

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 19

50 CENTS

JANUARY 14, 2005



Franklin School students welcome back school principal, Nancy Erickson, in a big way. Erickson has been out since November after she broke her leg.

## Principal Returns After Excused Absence



Nancy Erickson was thrilled at the reception she received upon her return to school.

by Patricia Abbott

Franklin School Principal Nancy Erickson's first day back was celebrated with balloons, posters, flowers and a large group of surprise guests. The SPHS Tiger Marching Band was also on hand for the festivities. The students, dressed in red, white and blue, cheered as their principal stood in front of them for the first time since November. Her face expressed

surprise and joy at the unexpected reception. She said, "It was a wonderful surprise to be greeted by the children, the band, parents, our staff, and my colleagues. I was overwhelmed and truly touched by their welcome. I am so fortunate to be a part of such a caring community and I will always remember this day." After enjoying cake with her guests Erickson visited each classroom.

The students have been hard at

work preparing for the big day. Each student made a poster welcoming her back to school. The colorful works of art lined the hallways throughout the school.

Erickson has been out on sick leave since breaking her leg in a fall. She is currently using a walker and wheelchair until her leg is fully healed. She is back at work part time, a few hours each day and eventually will return to full days.

Joining the celebration were Dr. Rosado, Superintendent; Anthony Massaro, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Martko, Staff Development; Kaye Crown, Director of Curriculum; Russell Mattoon, Director of Technology; Mr. Veirs, Computer Technician; Mr. Flamini, Supervisor of Special Services; Mrs. Milano, Child Study Team; Mrs. Finan, Child Study Team; Dr. May, SPHS Principal; Steve Novak, Assistant Principal of SPSH; Mrs. Petrocelli, Color Guard and Winter Guard Advisor; Mark Tweed, Band Director; Mrs. Steele, Transportation Supervisor; Middle School Principal Al Czech; Grant School Principal Janis Burchell; Fredrik Oberkehr, Principal of Kennedy School; Jacqueline Keogh, Principal of Roosevelt School; Mr. Conway, Clinical Instructor of Kean University; students, teachers and parents.

See page 6 for additional photos.

## New Police Chief Takes the Helm

### Former Chief Honored

John Ferraro, who has been serving as acting police chief since Robert Merkler's retirement in November, was officially promoted to chief during last Tuesday's council meeting. Retired Chief Robert Merkler was honored by the mayor and council

the Operations Division and as a detective supervisor and division commander in the Service Division.

He has also served in temporary assignments with the Middlesex County Narcotics Task Force and the Union, Somerset and Middlesex County



South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro is welcomed to his new position by Mayor Dan Gallagher.



Retiring Police Chief Robert Merkler receives a proclamation from Mayor Gallagher and Council President Dennis Cerami.

and presented with a proclamation recognizing his many years of service to South Plainfield.

The meeting was attended by members of the police department and borough employees, as well as former Chief Steve Merkler, SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May, Board of Education President Pio Pennisi, to name just a few.

Ferraro was sworn in by Council President Dennis Cerami and warmly welcomed by each member of the council and Mayor Dan Gallagher, who noted that he has been present for the naming of the last six police chiefs.

Ferraro is a 23-year veteran of the South Plainfield P.D. He joined the department in December of 1981 and has served as a patrolman and watch commander in the Patrol Services of

Border Anti-Drug Task Force.

Ferraro has been the department's Bias Incident officer, Narcotic Liaison officer, a PR-24 Police Baton instructor and crisis negotiator and the Public Information/Press officer and Intelligence officer.

He is a 1976 graduate of South Plainfield High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with minors in Psychology and Sociology from Trenton State College (College of New Jersey). He is also a Certified Public Manager through Rutgers University.

Since joining the force, he has worked his way up the ranks. He was promoted to sergeant in September of 1989, lieutenant in September of 1993, captain in February of 2001 and acting chief in November of 2004.

## WANTED

### South Plainfield Police Seek Assistance in Locating Aggravated Assault Suspect

At approximately 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4, South Plainfield Police Officer Shaun Clifford responded to a call from an employee at 51 Cragwood Rd. regarding a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot. As the officer approached the vehicle the driver accelerated, veered towards the officer and sped out of lot. Officer Clifford chased after the vehicle which proceeded onto Hadley Rd.

The suspect is described as a black male, in his late 20's to mid 30's, 5'8" to 5'11", short black hair and a thin goatee. The vehicle he was operating was a metallic silver BMW X5 SUV with tinted windows, after market chrome wheels, custom chrome front grill and a driver side brake light out.

The location on Cragwood Rd. is also the scene of an investigation where several offices were broken into on Dec. 29 and numerous laptop computers were stolen.

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Det. Jim Foran at (908) 226-7665.





# 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 (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

## planningboard

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

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

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.

## zoningboardofadjustment

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.

## boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

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

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

## taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

## siteplansub-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.

## recreationcommission

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

Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 7 and Dec. 13.

## environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

## businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

## trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

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

## boardofeducationcurriculum/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

Dear Editor,

As the President of the South Plainfield High School Chorus and on behalf of the entire organization, I would like to take this opportunity to thank VFW Memorial Post 6763 for their generous donation to our organization. This has been, without a doubt, one of the greatest acts of kindness we have experienced.

In December, the Traveling Choir visited the VFW's Holiday Dinner and performed various carols. Songs included *The Wassail Song*, *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Sleigh Ride* and *O Holy Night*, featuring a beautiful solo by senior Katie Mott. The night was quite enjoyable for all and brought smiles to everyone's face. Little did the Traveling Choir know how much the VFW members enjoyed the performance!

With the donation they provided, students enrolled in chorus will now have the power to learn with ease and become more skilled in the world of music. Your group has provided us with means that will only increase the talent we possess. Please feel free to invite us back to your facility at any time.

Once again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and wish you the best of the New Year.

SINCERELY,  
NATALIA TAMZOKE

To the Editor,

I very much enjoyed Thomas J. Daly's response to Mr. Zychlinski's letter of Dec. 24. I had intended to reply myself, but was so busy with the holidays that I was unable to find the time.

I agree with everything that Mr. Daly had to say and would just like to add that in spite of Mr. Zychlinski's protestations there is absolutely no Biblical basis for celebrating the birth of Christ on Dec. 25. In fact the Puritans (the first Christians to reach these shores) outlawed Christmas for that reason. As the Reverend Increase Mather noted in 1687, the early Christians who first observed the Nativity on Dec. 25 did not do so "thinking that Christ was born in that Month, but because the Heathens Saturnalia was at that time kept in Rome and they were willing to have those Pagan holidays metamorphosed into Christian ones." In other words the Christians decided to celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25 in an attempt to take over a celebration that already existed that they did not approve of. It remained as a sort of drunken weeks long festival well into the 19th century and has existed as we know it for a relatively short time.

The point, Mr. Zychlinski, is that you might want to actually know what you are talking about before you go off on a tirade in the newspaper. You may celebrate Christmas and the Christmas season however you like. Why must you insist that everyone else

# IN YOUR OPINION

## 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.

celebrate exactly as you do?

I would encourage anyone interested in finding out more about the origins and evolution of Christmas (and Santa Claus) to read *The Battle for Christmas* by Stephen Nissenbaum. It is fascinating reading. Happy holidays!

RANDALL MCCANN

To the Editor,

In reading the *Observer* recently, I just have to say, I am sick of reading how the BOE (particularly Sue Peck) feels she is being attacked.

This is not the, oh, poor me story, this is a very sad story for the children of South Plainfield. Maybe some people who feel like they are being attacked have a guilty conscious. Whether this financial dilemma happened yesterday, or 10 years ago, someone has been managing the budget since then, and obviously not doing a good job of it. This shifting the blame back and forth is just ridiculous. Something needs to be done NOW, not five years from now, with a little measly textbook lease program. A textbook lease program will not account for \$1.8 million dollars. So I guess next year they'll lay off teachers, our children will be jammed into classrooms and South Plainfield, which has had a superb record for one of the best school systems in New Jersey for over 20 years (one reason why I moved my family here 10 years ago) will probably hit rock bottom, and all because of about nine individuals who couldn't keep a budget straight. This is indeed a very sad day for our township.

SIGNED,  
CONCERNED RESIDENT

To the Editor,

The past holiday season was ripe with the spirit of giving which everyone treasures. One event that was a particularly wonderful way to celebrate the season was the holiday assembly performed for the students of South Plainfield High School by the various music ensembles in the school.

As director of the SPSHS Chorus for 15 years, the ability to finally see the delight on my students' faces as they performed for more than just their family members, was a real treat. Between the performances of the Stage and Concert Bands, the Travelling Choir, the Emeralds—our select female vocal ensemble—and a special solo performance by sophomore Darren Kaczowski, with the help of fellow students Peter Assad and Michael Duquette, the spirit of the holidays was alive and well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow music directors, Bruce Mikolon and Mark Tweed; school Principal Dr. Ken May and teachers Ann Brown and Anthony Barca, whose support for such a program helped make a dream come true for many proud students. It is the Music Department's pleasure to perform for so many appreciative people and we hope to do so in the near future.

