

# South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

JANUARY 28, 2005



Members of the South Plainfield Business Association listen to Rob Russo, engineer at CME, explain the improvements planned for Hamilton Blvd.

## Business Leaders Get Hamilton Blvd. Update

More than 50 members of the South Plainfield Business Association attended last week's meeting at Sherban's Diner to hear special guest Bob Russo, engineer from CME, speak about the plans for the upcoming construction on Hamilton Blvd.

Plans call for the project to be

completed in two phases. The first phase covers New Market Ave. to Durham Ave. During the construction phase motorists will encounter detours and delays at various sections depending on where construction is taking place.

Russo explained what the plan for

the first phase entails. The first thing on the schedule will be the installation of lights at Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Ave., a section that always endures heavy truck traffic. These lights will be synchronized to help truck traffic enter and leave both Ryan St. and St.

(Continued on page 7)

## Will He Stay Or Will He Go?

### Rosado Waits for Word on New Job

Is Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado about to hand in his resignation? The question has been floating all over town during the past week and no one will give us a definite answer at this time.

Last week, just prior to presstime, the *Observer* received several phone calls saying that Dr. Rosado had already resigned. As is our policy, we made several inquiries in an attempt to confirm or contradict the rumor. School Board President Pio Pennisi was contacted and told us that in fact, Dr. Rosado had not resigned, but would not deny that he was being interviewed by another district and may be leaving.

On Monday, the Rockaway Township Board of Education website posted an announcement that Dr. Rosado was one of two final candidates in their search for a new superintendent. According to their website, he has been invited to meet the public at a special meeting next Thursday and they will be asked to give their feedback. A final decision will be made on Feb. 9.

Once again we reached out to Board President Pennisi who repeated that Dr. Rosado is still South Plainfield's superintendent and continues to work with the board on next year's budget and all other school related matters.

Rosado was hired in February of 2003 at a salary of \$140,000. Previously he served as superintendent in Verona. Last January the board rescinded his contract after one year and gave him a new contract which was supposed to expire in 2008. The new contract also included raises in January and July of 2004, bringing his salary up to the present \$154,350. The board also added that they were very pleased with his performance his first year.

Shortly afterward, Rosado received a lot of criticism from residents on quotes attributed to him in a *New York Times* article about South Plainfield. He weathered that crisis only to be followed with the discovery of budget shortfalls in this year's school budget, which left the district \$1.8M in the red. The shortfalls were followed by the resignation of Board Administrator Dr. Edward Isbicki on Sept. 15. Dr. Rosado has been forced to deal with these shortfalls by making hard decisions on what to cut and how to save money. Schools are no longer open on weekends, the janitorial staff has been cut as well as several programs throughout the district. On Oct. 6 the board hired Robert Davis as an interim business administrator at a cost of \$500 per day.

Under Dr. Rosado, the district test scores have been on the rise and an extensive SAT program has been put in effect this past year.

## CVS Robbed At Gunpoint

The CVS Store on Oak Tree Rd. was robbed last Saturday evening during the blizzard.

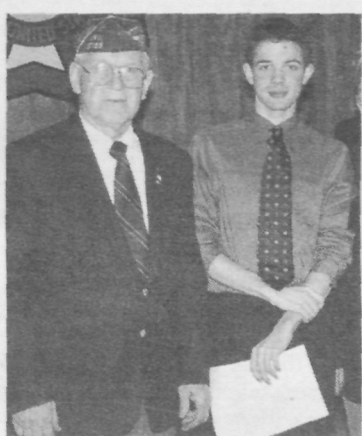
The suspect, described as a white male, approximately 18 years of age, wearing a dark fluffy coat and gloves, entered the store wearing a triangle shaped mask over the lower half of his face. He ordered the store employee to open the safe and give him Percocet. When the employee told the suspect she could not open the safe, he showed her what appeared to be the handle of a handgun in his waistband, then grabbed two prescriptions which had been previously filled and were waiting for pick-up. He then fled from the store.

Footprints in the snow determined that the suspect ran across Oak Tree Rd. behind the office buildings at the 900 Oak Tree Rd. complex, then along the railroad tracks and onto Park Ave. The footprints ended on the roadway and the suspect may have been picked up by a vehicle.

## VFW Essay Contest Winners Announced



VFW essay contest middle school winner Jeannine DeAndrea (left), and high school winners Steven Tietjen with Commander Metro Kopchek (center) and Krystal Williams with Past Commander Rudy Poczak.



Members of the VFW Post #6763 proudly presented their annual "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriot Pin" prizes to winning high school and middle school students at ceremonies held last Friday.

Rudy Poczak and Post Commander Metro Kopchak made the presentations while parents, teachers and friends looked on with pride.

High school students not only had to write an essay, they had to make a recording of it as part of their requirement. Most students find that making a recording is much more difficult and challenging than just writing an essay.

An essay contest is one of the ways the VFW hopes to keep the memories of the veterans alive. South Plainfield is a very patriotic town, but members of the VFW are still stung by the fact that the schools were open on Veterans Day this year. They attended the board meeting and expressed their

displeasure over that fact and were told that it would be a holiday in the future.

Poczak reminded everyone that the winning essays were written by stu-

dents ages 17 and 18 years old; which is the age of many of the servicemen who now in Iraq, serving and dying for their country.

(Continued on page 7)

## Jamieson Earns Bronze Medal

Congratulations to junior Beverly Jamieson who won a bronze medal in the GMC Individual Bowling Championships at Carolier Lanes.

Bev's 221 and 201 games boosted her pinfall to 1129, which amounts to over a 188 average for six games. Out of an original starting field of 162 bowlers, Beverly's achievements put her in medal winning 10<sup>th</sup> position. Freshman Nicole Caggiano of Woodbridge won the girls' competition. Matt Boley's 1137 six game total placed him 20<sup>th</sup> in a field comprised of 199 bowlers. Senior Dan Knopf of North Brunswick won the boys' crown.



SPHS Junior Beverly Jamieson

### It's Snow Problem!

## Snow Cancels Weekend Events

### Knights Free- Throw Contest

The Knights of Columbus free-throw contest scheduled to be held last Sunday was cancelled due to snow. The event has been rescheduled for Sunday, Jan. 30, at Sacred Heart School, 2 to 6 p.m.

### Education Found. Annual Art Auction

The South Plainfield Education Foundation Art Auction originally slated for Jan. 22 has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 11 due to last week's blizzard.

The event will be held at SPHS. Preview takes place 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the door.

### Fire Dept. Wine- Beer-Spirit Tasting

The Volunteer Fire Dept. Wine-Beer-Spirit Tasting planned for Jan. 22 was postponed due to snow and will be rescheduled. A date has not yet been set for the event. Watch the *Observer* for updates.



## 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
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.

### planning board

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

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

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

### zoning board of adjustment

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

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

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

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Feb. 8, March 8 and April 5

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

### taxpayers advisory group

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

### site plans sub-committee

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

Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19,

Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

### recreation commission

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

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

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

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### traffic safety advisory commission

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

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

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

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

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

January 31 (No meeting February) and March 21



SPHS students receive certificates at last week's BOE meeting for their efforts at the phonathon that raised \$14,000 for the South Plainfield Education Foundation. The monies generated from the annual event are earmarked for college scholarships and incentive programs for students. Also pictured here are Foundation President Marge Reedy and Vice President Eric Radell.

