGD Regular or Light 212 Pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles	13 <sup>99</sup>	BECK'S Regular, Dark or Light 24 Pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles	20 <sup>99</sup>
ROLLING ROCK Premium or Great Light 212 Pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles	14 <sup>99</sup>	BASS Ale 24 Pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles	20 <sup>99</sup>
		CORONA Extra or Light 212 Pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles	22 <sup>99</sup>

**CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Merlot** 11<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

This Merlot's smooth, generous style emphasizes distinctly minty, herbal overtones to the cherry and spice flavors. It all lingers nicely. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator as a Smart Buy.

**LUNA DI LUNA All Blends** 7<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**MALIBU Coconut Rum** 13<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**JACK DANIELS Whiskey** 17<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**ROMANA SAMBUCA Cordial** 17<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**CROWN ROYAL Canadian Whisky 80** 18<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**CAPTAIN MORGAN Private Stock Rum** 19<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**MOET & CHANDON White Star Extra Dry** 26<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**HENNESSY VSOP Cognac** 31<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**HOLIDAY LIQUOR & CORDIAL SPECIALS**

TRIBUNO Dry Sherry 750 ml	3 <sup>99</sup>	CANADIAN PEAK 1.5 liter Bottles	13 <sup>99</sup>
WINE VINES 5 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	5 <sup>99</sup>	SCOTCH ISLAND 1.5 liter Bottles	14 <sup>99</sup>
E & J GALLO 7 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	7 <sup>99</sup>	SAUZA 14 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	14 <sup>99</sup>
ZELKO 9 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	9 <sup>99</sup>	KAMORA 16 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	16 <sup>99</sup>
BENTLEY'S 11 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	11 <sup>99</sup>	OLD SMUGGLER 17 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	17 <sup>99</sup>
PORT ROYAL 12 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	12 <sup>99</sup>	SKYY 21 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	21 <sup>99</sup>
CLUB 400 12 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	12 <sup>99</sup>	CUTTY SARK 24 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	24 <sup>99</sup>
FLEISCHMANN PREFERRED 12 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	12 <sup>99</sup>	DRAMBUIE 25 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	25 <sup>99</sup>
BLACK VELVET 12 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	12 <sup>99</sup>	TANQUERAY 29 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	29 <sup>99</sup>
GORDON'S 13 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	13 <sup>99</sup>	KETEL ONE 33 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	33 <sup>99</sup>
		SPEYBURN 37 <sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter Bottles	37 <sup>99</sup>

**ST. FRANCIS OLD VINES Zinfandel** 13<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**BAILEYS Irish Cream** 17<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**AMARETTO DI SARONNO Cordial** 17<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**BOMBAY Sapphire Gin** 18<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**BELVEDERE Vodka 80** 24<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK Scotch** 25<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**RUFFINO RISERVA Ducale Gold** 27<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**CABO WABO Reposado Tequila** 39<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

**BRANCOTT Sauvignon Blanc Classic** 8<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

This wine displays real fruit maturity. The fresh cut grass herbaceous flavors meld well with gooseberry and citrus nuances adding further interest. A well-balanced wine with the lively crisp acidity associated with this style. Goes well with Oysters, grilled or barbecued shrimp or salmon, and sautéed white fish. In fresh green salads containing garden, pepper, or lemon. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value.

**DR. LOOSEN "Dr. L" Riesling** 8<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

An off dry white, bursting with peach and citrus notes on a plump, accessible frame. Modest length. Delicious now and should be enjoyed young due to its low acidity. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value.

**BERINGER STONE CELLARS Chardonnay** 9<sup>99</sup> 1.5 liter

This wine is smooth and creamy with enough acidity to prop up the citrus, ripe pear, nutmeg and spicy nuances, finishing with a pretty floral edge. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value.

**ROSENBLUM OAKLEY VINEYARDS Zinfandel** 11<sup>99</sup> 750 ml

A rich, ripe and easy wine with notes of black cherry, raspberry, wild berry and plum, all well-defined, focused and persistent through the finish. Ripe time-grained tannins for the best finish, peaking through, showing a touch of heat. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 5 California red wine values.

PRICES EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 THRU TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2004.