RESPECTFULLY,  
TRACY GLENN MURRAY, SPSHS  
CHORAL DIRECTOR

To the Editor,

Junior Girl Scout Troop 530 would like to thank Dawn Willemssen, aquatic director at The Club at Ricochet, for coordinating a water safety/swim class to fulfill requirements for a junior swimming badge. Special thanks, also, to the two instructors, Zachary and Suzanne, who led the girls through the requirements and showed them how to be safe in the water while having fun.

The girls enjoyed the class and had wonderful things to say about their instructors.

Thanks, Ricochet, for offering such a wonderful service to your community.

MARY PIEKARSKI AND MEMBERS  
OF TROOP 530

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

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The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

## SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recycling Holiday Schedule

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 18, because of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday weekend. Recycling will be open instead from 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

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

Both facilities will be open as usual

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15.

The Recycling Center will be accepting used paint for recycling from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 15. Sort latex-based paint from oil-based paint.

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

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

## No January Rabies Clinic

The free rabies clinic, which usually takes place in January, will not be held this year. Waiting in line in the cold weather months is not healthy for pets or their owners.

A rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Those who normally renew their license at the January rabies clinic will not incur a late charge if they get their rabbies shot at the April clinic.

Another rabies clinic will be held in

November for dogs and cats whose rabies shots will be expiring before April of 2006.

If your pet is current with their rabies shot, you should get their license as usual during the month of January. If you fail to get your 2005 license by January 31, you will incur a late charge of \$1 per month.

If you have any questions, call the Borough Health Department at (908) 226-7630.

## South Plainfield Historical Society Offering Scholarship

The South Plainfield Historical Society is offering an annual scholarship to college bound seniors who have exhibited an interest in state or local history.

Applicants must be South Plainfield residents. Students must describe why he/she should be considered for the scholarship and write a brief essay on any topic relating to state or local history.

tory.

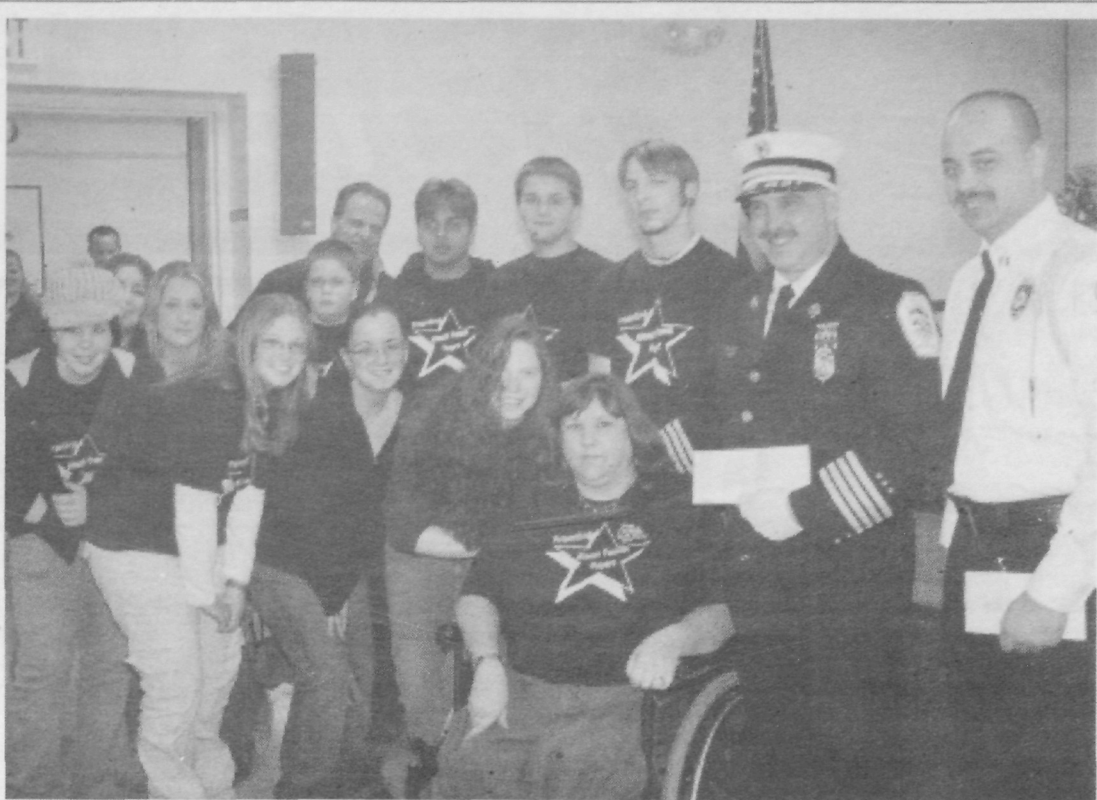
The Historical Society scholarship form is available in the Guidance Office and is due back in the office on or before Apr. 21.

Access the Historical Society web page at: <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety> or e-mail the society at [SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com](mailto:SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com) for more information.

## Public Works Picking Up Christmas Trees

Employees of the Public Works Department have started picking discarded Christmas trees this week.

Residents are asked to place their Christmas trees at the curb. Pickups will continue through January.



Patricia Abbott and members of the 'Almost Famous Plays' presented a check to Fire Chief Larry Del Negro and Rescue Squad Captain Eddie Laferrera. The donation to the fire department and rescue squad came from the proceeds of last year's Haunted Woods Tour. The 'Almost Famous Players' consisting of 50 volunteer performers and crew members, took over Putnam Park for six days last October and performed to sell-out crowds almost every evening, with rave reviews.

## ALERT



### Council Changes Meeting Nights

The Borough Council has changed its meeting day to Tuesday instead of Monday. The council meetings will now take place the first and third Tuesday of each month. The agenda meeting begins at 7 p.m. and the regular meeting starts at 8 p.m.

For a listing of all borough meetings, see page 2 of the *Observer* or log on the borough's website: [southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com).

## County's OEM Office Retains Stellar State Rating

For the fifth year in a row, the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management has received the highest possible rating on its annual review from the New Jersey State Police.

In its evaluation, the State Police Office of Emergency Management stated that the county agency "continues to demonstrate that it is regarded as one of the premier programs in the State of New Jersey. The county staff is extremely proactive, self motivated and dedicated to the program."

"I am exceptionally proud of the work our full-time, part-time and volunteer members have accomplished

and the cooperation that is evident between them, county officials and our local municipal officials and emergency services personnel," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chairman of the county's Law and Public Safety Committee.

The state evaluates the performance of the county office and its personnel during the year in responding to emergencies and fulfilling goals set by the state.

During the evaluation year, the County OEM planned for and implemented procedures to prevent or respond to any major emergency situation.

### Correction

In the January 7 story, "Athletic Boosters Host SPHS Fall Sports Awards" we incorrectly identified SPHS students. Amanda Smalley, pictured with Kristin Billich, was identified as Billich. Chris McKnight, pictured with Chris Pennisi, was identified as Pennisi. Stefanie Miller, pictured with Stephanie Szeliga, was identified as Caitlin English. We regret the error.



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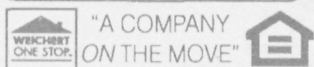
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[www.centerwatch.com/pro230.htm](http://www.centerwatch.com/pro230.htm)



# Around Town

## SP GOP Meeting

January 19

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

All residents of the borough are invited to attend and discuss any borough issues and concerns. For more information, visit [www.spgop.com](http://www.spgop.com).

## AARP Meeting

January 20

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

## VFW to Hold Dinner

January 21

VFW Post #6763, located at 155 Front St., will hold a dinner on Friday, Jan. 21 from 5-8 p.m. The public is welcome. For more information, please call (908) 668-9751.

## 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. 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, call (908) 561-3951. Hors d'oeuvres, coffee and cake will be available and there will be a door prize.

## Fire Department Annual 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.

## SP Ponytail Parents' Monthly Meeting

January 25

The South Plainfield Ponytail Association meeting will be held on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School library.

Also, a reminder that Ponytail registration is ongoing until the first week of March.

## Send Us Your Around Town Events

South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B  
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## What's happening in JANUARY

### EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>March 7—Best of Branson at Hunterdon Hills</b>  <b>April 7—Oklahoma at NJPAC</b>  <b>May 19—Cactus Flower at Hunterdon Hills</b>			<b>13</b> Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm	<b>14</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Available
<b>17</b> Center Closed Martin Luther King Day	<b>18</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Pizza Lunch Available	<b>19</b> Exercise 8:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1pm	<b>20</b> Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	<b>21</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Available
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

## Silver Dreams Wendy's Fundraiser

January 26-28

The SPHS Silver Dreams Winter-guard from will host a fundraising event at Wendy's, located on Oak Tree Ave., from 5-10 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 26-28. Please present this article at the time of ordering and Wendy's will donate a portion of the sales to the Silver Dreams. Thank you in advance for your participation. Please feel free to call Julie at (908) 791-0294 for any additional information.

