

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 18

50 CENTS

JANUARY 7, 2005



Three members of the Borough Council were sworn in at the annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 2. Pictured from left are Councilman Dennis Cerami with wife Michelle and children Joe, Dennis and Jessica; Charles Butrico with wife Sherry and daughters Dana, Michelle and Kristie, and Kathy Thomas with husband [redacted] and Kara [redacted].

## Cerami, Butrico and Thomas Sworn In Mayor Gallagher Offers Optimistic Outlook at Reorganization

On Sunday afternoon Borough Hall was filled with relatives, friends, residents and well wishers who attended the annual 2005 Reorganization Meeting. Included in the crowd were many dignitaries, including Assemblyman Peter Barnes, Freeholder John Pulomena, former council presidents Jim Vokral and Joann Graff, Board of Education member Tim Morgan, both the former and present police chiefs, Robert

Merkler, John Ferraro and Fire Chief Larry Del Negro.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Rev. Charles Mingle. The first order of business was the oath of office for the three council members elected in last November's election. Sworn in were Dennis Cerami, who has been on the council for nine years; Charles Butrico, who is starting his second term and Kathy Thomas, who was elected to a one-year-term to fill

the seat vacated by Jim Vokral.

Mayor Gallagher gave his annual address and detailed the many accomplishments that took place in the Borough last year. He noted that for the third year the municipal budget has not increased; the purchase of more open space land and the addition of new police, fire and rescue squad equipment; the acquisition of land to build a library and the hiring of an architect to begin the plans. "All of this was accomplished while at the same time keeping spending and debt under control," Gallagher said.

On the subject of projects in 2005, the reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. was discussed. Hamilton Blvd. reconstruction will be done in two phases, the first phase will be-

gin this spring and includes the area from New Market Ave. to Easton Ave. The project, which will be funded by Middlesex County, includes decorative lighting and pavers installed from St. Nicholas to the overpass. A turning lane will be installed at the intersection of New Market and Hamilton Blvd. as well as new lights on the corners of Ryan and St. Nicholas. More than 80 property acquisitions were required to allow this project to proceed, including the building on the corner of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. and the two family home next to Michael Anthony's Restaurant.

Gallagher also asked for an engineering and design study to determine the feasibility of extending New

Market Ave. to Belmont Ave. so that Hamilton Blvd. can be designated as a light traffic street from St. Nicholas to New Market Ave. Trucks would then be directed to South Clinton Ave. which is already an industrial road. For Gallagher's complete speech, see page 7.

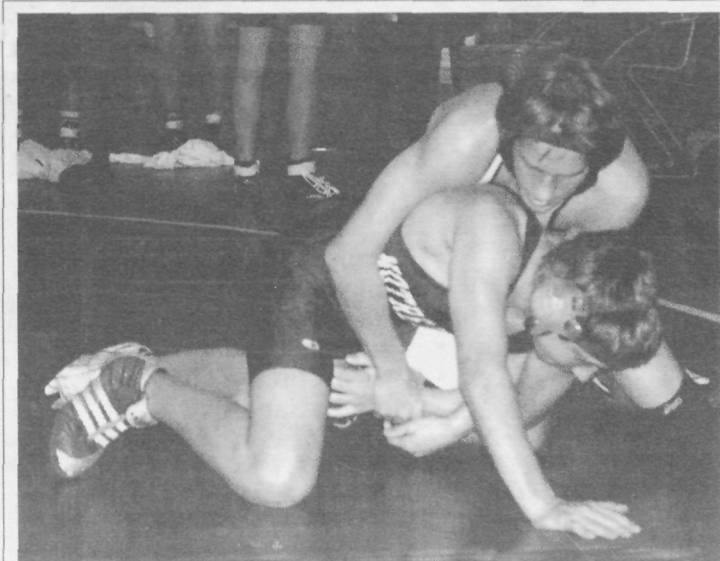
For the second year Dennis Cerami was nominated and elected to serve as council president. He named the 2005 committee assignments, which all remain the same as last year.

The Mayoral and Council appointments were read and all present were sworn in by Municipal Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri.

The meeting adjourned and everyone gathered at the rescue squad for refreshments.



SPHS Wrestler Sammy Martin and Megan Boyle, SPHS Girls' Basketball, show off some of the baskets up for grabs in the SPHS Booster Club Sports Auction-Raffle slated for this Saturday evening at SPHS. Doors open at 6 p.m. For advance tickets call (908) 755-4633 or (908) 756-3671.



Jimmy Conroy dominates his opponent in the opening round before scoring the fall at the Hunterdon Central Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Conroy went on to take first place. For story, see page 8.

## Lenox Calls it Quits After 33 Years

Story/photo by Patricia Abbott

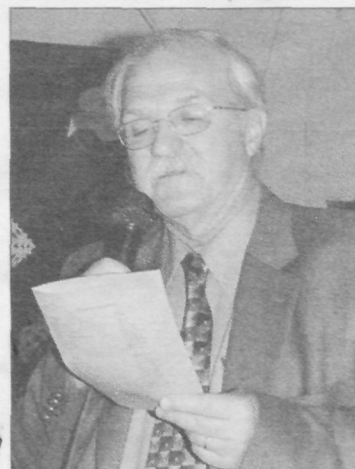
The name "Jim Lenox" is synonymous with the South Plainfield Adult School. Jim has been director of the Adult School for almost 33 years and has been working in education for nearly 40. In addition to the Adult School, Jim has spent the past two months filling in for Franklin School Principal Nancy Erickson, who was injured in early November. His long and diversified career ended with his retirement on Jan. 1.

Jim was hired by then Superintendent of Schools Leonard Tobias. "Tobias challenged me to design and implement a high quality, community education program for the town," Jim explained.

There are many aspects to Jim's job, primarily designing and administering many different programs. As director, he oversaw adult education classes, the Saturday Scene program, the Adult High School, ESL (English Second Language) and citizenship program, Future Stars Preschool, Latchkey, summer school and an extensive trip program.

Jim's most successful program is

probably the Adult High School, which he founded in 1972. At that time studies showed 50 percent of the New Jersey adult population over age 25 did not have a high school



Adult School Director Jim Lenox

diploma. In 1975, the Adult School obtained a national innovative Adult Education Grant to design and implement a nontraditional adult high school. "Two-thousand adults have successfully returned to school and earned their high school diploma," he explained. "The South Plainfield

Adult School has been recognized as a model community school program."

Lenox founded the Future Stars Preschool program in 1980. He proudly notes that it was the second tuition-based program in New Jersey and has been used as a model for many programs throughout the state. He said that he started the preschool after learning that educational research had proven that preschool made a significant difference in the education of a child. The program has expanded rapidly. South Plainfield also had one of the first preschool handicapped programs, as well as being a model inclusive preschool. Jim noted that a very successful ELLI program was introduced last fall, where any four-year-old in the district who meets income guidelines can attend a five half-day a week program free of charge. There are still several slots available in the current school year; those interested should contact the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 215. The Latchkey Program was also one of the first two in the state.

(Continued on page 10)



## Mark Your Calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest meeting agenda

### council meetings

#### Borough Hall Council Chambers

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
January 18	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
February 1	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
February 15	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
March 1	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
March 15	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.

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

Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 8, March 22, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, June 14, June 28, July 5\*, July 19\*, Aug. 16\*, Aug. 30\*, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 29\*, Dec. 13, Dec. 27.

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, \*except where noted.

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

Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, March 10, March 24, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, Aug. 11, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10\*, Dec. 8, Dec. 22.

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

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

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

### taxpayers advisory group

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

### site plan sub-committee

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

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

### recreation commission

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

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

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

January 12

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### traffic safety advisory commission

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

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

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

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



Mike Benak, Cassie D'Urso, Gerry Butrico, Assistant Principal Charles Ford, Susan Mott and Nataila Tamzoke prepare to make calls for pledges for The Education Foundation.

## SPHS Students Phone-A-Thon Raises \$14,000 for Education Foundation

By Jane Dornick

Last month, high school students packed the South Plainfield Library and called the parents of every student in town in an effort to raise money for the South Plainfield Education Foundation's scholarship fund.

The four-night event raised an unprecedented \$14,000 for the foundation. The South Plainfield Education Foundation was founded by the late Emil Leporino in 1994 to raise money for scholarships for graduating high school seniors and to sponsor incentive programs in the district.

Student volunteers were split into teams and used 12 phones to solicit donations. On the last evening, teams stuffed envelopes to send to those who made pledges during the phonation.

The Phone-A-Thon was coordinated by Ellen Decker and senior Mike Benak High School Assistant Principals, Charles Ford and Kelly Panuzzo were the administrative representatives each night. Members of the Education Foundation were also on hand each evening to cheer students on includ-

ing Myra Stillman, Rich Regan, Eric Radell, Barbara Florio, Marge Reedy, Fred Oberkehr and Frank Mikorski.

Pizza from Ciccio's was served each night and Marriott Services provided soda, water and paper goods. According to foundation president Marge Reedy, "The kids did a terrific job." During the Jan. 18 Board of Education meeting, each student will be presented with a certificate for their participation. Students participating in teams who raised the most money each night or stuffed the most envelopes will also receive a \$50 scholarship upon graduation.