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Sacred Heart Home School Association, I would like to thank the following businesses for the continued generosity and support of our Longaberger Bingo/Raffle Fundraiser: Ann Gladys, Applebees, Ciccio's, Columbia Savings, Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC, Curves, D&M Trophy, Dr. Craig Menker DMD, Elaine's Hair and Nails, Flanagan's, Flynn and O'Hara, Frank A. Santoro, George St. Playhouse, Gertrude Hawk, Hall's Warehouse, Harris Structural Steel Company, Inc., JoAnn's Dance Studio, Lyn Rossi, McCriscin Home For Funerals, Meadowlands, Metuchen Glass, Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Fruit, Monte Sound Systems, NJ Devils, NJ Nets, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pinto Bros. Disposal, PJ Panzarella, Plainfield Animal Hospital, Plainfield Bed and Breakfast, PNC Bank, South Plainfield Democratic Organization, Spotlight on Dance, Stanley's Florist, State Theatre—New Brunswick, The Somerset Patriots, Trump Marina and the VFW.

Special thanks to all of the Sacred Heart families for their generous donations and to Father John Paul, Sister Nadine, faculty and staff for their support and guidance.

SINCERELY,  
KATHY THOMAS, HOME SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

To the Editor

It has come to my attention that because of this current school budget crisis all middle school athletic programs may be on the chopping block. It is beyond my comprehension that the children have to suffer because adults didn't do their job. That's the bottom line. Education—and sports are part of the education experience—is about the students, not

### 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.

about the adults.

The adults whom we have trusted to run our school system have made this mess, and if anyone has to suffer financial hardships it should be them and not the children. I have been a volunteer coach at the youth level for over 12 years in wrestling and was involved in Pop Warner football for five years. The middle school level is a very important step in the development of young athletes as it prepares them for the high school level.

Middle school is a tough age for kids and it is important for them to be involved in something. To take sports away from the kids who are willing to put the time and effort into them would make this bad situation a whole lot worse. Not all kids involved in sports will go on to the collegiate level after high school, but I know at

least 10 kids personally who have come out of our recreation wrestling program that have gone on to compete at the Division I level in college. Our BOE has a lot of tough decisions to make in the near future concerning this crisis. I just hope they remember who they work for—the children.

JIM CONROY

Dear Editor,

The South Plainfield Historical Society's sale of the 2005 Keepsake Calendar has come to an end. We would like to thank the following businesses for their sponsorship of the calendar: Oak Tree Farms, Cindy Michael Jewelers, Salerno Pizza, Sherban's Diner, Sportworld, John Cecchetti Insurance, Spotlight on Dance, Marsh Associates and Nicastro's Garage, Inc.

We would also like to give a special thanks to Maha and George Ibrahim of Oak Tree Farms for allowing us to sell the calendars and for handling the sale at their store. And finally to all of the people who bought a calendar, thank you. Without the support of the whole community we would not be able to continue to bring special programs, Town History Day, or offer our annual scholarship.

SINCERELY,  
THE CALENDAR COMMITTEE  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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Senator Barbara Buono and Margaret Pezzola were recognized during last week's Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Pezzola, with the help of Senator Buono, was the person who led the cause which led to the acquisition of the \$120,000 in special grant money for the World Language Program from the New Jersey Department of Treasury.

## Keep Kids Alive Drive 25<sup>®</sup> Campaign to Hold Forum

More than 30 communities have adopted the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25<sup>®</sup> Campaign, which is a safety campaign targeting observance of the residential speed limit. In most towns and cities across the country, the residential speed limit is 25 miles per hour, but not always enforced.

Most speeders in your neighborhood live in your neighborhood and it is not unusual for speeders to be clocked in excess of 40 mph, even 50 mph on occasion, in 25-mph zones.

A forum for Central Jersey communities will take place in February to introduce the campaign locally. Speaking at the forum will be Tom Everson, who started this program six years ago.

The campaign has already been implemented in almost 600 communities nationwide, including New Jersey.

The forum will be an opportunity for representatives of local communities who have already implemented the campaign to share their experiences with those interested in starting a campaign.

The forum will be held on Thursday, Feb. 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Faber Elementary School, High and Lehigh streets in Dunellen. There will be plenty of handouts and a question and answer session will take place.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Diana Doherty, coordinator, at (732) 418-8026.

## From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Assuming there hasn't been a massive climate change, it's cold outside. Now, you may be considering getting the fireplace going. If so, please don't use this newspaper to start the log burning. At least read the news from South Plainfield Library first.

We'll follow our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. In case you've been on an extended vacation, that means the programs will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. We'll also have our Books-N-Babies program for children up to ages three this morning at 10:30. (Please note that this program will not be held next Friday, Feb. 4.) If you have any questions, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Speaking of Miss Linda, she's conducting a program called "Valentines for Veterans" on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants can make valentines that will then be sent to veterans at the Lyons VA Hospital, or they can make valentines at home and bring them in by Feb. 8 to be sent out. All craft materials will be provided. This program is for children of all ages and no pre-registration is required.

We're between groups on the Video Circuit today; the next group will be available sometime next week. However, we've just added a new group from the Audiobook Circuit. Available titles for this period include *A Family Affair* by Rex Stout, *Falling Awake* by Jayne Ann Krentz, *The Wild Blue* by Stephen Ambrose, *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* by Helen Fielding, *Sunny Chandler's Return* by Sandra Brown, and, on CD, *Echoes* by Danielle Steel. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. This group will be available until the beginning of April.

We've got a couple of special programs coming up, and, for your convenience, they're being held on the same day. "Practical Crafting" instruc-

tor Ronda Wisniewski will lead a class on candle painting on Monday, Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Space is limited for this program, so participants must pre-register. There's a materials fee of \$2, payable upon registration. For more information, please call and ask for Millie Condon. In case of inclement weather, the class will be held on Monday, Feb. 28.

Speaking on inclement weather (and who isn't at this time of year?), we've made arrangements to have our weather-related closings announced on the radio. If the weather is bad, tune to WCTC (1450AM), WAWZ (99.1FM) or NJ101.5FM to find out if we're open.

Here's a couple of reminders for our computer users: First, if you run printouts from our Net computers or our word processors, please remember to pick up your pages at the main desk. Unclaimed printouts will be discarded after one day. So, please help us save on paper and ink costs and pick up what you've printed out. Second, please don't save files on the hard drives of our word processors. In the interests of privacy, such files should be printed out immediately, or saved on floppy discs. (Discs are available at the Circulation Desk for \$1 each.) In the interests of available space, unauthorized documents on the computer will be deleted on a regular basis. As always, we appreciate your assistance in these matters.

Finally, we have a couple of contests in progress. First, in observance of February as "Romance Month," we're having a drawing for five bundles of romance paperbacks. You can fill out an entry blank and drop it in the jar on the small display case. The winners will be drawn on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., winners must present a valid Library card when picking up their prize. Second, we're raffling off a basket of various goodies on Monday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for \$1 apiece at the circulation desk; proceeds will go towards costs for the new Library building. It may not be as big as the Powerball lottery, but feel free to take a chance.

That's about all for now. We'll have more news next week. Try to thaw out between now and then.

## Historical Society Elects 2005 Officers

The South Plainfield Historical Society elected the officers for the 2005 year: Dorothy Miele, president; Kathy Horvath, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; Sarah Miele, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; Mary Ann Veit, treasurer; Betty Lou Hamilton, recording secretary and Rich Hamilton, corresponding secretary.

If you want to find out what the society is planning, go to [www.geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety](http://www.geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety) where you'll find the latest news, view some photos, get scholarship information and more. Check it out.