## Free Pet Dental Check-Up

January 30

The Plainfield Animal Hospital, located at 2201 Park Ave., will hold a Dental Fair on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 1-4 p.m. in celebration of National Pet Dental Health Month.

The festivities include free dental check-ups, discounts on future services, tooth brushing demonstrations, giveaways, contests, door prizes, refreshments and much more.

Please join us for a fun and informative afternoon. For information, call (908) 755-2428 or visit their website at [plainfieldanimalhosp.com](http://plainfieldanimalhosp.com). If you plan to attend, please register by calling (908) 755-2428 by Jan. 22.

## Knights Sponsoring Spaghetti Dinner

February 5

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 5 in the Sacred Heart Cafeteria from 5 until 8 p.m. The price is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12. Dinner will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert with coffee/tea. All proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund. Please come out, have a delicious meal and support this worthy cause.

## "George Washington Slept Here" Trip

February 10

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

The price of \$62 per person covers

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

all costs, including tax and gratuities. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 for details and reservations. There are only a few seats available.

## Recreation Trip to Italy

March 6-14

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

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

## Beach Boys' Revival

April 3

Good vibrations are back! South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to see "Beach Boys' Revival" on Sunday, April 3. Cost is \$90. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

## Trip to Las Vegas

May 27-30

The South Plainfield Senior Center is sponsoring a four-day trip to Las Vegas from Friday, May 27 to Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day Weekend). The trip includes a round trip non-stop flight on Continental Airlines, three nights accommodations at the Paris Hotel and Casino, round trip airport transfers to/from hotel and all taxes and baggage handling.

Cost is \$689 based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$200 per person is required to make a reservation. For reservations, call Joann Graf at the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.

## — Out of Town —

## ALPHA Program at Willow Grove

January 13

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites the public to a series of discussions called ALPHA. Join us 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.

## 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.

## Middlesex East WOWs Dance

January 14

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, Jan. 14, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt

Ave. in Carteret. The admission is \$8 and guests are \$9. Live music and refreshments available. The dance is from 7:30-11:20 p.m. For information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

## Woodbridge WOWs Dance

January 16

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a Dance/Social on Sunday, Jan. 16 at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, from 7:30-11:30 p.m. The cost is \$8. Music will be provided by DJ Ron and refreshments will be served. For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## Bridge Builders to Honor Martin Luther King

January 16

The Highland Park New Jersey Bridge Builders will be holding a series of Sunday afternoon programs to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The first takes place on Sunday, Jan. 16 at Highland Park High School.

The programs continue for six Sundays, Jan. 23 through Feb. 27. All programs are free and open to the public.

Information is available by emailing [stanleyhabib@aol.com](mailto:stanleyhabib@aol.com) or by calling Stanley Habib at (732) 545-0511.

## Stockton to Honor Martin Luther King

January 17

Stockton College is planning a special program and service day in conjunction with Galloway Twp. Public Schools on Monday, Jan. 17. The event commemorates the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday and will benefit many local groups and agencies.

Participants will gather at 8:30 a.m. at the Sports Center for registration, followed by an hour-long program featuring speakers.

For more information, contact Jen Forman at (609) 652-4421.

## Middlesex Employer Legislative Breakfast

January 18

A Middlesex employer legislative breakfast will be held at the Sheraton Raritan Center in Edison on Tuesday, Jan. 18 starting at 8 a.m.

Featured Speaker will be The Honorable Patrick Diegnan, Assemblyman, 18th Legislative District. Cost of \$20 includes buffet breakfast.

Register online at [www.mcrcc.org](http://www.mcrcc.org) or call Debbie Miller (732) 821-1700 or email [debbie@mcrcc.org](mailto:debbie@mcrcc.org).

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**SEND US YOUR MILESTONES.** Share your good news with the community, i.e. promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos if you like.

**IS THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD?** Let us know.

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**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you've had great service in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

**SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS.** If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it's impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Digital photos should be 150 dpi or higher.

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; phone: 908-668-0010; fax: 908-668-8819 or email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).

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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

The South Plainfield Public Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The library will be open on Saturday, Jan. 15 and Sunday, Jan. 16.

Children's story times and crafts will be held at the regularly scheduled times: Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, 1:15 p.m. There will be a special Kidcraft on Friday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. for children six and older who can use scissors. There will also be a Books-N-Babies program on Friday, Jan. 21 at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required.

If anyone has a collectible collection or a craft collection they would like to

display in the library, please call the library and ask for Millie. The library staff is always looking for people who have interesting collections or do interesting crafts that can be displayed in the locked display cases or hung on the wall in the library.

The library has 24 holds on the newest John Grisham book called *The Broker*. The library has purchased three copies of the book. Please be patient if you are down on the holds list. If anyone reading this column purchases the book and everyone in their family reads it, you may donate it to the library so others may read it. We graciously thank all the people who have donated bestsellers in the past. Your generosity enables more people to read the book and not have to wait months.

The library has many new videos, DVDs, books on tape, fiction and nonfiction books. Stop by the library and check some out.

Reminder: Please be considerate of other people in the library and turn down the volume on all cell phone and pagers. ALL cell phone conversations MUST be conducted OUTSIDE the library. No one in the library wants to listen to your private conversations.

## Scholarships Available

The Interamerican University Studies Institute will offer two programs in Latin America this summer for high school students. Costa Rica ÁPura Vida! focuses on biology and includes Spanish immersion as well. Artes en Mexico provides an opportunity to work with professional Mexican arts teachers while improving Spanish skills. Individual homestays, excursions and small group instruction are features of both.

The programs are open to students between the ages of 15 and 17 who will have completed two years of high school Spanish by June.

Scholarships available for each program. Applications are due Feb. 11. For more information, call IUSI at (800) 345-4874 or visit their website at [www.iusi.org](http://www.iusi.org).

## WHYBA Makes \$2,000 Donation to John E. Riley School Playground Fund

The Watchung Hills Youth Benevolent Association donated \$2,000 to the Riley School playground fund for the purchase of new equipment. The Watchung Hills Youth Benevolent Association (WHYBA) is a non-profit organization comprised of local community leaders, which provides assistance to youth charities and associations through local area fundraising. Such charities include endowing of scholarship monies to students in need of support, supplying necessary funding to provide holiday meals to needy children and their families and sponsorship of sports teams and purchasing of equipment for area facilities and programs. Presenting the check at Riley School were WHYBA members Sal Esposito, Tim Wagner and Joe Marino.

The Riley School Playground Committee has been working hard to rebuild the playground since much of



WHYBA members present a check to the Riley School playground fund.

the equipment was removed several years ago due to noncompliance with current safety standards. In addition to paying for the equipment, the playground committee unexpectedly had

to raise the money needed to pay for playground mulch. This donation is greatly appreciated and will go towards the purchase of future playground equipment.

## Magician to Appear as Fundraiser

Magician and illusionist John Bundy and Morgan will be returning to the South Plainfield High School stage for one performance only on Feb. 5. They will present their 90-minute show, Unbelievable! This is the second year in a row the magical duo will raise money for South Plainfield's Cub Scout Pack 207. Their show, Unbelievable!, is much more than a magic show. It is a wonderful theatrical experience that you will never forget. This year's show will be filled with cutting-edge illusions, audience participation, special effects and fun for the entire family.

John Bundy and Morgan have entertained audiences across the United States and around the world. This past summer they returned from their third trip to China where they performed for a billion people on Chinese television.

Experience the magic for yourself. Unbelievable! will appear on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the South Plainfield High School auditorium. Show time is 12 noon. Advance tickets are just \$8 and \$10 at the door. Proceeds will benefit South Plainfield Cub Scout Pack 207. For more information or tickets, please call Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

## School Board Candidacy Information Available

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28, Robert H. Davis, South Plainfield's Business Administrator, announced this week. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2005.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 125 Jackson Ave., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures

and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said James J. Dougherty, Jr., NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider board of education membership. Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

## Phase of Life Enrichment Program at Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County (JFVS), Center for Individual & Family Growth, is now offering our fall/winter "Phase of Life Enrichment Program." Included in the program are support groups for young adults establishing an independent lifestyle, young couples coping with communication problems and interfaith conflicts, individuals coping with mid-life experiences related to an empty-nest, aging parents or death of parents, individuals ready to move on after separation or divorce, parents caring for adult children with mental illness and older adults coping with isolation and loss after the death of a

spouse.

For more information about groups, contact Nancy Schley, LCSW at (732) 777-1940, JFVS, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201, Edison, NJ 08817.

## Recreation Plans Trip to Niagara Falls

Recreation is sponsoring a five-day, four-night trip to Niagara Falls, Ontario, with a side trip to Toronto, Aug. 8-12.

The package includes four nights lodging in Niagara Falls, Canada, four breakfasts, four full course dinners, all day tour of Niagara, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, all day tour of Toronto, centering on a harbor cruise and Casa Loma, IMAX theater, Maid-of-the-Mist boat ride and tour of the falls, a local winery tour with wine sampling, visits to the Welland Canal or Niagara Fallsview Casino and Rossi Glass.