The following high school students participated in the South Plainfield Education Foundation's annual Phone-A-Thon: Nichole Benak, Ashley Little, Jennifer Little, Tommy Kiczula, Valerie Pasquarella, Dwight Quichua, Susan Mott, Gina Butrico, Sara Sukenik, Justin Buendia, Ashlen Udell, Christina Dias, Roxanne Montano, Charlie Decker, Nina Byard, Keenan Gaynor, Kelly Thomas, Cassie D'Urso, Lauren Haus, Jessica Manning, Jackie Muglia, Darren Smith, Nataila Tam-

zoke, Kendall Green, Alyssa Maiorino, Toni Ciccia, Gerry Butrico, Shawn Tamzoke, Pete Aquino, Jayne Merlo, Linda Lee, Melissa Sticco, Dawn Besser, Caitlin English, Sara Grillo, Pasquale Centerella, Mike Benak, Kim Marin, Marjorie Restrepo, Liz Rodger, Stephanie Szeliga, Ashley Sacks, Ashley Alvarado, Zack Gray, Mike George, Nicole Freitag, Christine Lanza, Jessica Schwartz, Katie Koury, Danielle Heilmann, Rachel Milliron, Stacy Diana, Jessica Senz, Jonathon Lopez, Chris Bakazan, Jeff Grubesich, Mike Duquette, Jalil Qayam, Brittanie Wong, Alex Viscosi, Wael Kanj, Taylor Mandel, Kathy Morgan, Danny Piwowar, Shaunique Cisson, Christopher McKnight, Jean Pagdonsolan, Sean Tamzoke, Esmerelda Silvanek, Chris Stallone, Danny McCreesh, Lauren Frey, Krystal Williams, Ashleigh Gaspari, Courtney Sacco, Melissa Szeliga, Katie Pollack, Christina Martin, Pete Kelly, Gina Lampasovna, Brooke DeNitzio, Billy Ashnault, Jimmy Conroy, Mike Jakubik, Sam Martain, Bryan Hunt, Jenny Cheng, Tim Cheng and Brian Murtagh.

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

The Borough of South Plainfield Social Services Department runs a holiday project every year which includes food for Thanksgiving and gifts for the Christmas holiday.

Every year, the project grows and the number of individuals and corporations who participate in donating increases tremendously.

Acknowledgment must be given to everyone who so generously gave to the project. Some gave cash donations, some gave toys, some gave clothes or adopted a family or families and others gave their time so generously. A special thanks must be given to all the students who participated in the Tiger 24 run this past spring. These gift cards, as well as the cash donations we received, enabled us to provide gift cards for food and gifts to all of the families in need this holiday season.

Generosity always abounds in our community. We look out for those less fortunate and always come forward when needed. Congratulations to everyone who makes my job easier by your generosity.

MARGARET ACKERMAN

Dear Editor,

I am writing as a very concerned parent. More importantly, I am writing to other parents of school age children in town. As you all well know from the articles that have been in the newspaper, we as a school district are financially in serious trouble. It is my understanding that this is due to some serious financial mistakes and errors. I have also been told that this dates back

### 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.

many years. However, it is going to affect our children now. Our children's programs, services and especially class size may be seriously compromised due to cuts that will have to be made in order to make up for years worth of errors. It is sad to me that ultimately

the children will be the ones to suffer because of other people's mistakes. Please come to board meetings to support your present board which is trying to make sense of this. Ask questions and most importantly, show support for your children!

SINCERELY,  
LINDA DIDARIO

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all of the generous people who donated food and money to our annual food drive for needy pets. The Plainfield Area Humane Society and Dona Barden are the organization we distributed the donations to. May you all have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

SINCERELY,  
DR. SCOTT LINICK  
PLAINFIELD ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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## Cafe Everest Celebrates New Year's Eve

Cafe Everest on Park Ave. held its third annual Kid's New Year's Eve Celebration last Friday night. Everyone attending was given hats, noisemakers, a complimentary glass of sparkling cider and a good meal. There was also face painting for the children, as well as some willing adults. The party ended at around 8 o'clock with the ceremonial dropping of a crystal ball pinata filled with candy for the youngsters to take home.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

We like to think of our library as a home away from home. To accomplish this we provide you with books, magazines, videos and DVDs on many subjects. We also host programs on interesting topics as well as hobby displays from the people who live in the community.

During the past year, we've been able to offer a rather different, non-scheduled extra. Something you could take home to enjoy. One of our best library patrons has enjoyed gardening for many years and he likes to spread the wealth of his gardening for others to enjoy. The result was the TAKE A BAG program. Every now and then there appeared just inside the entrance to the library a spread of ten or more shopping bags, each one containing garden plants. Attached were the names and planting instructions. Plants offered were Hens & Chicks, Mint, Yucca, Grape Hyacinth, Lily of the Valley, Iris, Periwinkle, Spider Flower (seeds), Peony and Live Forever. All of these plants are easy to grow. For the garden poor there were potted Aloe Vera plants and bundles of pussy willow. With a little TLC, you will be able to enjoy these plants for many years to come. Watch in the spring for more of the TAKE A BAGS to appear at the library. They are free on a first come, first serve basis. Those of you who took a bag last year and planted the plants will see their plants grow this year.

We would like to thank everyone who used the library in 2004. The library's overall circulation count was up over 10,000 items from 2003.

Monday, Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. there will be an Adult Craft on making "Pocket Cards." Ronda Wisniewski of Practical Crafting is the instructor. There is a \$1 fee to cover the costs of materials. Please register by calling or stopping by the library.

Also on Monday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. there will be an Adult Craft workshop on "An Introduction to Polymer Clay" by Ronda Wisniewski. There is a \$2 fee to cover the cost of materials. Registration is required.

Children's story times and crafts resume again on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. Registration is not required.

In case of heavy snow, listen to the local radio stations to see if the library is open or closed. Please do not attempt to return library materials when the weather is bad. You can call and renew library materials with "Elvis" or you can renew when the library is open again. The library staff will adjust the library's automation system to not charge for the day the library is closed because of bad weather. It will not, however, waive charges beyond the day the library is closed.

Those of you who like old magazines - this is the time of year when the library begins discarding the back issues of some of the library's magazines. If you are interested, check the free magazine bin by the Friends of the Library Book Sale area.

## Truck Spills Diesel Fuel on Roads

Last Thursday morning, a diesel fuel spill was reported on Belmont Ave. A fuel tank on a 1990 Peterbilt Tractor, operated by William Damski of Milltown, had ruptured somewhere in between the area of Rt. 287 and the NJ Turnpike. The driver said he became aware of the leak on Rt. 287 and called his boss, who reportedly told him to continue driving to his destination in South Plainfield. The driver exited Rt. 287 onto Durham Ave., then north onto Hamilton Blvd., continuing onto Belmont Ave. He eventually stopped on Metuchen Rd. near Belmont Ave.

## First Baptist Church Supports "Communities of Light" Program

Communities of Light 2004 has been underway in Middlesex County for the past month. First Baptist Church, located on Hamilton Blvd., is participating in the project and on Sunday night, candles were lit on the entrance to the church. Sunday was chosen for the lighting because it is the day that most cases of domestic violence are reported, according to the 2003 New Jersey Uniform Crime Report.

Janet Tekley, who is a parishioner at First Baptist, also works for Middlesex County Food Services. She brought the idea to Rev. Gordon Braun to support the Communities of Light project by selling candles and participating by lighting candles in front of the church. The project benefits Women Aware, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing crisis intervention and support services for victims of domestic violence. Residents and businesses have been lighting luminary candles along driveways and sidewalks in and around the county as a powerful symbol of hope for all those who struggle with violence in their homes.

Women Aware joined Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset counties who successfully presented the event in 2002 and 2003.

All proceeds from the sale of luminary candles went to benefit Women Aware, ensuring that victims of domestic violence and their families have a safe place to turn when in crisis.

Now approaching the end of their 26th year, Women Aware, Inc., is the



Attending the candle lighting ceremonies were First Baptist Church member Arlene Bechtoldt, Rev. Gordon Braun, Nancy Grennier, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and his daughter, Tara.

only nonprofit, comprehensive provider of services to victims of domestic violence. Women Aware offers emergency shelter and crisis services, including a 24-hour hotline, counseling and legal assistance for victims, survivors and their families.

If you would like more information on Women Aware, call Eve Hook at

(732) 249-4900.

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

## South Plainfield Historical Society Notes

January brings not only the New Year, but the annual election of officers for the Historical Society. The election takes place on Jan. 11 at the Senior Center at 7:30 p.m., so come on out and vote. While you are there, you can also renew your membership. The price of membership in the Society remains the same at \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family, \$75 for a life membership, \$50 for an institutional membership and \$100 for a corporate membership. If you can't attend, membership checks made payable to the South Plainfield Historical Society can be mailed to PO

Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

After the elections, there will be a brief talk about the Lehigh Valley Railroad and the train station that was in the center of town. It should be quite interesting. You don't have to be a member to come and learn about the railroad.