Even though the 2005 Keepsake Calendar sale is over, you can still get one by mailing a check for \$9.50 (\$8 plus \$1.50 postage) to P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

**Upcoming events:** We will be holding an all-you-can-eat breakfast at the Elks Lodge 2298 on Sunday, Feb. 13, 8:30 to noon. On Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at the library, we'll host Rene Goodwin of the American Historical Theatre as "Eleanor Roosevelt: A New Woman." This free program is brought to you by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Volunteer Litter Clean-up Week Apr. 23-30

The big Spring Cleanup will hit the roadsides, streamsides, woods and parks on Saturday, Apr. 23, to be followed by the traditional pickup pizza picnic at Borough Hall.

All are invited to participate—with your scout group, church group, business, school club—or sign up individually. Let the Clean Communities Advisory Board know what spot in the borough you think needs work. We provide the bags and gloves, you provide the energy. Warm gently under spring sunshine and you get a cleaner town and a lot of fun.

Call the Clean Communications Coordinator at (908) 226-7621 for more information.



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**Sunday mornings 8am and 11am**

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Dunellen Knights of Columbus Building, Dunellen



# Around Town

## Silver Dreams Wendy's Fundraiser

January 27 and 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. Thursday and Friday, Jan. 27 and 28. 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. 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.

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

Join us for a fun and informative afternoon. For information, call (908) 755-2428 or logon to: [plainfieldanimalhosp.com](http://plainfieldanimalhosp.com). Please register by calling (908) 755-2428 by Jan. 28.

## 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 includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert with coffee or tea. Proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund. Please come out, have a delicious meal and support this worthy cause.

## Rainbow Academy Plans Open House

February 5

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an open house on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. Limited space available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten programs.

You are also invited to visit the center during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and information, visit their website at [www.rainbowacademy.com](http://www.rainbowacademy.com).

## Magician to Appear at Fundraiser

February 5

Magician and illusionist John Bundy and Morgan will be returning to the South Plainfield High School stage for one performance only on

## Send Us Your Around Town Events

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

## What's happening in FEBRUARY

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

## Senior Center EVENTS

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> February 24... Lifeline Screening March 7... Best of Branson at Hunterdon Hills April 7... Oklahoma at NJPAC			Weekly Shopping 27 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 28 Lunch Available
Knitting/crocheting 31 9:30-11:30 am Yoga 10:30-11:30 am Drawing Class 11:30 am	Bingo 10am-2pm 1 Ladies Social 10am	Exercise 8:30am 2 Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1 pm <b>ATLANTIC CITY 9AM</b>	Weekly Shopping 3 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 4 Lunch Available
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Saturday, Feb. 5. They will present their 90-minute show, Unbelievable!

Show time is 12 noon. Advance tickets are just \$8 and \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit Cub Scout Pack 207.

For more information or tickets, call Bill Buttrick at (908) 561-8128.

## VFW Breakfast

February 6

VFW Post, located at 155 Front St., is holding a breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcomed. All proceeds benefit the Lyons VA Hospital. For more information, please call (908) 668-9751.

## SP Environmental Commission Meeting

February 9

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall. For questions call Dr. Tempel at (908) 226-7621.

## "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*.

Price of \$62 per person covers all costs, including tax and gratuities. Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 for reservations. There are only a few seats available.

## Historical Society/Elks Valentine's Breakfast

February 13

The South Plainfield Historical Society and the South Plainfield Elks cordially invite you to an all-you-can eat breakfast on Sunday, February 13. Pancakes, French toast, bacon, eggs, sausage, home fries, toast, coffee, tea and juice will be served from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Elks' Lodge located on New Market Ave. Prices are \$6 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and children under 4 are free.

For information or to reserve a table, call Kathy at (908) 754-7268.

## American Legion Pancake Breakfast

February 13

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. until

noon. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Children under six are free. Profits are donated to our South Plainfield Scholarship Fund. The American Legion is located on Oak Tree Ave.

## Boy Scout Open House at Wesley Methodist

February 14

Boy Scout Troop 309 will be holding an open house on Monday, Feb. 14 from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. Meetings are held at Wesley Methodist Church in the meeting room located downstairs. All boys ages 11 and up are eligible to join. Come out and see what we do!

For further information, contact Jeff Pauls at (908) 755-6133.

## VFW Dinner

February 18

The VFW Post #6763, located on Front St. will be hold a dinner on Friday, Feb. 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

## Pilgrim Covenant Plans Art Auction

February 25

Pilgrim Covenant Church is sponsoring an Art Auction on Friday, Feb. 25, to benefit its Church Building Fund. Ticket cost is \$5 per person. A preview of the art selections will start at 7 p.m. and the auction will start at 8 p.m. in the Church at 3121 Park Ave. There will be hors d'oeuvres, coffee, cake and a raffle.

For tickets and information, call (908) 756-4879.

## — Out of Town —

## Job Seekers Support Group

Thursday mornings

The NOVA Job Seekers Support Group is delighted to announce that many of last year's members have secured new jobs! We are extending an invitation to other unemployed professionals to come and join us every Thursday morning from 10-11:30 a.m. To reserve your place or for information, call Diane Markowitz at (732) 777-1940 or email [d.markowitz@jfv.org](mailto:d.markowitz@jfv.org).

## Singles Social Meeting and Dinner

January 29

A singles social meeting and dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. at the Rockaway Hibernia Diner on Greenpond Rd. in Rockaway. \$10 service fee plus cost of whatever is ordered for dinner.

RSVP required by Jan. 28 to social coordinator at (732) 764-9073 or [angelicbutterfly@iwon.com](mailto:angelicbutterfly@iwon.com).

## Indian Drumming Workshop Offered

January 30

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission will offer a short drumming performance at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick on Sunday, Jan 30 at 1:30 p.m. by Suresh Ramaswami.

Indian Drumming Workshop is offered free of charge; however, reg-

istration is required as space is limited. Please register for only one instrument workshop, the tabla or the mridangam. If you would like to attend this START program, please call the Commission, (732) 745-4489.

## WOWs Dance

January 30

The Woodbridge area chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold an open fundraiser dance/social on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Elks' Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge.

The price is \$8 a person. Live music will be provided by the Bill Gerry Duo. Homebaked refreshments will be available. All are welcome! For more information, call (732) 297-1775.

## Artist Reception at Metuchen Artworks

February 5

An artists' reception will be held at Metuchen Artworks on Saturday, Feb. 5 from 7 to 10 p.m. at 15 Station Pl. in Metuchen to showcase the paintings of Rita Herzfeld. Color and movement join to produce paintings that almost jump off the canvas with their energy.

For more information, contact Madeline Tolins-Schlitt at (732) 662-7403.

## Music/Movement and Art Program

February 5-April 16

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

To register, contact Karen Singer at VSA arts of NJ at (732) 745-3885. 745-5935 (TTY), [info@vsan.org](mailto:info@vsan.org). Application deadline is Jan. 12.

## Middlesex East WOWs

February 11

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold an open Valentines Dance on Friday, Feb. 11 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret.

Live music and refreshments. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Admission is \$8 members, \$9 guests.

For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

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**ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS.** Make your event more successful by publicizing it in AROUND TOWN.

**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.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**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.

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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones

### Nina Tofighbakhsh and Shawn Kimmel Announce Their Engagement



Nina Tofighbakhsh and Shawn Kimmel

Mr. and Mrs. Mostafa Tom Tofighbakhsh are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Nina Tofighbakhsh to Shawn Paul Kimmel, son of Allyson and Richard Kimmel.