Total cost is \$575 per person, plus a \$20 tip, which includes all taxes, standard gratuities, luggage handling, Motorcoach and a White Star escort for the entire trip.

You will need a raised-seal birth certificate and photo ID or passport to travel into Canada.

For reservations contact Mike English at the PAL, or call (908) 226-7714.

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Franklin Principal Nancy Erickson was warmly greeted by students and staff on her first day back after breaking her leg. Pictured below is Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado, Kennedy Principal Fredrik Oberkehr and Roosevelt Principal Jacqueline Keogh. See story on page 1.



## Rutgers Students Raise \$5,000 for County Food Bank

Middlesex County's emergency food network received a \$5,000 dose of holiday cheer from faculty and students at the Rutgers University Recreation Department.

Organizers of the second annual Big Chill 5K race presented an oversized gift certificate to Freeholder Jane Z. Brady, founder of the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Services (MCFOODS).

Shop Rite gift certificates totaling \$5,000 will be used to purchase non-perishable food and personal items to be distributed to 60 food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the county.

The total raised may be higher once all the contributions are tallied. Runners and walkers enlist others to sponsor them for the race.

The 5K race is among several large events scheduled to help keep the shelves stocked throughout the year. More than 125 schools participate in the annual school drive in March and residents at seven adult communities in Monroe Township hold a Fall Harvest drive every October. A number of civic organizations and corporations hold food drives throughout the year.

Demand for food increased in 2004 and the food bank was near empty throughout the summer.

Individuals who cannot hold a food drive are reminded that food dona-

tions are accepted year-round at the libraries in Edison, Milltown, Monroe, North Bruns., Plainsboro, South Bruns., Spotswood and Woodbridge.

MCFOODS also accepts grocery store gift certificates if anyone is inter-

ested in making a monetary contribution.

Anyone interested in holding a food drive or other collection event may call Jennifer Apostol, MCFOODS coordinator at (732) 729-0880.



On Christmas Eve, Santa (Bob Yurgel), his wife Fran and Officer Dave Franchak spent the evening making sure that six families who are having hard times still enjoyed a happy holiday by bringing them gifts and toys. During the evening they also paid a visit to Regal Cinema Manager William Cintron to say thank you for all of the support Regal gives to South Plainfield through their generous donations and complimentary cinema tickets. The Yurgels and Officer Franchak would also like to thank the entire South Plainfield community for the generosity they showed during the holiday season.

# 2005 Winter SPHS SPORTS SCHEDULE

## JV & VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

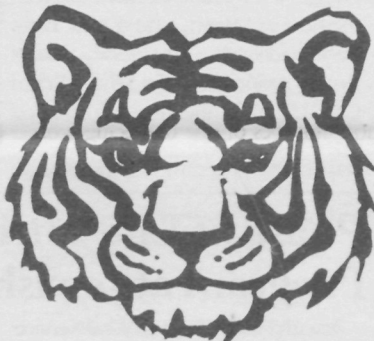
JANUARY				
17	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	5:15/7:00
19	Wed.	New Brunswick	Home	5:15/7:00
25	Tues.	Sayreville	Home	5:15/7:00
27	Thurs.	Carteret	Away	5:15/7:00
FEBRUARY				
2	Wed.	Colonia	Away	5:15/7:00
4	Fri.	Monroe Township	Home	5:15/7:00
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Home	5:15/7:00
10	Thurs.	Woodbridge	Away	5:15/7:00

## FRESHMEN BOYS BASKETBALL

JANUARY				
17	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	3:45
19	Wed.	New Brunswick	Home	3:45
25	Tues.	Sayreville	Home	3:45
27	Thurs.	Carteret	Away	3:45
FEBRUARY				
2	Wed.	Colonia	Away	3:45
4	Fri.	Monroe Township	Home	3:45
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
10	Thurs.	Woodbridge	Away	3:45

## JV & VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

JANUARY				
15	Sat.	Old Bridge	Away	11:15/1:00
17	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	5:15/7:00
19	Wed.	New Brunswick	Away	5:15/7:00
25	Tues.	Sayreville	Away	5:15/7:00
27	Thurs.	Carteret	Home	5:15/7:00
31	Mon.	Bishop Ahr	Home	5:15/7:00
FEBRUARY				
2	Wed.	Colonia	Home	5:15/7:00
4	Fri.	Monroe Township	Away	5:15/7:00
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Away	5:15/7:00
10	Thurs.	Woodbridge GMC Tournament	Home	5:15/7:00



## BOYS AND GIRLS BOWLING 2004-05

ALL MATCHES PLAYED AT CAROLIER LANES - 3:45 p.m.

JANUARY		
18	Tues.	Mother Seton/St. Joseph's
19	Wed.	GMC Individual Finals
24	Mon.	Edison/South River
25	Tues.	Monroe Township
FEBRUARY		
1	Tues.	GMC Preliminary Round
3	Thurs.	GMC 1st Round
5	Sat.	Girls Sectional
8	Tues.	GMC 2nd Round
10	Thurs.	GMC Semi-Finals
12	Sat.	Boys Sectional
15	Tues.	GMC Finals
18	Fri.	State Finals

## FRESHMEN GIRLS BASKETBALL

JANUARY				
15	Sat.	Old Bridge	Away	10:00am
17	Mon.	Woodbridge	Away	3:45
19	Wed.	New Brunswick	Away	3:45
25	Tues.	Sayreville	Away	3:45
27	Thurs.	Carteret	Home	3:45
31	Mon.	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45
FEBRUARY				
2	Wed.	Colonia	Home	3:45
4	Fri.	Monroe Township	Away	3:45
8	Tues.	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
10	Thurs.	Woodbridge	Home	3:45

## JV & VARSITY WRESTLING

JANUARY				
18	Tues.	Colonia	Away	5:30/7:00
20	Thurs.	Kittatinny	Away	5:30/7:00
22	Sat.	Old Bridge	Away	5:30/7:00
24	Mon.	Brick Memorial	Home	5:30/7:00
26	Wed.	Monroe Township	Home	6:00/7:30
29	Sat.	High Point	Home	11:30/1:00
FEBRUARY				
4	Fri.	GMC Tournament	Away	
5	Sat.	GMC Tournament	Away	
9	Wed.	Delaware Valley	Away	5:30/7:00
15		Team Sectionals		
17		Team Sectionals		
19		Team Sectionals		
25		Districts	Home	
26		Districts	Home	
MARCH				
4		Regions		
5		Regions		
11		State Championships		
12		State Championships		
13		State Championships		

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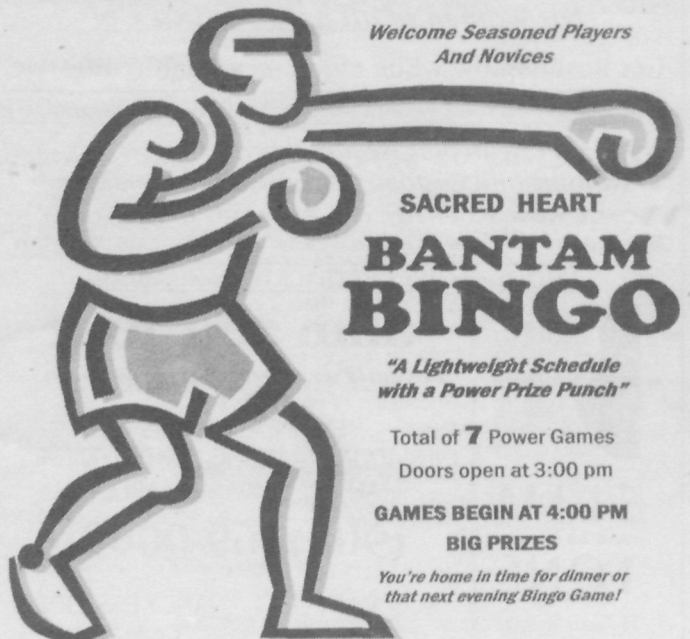
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## SCHOOL BOARD *Briefs*

Below are some of the notes from last month's Board of Education Curriculum meeting, which are held once a month in the second floor conference room at the Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave. The next meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 31. The public is invited to attend.

Kaye Crown and Charles Ford presented information from the Science Department which describes changes they would like to make in the grades 9-12 curriculum. Major points are to eliminate IPS (503) because of a mismatch between the math difficulty level and the course in which the students are currently enrolled; to revise Science Interactions (502) to strengthen alignment to NJCCCS and search for a new textbook; to eliminate STS (552) and to create a non-math intensive physics course for seniors who do not take pre-calculus in their senior year to replace 552.

**Calculus Course**—Crown introduced the need for a regular calculus course in addition to the current AP and honors calculus courses. There are currently 74 students in the calculus program. This course would meet the needs of students who want to continue in the standard math sequence, but do not want to take an honors or AP level course. It would necessitate purchasing additional textbooks.

**New Jersey City University Course**—Crown told the committee that Annemarie Stoeckel requested the use of Roosevelt School as an off-campus location for a graduate-level course in technology for New Jersey City University. This would be a follow-up course to the one she is currently teaching. The committee was supportive as long as there was no cost to the BOE.