The Historical Society is once again offering a \$250 scholarship to a high school senior who is a resident of South Plainfield. You do not need to attend South Plainfield High School; you just need to live in town. Please see your guidance counselor for an

application or further information. You may also send a request to the PO Box, attention Scholarship Committee.

Look for our Oral History program to continue again shortly. Please contact the Society if you would like to be interviewed or if you know of someone that should be interviewed. We can be reached at [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com). You can also tell any member.

Lastly, a camera was found at Town History Day. If anyone left a camera, please contact the Society at the above email address, through the post office box or see any member.

## Sellers Wanted

Call us *before* the increased competition of the spring market arrives.

If you are considering a move in 2005 please contact us today rather than tomorrow for a consultation. Proper planning is the key to your future. Find out the steps necessary to upgrading to a larger home, building a new home or down sizing.

*All consultations are confidential and with no obligation.*

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# Events

## 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.

## Czestochowa Annual Wafer Dinner

January 9

Our Lady of Czestochowa will hold their annual Wafer Dinner on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Children under five years are free. Music by Frank Senzik.

## 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.

## Send Us Your Around Town Events

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

## What's happening in JANUARY

### EVENTS

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

Bingo 10am-2pm 11  
Ladies Social  
Pizza Lunch Available

Exercise 8:30am 12  
AARP Crafts 1pm  
Computer Class 10 am  
11:30 am, 1pm

Weekly Shopping 13  
Pathmark 9am  
Practical Crafts 10am  
Computer Class  
11am & 1pm

Bingo 10am-2pm 14  
Pizza Lunch Available

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

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

March 7—Best of Branson at Hunterdon Hills

April 7—Oklahoma at NJPAC

May 19—Cactus Flower at Hunterdon Hills

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

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).

## Financial Aid Workshop

January 13

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the SPHS Guidance Department will host a Financial Aid Workshop at 7 p.m. The workshop was originally slated for Jan. 5. Ben Curtis, associate director of admissions from Elmira College, will provide information regarding financial aid for continuing education.

Curtis will focus on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and obtaining scholarships, grants and loans. He will explain 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, call Cheryl Fox, high school counselor at (908) 754-4620. The program will be held in Cafeteria A/B.

## 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.

## AARP Meeting

January 20

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will hold its meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20, at the Senior Center will be unavailable on our usual Monday. Phyllis Floyd of RSVP will be our guest speaker.

## Annual Art Auction

January 22

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will be holding its annual Art Auction at the High School on Saturday, Jan. 22. The preview begins at 6:30 p.m. and the auction starts at 7:30 p.m. This year's Honorary Chairman is South Plainfield Police Officer Joe Papa, who was a DARE officer for many years.

The price is \$5 per person. For tickets and information, call (908) 561-3951. Hors d'oeuvres, coffee and cake will be available and there will be a door prize.

## 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.

## "George Washington Slept Here"

February 10

On Thursday, Feb. 10, the South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will be presenting a bus trip to Hunterdon Hills Dinner Theater to see the comedy *George Washington Slept Here*.

The price is \$62 per person, which covers all costs, including tax and gratuities. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 for details and reservations, since we have only a few seats available.

## Recreation Trip to Italy

March 6-14

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

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

## — Out of Town —

## "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 in Piscataway on Friday, Jan. 7.

For info, call (732) 968-7555.

## Middlesex East WOWs Meetings

January 10

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers business meeting is the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center in Carteret. Widows and widowers are invited. For information, contact Dorothy at (732) 541-2174.

## Willow Grove Slideshow

January 11

Audrey Boice, a retired teacher and

world traveler will present slides from Norway. You are invited to come to the 12 O'Clock Club, at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 11, for a delicious lunch and entertainment program at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains. The luncheon cost is \$4. Reservations by Jan. 9.

For a reservation or transportation, call Barbara at (908) 322-7892.

## ALPHA Program at Willow Grove

January 12-13

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites all to a series of discussions called ALPHA. Join us Wednesday, Jan. 12 or Thursday, Jan. 13 for Week One featuring the discussion "Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?"

Wednesdays begin at 7:15 p.m. and Thursdays begin at 10 a.m. Light snacks, coffee and tea and a small group discussion follow. Groups continue through March 16 and 17.

Call (908) 232-5678 to reserve space. Willow Grove is located on Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains.

## Playwriting Workshop

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.

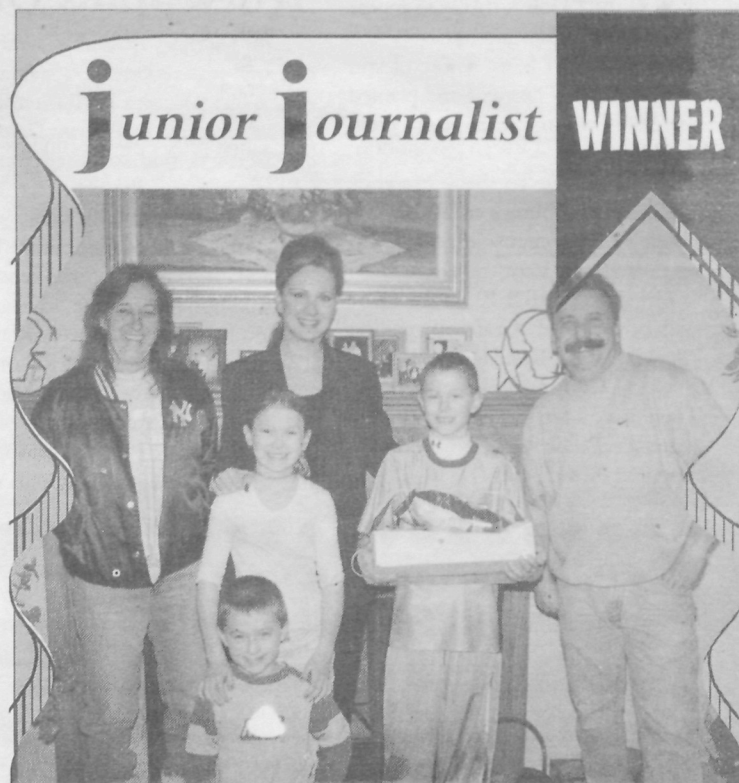
The program is free and open to those ages 16 and over. For information, call (732) 745-3885.

## MCRCC Networking

January 13

A business after hours networking reception, sponsored by the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Jan. 13 at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, 5:30 p.m. Members are \$15, walk-ins \$20 and non-members \$25.

For info, call Debbie Miller at [debbie@mcrcc.org](mailto:debbie@mcrcc.org) or (732) 821-1700.



Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros present dinner to Junior Journalist contest winner Nick Brinks, pictured here with mom Cindy and brother Eric and sister Taylor.

Feed your  
soul...write!



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Melissa DuPont-Reyes Named Edison Rotary Club's Student of the Month at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School

Melissa DuPont-Reyes of South Plainfield has been named the Edison Rotary Club Student of the Month for December. Wardlaw-Hartridge School's College Counselor Lisa Lentz has high praise for the senior. "She has a competitive spirit, but it is her high personal standards against which she competes, not other students. Strong-willed and witty, driven and kind, her talent and confidence are tempered by humility, sensitivity, and an ability to laugh at herself. People are naturally drawn to Melissa's vitality and joie de vivre; they are also awed by her ability to balance and accomplish so much for personal enrichment and for the betterment of others."

Melissa has handled the increasing rigor of her course load throughout her high school years with grace and success. During her junior year she undertook a more rigorous course load than any of her classmates, with five of her full load of six major courses being honors-level or AP courses. She is also a completely unselfish learner, one who will always put aside her own



Melissa DuPont-Reyes

interests and progress in an effort to support or assist her classmates and teachers.

This selflessness carries over to her activities as well. Melissa is a talented artist, and she utilizes this skill and passion both as a means of self-fulfillment and as a gift to others. Among other things, she says that art enables her to convey a political and/or social message that she hopes will profoundly

affect others' views of the world. Drawn also to dramatic expression, Melissa has performed in numerous starring and supporting roles in every play and musical while maintaining her commitment to the Wardlaw-Hartridge swimming and soccer teams and managing her AP load. Moreover, she utilizes her organizational, writing, and artistic skills as editor-in-chief of the yearbook staff and writer for our school newspaper.

Vice President of the senior class, she has also been invaluable as a peer tutor to middle school students and a Peer Leader to freshmen; her compassion, humor, and empathy enable her to connect genuinely with other students, positively influencing both their academic and decision-making skills.

This outstanding senior's love of life and people inspire others to emulate her passion, energy, and commitment. Her giving and indomitable spirit, her impressive talent, and her superior intellect have enriched our community. Melissa plans to pursue a career in biomedical engineering.



Rishi Thukral's photo "Bryce National Park"

### Resident Wins First Place in Unilever Photo Contest

South Plainfield resident Rishi Thukral was a first prize winner in Unilever's 2005 Employee National Parks Photo Contest. His photo of Bryce Canyon National Park was featured in their 2005 calendar.