## Oak Tree Discount Wines & Spirits

902 Oak Tree Road, South Plainfield (Across from A&P)



908-561-0051

Mon. Tues. Wed. 9-9  
Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9-10  
Sun. 10-7

Log on to the  
**Borough of South Plainfield's official web site at**  
**southplainfieldnj.com**

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

- Mayor and Council
- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
- Recreation • Youth Activities • Senior Corner
- Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board
- Civic Organizations
- Election Results and more

Advertise your business and support on  
South Plainfield's own web site

For rates or information email at: [southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:southplainfieldnj.com)  
Or call 908-226-7656



# From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Happy New Year to everyone from the Library Board of Trustees and the library staff. There will be some new faces at the library in 2005. Longtime employee Judi Jones has retired. Technical Services Librarian Marcia Lubansky has moved on to another job. She will be replaced by Bruce Harger. You will see Bruce at the Reference desk when he is not in Technical Services cataloging library materials.

In 2005 the new library project will begin. The board of trustees hired the architectural firm of Nadasky Kopelson (NK) to plan the new library. Award winning architect Robert Almodovar will be the main architect working on the new library. This will be an exciting time and we will keep everyone informed as the plans move ahead. We thank everyone who filled out a library survey. We welcome ideas and suggestions from the public on things they would like to see incorporated into the new building.

Looking for some crafts to do during the long winter that has just begun? The library has many new craft books on many types of crafts—knitting, crocheting, quilting, polymer clay, refinishing/painting furniture, scrap booking, soap making, candle making, stenciling. There are also books and magazines with craft ideas for the upcoming holidays, such as Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter.

Children's story times resume in January at their regular times—Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. Pick up a copy of the library's calendar or look on the library website ([www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us)) for dates and times of special programs or events being held at the library in January.

If the weather gets really bad and you cannot get to the library or you're homebound because of illness or disability, please call the library to see if you are eligible for the Edith Goodrich Homebound Delivery Program. The library offers this free delivery service of library materials, including books, large print books, videos, DVDs, magazines, music CDs and books on tape. For more information, please call the library and ask for library director Sunnie Randolph.

## Free Stretch Course at Willow Grove

Looking for a way to warm up from all this cold weather. Now that the craziness of the holidays has passed, get back into a routine that's not only fun, but good for you too! Willow Grove's FREE Stretches for Health class is a great way to get your blood pumping and get you feeling more like your energetic self!

Free and open to everyone, the winter session begins Tuesday, Jan. 4. and continue through the winter on Tuesday mornings, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Lounge at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains.

Connie DiDario of South Plainfield, certified yoga instructor, will teach participants many different techniques and aspects of exercise, all of which are done while sitting in chairs. Although Connie's main thrust has been to help seniors get and stay in shape, this class is suitable for anyone interested in maintaining and improving their health.

For more information call (908) 232-5678, e-mail us at [wilgrv@netzero.com](mailto:wilgrv@netzero.com) or check our website at [www.scotchplains.com/wgpc](http://www.scotchplains.com/wgpc). Come anytime, in comfortable clothes, to Willow Grove Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains.

# South Plainfield Players Join Annual Tuba Christmas Concert



Students, educators and alumni were among the 450+ musicians who took part in the 31st Annual Tuba Christmas in New York City.

by Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield students, educators and alumni were among the 450+ musicians who took part in the 31st Annual Tuba Christmas in New York

City. Representing South Plainfield from Grant School were Richard Rotella and Tobie Baldwin, fifth grade band teacher. From the Middle School were Brittany Alvarado, Stephen Diaz, Eric Nuber and Andrew Weiss, band

director, and from the high school, Taylor Mandel. Also performing were SPHS 2004 graduates Jordan Lynch, Adam Toth, and Class of 1979 alumni Kenneth Abbott.

The Dec. 12 concert, held in

Rockefeller Center, was conducted by legendary tuba player Harvey Phillips and by Dr. Christian Wilhjelms, conductor of the famous Goldman Memorial Band in New York City Tuba Christmas founded in 1974 by Phillips, distinguished professor emeritus of music at Indiana University. This Christmas tradition has become widespread and can be found in over 45 states and several foreign countries

Performers ranged in age from 10 to 82. The opportunity to perform in the musical extravaganza brought tuba, baritone and Euphonium musicians from far as Los Angeles and Germany. The musicians had just one rehearsal right before the concert. They played to an enthusiastic crowd of hundreds. People gathered near the famous Rockefeller Center tree as well lining the perimeter of the ice rink. The traditional Christmas songs played were arranged for the event from a book by American composer Alec Wilder.