**Technology Update**—Russ Mattoon informed the committee that upgrades and patches have been completed on all computers. This will limit the number of viruses and bugs affecting the computers. The inventory of computers and telephones is completed as well as printers and faxes, to comply with the BOE policy and 14 technology sessions of 1½ hours in length have been scheduled so teachers can accrue hours for professional development, credit on the salary guide and/or hours toward a Tech 2000 computer.

**World Language Trip**—Crown introduced the request from the World Language department for an overnight trip to Costa Rica. Anthony Encinas presented details about the trip. There were questions about the educational value and the expense of the trip. Encinas was very positive that fundraising could be done to defray some of the costs. The committee was supportive with the caveat that there be no cost to the BOE and that no child be denied a chance to take the trip because of its cost. A resolution will be presented to the BOE.

### Other Discussions

- The committee was asked about the status of the chorus trip and informed it had not gotten to the Central Office level.

- A parent questioned whether the writing section of the PSAT was given in the school-sponsored test. She was informed that we would get the information from Mr. Beegle.

- A parent asked about the CRTs and how the results were used. She was informed that they were used to adjust instruction and to keep teachers moving through the material.

- A parent suggested that the detailed information from Accelerated Math might be useful for parents to help their students during the summer.

**SAT Update**—Crown updated the committee on the status of the SAT prep classes.

**Summer school**—26 students enrolled; Sept. 15-Oct. 6—42 students enrolled; Oct. 13-Dec. 1—33 students

enrolled; Jan. 26-March 9, 2005—44 students enrolled. The classes are attended by a mixture of all grade levels, 9-12.

**Science Update**—Crown updated the committee of the science curriculum review. The high school science course changes are proceeding through the BOE approval chain and will be reflected in the course guide for 2005-2006. Information is being gathered from teachers in grades K-8, which will be integrated into curriculum changes. The NJCCCS are being used as a guide to draft a revised curriculum. The next steps will involve textbook reviews.

**Technology Update**—Mrs. Gaub and Mr. Beegle have been working to develop an interim report that meets the needs of the high school and that interfaces with MMS. The comments on the interims can be both positive and negative. Parents/guardians will receive one sheet of paper with all the comments rather than a separate sheet for each course. It was suggested that Mattoon look into emailing the interim rather than mailing it.

The wireless connections at schools with long hallways need to be adjusted. This involves getting into the ceilings and cannot be done when school is in session. Mattoon's staff is prepared to make the adjustments over winter break in any buildings that are open during that time. If a building is not open during the break, arrangements will be made to make the adjustments at another time.

There has been a problem with the internet filtering structure. The district has 500 licenses, but they are all in use by 9 a.m. After several days of research, Mr. Mattoon discovered that once a workstation is logged on, it uses a license even though the user has logged off. The remedy for the problem is to reset the filter periodically during the day. The resetting takes about three seconds and will not affect workstations that are logged into the internet. They will try to rectify the problem by resetting the filter three times a day. They will continue to monitor the situation and make further adjustments as necessary.

**Chorus Trip**—Crown introduced the request from the Music Department for an overnight trip to Disney World in Florida. Mr. Murray and Ms. Panuzzo informed the committee that the performances require high professional standards for a paying audience, which will be a new experience for the students. The last trip was in 1999 and was very successful. This trip will take place during the spring break and will require no substitutes. Students will not miss any class time and the trip will be at no cost to the BOE. The cost will be approximately \$850, which will be supported through student fundraising. The committee was supportive of the trip.

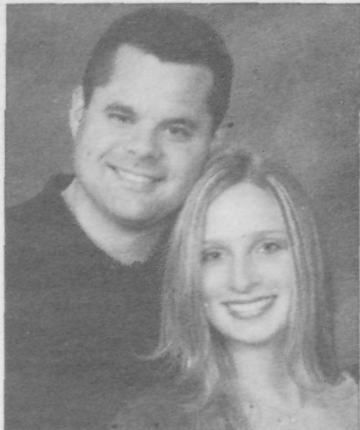
## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Jaime Johnson and Eugene Golda, Jr. Announce Their Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Square of South Plainfield proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaime Ann Johnson to Eugene Anthony Golda, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Anthony Golda, Sr. of Roselle.

Jaime is a 1994 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She graduated from Seton Hall University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Jaime is employed as a registered nurse.

Eugene is a 1990 graduate of Roselle Catholic High School. In 1994 he graduated from Kean University with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Communications. He is employed as an associate director/reporter in sports



Jaime Johnson and Eugene Golda, Jr. television.

The couple will be married July 2005.

### Edwin Johnson and Rhoda Myers are Wed



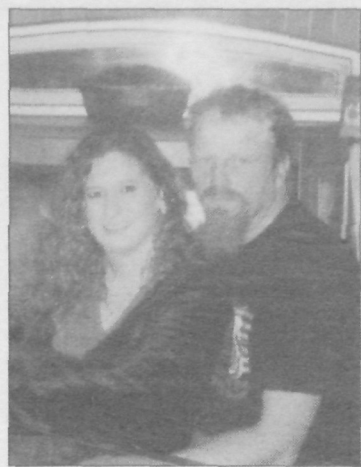
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Square of South Plainfield are proud to announce the recent marriage of their son Edwin J. Johnson to Rhoda J. Myers, daughter of Rita Myers of Florida and the late Dr. James Myers.

Ed graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1990. After attending Middlesex County College, he served in the United States Navy. He is employed as a Florida State Trooper.

Rhoda graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Arts in Jazz Vocal Performance. She is employed by Howl at the Moon, a nightclub on the beach in Fort Lauderdale, as a singer/musician.

The newlyweds reside in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



Melissa Nicole and Michael Joseph Eustice, Sr.

### Melissa Straz and Michael Eustice Announce Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Straz of Readington Township are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Nicole, to Michael Joseph Eustice, Sr., formerly of South Plainfield.

A June 2006 wedding is planned.

### Graziano Named to Dean's List

Shelly Graziano has been named to the Dean's List at Rutgers University, Cook College Campus.

Graziano is currently an animal science major in conjunction with a minor in education. She is planning on a five-year masters degree in education in hopes of one day being a biology teacher.

Graziano is the daughter of Alan and Lee Ann Graziano.

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

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# Sports

## Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter

### No. 1 Tigers Beat No. 2 Hunterdon Central

In a typical showdown between the number one and number two teams in the *Courier News* top ten, the number one Tigers came through with a big win 34-28 at a packed house at South Plainfield High School. As it usually goes with two top teams competing against each other, it came down to the last match of the night.

With the matches starting at the 152 weight, Mike Jakubik (145) had to wait his turn for the match to come down to him. All he had to do was win a simple decision, but Jakubik took

it one step further scoring a 17-4 major decision to secure the Tiger victory. There were many heroes in this match, including John Martin (171) filling in for Mark Wagner, who had the flu. He did a great job not giving up bonus points in losing an 8-4 decision. Kevin Crilley (189) came through with a big pin over Ben Silber. Silber defeated Crilley in overtime at the Hunterdon Tournament.

Rob Maistickle (215) also scored a huge pin to put the Tigers back into the match. Don't forget Preston

Johnson, a heavyweight who only weighs 190 pounds, gave Pete Reid all he could handle before getting pinned. Reid was 80 pounds heavier than Johnson, who still gave him a match. Central, who forfeited to Patrick Hunter (103) and to Jimmy Conroy at 119, tried to take away the Tiger momentum, but that only worked for two matches, when Ed McCray (135) came out and scored a huge pin at 1:14 to put the Tigers back into the lead. That set the table for Mike (The Hammer) Jakubik. Great job!

### Tigers Defeat East Brunswick and Sayreville

The Tiger Wrestling Team defeated East Brunswick 43 to 21 last Wednesday and knocked off undefeated Sayreville 43-12 on Friday night in Sayreville. The Tigers did not look like the number one rated area team against East Brunswick even though the Tigers started the match with four straight pins and a tech fall. With a 29-6 lead the Tigers lost four of the next six matches and still came home with the win.

Senior Rob Maistickle (215) got the Tigers going with a pin at 1:19 over Rob Montalbano. The Tigers forfeited in heavyweight. Patrick Hunter (103) kept things going with a fall over Matt Ackerman at 3:23. Billy Ashnault kept the attack going with a fall over Chris Williams at 2:35. Jimmy Conroy (119) had little trouble with Kevin Buscund scoring the fall in 0:49. Viet Vo (125) followed with a tech-fall at 5:09. The next Tiger win came at 140

with Pete DeAndrea winning a 9-4 decision over Fabian Pleasant. Mike Jakubik (145) was down early in the match but battled back for a 7-6 decision over Gary Marosy. Mark Wagner (171) then won by decision over Dave Ruffner 5-4 to put the Tigers back on the winning track. Kevin Crilley closed the show with a fall over Dave Schubeth at 1:19.