A keen interest and a camera were the two most important elements for Thukral while he was visiting Bryce Canyon National Park. In recognition for winning first place, Thukral, a Unilever employee, was awarded a

SLI40DC300 Reefmaster Digital Camera, valued at \$479. In addition, his photo was published in Unilever's 2005 National Parks Calendar.

Nearly 1,000 employees submitted National Parks images. The contest was judged by a panel of professional photographers and graphic designers. In all there was one grand prize winner, 11 first prizes and 12 runners-up who were recognized for their photography.

### PFC Demarest Completes Active Duty Training

Marine Pfc. G. Everett Demarest IV, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Everett Demarest III of South Plainfield, has recently completed active duty training in the United States Marine Corps, which included Basic Recruit Training at Parris Island, SC, Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, NC and the Motor Transport Vehicle Operator Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He has been assigned to the US Marine Corps Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Red Bank. Pfc. Demarest is a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School.



Marine Pfc. G. Everett Demarest IV



### SP Fire Department Installs 2005 Officers

The Annual Installation of Officers for members of the South Plainfield Fire Department was held last month at the North Plainfield Italian American Club. Ken Bulla received an award for 30 years of service, John Halavka received the Presidents Award for outstanding service to the fire department and Paul Bosse received the Chiefs Award. Officers for 2005 are Chief Larry DelNegro, Deputy Chiefs Tom Scalera and John Mocharski, Captains Joe Abbruzzese and John Reed, Lieutenants Mike Gallagher and John Ferguson, President Ed Silhanek, Vice President, Adam Tanenbaum, Treasurer Joe Sierzega and Secretary Ray Petronko.



### police report

- On Dec. 28 Daniel Robert Catala, 26, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while suspended, no insurance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- RJP Repair Service on Roosevelt Ave. reported the theft of four truck batteries and the battery box valued at \$1,000 from the frame rail of a truck.
- On Dec. 29 Victor Francisco Rodriguez, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while suspended and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- On Dec. 31 Juan C. Contreras, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

- Ardel Dexter Hale, 34, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.
- China Buffet on Park Ave. reported the theft of three 55 gallon drums containing grease.
- On Jan. 1 Jennifer R. Varga, 21, of New Brunswick was arrested at Best Western for possession of a controlled substance.
- Raceway Gas Station on W. 7th St. reported that a customer filled his tank with \$22 worth of gas and left without paying.
- A Dumas Ave. resident reported that his vehicle had been scratched on the passenger side.

Share Your Good News... Send us your Milestones!

Email: [spobserver@comcast.com](mailto:spobserver@comcast.com) or fax: 908-668-8819



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# 2005 Borough Reorganization

Council members and Mayor's board and commission appointees sworn in at Jan. 2 reorganization.

## Mayoral Appointments

By Virtue Of The Power Vested In Me As Mayor Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, And Pursuant To Ordinance #728 And N.J.S.A.40:55d, I, Daniel J. Gallagher, Do Hereby Appoint

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION DATE
Larry Randolph .....	Environmental Commission .....	December 31, 2007
Larry Randolph .....	Environmental Commission – Chair .....	December 31, 2005
Raymond Petronko .....	Mayor's HCD Representative .....	December 31, 2005
Cheryl Nagel-Smiley .....	Mayor's Rep. Library Board of Trustees .....	December 31, 2005
John Pabst .....	Planning Board – Class II .....	December 31, 2005
Jack Pedersen .....	Planning Board – Class IV .....	December 31, 2008
John Papas .....	Planning Board – Class IV .....	December 31, 2006
Peter Smith .....	Planning Board – Class IV .....	December 31, 2007
Anthony Cesaro .....	Planning Board – Alternate I .....	December 31, 2008
John Mocharski .....	Planning Board – Alternate II .....	December 31, 2008
William Cochrane .....	Recreation Commission .....	December 31, 2009
Thomas McCreesh .....	Recreation Commission – Alternate I .....	December 31, 2009
Dennis Cerami .....	Traffic Safety – Council Liaison .....	December 31, 2005
Vincent Buttiglieri .....	Mayor's Rep. – Middlesex County Transportation Coord. Committee .....	December 31, 2005



The South Plainfield Borough Council—seated from left, Ed Kubala, Mayor Dan Gallagher, Council President Dennis Cerami; standing, Bob Cusick, Ray Petronko, Kathy Thomas and Charles Butrico.



Dennis Cerami is sworn in as council president.

## Mayor Appointments

With Advice And Consent Of Council

Be It Resolved By The Governing Body Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, New Jersey, That:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Joseph Abbruzzese .....	Construction Board of Appeals .....	December 31, 2007
Frank Schneider .....	Construction Board of Appeals .....	December 31, 2007
Steve Druga .....	Construction Board of Appeals (Alt-Architect) ..	December 31, 2007
Jim Franchetti .....	Construction Board of Appeals (Alt-Plumbing) ..	December 31, 2007
Larry Del Negro .....	Construction Board of Appeals (Alt-Fire) .....	December 31, 2007
Errol Bailey .....	Cultural Arts Committee .....	December 31, 2007
David Joshi .....	Cultural Arts Committee .....	December 31, 2007
Terrance Julian .....	Cultural Arts Commission .....	December 31, 2007
Natalie Bergen .....	Cultural Arts Commission .....	December 31, 2007
Frank Furino .....	Cultural Arts Commission .....	December 31, 2007
Suzanne Lyte .....	Cultural Arts Commission .....	December 31, 2007
Patricia Parente .....	Health Advisory Board .....	December 31, 2007
Marie Dolinski .....	Health Advisory Board .....	December 31, 2007
Eleanor Haines .....	Library Board of Trustees .....	December 31, 2008
Barbara Ware .....	Library Board of Trustees .....	December 31, 2008
Virginia Popik .....	Library Board of Trustees .....	December 31, 2008
Dr. Robert Rosado .....	Library Board of Trustees – Bd. of Ed Rep. ....	December 31, 2005
Frank Schneider .....	Property Board of Appeals .....	December 31, 2007
Joseph Scrudato .....	Public Celebrations .....	December 31, 2007
Donald Alexa .....	Public Celebrations .....	December 31, 2007
Michelle Cerami .....	Public Celebrations .....	December 31, 2007
Matthew Anesh .....	Public Celebrations .....	December 31, 2007
Timothy Morgan .....	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. – Bd. of Ed Rep ..	December 31, 2005
Sgt. Kevin Murtagh .....	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm – Police Rep .....	December 31, 2005
Kevin Broderick .....	Traffic Safety Advisory Committee .....	December 31, 2007
Joseph Glowacki .....	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. – DPW Rep. ....	December 31, 2005
Dennis Cerami .....	Youth Guidance Council – Council Liaison .....	December 31, 2005
Officer Gary Kline .....	Youth Guidance Council – Police Rep. ....	December 31, 2005
Richard McCriskin .....	Zoning Board of Adjustment – Alternate I .....	December 31, 2005
Christine Buteas .....	Zoning Board of Adjustment – Alternate II .....	December 31, 2007

## Council Appointments

Be It Resolved By The Governing Body Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, New Jersey, And Pursuant To Ordinance #728 And N.J.S.A. 40:55d That:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Walter X. Kalman .....	Affordable Housing Committee .....	December 31, 2005
James Vokral .....	Affordable Housing Committee .....	December 31, 2005
Glenn Cullen .....	Affordable Housing Committee .....	December 31, 2005
Linda Zushma .....	Affordable Housing Committee .....	December 31, 2005
Kathleen Thomas .....	Affordable Housing Comm.–Council Liaison .....	December 31, 2005
Robert Bengivenga .....	Business Advisory Group .....	December 31, 2007
Edward Colucci .....	Business Advisory Group .....	December 31, 2007
Noel Mazar .....	Business Advisory Group .....	December 31, 2007
John Pabst .....	Business Advisory Group–Zoning Rep. ....	December 31, 2005
Davis J. Samuels (CME) ..	Business Advisory Group–Engin. Rep. ....	December 31, 2005
Ed Kubala .....	Council's HCD Representative .....	December 31, 2005
Alice Tempel .....	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission .....	December 31, 2005
Charles Butrico .....	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm.–Alternate I ....	December 31, 2005
Davis J. Samuels (CME) ..	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm.–Alternate II ...	December 31, 2005
Joann Graf .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.–Chairperson ..	December 31, 2005
Raymond Petronko .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.–Liaison .....	December 31, 2005
Loretta Conroy .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.–Rec. Liaison ..	December 31, 2007
Filomena Viola .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. ....	December 31, 2007
Joseph Zekas .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. ....	December 31, 2007
Lillian Smith .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. ....	December 31, 2007
Owen Kelly .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. ....	December 31, 2007
William McAllister .....	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. ....	December 31, 2007
Charles Butrico .....	Planning Board – Class III .....	December 31, 2005



Charles Butrico, joined by his three daughters, is sworn in for a second term.



Municipal Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri swears in the appointed members of local boards and commissions.