Photo courtesy of Andrew Weiss

For all you warm weather lovers...

Now that we've past the Winter Equinox (Dec. 21) the days are now starting to get longer...

....THINK SPRING!

## Business &

### AUTOBODY

## SULLIVAN'S AUTO BODY

BodyShop Lic. #02313A

Hours  
Mon-Fri  
8am-5pm

2210 Hamilton Blvd.  
South Plainfield  
New Jersey 07080

908-757-5100  
Fax: 908-757-3105



### AUTO REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

## C&R Auto

Complete Foreign & Domestic

Auto & Truck Repair • Tune Ups  
Oil Changes • Shocks & Suspension  
Air Conditioning • Exhaust Systems  
Brakes & Front End

235 Hamilton Blvd. South Plainfield  
908-754-8313  
Fleet Service

### JUNK REMOVAL

## JUNK REMOVAL WE TAKE ANYTHING!

Any Item  
Removed!



A.J.'S JUNK REMOVAL  
(908) 229-4831

### CARPET/FLOORING

## Sam the Carpet Man MY WAY CARPET

All Types of Flooring

Wall to Wall, Sam lays it All!

Commercial • Residential • Carpet • Area Rugs • Ceramic • Hardwood

119 Hamilton Blvd.  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Phone: (908) 757-3470  
Fax: (908) 756-4040

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Hua Kang Health Center

Massage, Acupressure, Reflexology  
Acupuncture • Chinese Herbs • Facial

Licensed Chinese massage therapists and acupuncturists provide experienced Chinese-style services using traditional Chinese medicine methods. Effective in treatment of various pains, symptoms and body needs.

Appointments/walk-ins welcome. Open 7 days/week, 9:30am-9pm  
Gift Certificates and Bonus Program available.  
We accept credit cards and health insurance.

1763 Lincoln Highway (Rt. 27) Edison • 732-819-0058  
126 Plainfield Ave. Edison • 732-572-5599  
275 Rt. 18 South, East Brunswick • 732-967-1300

Treat yourself  
at our three  
locations.  
Your satisfaction  
guaranteed.

### PAVING/MASONRY

## J Barrios

Specializing in All Types of  
BRICK PAVES & BLOCK WALLS

Masonry and Driveways,  
Steps, Sidewalks, Walkways, Patios,  
and Gutter Cleaning

Jack Barrios Call For  
(908) 753-1659 Free Estimates

## MARK L. DiFRANCESCO PAVING • MASONRY

Driveways • Parking Lots  
Steps • Walkways • Patios  
Pavers • Concrete  
Drainage • Water Proofing

3RD GENERATION  
908-668-8434

### MORTGAGES

Call SP Resident Marygina Sacks,  
Sr. Mortgage Officer, for a free  
rate quote over the phone!



LEGACY MORTGAGE INC

Home Office (908) 222-1745

11 Dunder Road, Suite 210  
Springfield, NJ 07081

### MULCH/TOP SOIL/STONE

Call  
KLK Trucking for:  
Top Soil, Mulch, Sand, Infield Mix,  
Decorative & Crushed Stone

Sanding • Salting • Snowplowing  
Pick up or Deliv., Mon. thru Sat

908-757-4434  
265 Ryan Street  
South Plainfield

### REAL ESTATE

## Century 21 Moretti Realty



"Nobody knows  
South Plainfield  
like Joe Diegnan."

Business:  
(908) 755-5300 x 315  
Evening:  
(908) 756-9123

Joseph Diegnan REALTOR-ASSOCIATE & LIFETIME SO. PLAINFIELD RESIDENT  
225 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

## Century 21 Main Street Realty Inc.



Robert Publik  
Realtor-Associate

Business:  
(732) 549-9000 x 358  
Evenings:  
(908) 755-2709

Robert Publik E-Mail: [bobp@comcast.net](mailto:bobp@comcast.net)  
OFFICES IN N. EDISON, WOODBRIDGE, COLONIA  
2077 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ 08820

### ROOFING

## J.T. PENYAK ROOFING CO.

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

908-753-4222  
FAX 908-753-4763

124 CAMDEN AVE.  
SO. PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

### SALON

Let us put you in a  
new trendy look...  
Specializing in Color, Foils,  
Haircuts, Wedding Parties



Featuring:  
Facials, Massage, Waxing & Nails

2201 South Clinton Ave.  
South Plainfield 908-753-5115



## Public-Spiritedness a Family Affair

(Continued from page 1)

tears. Everyone felt they made a difference in someone else's life.