The Tigers looked like the number one team on Friday night against undefeated Sayreville. With the match starting at 125, Viet Vo got the Tigers going with a 7-2 decision over Steve Witkowski. Nick Dorey (130), fell behind early but came charging back to take a 10-6 decision over Sean Sullivan. Ed McCray (135) gave the Tigers a 12 point lead when he pinned George Kusanovich in 36 seconds. Pete DeAndrea kept things going with a 9-2 decision over Scott Poore. Senior Nick Curcio (152) added to the

Tiger lead when he won by decision 5-3 over Mike Knight. Paul Ritchey (160) then defeated Amory Alleyne 7-3. Sam Martin (171) won by decision 7-3 over Mike Vilardi. Rob Maistickle (215) defeated Peter Brereton 4-2. Patrick Hunter pinned Kevin Witkowski at 1:39. Billy Ashnault (112) won by forfeit and Jimmy Conroy won by major decision 10-1 over Eric Tsang.

### Tiger's Rough Up Nutley

With three matches in four days the Tigers traveled north and gave Nutley a 57-15 spanking. Winning matches for the Tigers were Patrick Hunter, Billy Ashnault, Jimmy Conroy and Viet Vo, all winning by fall.

Peter DeAndrea, Nick Curcio, Johnnie Martin, Kevin Crilley and Rob Maistickle all won by fall. Ed McCray won by forfeit.

### Middle School Beat Rival Kenilworth

The South Plainfield Middle School Wrestlers defeated league rivals Kenilworth 44-34 in thrilling fashion, by charging back after trailing 34-17 with five bouts remaining.

Fifth grader Tyler Hunt (70) got the Tigers going when he score a 14-0 major decision.

Richie Szeliga (75) followed with a 14-1 major decision. Nick Heilmann (85) kept thing rolling with a 6-0 decision. John Wylam (95) got the first Tiger fall at 1:05. The Tiger lost the next five matches but came roaring back with a fall by Nick Vallone (133) at 1:40. Justin Smith (141) also had a

big pin at 1:30. JJ DeLillo (151) new to SP wrestling came through with a big pin at 1:43 to set the stage for Jonathan Conroy (176) who faced Travis Tilts. Conroy never beat Dilts until now. Conroy won 11-7. Billy Whitefleet, heavyweight, came through with a big pin to secure the Tiger victory.

The Middle School also defeated Flemington 61-18 before a nice crowd before the high school match. Winning matches for the Tigers were Tyler Hunt (70), Richie Szeliga (75), Nick Heilmann (85), Ryan Sacco (90), John Wylam (95), Nick Pauls (100), Joe Vetuschi (110), Mike Wagner (115), Joel Santos (121), Nick Vallone (126), JJ Delillo (142) and Jonathan Conroy (177).

### Tigers Place in PA Tournament

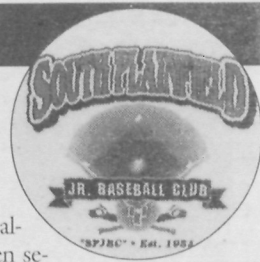
Middle School wrestlers travelled to Council Rock, Pa. for the annual Council Rock Classic.

Claiming titles were Ryan Sacco (90), Nick Heilmann (85) and Jonathan Conroy (165). Second place went to Ryan Billich, Eric Niemeyer, Bacilio

Alvarado, John Wylam, Nick Pauls and Nick Vallone. Third place went to Billy Whitefleet, Kyle Hughes, Joe Gonzalez, Mike Wagner and Corey Hay. Fourth place went to Randy Jakubik, Richie Szeliga, Joey Vetuschi, Joel Santos and Justin Smith.

By Lee Flanagan

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



This weekend will be the last opportunity to sign-up your child, seven- to 17-years-old for the 2005 season. We will conduct sign-ups on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 13 and 14 from 6-9 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 this week at the SPJBC clubhouse.

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

This is a reminder to everyone: you must have your Rutgers certification and must be a member of the club in good standing to manage and coach for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. The Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Rutgers certification course on Feb. 16. Please call Mike English at the PAL for further details.

All umpires are being asked to attend the opening training session on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the SPJBC clubhouse. All umpires must attend this session. Call Larry Hughes at (908) 561-9314 if you have any questions concerning umpires.

There will be a free clinic for girls and boys ages 10 and up on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Edison. Former New York Yankee Steve Balboni will be present to cover a wide variety of issues. Balboni is currently the hitting coach for the St. Louis Cardinals organization. Call (732) 287-5556 for more details.

Next week we will be announcing our Commissioner and Lifetime Member award winners for the 2005 season in the *Observer*. These award winners have already been selected, but still need to be contacted.

ners have already been selected, but still need to be contacted.

A big thank you goes out to the individuals supporting our efforts at the SPJBC. Individuals who 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 that 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 new Mercedes. Tickets are available from Nancy Salici or any Executive Board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets at (908) 754-2090.

### 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.

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 show up at Sacred Heart gymnasium to register at 1 p.m.

### Ponytail Registration

Registration for the 2005 Ponytail Softball season is open to all South Plainfield resident girls ages 8-13 as of Oct. 1, 2004. All games are played at Ponytail Park. The fee is \$35 per participant and there are no refunds.

Registration for the 2005 Ponytail Softball season ends March 7.

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 30 - 10:45 - 12:00 Noon

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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 Auxiliary 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

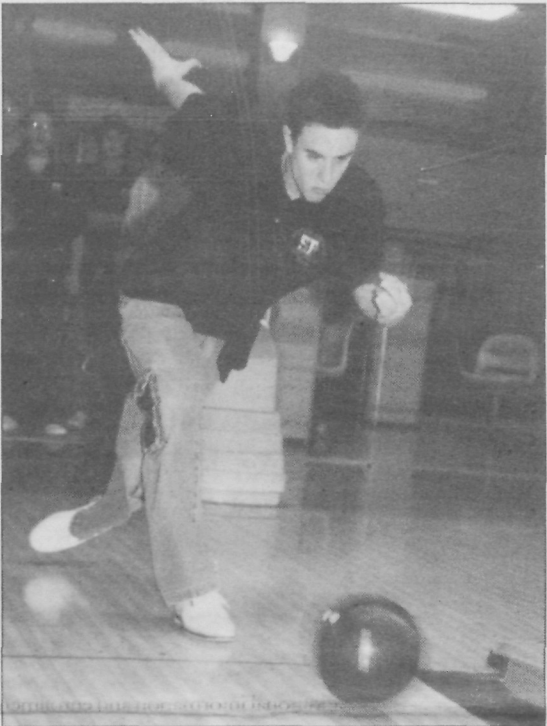
SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

## Tiger Bowlers Stun #6 State Ranked Woodbridge

South Plainfield	996	985	1043	3024
Woodbridge	978	925	1081	2984

The Boys' Bowling Team stunned number six state ranked Woodbridge, delaying the Barons from celebrating their 1000<sup>th</sup> win in their bowling program. The Tigers set a blistering pace as they topped the 3,000 barrier for the third time this season. Leading the upset were George Kleinknecht with games of 244 and 200 for a 643 high set, Vinnie Genova 236-213-637 set, Matt Boley 207-204-600 set, Shawn Ferguson 207-196-197-600 set and rookie freshman Ryan Pauls with a third game of 224 and 544 set.



Shawn Ferguson bowls against Woodbridge.

The Tigers bolted out of the starting gate, winning the first two games and matched Woodbridge's fierce strike parade rally in the third game to seal the victory.

South Plainfield	953	890	830	2673
South Brunswick	845	874	987	2806
Middlesex	834	951	902	2687

In tri-match action, the Tigers suffered a third game meltdown and let two probable wins dribble away, settling for a tie with the Vikings of South Brunswick and letting the Bluejays of Middlesex escape with a 14-pin victory. Matt Boley earned scoring honors with a 225-255-622 set. George Kleinknecht followed with games of 198-191-542 set. Chipping in were Shawn Ferguson 201, Brett Morris 184, Bobby Parello 167 and Chris Esposito 161. The Tigers were not at full strength as high scoring Vinnie Genova was missing from the lineup.

South Plainfield	930	892	810	2632
North Brunswick	964	945	914	2823

After a close first game, the Tigers were not really at the top of their game as the Raiders pulled steadily away for a three-game sweep and a 4-0 shutout victory.

Matt Boley had the high game of 205 and 573 set. Vin Genova 200-545 set, Nick Grego 188-507 set and George Kleinknecht's 204 game were the only other bright spots on an unusually low scoring day.

South Plainfield	998	988	955	2941
Colonia	1000	1099	1000	3099

Despite Matt Boley who blasted the pins with games of 230-242-230 for an outstanding 702 set and teammate Vinnie Genova's 212-238-226 and 676 set, the Tigers fell to a Colonia squad that bowled its highest season series. The Patriots received a large boost in the first game, winning a two-pin squeaker that carried them on for the rest of the match. Shawn Ferguson added 190-183-179-552 set.

## Lady Tigers Improving, But Fall to #1 Woodbridge

South Plainfield	748	726	755	2279
Woodbridge	1006	1001	935	2942

The Lady Tigers rolled their best series of the season, but fell to Woodbridge, the number one ranked team in the state. Beverly Jamieson's 180 game and 514 high set led the green and white. Teammate Kim Gaub added a 182 high game while Anna Ferrer posted a 154. Solid efforts were also turned in by Lindsay Hunsicker, Angelique Rualo and Phuong Trinh.