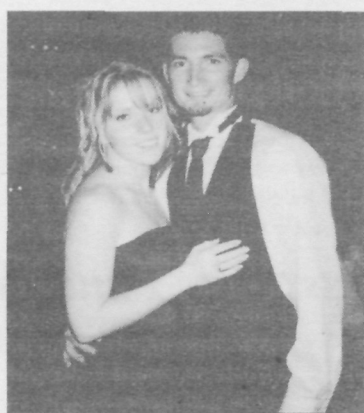
Nina is a biology major at the University of Maryland, a dental office manager and an active member of the Church of Scientology. Shawn is a Scientology minister helping many attain spiritual freedom. Tom would also like to announce his continuous and unconditional love and support of the couple in all their future endeavors in Scientology and in life. The wedding is scheduled for late this summer in the Washington, DC area.

### Erin Walter and Caleb Smith Announce Their Engagement

Art and Nancy Walter of South Plainfield are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Marie Walter to Caleb Andrew Smith, son of Ron and Connie Smith of Orlando, Fla.

Erin is a 1999 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She graduated from Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla. in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Business. She is employed as a Group Training Coordinator with WebMD.

Caleb is a 1997 graduate of Alliance Academy in Quito, Ecuador. He graduated from Nyack College in Nyack, NY in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Interpersonal Communications. He is employed by Ameri-



Erin Walter and Caleb Smith can Income Life Insurance.

The couple will be married in New Jersey in Aug. 2005 and will reside in Florida.

### Pilgrim Covenant Welcomes New Interim Pastor

Pilgrim Covenant Church has announced the arrival of a new interim pastor, the Rev. Arnold R. Bolin.

Bolin, who lives in Land O'Lakes, Wisc., with his wife, Marilyn, previously served the church as interim pastor in 1997-98.

A graduate of Northern Michigan University and of North Park Theological Seminary, the pastor has had a varied ministry until his retirement in 1991. Since retirement he has served eight interim pastorates in the Midwest and in the East.

He served Evangelical Covenant Churches in Michigan and Minnesota before entering ecumenical work as executive director of the Berrien County (Michigan) Council of Churches for 13 years and chaplain and public relations director at Hope Rescue Mission in South Bend, Indiana, for eight years.

The Bolins have four adult children and 12 grandchildren.

The church is located at 3121 Park Ave. Sunday morning worship service is at 10 a.m.

### Relive SDW's The Pirates of Penzance

If you missed the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* last summer, or just want to relive the excellent performances of this very talented cast, you can sit back and enjoy this hit musical in your very own home.

As a fundraiser, the SPSDW is selling a DVD of the show that includes the entire show, a short feature on the program and some added extras, including their performance singing the National Anthem at Commerce Bank Ballpark for the Somerset Patriots.

The cost of the DVD is \$25 and all new proceeds go toward the SPSDW.

For information or to order a DVD, call Bill Scesselberg at (908) 756-0539.



Bill McCriskin, Bob Springer and Rich McCriskin show off the new computer for mourners to leave messages and memories.

### McCriskin's Adds Another Bereavement Option

McCriskin Home For Funerals has added a new state-of-the-art service to those who come to pay their respects to a deceased person.

Before entering the viewing room, you usually sign your name in the guest book. McCriskin's is going one step further by giving you the choice of entering your thoughts, writing a letter or just remembering something special about the person who just died directly onto a computer which is placed next to the guest book of each viewing room.

After the funeral services, all of the computer messages are printed and placed in a funeral book, along with the names on the guest book and other information about the funeral services and presented to the family.

The family of the deceased can then take their time reading through the messages and remembrances written by visitors.

McCriskin's is piloting this new innovative idea for six months, with the help of Bob Springer of Springer Computer Co., who wrote the program and has been tweaking it for the past few months.

**ATTN: SOUTH PLAINFIELD RESIDENTS**

### Property Tax Bills

### To be Mailed Jan. 31

Residents are advised that property tax bills will be mailed to homeowners on Jan. 31. The grace period for payments to be received has been extended to Feb. 28, 2005.

### Writer's Group Announces Annual Competition

Feeling creative? The San Gabriel Writers' League, based in Austin Williamson County, TX, is calling for entries in its annual "Writing Smarter" competition. Entries will be accepted in poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Cash prizes will be awarded to entries for first, second and third place in each category; honorable mention

entries will also be recognized at the awards ceremony to be held at the League's Spring 2005 Workshop.

Rules and entry forms are available at: [www.sgw.org/contest2005.htm](http://www.sgw.org/contest2005.htm) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the League's 2005 Contest Coordinator, Melissa Leedom, at P.O. Box 798, Georgetown, TX 78627.

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## Mikorski Continues to Ask Tough Questions

Former BOE member Frank Mikorski once again took the podium during last week's Board of Education meeting to ask pointed questions on the school budget. He was asking questions about the 2003-2004 budgeted amounts presented to the voters and questioned the fact that those were not the amounts actually spent after the auditor's report was completed.

Mikorski further questioned the legality of spending a substantially higher amount of money than what the voters were asked to approve. The

budgeted amount on the ballot was \$42.771M. However, when the audit report was completed last month, the actual total expenditures was over \$45M.

Acting Business Administrator Robert Davis explained that, in fact, voters actually vote on the school tax rate and not the budgeted amount. He added that as long as the tax rate doesn't change, the budget is legal. He explained that during the year things happen that are unexpected, such as budgeting for heat and then having an especially cold

winter, or someone who leaves in the middle of the year and then are due by contract, terminal pay. "The budget changes. The budget is a guideline and not cast in stone," Davis said.

Mikorski disagreed saying, "I think it is wrong to go to the public with a budget which the public thinks is the budget you are going to live by; it is wrong not to follow that budget."

Mikorski said underfunding also took place in this year's budget in many accounts. For example, industrial aids was budgeted at \$290,000 is now adjusted to \$892,956. Last year, social security was budgeted at \$395,628; this year it was budgeted at \$273,000.

Mikorski also asked about the transfer of \$300,000 from the adult school surplus fund to help put money into the debt service fund. Davis explained that debt service was funded for \$500,000, but apparently there was not enough in that fund, so the surplus was moved to cover the debt fund.

During the past year, line item transfers have appeared on the agenda almost every month, some months hundreds of transfers were made. Transfers refer to moving money from one account which is short to another account to fill in the gap. During the course of the past year it has been revealed that many departments were grossly under funded.

## School Board to Ask State To Investigate for Any Criminal Activities

In December, the board asked the State Department of Education to audit their books for the past 10 years to review past financial operations in the district.

The board has been trying to find the root of their fiscal woes and they have found that there was not just one problem, but a number of things that have happened over the past 10 years that all came to a head during this fiscal year.

Richard Rosenberg, assistant commissioner from the Division of School Finance, has written a letter stating that after his meeting with the BOE, the state is satisfied that the board is sufficiently undertaking corrective actions and that the current financial operations are improving and the state will not be taking further action at this time.

They did say that they understand the serious concerns the board discussed regarding the alleged past financial management, especially the \$410,000 worth of unrecorded expenditures in the 2001-2002 budget. These undiscovered expenditures

caused an overstatement of fund balance, including a surplus of \$332,644.94. He suggested that the board should request that the Office of Compliance Investigations be contacted and to forward that information for their review.

Board member Sue Peck said the Finance committee will be putting a list together of their concerns and ask for an investigation of any possible criminal wrongdoings by anyone on the BOE or administration, past or present.

Peck said, "We are not letting this go and will be pursuing any wrongdoing. We have uncovered a lot of things that don't make sense and we will pursue them."

Board member Steve Bohn said he has also been studying the 2003-2004 budget, as well as this year's budget, and has found a \$1.1M difference in the amounts budgeted. One example was gas and electric, "Last year 1.3M was budgeted; this year it was \$100,000. We all know the price of gas and electric does not go down," said Bohn.