Shirley says there is still a lot that needs to be done to help the seniors and those in need. If you have a neighbor or a friend and they need help getting a hot meal, she can be reached at (908) 756-7686 anytime. She says it only takes a minute to make up a plate and deliver it to someone. She added that she has called some of these people and will try to meet their needs during the year.

Shirley would like to thank all those who called with offers to help. She would also like to thank her husband John, who always goes along with everything she says or does, her son John, who lives next door and donated the use of his kitchen for the project, the rest of her family, Deneen, Kasi, Jerry, Danielle, Tony, Anthony, Daniel,

Candy, Heather and Rob; her dishwasher—her mom Stella—who never fails her and her extended family, all of whom gave up their own Christmas. She adds that she loves them all and couldn't have done it with their help.

Shirley did not ask for any donations, saying the project was strictly a family affair. However, many people donated gifts for the children—food baskets and other generous donations. She would like to thank the follow-

ing: the Moore family, the DiMaria Family, Rapid Transit Hair Salon staff, Wagner Family and Ruth Gilburn, Creative Kids Academy staff and families, Bright Horizons staff and families, the Rocca Family, Robinson Family, an anonymously donated A&P gift certificate, Chapter 190 Highland Park, George Coyne for his donations and offer to drive, Jane who donated a large turkey and everyone else who called to donate their help and time. You all made a difference!

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by William McLaughlin requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a new 6' deep x 18' wide porch with a roof over. Proposed porch with roof over lacks 30' required setback, 25' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 305 Elissa Court on Block 222, Lot 22 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 13, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

December 31, 2004

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Otlowski requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a second floor addition over existing house. Proposed addition lacks 8' required side setback, 5.9' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 518 Franklin Avenue on Block 167, Lot 22 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 13, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

December 31, 2004

# Classifieds

**Classified Rates: \$11 for 3 lines (min.) \$1 ea. add. line  
(10% disc. for 4 consecutive insertions)**

### HELP WANTED

**MERCHANDISERS NEEDED FOR A** rapidly growing company, immediate FT. Servicing paint/decor dept in home improvement stores in South Plainfield, NJ. Must be handy, hardworking individual w/ dependable car, valid license. Bkg/drug screen. \$500/wk, car expenses, medical 401K. Call 1-800-726-3404, ext. 305.

**RN/LPN/CHHA-IMMEDIATE OPEN-** ings. Work F/T, P/T or 1 day wk. Retired or new nurses welcome. Will train for cases. License/certificate required. Edison/Piscataway. (732) 246-8900.

**LOCAL COMPANY NEEDS P/T RECEPTIONIST/CLERK** 20 hrs/wk. Basic computer skills a plus. Send resume to Armpco Office Machines, 2259 S. Clinton Ave. or fax to (908) 755-8680.

### FOR SALE

**MOTOR SCOOTER-USED 3 TIMES** cost \$1800, asking \$1200 or make offer. (908) 756-0798.

**CANON BCI-21 INK-3 COLOR, 3 B/W** cartridges. Retail \$125. Sell \$45. My printer broke. Call Susan (732) 545-3132.

### AUTO FOR SALE

**1993 MAZDA MX-6 2DR, V6, MOON-** roof, CD, 66,000, \$3500. Call (908) 561-3911.

### HOME FURNISHINGS FOR SALE

**MATTRESS SET-A NEW QUEEN** pillow top. Name brand w/ warranty in plastic. \$150. Call (732) 259-6690.

**BED-NEW VISCO MEMORY FOAM,** Queen Mattress set in plastic. Value \$1500. Sell \$395. Can deliver, (732) 259-6690.

**BEDROOM SET-7 PC. SLEIGH BED,** chest, dresser/mirror, n-stand. Value \$2000. Sell \$850. (732) 259-6690.

**DINING ROOM-BEAUTIFUL CHER-** ry set w/ table, chairs, hutch & buffet. Still in box. Sacrifice \$1275. (732) 259-6690.

**BED-QUEEN SET SIMMONS, STILL** in plastic. Value \$1000, sell \$375. Call (732) 259-6690.

### GUTTER CLEANING

**GUTTERS CLEANED & FLUSHED** Also snowplowing. Insured, free estimates. (908) 296-2344.

**Sell your used items,  
find a job or a place  
to live, home furnishings,  
a new business  
opportunity..... all in  
the OBSERVER  
CLASSIFIEDS!**