South Plainfield	668	696	719	2103
South Brunswick	748	830	708	2286
Middlesex	608	628	508	1744

Beverly Jamieson rolled games of 170-170-167-507 set to take scoring honors for the Tigers as they shut out Middlesex, but suffered a 3-1 setback to a strong South Brunswick team. The Tigers fell way behind in the first two games to the Vikings but managed to slip by in the third games on the strength of Kim Gaub's 180 game. Freshman Katie Yon also chipped in with a 153 game.

South Plainfield	690	690	769	2149
North Brunswick	740	758	759	2257

The Tigers settled for a win in the third game by a slim 10-pin margin against a strong North Brunswick team. Angelique Rualo took scoring honors for the Tigers on games of 139-155-157 for a 451 set. Anna Ferrer rolled the high game of 184 and 445 set and Kim Gaub's 183 game and 447 set. Beverly Jamieson chipped in with a 157 game.

South Plainfield	770	785	635	2190
Colonia	805	877	812	2494

After a close first game, the Lady Tigers were no match for number 13 state ranked Colonia as the Patriots raced to a 4-0 shutout victory.

Beverly Jamieson had an outstanding day as she fired games of 183-203-165 for a big 551 set. Teammates Kim Gaub 176, Anna Ferrer 169 and Angelique Rualo 164 chipped in for Tigers.

junior journalist

Corner



## Tanvi Patel, Roosevelt School Third Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Pictured from left are Roosevelt School Principal Jacqueline Keogh, winner Tanvi Patel and teacher Mary Beth Boschen.

Tanvi Patel, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Her poem "What Becomes What" has won her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

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

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.

What Becomes What?

By Tanvi Patel

Does peanut butter become seanut butter in the sea?  
Does a popsicle become a copsicle when a cop eats a popsicle?  
Does a tower become a flower in half an hour?  
Does a truck become a duck when it gets hit by a hockey puck?  
Does someone starving become charming when they get food?  
Do you know, do I know?  
If we don't we'll just have to wait and see

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Toni Bronstein and Rob Richkus, representing the SPSHS Class of 1989, presented a donation to Project Graduation at last month's Board of Education Meeting. The SPSHS Class of 1989 was the first graduating class to enjoy Project Graduation, where students spend the evening of graduation in a safe and controlled environment with adult supervision and no alcohol. The evening is filled with food, games and dancing. Since introducing Project Graduation in South Plainfield, no graduate has been involved in an alcohol related accident. This year it is estimated that Project Graduation will cost \$20,000, which is funded entirely by donations and fundraisers.

## BOROUGHNOTES

### Council News

• More than 400 letters were received by Santa this year. Thanks to the volunteers at Recreation, all were answered.

• The pool will be installing starting blocks in the racing lanes. Early bird prices will be in effect until April 15. Pool membership cost remains the same as last year.

• Rural Metro has been covering the borough for the past month and so far officials are very happy with their services.

• The council voted to support Senate Bill S-1023 and Assembly Bill A-1835 which would require the state to reimburse municipalities for taxes they reimburse veterans who have been deemed 100 percent disabled.

• The borough has executed an inter-local agreement with Middlesex County for public health services for 2005 and the paint recycling program and for CFC recovery reimbursement program from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007.

• The borough has received a \$55,000 grant from the Middlesex County Downtown and Business Improvement Fund for improvements to Church St.

• Professional service contracts were awarded to CME Associates to prepare design specifications and perform construction administration for the Maple Ave. curb and sidewalk repairs at a cost of \$73,250; for design and surveying services for improvements to Church St. at a cost of \$32,950 and for design specifications for improvements to Durham Ave. at a cost of \$14,346.

• A contract with Electronic Risk Consultants was awarded for maintenance of the police department's mobile video equipment at a cost not to exceed \$4,712.

## police report

### Engine City Burglarized

On Jan. 5 a burglary and theft occurred at the Engine City Mechanic School at 901 Hadley Rd. The incident occurred between 5 p.m. and 6 a.m. The perpetrator damaged the door handles on two classrooms, then entered the rooms and removed two Dell laptops valued at \$1,000 each. There are no suspects at this time.

• On Jan. 2 Emanuel Perez, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for operating a stolen vehicle and driving without a license at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Borman Rd. resident reported that her vehicle had broken down in the parking lot at 165 Ryan St. on Nov. 28. When she went to retrieve the car on Jan. 2, the passenger side windows were smashed and a Sony amplifier valued at \$300 and a Rockford Fosgate subwoofer valued at \$300 had been taken from the trunk.

• On Jan. 3 a Geary Dr. resident reported the theft of \$15 in change, two rubber inserts for drinks, a brown leather wallet with \$20 inside, several PBA cards and his license from his unlocked vehicle

parked on Beverly Rd.

• A Delmore Ave. resident reported that the license plates had been taken off a car that he had junked in 1991. The victim recently received a parking summons under the old plates.

• Raceway Gas on W. 7th St. reported that two men asked for \$10 worth of gas and left without paying.

• On Jan. 4 Marwan Hassam Ismail, 25, of Colonia was arrested for exhibiting fraudulent documents for a driver's license and operating an unregistered vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Jan. 5 Roberto Daniel Spano, 47, of North Plainfield was arrested at the DMV for an exhibiting fraudulent passport and social security in order to obtain a drivers license.

• Red Lobster reported that two couples left without paying their bill. A license plate number was taken and the individuals contacted and they returned to pay their bill.

• On Jan. 6 Michael P. Strollo, 34, of Cambria, Pa. was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• J. H. Reid Contractors on Hamilton Blvd. reported that the padlock

on the gate was missing and a window on a bay door had been broken. Five impact air guns, an air chisel and air dye grinder valued at \$3,000 were also taken.

• On Jan. 8 Elaine's Hair & Nail Designs on Park Ave. reported that their shop had been entered and \$200 was taken from the cash register.

• An employee of ATA Karate on Maple Ave. reported several scratches on his driver's side door.

• On Jan. 10 Michael J. Badalato, 18, of Edison was arrested for using a fraudulent credit card at Footlocker on Oak Tree Ave. after driving away from the store. Passenger Belinda Monique Carroll, 22, of Edison was also arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• On Jan. 11 a Piscataway resident reported the theft of two money orders from her unlocked vehicle that she had just obtained at Quick Check on Sampton Ave.

### RESIDENTS BEWARE

Residents are reminded to not leave their vehicles running and unattended as their have been several vehicles stolen within the past few weeks.

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The Plainfield Animal Hospital, 2201 Park Ave., collected 600 pounds of pet food this holiday season and distributed it to the Plainfield Area Humane Society and Donna Barden, non-profit organizations dedicated to caring for unwanted pets.

"The spirit of the holiday season and generosity was truly overwhelming," stated Dr. Scott Linick, owner of the Animal Hospital. "We would like to thank everyone who donated food, for making life a little better for our less fortunate stray and unwanted furry friends."



## Law Encourages Tsunami Relief Contributions

The Internal Revenue Service alerted taxpayers who itemize deductions that they may claim on their 2004 tax returns charitable donations made during Jan. 2005 for relief of the victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

The new law enacted on Jan. 7 allows these donations to be deducted as if they were made on Dec. 31, 2004.

There are no extra forms to fill out or any additional burdens for taxpayers as long as you send your check by the end of the month, the donation will be treated just like it was still 2004.

The new law only allows for cash contributions, specifically for the relief of victims in areas affected by the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami in the Indian Ocean. The new law gives taxpayers the option of deducting the contributions on either their 2004 or 2005 returns, but not both.

The IRS advises taxpayers to be sure their contributions go to qualified charities. Taxpayers who have a specific charity in mind can make sure that it is a qualified charity by doing a search on [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Some organizations, such as churches or governments, may be qualified even though they are not listed on [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov). For information on groups involved in tsunami relief, donors can also look to the USAID site at: [http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia\\_near\\_east/tsunami/ngolist.html](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami/ngolist.html) or USA Freedom Corps at <http://www.usafree.comcorps.gov>.

When donors make contributions to assist the victims, they should notate their records to that effect. Donors may want to notate the memo field of checks they send that it is a contribution to help tsunami victims.

## LEGAL NOTICES

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 repair the culvert, install decorative lighting and install new curbing and sidewalks along Church 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 \$32,950.00; and

WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without

competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a); and

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in the Grant Fund, account # G-02-41-736-001-301.

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 at a cost not to exceed \$32,950.00.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$40.00 January 14, 2005

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Robert Doyle requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a patio enclosure. Proposed patio enclosure lacks 20' required rear setback, 18' being proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located at 230 Arlington Avenue on Block 342, Lot 9.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 27, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 January 14, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Jon E. Ross requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a second story addition. Proposed 38.4' x 28.4' second story addition lacks required 8' side setback, 5.5' being proposed; and any other variances that may be required, said property being located at 142 Hudson Street on Block 139, Lot 13 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 27, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

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## Obituaries

### Barbara Anne (Force) Levinson, 60

Barbara Anne (Force) Levinson died suddenly on Friday, Jan. 7 at her home.