Essay contest winner Kathleen Morgan (left) pictured with English teacher Donna Timko.

## High School Student Places Second In Statewide Essay Contest

SPHS senior Kathleen Morgan recently took second place in the high school category in the New Jersey Press Foundation's 2004 statewide Newspaper in Education essay contest.

Judging was open to middle and high school students who had their essays based on the theme "Dear Mr. President" sent in to a local newspaper. Winning entries were then submitted to the Press Foundation for final judging and eight students in all were selected as winners.

Students were asked to write letters to newly re-elected President George W. Bush to express their opinions about what he should include in his agenda for the next four years. The essay were based on articles they read in newspapers delivered to their classrooms through the Newspaper in Education program.

The contest, which was sponsored by the William G. and Helen C. Hoffman Foundation, will award US savings bonds to the eight students.

## Help SPHS Students Raise Funds for Costa Rica Trip

Students in grades 10-12 currently enrolled in Spanish 3 and higher have been fundraising year-long to help offset costs of a planned trip to Costa Rica scheduled for spring break in April. Anthony Encinas, SPHS Spanish teacher, is in charge of the trip and has been busy planning different ways to raise funds for the trip.

The trip to Costa Rica will give students the opportunity to use the skills and knowledge they have acquired during their study of the language and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. In Costa Rica, students will communicate with local

students and professionals in Spanish, introducing them to a new culture and immersing them in their target language.

Students will also go on various day trips, which includes a visit to a Costa Rican high school so students can interact with students their age.

Encinas is intent on not letting the cost of the trip (approximately \$1,800 a student) prevent any child from being unable to participate in this extremely valuable experience. Since there will be no cost to the Board of Education, students have to raise all necessary funds themselves.

The students have already participated in candy sales at the high school.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, the public is invited to dine at Pizzeria Uno for dinner (5 p.m.-closing) to help the students pay for their trip. Pizzeria Uno has agreed to donate a percentage of the bill to the Costa Rica trip.

TGI Fridays in Piscataway is also participating. Visit Fridays on Thursday, Feb. 24, 5-9 p.m. and mention the SPHS International Explorers. The restaurant will donate part of the meal's proceeds for the trip.

Look for next's week *Observer* for a coupon to hand in to the restaurants. Please help the students and enjoy a delicious meal at Pizzeria Uno or TGI Fridays!

For more information about the trip or the fundraiser, call Anthony Encinas at the high school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 408.

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## 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.

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

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# Good Dental Care is Key To Your Pet's Health

February is National Pet Dental Health Month

You brush your pet, you feed it properly and you make regular visits to the veterinarian. But if you aren't caring for your pet's teeth, you are ignoring a key factor in its overall health, happiness and well-being, warns the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association. New Jersey's veterinarians are urging pet owners to respond to National Pet Dental Health Month this February by beginning a regimen of oral hygiene that will help keep your cat or dog smiling.

Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets. By age three, an amazing 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease. Symptoms of gum disease in both cats and dogs include yellow and brown build up of tartar along the gum line, inflamed gums and persistent bad breath.

Just as in humans, oral disease in pets begins with a build up of bacteria in the mouth. Those bacteria combined with saliva and food particles cause the formation of plaque, which can eventually turn to tartar and invade the gum line, setting the stage for infection and periodontal disease.

And just like humans, the first line of defense against gum disease in your pet is regular tooth brushing and visits to the dentist; in this case, your veterinarian.

If you have never brushed your pet's teeth before, following these few simple rules:

Start young. Get your puppy or kitten accustomed to regular brushing by beginning with short, gentle sessions. Make the brushing part of play with your pet and give it a re-

ward at the end.

Be sure to use a soft brush designed for pets and toothpaste specifically formulated for pet use. Don't use toothpaste intended for humans. Too much fluoride can be toxic and the formula could upset your pet's stomach.

If your pet is already grown, introduce tooth brushing by first dipping your finger in beef broth for dogs or tuna water for cats and gently rubbing your pet's teeth and gums. Next, wrap a little gauze around your finger before dipping to introduce the feeling of a brush. Keep it brief, gentle and make it fun. When you finally begin to use a toothbrush, your pet should be ready to enjoy the session.

Brush daily if possible or at least two to three times a week to keep your pet's teeth and gums healthy.

Pet owners should keep alert for the signs of oral disease. A change in mouth odor, difficulty eating or a reluctance to eat, swelling or redness of the gums, tipping or tilting the head while eating, or even the refusal to eat hard foods, should all be warning signs. If your pet shows signs of oral disease, your veterinarian may recommend a cleaning and even extraction of badly infected teeth.

Failure to maintain your pet's oral health can lead to serious consequences. Infections that begin in the gums can spread to major organs, including the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. So begin teaching your pet today that tooth brushing is fun. It will lead to a longer, happier and healthier life together.

If you need a veterinarian, visit the NJVMA online at [www.njvma.org](http://www.njvma.org).



Pictured left is VFW essay contest winner Priya Patel with Past Commander Rudy Poczak. At right are contest winners Adam Bianchi, Elyse Kanaley and AJ Romano.



## VFW Essay Contest Winners Announced

(Continued from page 1)

Rudy and his wife Marlene, who co-chaired the essay committee, took the time to read the 300+ entries from the high school 200+ entries from the middle school. Rudy added that this year entries were the best batch they have ever read. Judging becomes harder and harder each year. Entries do not have the students' names, so they don't know the actual winners until after they judge the essays.

First place essay winners in the high school were Steven Tietjen and Krystal Williams, Katie Mott placed second and Elyse Kanaley, AJ Romano and Adam Bianchi all placed third. Tietjen's essay also placed second in the district.

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winners from the Middle School were: Jeannie DeAndrea first place; Josh Rivera second and Priya Patel third. All winners were students of Middle School teacher Barbara Pinelli-McDonough.

First place winners were awarded \$250; second place \$200 and third place \$175. The first place winners were also asked to read their essays for



VFW Commander Metro Kopchak and Past Commander Rudy Poczak present a plaque of appreciation to high school advisor Cheryl Fox.

the audience.

The VFW holds fundraisers all year to support their scholarship and contest awards. They try to educate students about what the VFW stands for and how its members are an important part of America's history as well

as a reason we enjoy freedom and democracy today.

Cheryl Fox, an advisor at the high school was presented with a plaque to say thank her for help in making this contest the success it has become.

## Business Leaders Get Hamilton Blvd. Updates

Continued from page 1

enter and leave both Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Blvd. He assured the businesses on Ryan St. that at no time would that road would be closed. Many of the trucking companies expressed concern about the flow of traffic during this phase of the construction and made several suggestions and observations they would like to be considered.

Traffic Safety is still discussing detours on various sections of Hamilton Blvd. during the year-long construction period. Not only trucks, but regular traffic and school buses will be directed around the area being worked on at different times during the construction. At some time during the construction, Belmont Ave. traffic will not be able to make a left turn onto Hamilton Blvd. They are considering

bringing truck traffic down Front St. to Maple Ave. and turning left onto Lakeview and right on New Market Ave.

Another major intersection to be completely revamped is Hamilton and New Market avenues. A house will be demolished on that corner to widen the intersection and new lights installed.

The section of Hamilton Blvd. that passes through the residential area will get new sewers to help with drainage, as well as curbs and sidewalks. Work will probably take place on one side of the road at a time, but detours and traffic delays will be experienced almost every day.

The *Observer* will be meeting with traffic safety and the contractor to keep up with the latest construction news and updates will be appearing in the paper each week.