## Professional Services

**To advertise in the Business  
& Professional Services  
section, call 908-668-0010.**

### COMPUTERS

**Concerned About Computer  
Virus Protection? Home Security?**

For advice and installation,  
call Stan Wilkinson at

**ST Computers**

908-769-0709

- New Computers/Upgrades
- Hardware/Software Installations
- In Home Service
- Some Used Computers Available

**Cell: 732-423-3504**  
**Email: stcomputers@comcast.net**

### CONTRACTORS

**BUILDER &  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

NJ DCA LIC #019771  
Since 1981

**Lordina Builders**  
908-753-3850

ADDITIONS • KITCHENS  
BATHROOMS  
Office Renovations

**FREE ESTIMATES**

Hire a handyman  
to conquer that  
"Honey Do" list.

**J.D.L.** TOM  
CHEPULIS

**IMPROVEMENTS**

Specializing in small jobs for the home & office.

RELIABLE, FULLY INSURED

RENOVATIONS-REMODELING

REPAIRING

Also specializing in Gas Grill installations

908-754-4689

### FITNESS CENTERS

**SLIM AND TONE**

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

30 Minute Workout for Women

\$39 Monthly with  
No Initiation Fee!  
Open all day

2601 Hamilton Blvd.  
(between Home Depot  
& Durham Ave.)  
(908) 769-0009

### FURNITURE REPAIRS



**FURNITURE MEDIC**  
"the prescription for damaged furniture"

**Precision  
Furniture Repairs  
On-Site**

Scratches • Gouges • Pet Damage  
Water Marks • Burns  
Structural Repairs • Broken Joints  
Antique Restoration  
Kitchen Cabinets Refinished  
And MUCH MORE!  
**(908) 755-8440**

### JEWELERS

**CINDY  
MICHAELS**

Jewelers & Gemologists

176 Front Street  
South Plainfield  
908-769-4264

EDWARD J. COLUCCI GEMOLOGIST

*Fine Jewelry & Expert Repairs*

### SNOWPLOWING

**Lalaria  
Landscaping**  
**SNOWPLOWING**

**Leslie Chambers**  
Telephone: (908) 917-1668  
Fax: (908) 757-5175

• Fully Insured •  
• Affordable and Reliable! •

### MASSAGE THERAPY

**CENTRAL JERSEY**  
Holistic Health Center and Spa  
• MASSAGE • REFLEXOLOGY  
• HYPNOSIS • REIKI  
• DOULA LABOR ASSISTANT  
Roxanne Cortese, CD, CMT  
2701 Park Ave. So. Plainfield, NJ 07080  
(908) 561-1511  
By Appointment Only  
GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFT BASKETS

### MASONRY

**Luigi  
BOTTONE  
MASONRY**

ALL TYPES OF MASONRY

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE  
**732-926-8686**

- Steps/Porches
- Sidewalks
- Brickwork
- Brickpavers
- Patios
- Belgian Block Curbing
- Foundations
- Driveways
- French drains
- Chimneys

### PARTS & EQUIPMENT

**PM PARTS & EQUIPMENT**

Parts-Sales-Service-Rentals

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE DEALER!

CATERING TO: CONTRACTORS,  
LANDSCAPERS, HOMEOWNERS

**PAUL BILICH, OWNER**

250 Mack Place, South Plainfield  
**908-822-9828**  
(908-756-7036 fax)

### PLUMBER

**Professional Plumbing  
& Heating Inc.**  
(908) 561-1941  
South Plainfield, NJ  
**FRANK MCCARTHY**  
License #8741

### REAL ESTATE

**Prudential**  
**Rose REALTORS®**  
Rose Marie Pelton  
REALTOR-ASSOCIATE  
South Plainfield Resident  
For Over 39 Years  
908-753-4450 X302  
Toll Free 800 370-2424  
Fax 908-753-0136  
RosePelton@att.net  
**Prudential Rose REALTORS®**  
659 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ 07069