From Mayor Daniel Gallagher

## South Plainfield Reorganization Address

**T**hank you for joining us in this celebration of our American democracy. We must never take for granted the power that is bestowed by the simple act of placing your hand on the Bible and swearing to God and to your fellow citizens that you will preserve, protect and defend the laws of this state and the constitution of this great land. At this very moment young men and women are risking their lives in Baghdad and Fallujah and places that we find hard to pronounce so that we can continue this grand tradition, which is the cornerstone of our freedoms. Congratulations to Dennis Cerami, Charlie Butrico and Kathy Thomas for their well earned reelection to the Borough Council. Let none of us ever forget the sacred trust which the people have placed in us. We are put here to do the people's business and our only goal must be to act honestly, honorably and in the best interests of the residents of South Plainfield.

2004 was an excellent year for our borough. For the third consecutive year and for the fifth of the last seven years there was no municipal tax increase. This governing body preserved more open space than was ever protected in our history. We purchased needed equipment for our police department, fire department, rescue squad and emergency management department to assure that our residents are protected from any threat, whether from nature or from man. We improved our community pool and our recreation programs and increased staff so as to bring more efficiency to our senior recreation center. We once again expanded our "pay as you go" road reconstruction program, which now totals over 130 roads repaved in the last decade. We acquired the property and demolished the house next to Unity Bank on Plainfield Ave. for our new library. An architect was appointed at the December council meeting and an engineer was previously selected. We are on schedule for a groundbreaking this fall for a state-of-the-art 15,000-square-foot library to better serve all of our residents. All of this was accomplished while at the same time keeping spending and debt under control. I've said it before and I'll say it again: If anyone doubts that government can be run on an efficient, responsive and cost effective basis, let them come to South Plainfield and see how it's done.

As terrific as 2004 was, I have never been more excited than I am about what will be accomplished in our borough in 2005. More projects are planned over the next 12 months than at any time in our history. Everyone knows that traffic is a major concern in South Plainfield. Hamilton Boulevard to Durham Ave. is the only East/West route to and from the borough. This spring construction will begin to totally reconstruct Hamilton Boulevard with new traffic signals installed at St. Nicholas Ave. and Ryan Street. Decorative lights and pavers will be installed from St. Nicholas to the overpass at New Market Ave. and a turning lane will be installed at the intersection of New Market and Hamilton Boulevard. Over 80 property acquisitions were required to allow this project to proceed, including acquiring the store/apartment building at the corner of New Market and Hamilton and the two family home next to Michael Anthony's restaurant. In addition, Department of Transportation approval was needed for the traffic signals. I must commend our borough attorney, our borough engineer and the Middlesex County Engineering Department for completing the design and acquisition stage of this project in such an expedited fashion. By this time next year phase one of Hamilton Boulevard all the way to Easton Ave. will be complete. In the Spring of 2006, phase two will start, which will complete the project all the way to Stelton Road including widening that portion of Hamilton Boulevard to four lanes, with a traffic signal at South Clinton Ave.

In addition to Hamilton Boulevard, one more lane will be added to Durham Ave. from the 287 exit to the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard at the Valley Bank. A dedicated turning lane and new traffic signalization will be installed at the Quick Check onto Helen Street. When this project is completed this summer Durham Ave. will be four lanes, which will significantly help traffic flow.

Also this spring new curbs and sidewalks will

be installed on Maple Ave. all the way from Front Street to Woodland Ave. When this project is completed, we will ask Middlesex County to mill and pave the roadway. Therefore, our parade participants will be marching on a totally reconstructed Maple Ave. this Labor Day.

I must thank our local Assemblymen, Patrick Diegnan and Peter Barnes and Senator Barbara Buono for securing state funds for each of these projects. We received state grants for \$140,000 for the decorative lights on Hamilton Boulevard, \$170,000 for the improvements to Durham Ave. and \$200,000 for the curbs and sidewalks on Maple Ave. Regardless of political affiliation, every resident of our borough must appreciate the benefit which we gain by having a South Plainfield resident working for us in Trenton.

In addition to these major road projects, we are about to go out to bid for the new restroom facilities and tennis courts at Putnam Park, the new locker facilities, to be built by enclosing the court yard at the P.A.L. and the improvements to the Senior Recreation Center, including upgrading the kitchen and installing a room divider. Each of these projects are funded by grants from Middlesex County. Our freeholders also provided over \$1 million last year for preservation of open space in our borough. We are fortunate to have John Pulomena on the freeholder board working for South Plainfield every day. Thank you, John.

We will be starting some new and exciting long-term projects in 2005. We will be applying for County and State funds to acquire properties along New Market Ave. from the former bus lot to Elsie Street so that this area can be preserved for passive open space use and storm water detention. New Market Ave. only floods when there is a surcharge from a sudden intense rainfall. However, we should do what we can to alleviate the condition. I ask all members of the council to identify any other properties that they believe should become an open space priority. I recommend that we include the home immediately next to Putnam Park on Park Ave. I believe

it is vacant and it will give us additional land for recreational use.

I recommend that we commence an engineering and design study to determine the feasibility of extending New Market Ave. to Belmont Ave. If that extension occurs, Hamilton Boulevard can be designated as a light traffic street from St. Nicholas Ave. to New Market Ave. Trucks will be directed to South Clinton Ave., which is totally an industrial road. I can think of no single project that will better improve the quality of life on the south side of our borough than getting truck traffic off Hamilton Boulevard. When taken in conjunction with the Helen Street extension, all trucks will have an alternate route out of our borough. Let me take a minute to talk about Helen Street. Members of the council have dedicated hundreds of hours on this project along with our professionals. Let's be frank; it's complicated. The road will cross the railroad tracks, the brook and touch on the Dismal Swamp in addition to bordering the closed landfill. It is being funded 100 percent by the federal government, which means that although it isn't costing South Plainfield one penny, we must address all federal guidelines. To date almost \$1 million dollars has been spent on preparing all of the required documents, including environmental studies. Of course we wish construction could start tomorrow, but the benefit will be so great that we are not going to give up just because it has taken longer than we expected. To all of those nay sayers who every year criticize the Helen Street project for political gain, let me assure you we will continue to work to see this road built.

**O**ne final project that I am particularly excited about is the designation of our center of the borough as a redevelopment zone. In February a group will be making a presentation to the Mayor and Council to transform the area from Front Street to Hamilton Boulevard into a beautiful and vibrant borough center. The concept envisions that along Front Street from the railroad track to South Plainfield



DANIEL J. GALLAGHER

Mayor Dan Gallagher addressed those attending the Borough's annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 2.

Ave. there will be retail and office space on the ground level with owner occupied townhouse type lofts on the upper floors. The stores along South Plainfield Ave. would remain and be rehabilitated. A new retail/residential project has already been approved for the property along Hamilton Boulevard from Buy Rite to the Cornerstone property. At this point this is only a concept plan and we of course will seek public input before any decision is made, but if properly done this proposal can make our center of borough a vibrant and attractive part of our borough.

I can't wait for 2005 to begin, because each of these projects will make this great borough an even better place to live and raise a family.

Now let's talk about taxes. In spite of increasing fixed expenses, salaries and health costs, we have been able to keep taxes flat in five of the last seven years. We have all read about the impending tax hike for the Board of Education. We must be doubly committed to doing what we can as a Mayor and Council to keep property taxes in South Plainfield affordable for our hard working families. I know that the members of the Administration and Finance Committee will dedicate themselves to presenting as lean a municipal budget as possible.

Now it's time to get to work. Let's all of us dedicate ourselves to making 2005 the best year in the history of South Plainfield.

God's blessings to all of you and your families. Let us all pray for good health, happiness and peace in the New Year.

## Republican Response to the Mayor's Annual Message Overbuilding, Ethics Reform, and Fiscal Integrity Should be Council's Priorities for 2005



Bob Jones, GOP Chairman

By Bob Jones,  
GOP Chairman

South Plainfield Republicans expect 2005 to be a pivotal year. We are optimistic the Mayor and Council will finally address issues that have for far too long gone ignored; issues like controlling overbuilding, enacting ethics reform, bringing back open government and restoring fiscal integrity. And while Democrats prevailed in November's election, we hope they will see that each year a greater percentage of the public is voting for change—not change for its own sake, but change in direction on these important issues.

Ethics reform should be first on the agenda. In Trenton both political parties have seen the error of their ways and have embraced pay-to-play reform. So have dozens of municipalities in Central Jersey. In fact, according to Common Cause-NJ, 80 towns have now adopted reform measures. Sadly, South Plainfield is not among them.

Our mayor likes to say that other towns look to South Plainfield as a model of how local government should work. Yet it is South Plainfield that must look outside its borders to learn important lessons on ethical government: It is

unethical to take money from contractors to whom you give no-bid contracts.

South Plainfield should join the many municipalities that have ended this corrupt practice. Adopting meaningful—and that's an important word, meaningful—pay-to-play reform should be a top priority for the first part of 2005.

Even more important than ethical reform, however, is controlling growth. Republicans once again call upon the Mayor and Council to develop a plan to combat overdevelopment. We need sound planning. This is especially true when big builders are looking to convert our industrial areas into huge residential developments. Unbridled growth is the single biggest problem South Plainfield faces. Controlling it should be the governing body's top priority.