The project will be going out for bid the end of January or the beginning of February. Work is expected to begin some time in April.

Members of the Business Association asked if another meeting could be scheduled to update the group. They would like to hear the answers to some of their questions and suggestions which came up during the meeting.

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

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

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

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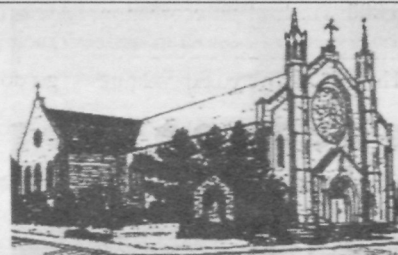


Corporate Accounts Welcome

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

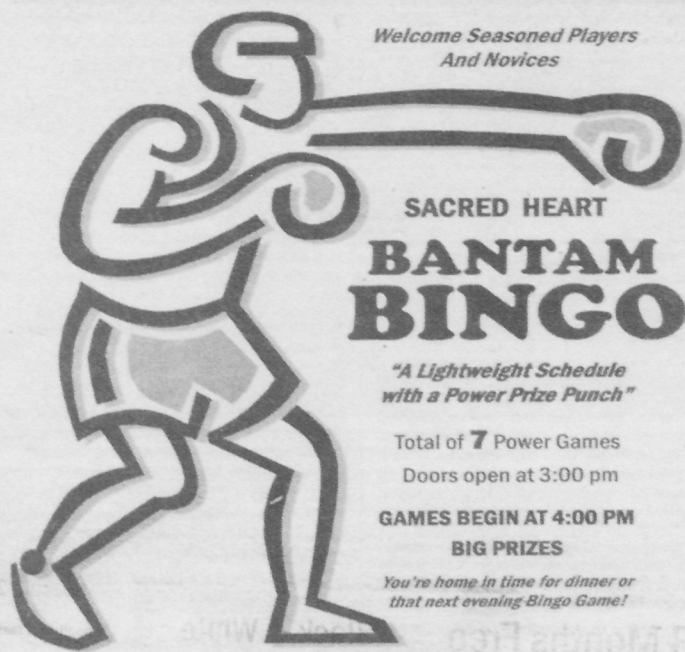
Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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

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

## NEW 2005 SUNDAY BINGO SCHEDULE

Welcome Seasoned Players  
And Novices



SACRED HEART

**BANTAM BINGO**

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Total of 7 Power Games

Doors open at 3:00 pm

GAMES BEGIN AT 4:00 PM

BIG PRIZES

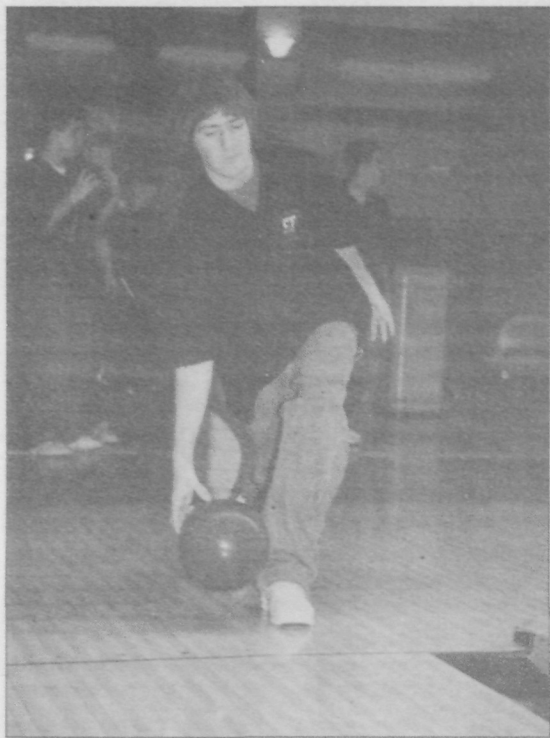
You're home in time for dinner or  
that next evening Bingo Game!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT SACRED HEART SCHOOL

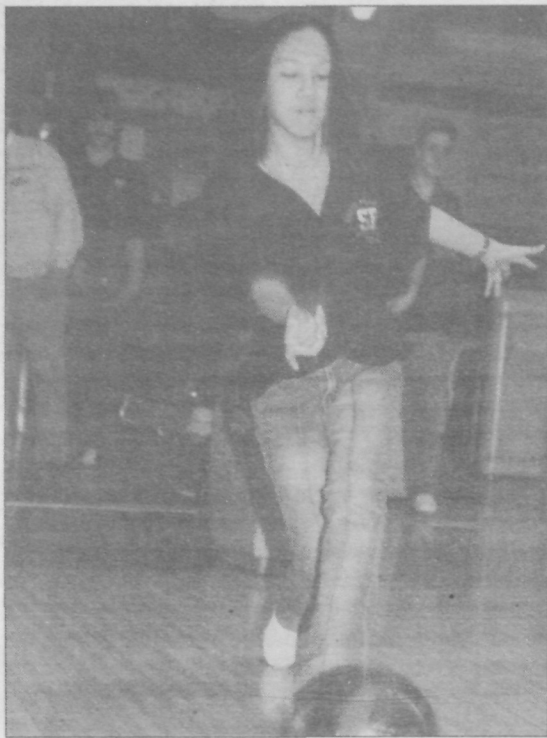
• SACRED HEART PARISH BINGO • SACRED HEART OR OFF 149 SOUTH PLAINFIELD AVE •  
• SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ • 908-724-0627 •



# Sports



SPHS Junior Vinnie Genova



SPHS Junior Angelique Rualo

## Lady Tigers in Tough Loss to Mother Seton

South Plainfield	828	770	788	2386
Mother Seton	784	876	866	2524

The Girls' Bowling Team rolled their highest game (828) and highest series (2386) of the season, but could not withstand the barrage of 200 games thrown by the Setters, who posted a hard fought 3-1 victory. Beverly Jamieson led the Tigers with games of 203-199-159 for a solid 561 set. Teammates Kim Gaub (161-477), Katie Yon (174-460), Anna Ferrer (160-452) and Angelique Rualo (167-432) all turned in a solid team effort.

## Tigers Fall to Red-Hot St. Joe's

South Plainfield	953	925	962	2840
St. Joseph	1020	984	1068	3072

The Tigers bowled well; in fact, over their average, but ran into a red hot St. Joseph team that swept all three games for a 4-0 shutout.

Vin Genova took honors for the Tigers on games of 212-236 and 610 set. Closely followed by Matt Boley, 220-190-183-593, Nick Grego 197-213-556 and Shawn Ferguson 177-181-522 set. Also chipping in were Brett Morris 205-162 and freshman Chris Esposito 187-166.

## Tiger Bowlers Sizzle in Winter Classic XXIV

South Plainfield	970	957	931	2858
------------------	-----	-----	-----	------

The Boys' and Girls' Bowling Teams hosted the prestigious Central Jersey Winter Classic, which attracted 82 teams of top notch competition from throughout the entire state. The Tigers turned in two superb performances. Vinnie Genova took top scoring honors as he fired games of 219-224-223 for a super 666 set. Teammate Matt Boley was close behind with 243-585 set. Nick Grego 230 and George Kleinknecht 209 both turned in solid sets. The boys' team placed ninth in the 46 team field, won by GMC powerhouse East Brunswick.