**Century 21**  
**Moretti Realty**  
Put your trust in a Realtor  
who can get the most  
money through  
knowledge & experience!  
Over 28 years  
experience in  
South Plainfield  
& vicinity  
Office: (908) 755-5051 Ext. 313  
(908) 753-1346 Evenings  
Email: sherwoode@morettiirealty.com  
**225 Maple Ave., South Plainfield**

### SNOW REMOVAL

**Silver Creek  
Landscaping**  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD

**SNOW REMOVAL**

PLOWING - SALTING - ANTI-ICING  
BACKHOE SNOW LOADERS  
Office Buildings • Industrial Plants  
Retail Stores • Churches  
Apartment & Condo Complexes  
24 hour service - Fully Insured  
**908-756-7272**

### SNOWPLOWING

**SNOWPLOWING**

Residential and Commercial

Free  
Estimates

**Insured • 908-296-2344**

### SPIRITS

1645 Park Avenue,  
South Plainfield  
**791-9463**  
**Sal's Spirit Shoppe**  
Cavit (1.5 liter)  
Pinot Grigio ..... \$9.99 Mon.-Sat.  
Estate Cellars 9am-1am  
White Zinfandel (750ml) ..... \$3.49 Sundays  
(1.5 liter) ..... \$5.49 1am-7pm  
Bring in this ad for 10% off on wines

### TANNING

Looking for a New Tanning Salon?  
**ALL ABOUT YOU**  
With the purchase  
of a tan, get a  
free tan &  
manicure!  
No  
appointment  
necessary  
Located in  
Stevensville Park  
Plaza, Edison  
(downstairs in Curves)  
732-549-7022

### TRAVEL

**FIRST CLASS TRAVEL**  
Your Concierge To The World  
**CALL NOW FOR OUR  
WINTER SPECIALS!!!**  
(908) 753-3777  
129 South Plainfield Ave.



## Parents Group Dedicates New Future Stars Sign



Next to the new Future Stars sign are retiring Director and Principal James Lenox, the future director of the school Sophia Domagala, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado, Asst. Superintendent Anthony Massaro, Future Stars teachers Elynne Foscolo, Dot Ewing, Patty Waters, Janice Early, Janet Errico and Lynn Loalbo, teachers aides Joanne Cox, Jamie Hughes, Gail Klamm, Patty Petronko and Parents Group members Frances Elsmann, Bobbiejo Soper and Kelly Villares.

By Jane Dornick

Future Stars Preschool, which moved into the Roosevelt Administration Building two years ago, recently unveiled their new sign. The sign was donated by the school's Parents Group.

Since its inception 25 years ago, the Future Stars have shared various locations with other schools. To show their appreciation, the Parents Group wanted to give the teachers and staff a permanent sense of belonging, which also represents their hard work and dedication. Money raised through last year's fundraising efforts by the group was used to purchase a sign, which was made and installed by Mr. Sign Co. of Middlesex.

The Parents Group thanks all of the parents and teachers who supported and assisted in the fundraising.

## policereport

• On Dec. 17 Jack E. Davis, 28, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, having an open alcoholic beverage container in a vehicle, refusal to take a breathalyzer test, criminal mischief and possession of a weapon after a road rage incident.

• On Dec. 21 Joseph H. Tanner, 39, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, refusal to be fingerprinted and an outstanding warrant at a bicycle stop.

• Denise Black, 40, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while suspended and two outstanding warrants during a motor vehicle stop.

• Edward J. Boccher, 49, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and speeding at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Dec. 22 Anthony Harris, 41, of New Brunswick was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving while

suspended, maintenance of lamps and four outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Krishnaka D. Patel, 28, of Deery, NH was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, having an open alcoholic beverage in a vehicle and driving while suspended.

• Vernen J. Richardson, 35, of Green Brook was arrested for possession of a controlled substance outside of Quick Check.

• On Dec. 23 Oscar R. Romero, 23, of No. Plainfield was arrested for unlawful possession of a weapon at a motor vehicle stop.

• Jacquelin N. Barnes, 34, of Linden was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting various clothing valued at \$532.

• On Dec. 24 Joshua P. Dec, 22, Thomas C. Doyon, 21, David L. Fiore, 21 and Eric T. Mercurio, 21, all of South Plainfield were arrested for possession of a controlled substance on Hollywood Ave.