Restoring open government should also be a priority. The governing body hides controversial issues from the public until the last possible moment—often stifling public debate. What's more, council members rarely, if ever, question party leaders. Dissent is unheard of. While restoring two-party government may be the ultimate cure for these ills, voters elected council members to exercise their own good judgment, not to tow the party line. Republicans urge members of the council to be independent and resist the urge to simply say yes to their party's bosses.

Finally, the council must look to restore fiscal integrity. Each year the Democrats say they have reduced debt. Yet alternative forms of debt—debt that does not show on the books—has skyrocketed. Our town owes our sewer provider a million dollars for bills that went unpaid over the last eight years. Lease payments are on the

rise—going up 28 percent in the last year alone. These are not good signs. Nor is the rapidly increasing municipal budget a good sign. While inflation increased 20 percent since 1996, the budget increased 30 percent. Hidden tax increases have come in the form of increased sewer rates and fee increases at Borough Hall. And while the Democrats have staved off large property-tax increases through a host of parlor tricks, even those are coming to an end. The Mayor and Council need to learn the lessons now being learned by their good friends on the Board of Education; that is, problems can only be swept under the rug for so long.

South Plainfield has much to be proud of. We have a rich history, a strong sense of community and an enduring commitment to our youth. Those who grew up in town stay to raise their families and others come here because they see what great things our community has to offer.

But we are at a pivotal time, a time when hard choices need to be made. We can't let unbridled growth, unsound fiscal integrity, lack of open government, and ethically challenged policies (like pay-to-play no-bid contracts) derail our efforts to maintain and improve our thriving community. That's why Republicans call upon the members of the council to step up to the plate and address the issues everyone knows need addressing. We are optimistic the governing body will make these hard choices, but we will also be there to prod them along the way if they fail to do so.

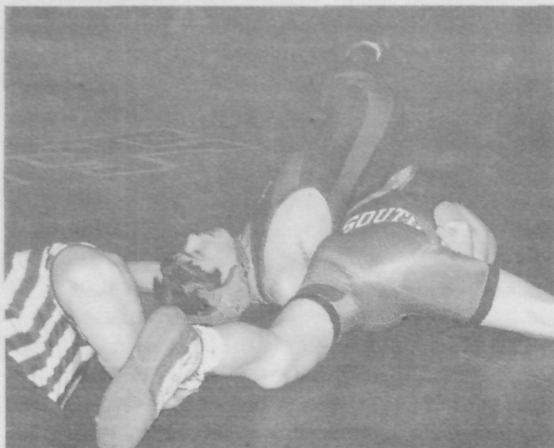
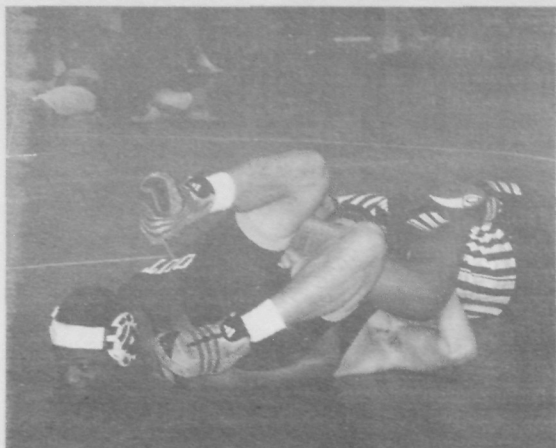
May 2005 be a year of health, happiness, prosperity and progress for the people of South Plainfield.



# Sports

## Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter



Ed McCray (left) pins his opponent to advance to the finals. Patrick Hunter (right) works for the fall in second round action. Both took first place in Hunterdon Central Invitationals.

## Tigers Crown Three Champions

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team crowned three champions at the recent Hunterdon Central Invitational Wrestling Tournament. This holiday classic had a loaded field this year, with 22 teams from around the state invading the Hunterdon Field House for a very long day.

Wrestling started at 9 a.m. with the finals starting 8:15 p.m. Let me tell you, it was worth the wait, because the Tigers sent four into the finals and five others into the consolation finals.

Patrick Hunter (103), got the Tigers going in the championship round

when he faced Dave DeCamp of Notre Dame High School. Hunter scored the first takedown and cruised to a 18-3 tech-fall at 5:29. In the opening round, Hunter won by fall :35, by fall in the second round and major decision 10-0 in the semi-finals.

Next up was last year's 103 pound state champion Jimmy Conroy, now wrestling at 119. He faced Voris Tejada, a fourth place finisher at last year's state tournament at 112. After two scoreless periods, Conroy took the defensive position at the beginning of the third period and quickly scored an escape point to take the lead. Conroy then took Tejada down on the edge of the mat for a 3-0 lead. With 14 seconds left Tejada wiggled free for an escape and a 3-1 final. In the opening round, Conroy won by fall and by fall in the second round. He then won by major decision 10-0 in the semi-finals.

South Plainfield newcomer Ed McCray (135) continued his winning ways by claiming the third championship of the day with a 6-1 decision over Vinny Comisso of Delran in the finals. McCray had three falls on the day to reach the finals.

Sam Martin (160) had a very good tournament, winning his first match by fall. In the second round, he won a hard fought decision 4-3. In the semi-

finals, Martin won by decision 7-5 to advance to the finals, where he dropped a 9-2 decision to JR Nettuno of Hunterdon Central.

In the consolation finals, senior Rob Maistickle (215), pinned Atnan Ramadani of Old Bridge at 1:30 for third place. Fourth place went to Billy Ashnault (112), Nick Dorey (130), Paul Ritchey (152) and Kevin Crilley (189). Nick Vetusch (112) won the JV championship. Vetusch had two pins and two decisions for the day.

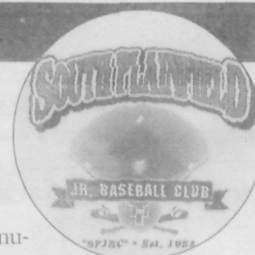
## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2005 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Competition will start on Sunday Jan. 23 at the Sacred Heart gymnasium in South Plainfield. Boys and Girls ages 10 and 11 will start at 1:30 p.m. Boys and Girls ages 12, 13 and 14 will start at 3 p.m.

All participants are required to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written parental contestant form. For additional information and enrollment form, contact John LoBosco at (908) 755-4914 or you can just show up at Sacred Heart gymnasium to register at 1 p.m.

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Happy New Year to the South Plainfield community!

Next week will be our last opportunity to sign-up your child for our 2005 season. We will be conducting sign-ups on Thursday and Friday Jan. 13 and 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday Jan. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration fee is now \$115; we are looking forward to seeing you next week at our SPJBC clubhouse.

We are looking to sign-up numerous eight-year-olds for our C-League and 13-17 year olds for our Pony Leagues. These two leagues currently have a low registration at this point. The C-league participants will be playing on a lighted field with a new scoreboard. The Pony leagues will be playing on a field with new lights also. Come on out and sign up your child, "This is a new beginning, but still remembering the past."

*Reminder to everyone, you must have your Rutgers certification and must be a member of the club in good standing to manage and coach at the SPJBC.*

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

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

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

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Or call 908-226-7656

## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Tom Gratta

Happy holidays and Happy New Year from the South Plainfield Ponytail Parents Association.

Just a reminder: sign ups for Ponytail softball are taking place now at the PAL through the first week of March.

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## 2005 Baseball Registration

South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club

Final Registration for the 2005 Season



Eligibility: Ages 8\* to 17 years old  
Before August 1, 2005  
(South Plainfield Residents Only)

Eligibility Policy for 2005

Any 7 yr. old whose birthday falls between Aug. 1-Sept. 30 may elect to play up as an 8 yr. old. Inquire for more details.

Takes place at the Baseball Complex on Kenneth Ave. (near Recycling Center)

Thursday, January 13, 2005 6-9 p.m.  
Friday, January 14, 2005 6-9 p.m.  
Saturday, January 15, 2005 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fall Registration Fees

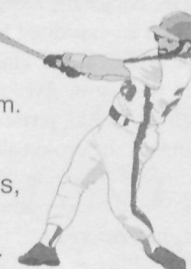
\$115 for one player, \$175 for two players,  
\$195 for three or more players  
All registration fees include uniform(s).

We urge everyone to register NOW.  
This will be the last chance to register for the 2005 season.

The Women's Aux. will be selling SPJBC Jackets and Clothing  
Full payment is required when placing order.