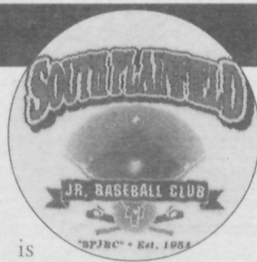
South Plainfield	744	745	797	2286
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Beverly Jamieson continued her hot bowling streak as she crushed the pocket for games of 180-210-177 and 567 set. Angelique Rualo rolled 180-493, Kim Gaub 191-478 set and Lindsay Hunsicker added a 150 game as the Lady Tigers posted their high series of the season for a 16<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 36 team field. State champion Brick Township edged out GMC foe Woodbridge for the championship.

Great bowling, Tigers.

By Lee Flanagan

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



We have just completed our sign-ups for the 2005 season. We currently have 350 kids registered. We are down 66 kids from last season. Parents can still sign their children up until Feb. 28. After that, they will go on a waiting list. In order to sign-up your child, you must call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or Lee Flanagan at (732) 684-8347. The fee is \$115.

Reminder to everyone! You must have your Rutgers Certification and must be a member of the club in good standing to manage and coach at the SPJBC. The Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Rutgers Certification course on Feb. 16. Please call Mike English for further details. All first and second year umpires are being asked to attend the opening training session on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the SPJBC clubhouse. All first and second year umpires must attend this session. Call Larry Hughes, Umpire in Chief, at (908) 561-9314 if you have any questions concerning umpires.

Our next monthly meeting at the

SPJBC is Monday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. At this meeting we will be asking all members with voting rights to vote on deleting new rule change Article I, #13, from the 2005-2006 playing rules.

The Commissioner and Lifetime Members award winners for the 2005 season have been announced. These award winners have been selected by Commissioner Lee Flanagan and the Executive Board of the SPJBC. Lifetime Membership award winners are: Tony Cassano, Dennis Kazimir and Tom Kiczula. The commissioner's award recipients are: John Celentano, Dominic Papa and Sal Severini. Congratulations men, you will be honored on April 9 at our opening day ceremonies.

We have tickets on sale for the new Mercedes. Second prize is being sponsored by Michelle Kunie and First Class Travel. Tickets are available from Nancy Salici or any executive board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets at (908) 754-2090.



## Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Tom Gratta

### 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.

Register at the PAL until March 7. The South Plainfield Parents Ponytail Association meeting are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 in the middle school library.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ADVERTISEMENT AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield for the "ELECTRICAL/CONTROL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CEDARBROOK PUMPING STATION" and publicly opened and read aloud at the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080, on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. prevailing local time.

The Project generally consists of the furnishing and installation of an electric control panel enclosure including conduit installation, wiring, pump control panel and all other associated work as contained in the Contract Documents or as ordered by the Engineer.

Contract documents and plans for the proposed work prepared by David J. Samuel, P.E., Borough Engineer, CME Associates, may be examined at the office of said engineer at 3141 Bordentown Ave., Parlin, New Jersey and at the office of the Borough Clerk, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey, during business hours and may be obtained at the Borough Engineer's office until 48 hours prior to the time set for the opening of bids upon payment of \$50 per set. No refunds will be made. Proposals and the Contract Documents must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the name and address of the Bidder and the name of the work on the outside addressed to Mayor and Borough Council, Borough of South Plainfield and must be accompanied by a Statement of Consent of Surety from a surety company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the owner. All bids submitted prior to the bid opening shall be mailed or delivered to the Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the amount of not less than 10 percent of the bid payable without any conditional endorsement as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will within 10 days thereafter execute such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond. Upon failure to do so, he shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement by the bidder. No interest shall be allowed upon any such certified check or cash. A bid bond in the amount of 10 percent of the bid may be substituted for certified check or cash.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certificate from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder be accepted they will furnish the bond set forth in paragraph one of the General Conditions

of the Conditions of the contract and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement.

The borough reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities specified in the manner designated in the Specifications. The Borough reserves the right to award this contract based on funds available.

All bidders are required to be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor if they elect to bid public works projects. The bidder shall be required to comply with "The Public Works Contractor Registration Act" (PL 1999, C.238), as identified in Section B-Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3 13 and in the Appendix of these Specifications. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on prevailing wage projects, which have a public building component, must attach a certificate of registration from the Department of Labor, to all bids.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, Chapter 150 of the laws of 1963, effective January 1, 1964.

During the performance of this contract the Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of PL 1975, C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17-27), all requirements of the State of New Jersey Worker Health and Safety Act (N.J.A.C. 12:110 et seq) as amended and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910), as amended with regard to worker and jobsite safety.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of 60 days after the date set for the opening thereof. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a surety company bond in the full amount of contract price indemnifying the Borough of South Plainfield, New Jersey, for all proceedings, suits or actions of any kind of description and conditional for the faithful performance of the work.

All bid security will be returned to all Bidders except the three apparent lowest bidders within 10 working days after the opening of bids and to the three apparent lowest Bidders within three working days after the successful Bidder had executed the Contract and his Contract security has been approved by the Borough. The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its opinion it is in the best interest to do so and to award the contract for any and/or all items.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$122.50 January 28, 2005

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

January 14, 2005—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 13, 2005.

A. Case #18-04/J-JSM at South Clinton, LLC, Block 448; Lot 4.06; South Clinton Ave. The applicant's request to permit the indoor storage of vehicles was hereby GRANTED subject to conditions.

B. Case #72-04—Joseph R. Currao, Block 129; Lot 2; 329 Libourel Rd. The applicant's request for a side yard setback variance to construct an attached garage addition was hereby GRANTED subject to conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$21.00 January 28, 2005

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the South Plainfield Office on Aging has made application to NJ TRANSIT for one fourteen passenger minibus with wheelchair lift to provide transportation to senior citizens and/or people with disabilities in Middlesex County, NJ. This vehicle will be partially funded with FTA 5310 funds under a grant submitted to the Federal Transit Administration.

Any interested party who has significant, social, economic, or environmental interest is invited to request a public hearing within 30 days to:

Borough of South Plainfield  
Office on Aging  
90 Maple Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$26.00 January 28, 2005

### Need to publish a legal notice?

By law notices must appear in the newspaper at least 10 days prior to your scheduled meeting dates. Be sure to submit your notices early.

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE No. 1681

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

Ordinance #1681 entitled: AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF PROJECT COORDINATOR, CONSTRUCTION AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID POSITION was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$21.00 January 28, 2005

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE No. 1682

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

Ordinance #1682 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE 9 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 January 28, 2005

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Robert C. Hughes requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an existing cellar entry and two sheds. Existing cellar entry lacks 5' required side setback, 3' being proposed; existing 6' x 126" shed lacks 5' required side setback, 6' being proposed; and existing 8' x 17' shed lacks 5' required side setback, 2' being proposed and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 214 Carlisle Street on Block 106, Lot 3 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, February 24, 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 28, 2005

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE No. 1683

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

Ord. 1683 entitled: A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$70,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL ITEMS FOR THE POLICE, BUILDING, RECYCLING AND OFFICE ON AGING DEPARTMENTS was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$21.00 January 28, 2005

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE No. 1684

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

Ordinance #1684 entitled: A SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$76,500 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE CEDARBROOK PUMP STATION AND VARIOUS OTHER SEWER EQUIPMENT was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

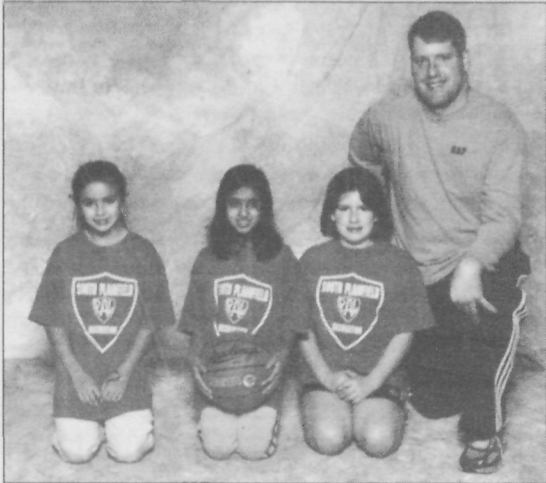
ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 January 28, 2005