## Obituaries

### Salvatore N. "Bubby" Severini, 74

Salvatore N. "Bubby" Severini died on Tuesday, Dec. 28, in Somerset Medical Center.

Born in Newark, Bubby resided in Westfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1962.

He was the owner and operator of Mountainside Disposal for over 30 years before retiring in 1980. Most recently, Bubby was the manager and a familiar face at Sal's Spirit Shoppe in South Plainfield.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, and was a member of the VFW of Mountainside.

Bubby was active in many organizations here, including serving as coach for Pop Warner Football Eagles for over 30 years and coach of the "C" League for the baseball Little League. He was an avid golfer, and a member and past president of the Italian American Club. He was also a member of Sacred Heart Church.

His brother, Joseph Severini, died in 2000.

Surviving are his wife, Lois (Egidio) Severini to whom he would have been married to for over 50 years in 2005.

Also surviving are his son and daughter-in-law, Sal and Sandy Severini; his daughter, Luanne Severini and his son, Steven Severini. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Guy, Gina, Rocco, Zachery and Stevie Nicole.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, Jan. 3 at 9:15 a.m. in McCriskin Home for Funerals followed by a funeral mass at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Interment will be at Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, Dec. 31, 1-4 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 2, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to South Plainfield Pop Warner Football Eagles would be appreciated.

### Anthony T. Braco, 88

Anthony T. Braco died on Wednesday, Dec. 22 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Mr. Braco had resided there before settling to South Plainfield 30 years ago.

A milkman for All Star Dairy in Metuchen, he retired at the age of 62. Prior to All Star, he worked for his brother at the former Crescent Food Market on Watchung Ave. in Plainfield.

He and his wife are members of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and former members of St. Mary's Church in Plainfield.

He is survived by his wife, Jan (Bonczek) Braco; a daughter and son-in-law, Carole and Jim Petro of Piscataway; a son and daughter-in-law, Ronald and Arlene Braco of Warren; four grandchildren, Karen and her husband, Tim Kelly, Rick and his wife,

Beth Petro, Steven Braco and Jason Braco and two grant grandchildren, Alyssia and Patrick.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Rosemary A. (Vaughn) Miller

Rosemary A. (Vaughn) Miller died on Monday, Dec. 27 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Linden, Rosemary was raised in Roselle Park, lived in Rahway and had resided in South Plainfield since 1974.

A graduate of Roselle Park High School, Rosemary attended the University of Miami. She worked in the Inman Sports Center in Edison for many years, as well as Center Circle Sports Complex in Rahway as an administrative coordinator.

Rosemary also enjoyed tennis. She was a past president of the Central Jersey Women's Tennis Traveling League in Edison.

She is survived by her husband, Douglas, of 46 years of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Johanna L. (Stachnick) Malecki, 85

Johanna L. (Stachnick) Malecki died on Wednesday, Dec. 22 at her home.

Born in Old Forge, Pa., she had been a resident of South Plainfield since the early 1940's.

Mrs. Malecki had worked in the clerical departments of the former Standard Plastic Co. in South Plainfield, Gulton Electronics of Metuchen and lastly the former Ipc Co. of Piscataway.

A charter member of the Polish National Home, she was also a long-time member of the South Plainfield Community Pool.

Mrs. Malecki is predeceased by her husband, Frank; three brothers, Joseph, Michael and Stanley and a sister, Sophie Fitt.

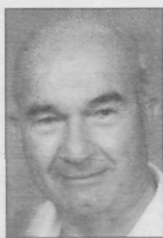
A loving mother and grandmother, she is survived by three daughters and their husbands, Joanne and Chris Messerle of Montgomery Township, Nancy and Thomas Sherwin of Scotch Plains and Peggy and Ed Sullivan of South Plainfield; a son and his wife, Frank Jr. and Debbie Malecki of South Plainfield; a sister, Loretta Zagorski of Pa. and four grandchildren, Stephanie and Rory Sherwin, Eddie Sullivan and Frankie Malecki.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601.

### Alfonso "Chick" DeFillipo, 87

Alfonso "Chick" DeFillipo died on Monday, Dec. 27 at the Kenington Manor Nursing Center in Toms River.