New Players Must Bring Birth Certificate or Copy

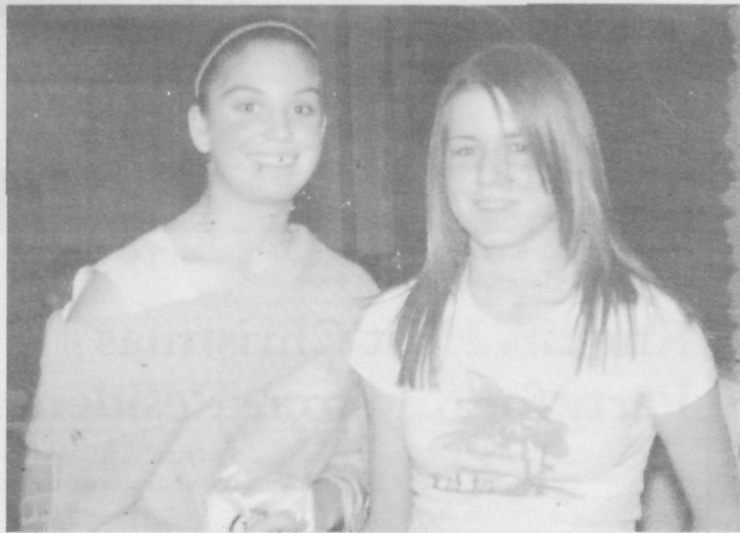
Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at time of registration. Sign ups for Managers, Coaches and Umpires will be held at this registration as well.





# Sports

## Athletic Boosters Host SPHS Fall Sports Awards



Named Most Valuable Player in tennis was Amanda Smalley (left) and Kristin Billich was named Rookie of the Year.

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:

For Boys Soccer, coached by Bob Diehl, Cameron Green, and Tim Serbe, letter winners were seniors Jon Lopez and Augusto Pasco, junior Ryan O'Shea, sophomores Nick Baldasare, Matt Doell, Chris Herbster, Anthony

Moretti and freshman Chris Pennisi. Pins were awarded to seniors Paul Corrado and Joe Helgesen, captains Pete Kelly, Dwight Quichua and Chris McKnight; Brian Murtagh, Billy Padula, and David Sanchez; and juniors Danny Agostino, Steve Lindgren and Chris Weakley. Chris McKnight was named MVP and Chris Pennisi was named Rookie of the Year.

The Girls Tennis team, coached by Maureen Barnett, awarded letters to freshmen Kristin Billich, Juliann Garbowski, and Chelsea Soisson, and gave pins to senior Melissa Hansen, and juniors Carlie Kazimir and Amanda Smalley, both captains, and Laurie Sobel. Amanda Smalley was named MVP and Kristin Billich was named Rookie of the Year.

The Gymnastics team, coached by Meredith Murawski and Vickie Unacke, awarded a letter to manager Ra-

chel Milliron and gave pins to senior captains Lauren Darr and Kayleigh McGovern, juniors Beverly Jamieson and Giuliana Kay and sophomores Sarah Brooks and Heather Ray. Beverly Jamieson was named MVP and Rookie of the Year went to Gina Rose Siringo.

Girls Soccer, coached by Bruce Hunt, Dana Curcio and Brian Figuerido, awarded letters to junior Nicole Cursi; sophomores Dorian Bishop, Stephanie Falzarano, Lauren Fry, Ashley Little and Tiffany Smith; freshman Stephanie Szeliga and manager Liz Flannery. Pins were given to senior captains Danielle Arndt, Caitlin English and Kelley Hrutkay and sophomores Megan Boyle, Jenna Delillo, Ashleigh Gaspari, Katie Hardy and Becky Keller. Caitlin English was



Named Most Valuable Player in soccer was Caitlin English (right) and Stephanie Szeliga was named Rookie of the Year.

named MVP and Stephanie Szeliga was named Rookie of the Year.

The unstoppable Field Hockey team, coached by Fran Flannery, Tammy Zurka and Kiersten Bohl, gave letters to juniors Samantha Defler and Megan

Wilson, sophomores Julianne Bosse and Brandee Brown and managers Ashley Britton, Katie Nuber and Courtney Sacco. Pins were awarded to seniors Lauren Haus, Jessie Manning and Stef Miller (all captains), Cassie D'Urso, Jamie Jakubik, Katie Kelliher, Jessica Miller, Jackie Muglia and Kelly Thomas; and juniors



Named Most Valuable Player in Gymnastics was Beverly Jamieson (right) and Gina Rose Siringo was named Rookie of the Year.

Courtney Eustice and Melissa Szeliga. Stef Miller was named MVP and Megan Wilson was named Rookie of the Year.

Boys Cross Country, coached by Mike Capizola, awarded a letter to senior Matt Bazsika and pins to seniors Dan Piwowar, Jeremy Rodas, Mike Williams (captains) and Grant Gianneschi; juniors Jim Conroy, Matt D'Alessandro, William Daly, Jeff Pham and Jeff Seesselberg; and sophomore Tim Williams. MVP honors went to Jeremy Rodas, and Matt Bazsika was named Rookie of the Year.

The Girls Volleyball team, coached by John Ferguson and Patricia Porzio, gave letters to senior captains Shakera Beverly and LaToya Johnson; juniors Therese D'Adezzio, Kristi Lombardi, Kaitlin Mackenzie, Adriana Rivera and Amanda Veinott; sophomores Stephanie Hanses, Sam Horvath, Padmani Itwaru and Amanda Makowski; freshmen Jamie Ensel and Samantha Smith and manager Zaklyia Clarke. Shakera Beverly and LaToya Johnson were named MVPs and Jamie Ensel was named Rookie of the Year.

## Junior Journalist Corner



### Jeremiah Magpile, Middle School Eighth Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Pictured (l to r) are Middle School Assistant Principal Phyllis Savage with winner Jeremiah Magpile and Language Arts teacher Betsy Veiss.

Jeremiah Magpile, Middle School eighth grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. His poem "Winter" has won him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

All students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their teacher, school principal, Hometown

Heros located on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office.

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

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

### Winter

By Jeremiah Magpile

Cool winds blew past my face  
As I walked the snowy paths laid before me  
I longed for warmth in the absolute cold  
But the ice of winter had swallowed me

A desert of cold it seemed to me  
For there were no flowers  
Nor gentle beasts of nature in sight  
Everything enveloped in a blanket of white

I continued walking down the path of mine  
And saw another soul in the ocean of snow  
Staring at the nothingness  
As if there was splendor beneath its garments

Then beside her I sat myself  
And tried to see the snow through her eyes  
But to my dismay  
All I witnessed was an empty painting

Once again I opened my eyes  
In hope that I may see the light  
Only then I saw winter's unrivaled beauty  
And let the winds consume me.

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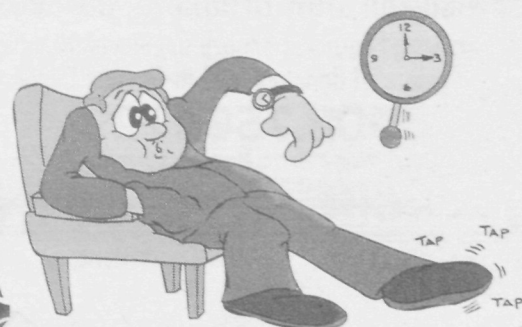
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Pianist Patricia Landy and Clarinetist Robert Romano

## Benefit Concert For Hospice

PIANARE, the piano and clarinet duo featuring Pianist Patricia Landy and Clarinetist Robert Romano will present "Winter Reflections" on Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. This is a benefit recital for the HOSPICE Program of the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ). The program features the *Brahms F minor Clarinet Sonata, Op. 120, no. 1* along with selections by Gerald Finzi, Malcolm Arnold, and Jazz composer Alec Templeton. This performance will be held at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. Tickets are \$10 at the door. All proceeds and donations go directly to the VNACJ Hospice Program for Middlesex County Residents. For more information contact (908) 754-4380.

PIANARE will be featured at Sacred Heart Church on Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. in celebration of Sacred Heart's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Lenox Calls it Quits

(Continued from page 1)

The Adult School Senior Citizens program began with a grant that was obtained from the Middlesex County Office on Aging to purchase the first senior citizen bus. Over the years, the adult school worked very closely with senior citizens in the community. The senior transportation and meals-on-wheels programs were begun through the adult school, with the help of a very active senior citizen advisory council.

The Saturday Scene and Adult School classes have varied over the years. Some of the most popular classes are tennis, yoga, volleyball, line dancing and painting. The school offers several professional workshops, including electrical contractor recertification and negotiation seminars, as well as college credit classes. New adult classes are added every year. The popular Trip Program, which began 25 years ago, offers residents the opportunity to see all that New York City has to offer and much more. The single and multi-day trips have been attended by thousands of people of all ages.

The adult school was involved with the Summer Drama Workshop for many years. Jim recalled, "My fondest memories are of all generations of people in South Plainfield learning and enjoying life. My greatest satisfaction is providing opportunities for others to succeed."

"I have been very fortunate over the

years to have an excellent hard working personable office staff. The many programs could not function as effectively without Karen Bickunas, Sheina Drake and Sue Alexander."

His staff members returned the compliment. "We have worked with Jim for many years and have seen his creativity at work in the numerous programs which he developed for the children and adults of South Plainfield. In his words, 'There was never a dull moment.' We wish him all the best in his retirement, he will be greatly missed by his office staff."

Jim has no single long-range retirement plan. He noted that his wife enjoys her job and will continue to work. He hopes to visit his son and daughter-in-law in London and his daughter in Edmonton, Canada. He'll head to Hilton Head and Palm Springs to play golf with friends. Also on his retirement agenda is a leisurely tour of our country and Canada by train. "Where I will have the luxury of reading 10-12 books and do some writing," he added.