Barbara was born in Rahway and grew up in Garwood and Plainfield. She has lived in South Plainfield for the past 23 years.

Her early education was at the Timothy Christian School in Piscataway. She graduated from Plainfield High School in 1962. After high school, she attended the Word of Life Christian College in Shrun, NY and the DeVry Institute in North Brunswick, where she earned her Associates Degree in Business Administration.

For many years, Barbara had been the personal secretary to Dr. Zwadsky, an Orthopedic Surgeon in the New Brunswick Area. The doctor retired in 1997 and Barbara then worked for the next five years as an administrative assistant for the Mazda Corp. in Somerset. She retired two years ago.

Barbara was a long time member of the Hydewood Park Baptist Church in North Plainfield where she formerly taught the Pioneer Girls Club and Sunday School. When not teaching the Church groups, Barbara could always be found caring for the kids in the church's nursery.

In addition to the pride she had in her church, Barbara enjoyed decorating and caring for her home.

She leaves a daughter, Laura B. Levinson of South Plainfield; a brother Gary Force of Woodbridge; a very dear cousin, Lynn deBrigard of Rahway; her nieces and nephews, Deborah Force of South Plainfield, USA Staff Sgt. Matthew Force, presently stationed in Ga. and Jonathan, Peter and Stephen Force all of Pa. and her great nieces and nephews Gary Gerlach, Joanne, Zachary and Estephano Force.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made in her memory to a Tsunami Relief Charity of your choice.



Barbara Ann Levinson

in South Plainfield 34 years ago

An avid reader, Rose enjoyed her trips to Atlantic City. She was a former member of St. Bernard's Rosary Altar Society in Plainfield and had worked as a security guard for Stern's department store in Middlesex Mall in South Plainfield for 10 years.

Rose was especially devoted to her family.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Nicholas J., Sr.; two daughters, Sandra Swinick and her husband John of Bridgewater and Diane Wolff and her husband Robert of Blairstown; a son, Nicholas J. DellaVentura Jr. and his wife Nancy of Saylorsburg, Pa.; a sister, Mary Papa and her husband Nicholas of Fanwood and a brother, James Nardi and his wife Carol of Whiting.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Stephen Swinick and his wife Erica; Marlana Swinick, Vincent Wolff, Thomas Wolff, Robert Wolff and Keith Wolff.

### Rauda "Rod" G. Schell, 49

Rauda "Rod" G. Schell died on Wednesday, Jan. 5 in Somerset.

Born in Staten Island, he had been residing in East Brunswick since the age of fourteen.

He had been a truck driver for Select Enterprises and previously Minimax Trucking, both of Edison, for the past 22 years.

He was also a member of the Edison Light Cruisers Car Club.

Surviving are his fiancée, Debra Schuster; a daughter, MaryJo Schell; a stepdaughter, Victoria Schuster; his mother, Joan Pearl; a sister, Liz Schaffhauser and two brothers, Charlie and David Pearl.

### Paul J. Bushman, Sr, 91

Paul J. Bushman, Sr. died on Friday, Jan. 7 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. Bushman grew up in North Plainfield. He had resided in North Plainfield and in Watchung before returning to North Plainfield, where he resided until the early 1980's, when he settled to South Plainfield.

A self-employed carpenter by trade, he worked as a sub-contractor for various construction companies in the central New Jersey area for most of his life before retiring.

Mr. Bushman was a piano player, a fisherman and had a love for the horse track and playing cards with his family.

His wife, Dorothy "Dot" Bushman, died in 1981.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Lee and Harry Biles of South Plainfield; a son, Paul J. Bushman, Jr. of Washington; a sister, Helen Lombardi of South Plainfield and two brothers, Joe of Florida and Gary Bushman of Forked River.

Also surviving are his three grandchildren, Tammy Welch, Colleen Kolvites, and Sam Bushman and three great-grandchildren, Kim and Adam Kolvites and Shawn Bushman.

### Michael "Frank" Franklin Stefanek, 68

Michael "Frank" Franklin Stefanek died on Dec. 30 at his home in Homosassa, Fla.

Frank was a native of New Jersey and moved to Florida 15 years ago from South Plainfield.

He was the owner of E Stefanek Roofing of South Plainfield before joining H.G. Edwards & Co. of Summit as an installer.

He served in the United States Marine Corps and was the recipient of two good conduct medals.

Frank was a "C" League coach for the South Plainfield Little League Baseball. He was an avid fisherman and loved to paint sketches.

He also helped organize a support group for paraplegic and quadriplegics and their families in the state of Florida. He was a Life Member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

His wife, Carol Ann Stefanek, brothers, Bruno, Bob and sister Irene, have predeceased him.

Surviving are his daughter, Pamela Stefanek and son Glen Stefanek, both of the South Plainfield; two sisters, Dorothy Brant of Chatham and Elenore Smith of Scotch Plains and three brothers, John of Ohio, Theodore of Arizona and Edward of the Philippines.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation, 500 Morris Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081 would be appreciated.

### Lida B. Guzzetti, 83

Lida B. Guzzetti died Tuesday, Dec. 11 at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Mt. Kisco, NY, she lived in South Plainfield, Plainfield and then Dunellen, before moving to Watchung 33 years ago.

A longtime member of the Cedarcroft Bible Chapel in South Plainfield (formerly Grove Street Chapel in North Plainfield), she served the Lord in many capacities. She served at the Chapel as a Sunday school teacher, Ladies Bible Study leader and with the responsibilities of an Elder's wife. She was secretary of Christian Missions in Many Lands in Spring Lake; secretary of the Miracle Book Club in Dunellen and served as a missionary house parent at the Morrison Academy in Taichung, Taiwan. She

was surrogate parent to missionary children Kingsley Baehr, Betty Baehr Lopez and James Tidmarsh.

She was predeceased by her first husband, Robert A. Baehr.

She is survived by her husband, Alfred J. Guzzetti; a son, John Baehr of Edison; a sister, Eva Sewall of Plainfield; three nieces, Joan L'Abbe of San Diego, Calif., Faye Georgiades of Ontario, Canada and Lorraine Williams of Homer, AK; a stepdaughter, Helen Hershkowitz of Brant Beach; a stepson, John Guzzetti of Boise, Idaho; 10 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services are under the arrangement of Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave. in Fanwood. Interment will be Friday at Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains. The procession will leave from the funeral home on Friday at 10:30 a.m. for the 11 a.m. committal service at Hillside Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cedarcroft Bible Chapel for missionary work.

### Salvatore Louis Onorato, 82

Salvatore Louis Onorato died on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at Holiday City Care Center in Toms River.

Born in the Bronx, Lou had resided in Piscataway from 1964 until 1991 when he and his wife settled in Holiday Heights in Toms River.

A veteran of the United States Army, he served during WWII as a Private First Class with the infantry division. Lou was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions during combat in Biche, France. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #7504 in Piscataway where he was an active member and served as post commander from 1969 to 1975.

A tool maker by trade, he had been employed by White Tool Company in Kenilworth before his retirement in 1986. Prior to White, Lou worked for Johnson & Johnson in Raritan in the same capacity. In addition, Lou taught machine shop for the Middlesex County Vocational Technical School system's night school. He taught one night in East Brunswick and a second night in Piscataway.

He is also a former member of the COPO, the Catholic One Parent Or-

ganization of Hopelawn.

His first wife, Emily, died in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Anne P. (Cotignola), two daughters and their husbands, Lillian and Fred Copeland of South Carolina and Debra and Robert Peterson of South Plainfield; a son and his wife, Louis and Linda Onorato of Andover, NJ; two step sons, David and Michael Cotignola, both of South Plainfield and a brother, Richard of Florida.

Also surviving are three grandchildren, five step grandchildren, two great grandchildren and five step great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 9:15 a.m. in the McCriskin Home Funeral on Plainfield Ave. followed by a 10 a.m. funeral mass in Sacred Heart RC Church.

Entombment will follow in Woodbridge Memorial Garden in Woodbridge.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

### Angela "Gail" R. (Sommer) Hottenstein, 84

Angela "Gail" R. (Sommer) Hottenstein died Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the Highlands Nursing Home in Edison.

Born in North Hampton, Pa., she moved to South Plainfield with her husband in 1946.

Mrs. Hottenstein was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield. She was employed at one time with Paul's Dry Cleaners in South Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her siblings, Louis Sommer, Joe Sommer, Ida Schweitzer, Johanna Blume and Pauline Blume.

Surviving are her loving husband of 64 years, Robert A. Hottenstein; two sisters, Mary Schaffer and Minnie Wexler and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are on Friday, Jan. 14 at 10:30 a.m. from the South Plainfield Funeral Home on Plainfield Ave., followed by an 11 a.m. funeral liturgy at Sacred Heart R.C. Church.

Entombment will be in the Holy Redeemer Mausoleum in South Plainfield.

Visitation hours are Friday, Jan. 15 from 9-10:30 a.m.

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