Alfonso DeFillipo

Alfonso was born on July 6, 1917 to Angelo and Philomena DeFillipo in South Plainfield, where he grew up. For a brief time, he had lived in Plainfield before moving back to South Plainfield. He has had a residence in Vero Beach, Fla. since 1987 and since 1992, he and his wife had maintained a second residence in Toms River.

Chick had worked as a tank truck driver and salesman for Getty Oil Co. in Newark for over 35 years before he retired in 1976.

During WWII, he had served with the U.S. Navy and he had always said that serving in the Navy had been the best experience of his life and that he could not convey to anyone how proud he was because of the Navy. His enlistment began in 1942 and on Sept. 16, 1945, he achieved the rank of Aviation Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Class Petty Officer. Chick was stationed on the USS WASP and had seen battle action in the Battle of the Philippines, Iwo Jima Admiral Islands and in the Battles of Bonin, Teulon and Formosa, all off the coast of Japan and in Moratoria in the Manus Islands.

He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and a former member of Sacred Heart Church. He was also a member of the Battleship New Jersey Association and of the USS WASP CV-18 Association.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Edith D'Addario and a brother, Arthur DeFillipo.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lois Kemmerer DeFillipo; a sister, Philomena DeFillipo of South Plainfield; three brothers and their wives, Louis and Anne DeFillipo, Henry and Jean DeFillipo, both of South Plainfield and Vincent and Lucy

DeFillipo of Lakewood and two sisters-in-law, Jeanne DeFillipo of Martinsville and Joyce Colucci of Piscataway. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made in his memory to the Salvation Army or the American Cancer Society.

### Rose T. (Cassano) DePalma, 81

Rose T. (Cassano) DePalma died on Thursday, Dec. 23 at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. DePalma had resided in Guttenberg, NJ for 25 years before moving to Brick and settling in Spotswood in 1995.

She had been employed as a seamstress many years ago.

She is predeceased by her husband, Michael C. who died in 1995; a grandson, Anthony and a sister, Edith Massano.

Surviving are a daughter, Marie Prisco; a son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Karen DePalma of Franklin Twp. (formerly of South Plainfield); a brother, Joseph Cassano of Jersey City and five grandchildren, Michele, Gregg, Rosemarie, Diana and Michael.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

## Yurgels' Giving Extends Almost a Quarter Century

(Continued from page 1)

a college student volunteered to wrap each and every gift. Fran says it's always hectic getting everything purchased and wrapped, but when they arrive at the first house and start handing out presents, it is all worthwhile.

Bob and Fran Yurgel would like to acknowledge those who donated to their cause. They were Dick and Michelle Bartell, Coopers Office Furniture, Joe and Nadine Saco, Andy Pinto, Colors on Parade, Tele/Cable Inc., Rose Pelton, Dave and Barbara Boyd, Petty Construction, Sal and Sandy Severini, Carolyn and Tom Edridge, Stilo Excavation, Rick and Cheryl Curcio, Rich and Joan Curcio, Ashley Curcio, Regal Hadley Cinema, Panzarella Contracting, Inc., Di-Lex Trucking, Officer Dave Franchak, Acting Chief John Ferraro, Lt. Michael Grennier and Lt. Charles Siedenberg.

## Congratulations SPHS Students!

According to SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May, 811 of the high school students earned a "B" or (3.0 or higher) unweighted, grade point average at South Plainfield High School. That's 67 percent of the 1,214 student enrollment.

Keep up the good work!

**IT IS FAR EASIER FOR YOUR FAMILY IF YOU PLAN AHEAD**

*Hillside Cemetery  
Scotch Plains*

Visit Our New Cremorial Gardens  
An Area Featuring Bronze Cremorial Niches,  
Cremorial Benches, and In-Ground Burial

**908.756.1729**

Non-Profit, Non-Sectarian  
www.hillsidecemetery.com

(908) 561-8000



*McCriskin*

**HOME FOR FUNERALS, LLC**

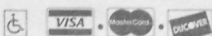
2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080

"An Independent, Family Owned & Operated Funeral Home"

**PRE ARRANGEMENTS • S/S MEDICAID PROTECTION • CREMATION SERVICES**

Richard W. McCriskin, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 3147  
William C. McCriskin, N.J. Lic. No. 3382

James A. Gustafson, N.J. Lic. No. 4205  
Richard W. McCriskin II, N.J. Lic. No. 4564



www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com

Fax (908) 561-6744