Jim would like to thank the people of South Plainfield for the opportunity to work here for the past 32½ years. "I truly enjoyed the challenge of organizing quality programs for all age groups and I love being an educator."

Jim's successor will be Sophie Domogala. Watch the *Observer* for a story on the new Adult School director.



Keystone residents enjoyed a holiday party courtesy of the Knights of Columbus Council #6203 last week.

## Knights Host Christmas Party for Keystone Residents

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their annual Keystone Residents Christmas party on Dec 29. More than 70 Keystone residents attended the hot dinner and enjoyed a visit from Santa, who delivered many gifts to the residents.

The Knights would like to thank all of the Knight of Columbus mem-

bers and their families who attended and either cooked or served the residents there food.

A special thank you to Wonder/Hostess for donating all of the rolls and desserts for the party and Knight member Ed Kubala for being Santa. Co-organizers for this event were Bill Thomas and Grand Knight Joe Scrudato.

## Business &

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## Irene W. Eliassen, 67

Irene W. Eliassen died suddenly on Sunday, Dec. 26 at her home.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., she grew up in Germany from the age of two until she was 24, returning to the United States. Irene lived in Bernardsville before settling to South Plainfield in 1964.

An active longtime member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Dunellen, she was also a member of the church choir. She was a member of the former Federated Women's Club of South Plainfield and had been a volunteer at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Walter; two daughters, Annette and her husband, Joe Librizzi of Hillsborough and Linda Eliassen of Hackens-

town; a son, Eric of Edison; a sister, Marion Isbarn of Germany and three brothers, Helmut Hamann of Madison and Norbert and Reiner Schroder, both of Germany.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Nathaniel, Andre, Amber, Brianna, Ashley and Austin.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to St. Luke's Church or to a charity of one's choice.

## Margaret (Gallagher) Starnick, 67

Margaret (Gallagher) Starnick died on Tuesday, Jan. 4 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New

Brunswick.

Born in Avoca, Pa., she resided in Newark, Hillside and Piscataway before moving to Little River, SC in 1992.

Margaret had been employed as a purchasing administrator for Siemen's Hearing Instrument of Piscataway for four years. Previously, she had been a payroll clerk for Prudential Insurance Co., Iselin.

She was a former member of Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church of Middlesex and had been a member of the church's prayer group. She was also a member of Women's Club and Jr. Women's Club of Piscataway.

Her husband, George Starnick, died in 2000.

Surviving are four daughters, Theresa Liland of Piscataway, Anne Cooke of Conway, SC, Elizabeth King of Middlesex and Joan DeBiase and her husband, Joseph of Manville; a son, Raymond Starnick of South Plainfield; a sister, Mary Reginald Quilan of Little River, SC and two granddaughters, Margaret Ann and Gabrielle Elizabeth. Also surviving is her lifelong friend Barbara Watson of Piscataway.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday at 8 a.m. in McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., followed by a Funeral Mass at 9 a.m. in Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, Middlesex. Cremation will be private. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Friday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE  
ORDINANCE NO. 1682

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

Ordinance #1682 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE 9 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS" was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 7, 2005 and a public hearing was set for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE NO. 1682

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE 9 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS"

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY that Chapter 26, Article 9 of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be amended as follows:

Article 26-9. Officers

The officers of the South Plainfield Fire Department shall consist of One (1) Fire Chief; Two (2) Deputy Chiefs; Three (3) Captains and Three (3) Lieutenants.

All other provisions of this Chapter of the Code of the Borough shall remain in full force and effect.

This amendment shall take effect after final adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$43.75 January 7, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE  
ORDINANCE NO. 1683

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

Ordinance #1683 entitled: A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$70,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL ITEMS FOR THE POLICE, BUILDING, RECYCLING AND OFFICE ON AGING DEPARTMENTS was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 7, 2005 and a public hearing was set for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE NO. 1683

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$70,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AS LISTED BELOW FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

Computer Equipment - Building	\$9,275.00
Camera's - Police	\$25,000.00
Paving & Signage - Recycling	\$18,300.00
Equipment - Office on Aging	\$17,425.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>

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

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

A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$70,000.00.

B. That the cost for said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the Capital Improvement Fund, of which said funds are available for said purposes.

C. The estimated useful life of said improvements is hereby determined to be five (5) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for Architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

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

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$82.75 January 7, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough wishes to install new curbing and sidewalks along portions of Maple Avenue; and

WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from CME Associates to perform the engineering design, construction administration and bid phase services on behalf of the Borough for said project at a cost not to exceed \$73,250.00; and

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

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in Ordinance # 1677.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates to perform engineering design, construction administration and bid phase services at a cost not to exceed \$73,250.00.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$33.25 January 7, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE  
ORDINANCE NO. 1681

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

Ordinance #1681 entitled: AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF PROJECT COORDINATOR, CONSTRUCTION AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID POSITION was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 7, 2005 and a public hearing was set for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE NO. 1681

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYMENT POSITION FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR SAID POSITIONS THE YEAR 2005. THIS SALARY WILL BE ADJUSTED UPON REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The rates of compensation for each employee of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be on an annual basis as follows except where indicated. Such rates of pay shall be effective on January 1st of the years shown.

POSITION	2005
PROJECT COORDINATOR, CONSTRUCTION	7,600

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY—All ordinance or part of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE—This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after the final passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$77.00 January 7, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE  
ORDINANCE NO. 1684

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

Ordinance #1684 entitled: A SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$76,500 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE CEDARBROOK PUMP STATION AND VARIOUS OTHER SEWER EQUIPMENT was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 7, 2005 and a public hearing was set for 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ORDINANCE NO. 1684

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$76,500 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SEWER UTILITY AS LISTED BELOW FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

<b>Cedarbrook Pump Station</b>	
Equipment & Repairs	\$46,500.00
Sewer Equipment	\$30,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76,500.00</b>

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

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

A. That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$76,500.00.

B. That the cost for said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the Capital Improvement Fund, of which said funds are available for said purposes.

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

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for Architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48:2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$12,000.00.

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

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$78.75 January 7, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough wishes to modify the Durham Avenue improvements to include a right hand turn lane onto Helen Street; and

WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from CME Associates to perform the engineering design, surveying, construction administration and bid phase services on behalf of the Borough for said project at a cost not to exceed \$14,346.00; and

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

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in Capital Improvement Fund, account # C-04-55-865-000-901.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates to perform engineering design, surveying, construction administration and bid phase services for the Durham Avenue Project at a cost not to exceed \$14,346.00.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$35.00 January 7, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough wishes to install new curbing and sidewalks along portions of Maple Avenue; and

WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from CME Associates to perform the engineering design, construction administration and bid phase services on behalf of the Borough for said project at a cost not to exceed \$73,250.00; and

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

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in Ordinance # 1677.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates to perform engineering design, construction administration and bid phase services at a cost not to exceed \$73,250.00.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$33.25 January 7, 2005

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## SPHS Competes to Raise Pennies for Special Olympics

By Toni Ciccia

The mood had been set, the hype among the school was high and the competition was fierce. During the week of Dec. 6-10, which was later extended until Dec. 15, students and faculty at SPHS were swept up in the "Penny Wars" frenzy.

The Penny Wars, an idea thought up by Mr. Hajduk, the Special Olympics coach and a Special Education teacher at the high school, was a fun and competitive way to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Mr. Hajduk brought his suggestion to the student leaders, made up of students from all grades, looking for their support. The idea was received enthusiastically and senior Gerry Butrico and junior Joey Lammi quickly built the apparatus that would be used during the war.

The rules of the unique Penny Wars were as follows: There were five containers, labeled freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and faculty. Students dropped pennies into their own container. (ex. A freshmen put pennies into freshmen container.) Each penny counted as one point. If a student had silver coins or dollars and dropped them into the wrong classes container, their score dropped.

All monies were counted daily by Commerce Bank and results were posted by the containers and announced each morning. In the beginning not much money was being dropped into the containers, but by

the middle of the week, it seemed as if everyone was gunning for the seniors. The competitiveness of the Class of 2005 soon spurred the other classes and faculty to throw big bills into their container and \$20 bills had ended up in their container more than once. In the final days of the Penny Wars, it was decided that the competition was so popular, the deadline would be pushed back until the following week.

The Penny Wars raised over \$3,500 for the Special Olympics, an amount which exceeded the student leaders' goal. During the last 20 minutes of the competition, over \$2,000 was put into the containers. The faculty walked away with the win with only -1,500 points, while the seniors came in dead last with nearly -75,000 points. Gerry Butrico, one of the students in charge of the Penny Wars, felt that the "competitive nature of the fundraiser was the main reason so much money was raised. It also gave the faculty a chance to have some fun, and they did."

Even though the faculty at the high school is still gloating over their win, Hajduk firmly believes that the true winner is the Special Olympics and the athletes who participate in it. With the Penny Wars and other fundraisers held at the high school, money is quickly being raised to help pay for the costs of the Special Olympics.

Congratulations to the faculty for their win and good luck to the Special Olympics in raising the funds they need to hold their annual event.

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