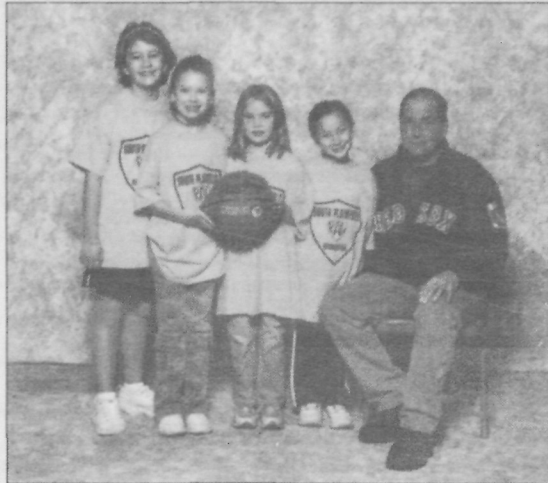


# Sports

## 2004-2005 Youth Basketball D League Ladies Teams



The 2004-2005 Youth Basketball D League Lady Cavaliers team is: Joanna Marston, Simone Mills, Ashley Shumaker, Daisy Castro, Annie Pezzolla, Kayla Fisher, Avani Jain, Kimberly Dornick, Diamond Pender and Diana Pender. They are coached by Stephen Marston.



The 2004-2005 Youth Basketball D League Lady Nuggets team is: Charlotte Macchia, Taylor Brinks, Tatiana Smith, Lauryn Loalbo, Michaela Butrico, Shayne Hodge, Kimberly Corsino, Marie Lanza, Emily Kaiser and Tiffany Harvey. They are coached by Louis Macchia.



The 2004-2005 Youth Basketball D League Lady Rockets team is: Kelly Shea, Jennifer Scavone, Katie Addario, Elizabeth Abate, Rosalind Heim, Brittany Titus, Naomi McNeill, Bhrianna Farmer, Gabrielle Payne and Courtney Ross. They are coached by Jim Shea.



The 2004-2005 Youth Basketball D League Lady Spurs team is: Shannon Hughes, Jessica Bishop, Kate McLaughlin, Julia Zipp, Kaitlyn Hughes, Nicole Miller, Maya Melton, Kelley O'Brien, Lauren Dicellis and Brittany Papa. They are coached by Kevin Hughes.

## Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter

### Junior Tigers Surprised By Flemington

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team won two out of three matches last week in a quad match at the PAL against Hillsborough, Flemington and Berkeley Heights.

In the opening match the Tigers faced Hillsborough and cruised to a 66-9 victory. Troy Davidson (50) got the Tigers rolling with a 16-11 decision win; Ryan Walsh (53) followed with a fall in :50; Anthony Ashnault (60) cruised to a 12-0 major decision; Kyle Brady (63) won by forfeit and Dillon Paiton (67) won by major decision 9-1. Also Scott Whalen (70), who has been on a tear, won by fall at 1:44; Tyler (the machine) Hunt (73) won by a 4-2 decision, Troy Heilmann (77) won by major decision 16-2; Randy Jakubik (90) won by fall at 2:29; Mike Molinaro (95) also won by fall at 1:21 and Ryan Billich (102) won by fall in :46.

In the Flemington match the Tigers, who got off to a slow start dropping the first three matches and trailing 15-0, got on the board when Anthony (the firecracker) Ashnault scored the fall at :42; Kyle Brady cut Flemington's lead to three when he got the pin at 1:48 and Scott Whalen tied the score at 18 all when he got the pin at 2:21. Then Tyler Hunt gave the Tiger's the lead with a fall at 1:54 and Troy Heilmann added to the Tiger lead with a pin at 2:13. The Tigers lost the next three matches and were trailing 33-30 when Ryan Billich scored a pin at :39 to give the Tigers a short lived lead 36-33. The Tigers forfeited 110 and lost at heavyweight for a 45-36 surprising loss.

In the Berkeley Heights match the Tigers won the opening match by forfeit, but lost the next two matches and

were trailing 10-6 when Anthony Ashnault scored a major decision 13-1 to tie the score; Kyle Brady won by decision 4-2 and Dillon Paiton then won by major decision 8-0. Scott Whalen continued the attack with a fall at 1:35; Tyler Hunt kept the pressure on when he recorded a pin at :39 and Troy Heilmann then won by major decision 11-2. Chris Sloan followed with a major 11-0 decision; Jeff Conroy and Randy Jakubik each won by forfeit; Ryan Billich won by forfeit, but wrestled an exhibition match at 110 and won by major decision 13-2. Final score was South Plainfield 61-Berkeley Heights 22.

mann then won by major decision 11-2. Chris Sloan followed with a major 11-0 decision; Jeff Conroy and Randy Jakubik each won by forfeit; Ryan Billich won by forfeit, but wrestled an exhibition match at 110 and won by major decision 13-2. Final score was South Plainfield 61-Berkeley Heights 22.

Back by Popular Demand!

# THE BIG EVENT

To sign up for our March 18 borough-wide mailing, call 908-668-0010. Deadline to reserve space is Monday, March 9. Call the Observer early for best placement.

Log on to the

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Or call 908-226-7656

## Junior Journalist Corner



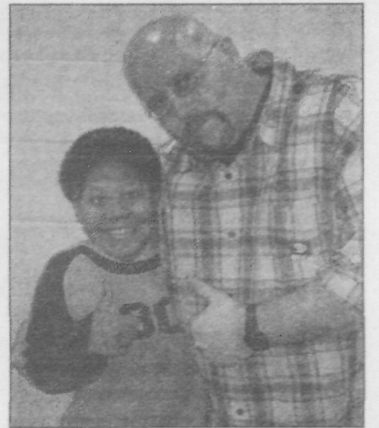
### Aspen Akunne, Roosevelt School Third Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"

Aspen Akunne "The Peacemaker," Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. His poem "I Have a Dream" has won him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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 families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to a year end banquet in June.

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



Aspen Akunne, pictured here with Roosevelt School third grade teacher Mike Bertram, is this week's winner of the Junior Journalist contest.

### I Have a Dream

By Aspen the Peacemaker

I have a dream  
that there will be  
No pollution, no guns, and no hunger.  
Instead we will have peace, justice, and doughnuts  
to end starvation.  
Now is the time to clean the world and  
make it sparkle like diamonds.  
Let us come together and  
make the world a better place.

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD

(908) 754-8008

## Junior Journalist WINNER



Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros present dinner to this week's Junior Journalist contest winner John Neesan, pictured here with his mom Lorilee, dad John Sr., grandmother Sally Neesan and grandparents Manny and Seth Nelson.

**Congratulations Tanvi!**

Feed your  
soul...write!





Junior Girl Scout Troop 136 from Grant School has collected money for the recent tsunami disaster victims. The troop made money tubs and distributed them to South Plainfield businesses. They would like to thank all the businesses that helped support this cause, as well as the people of the town who contributed. Pictured from left to right: (back row) Monika Jastrzebski, Olga Tarnawska, Alexis Cargill, Gabriella Lewis, Jena Cianfrocca, Jen Tercek, Jesse Doyle; (front row) Meagan Yanick, Allyson White, Lauren Parello, Crysta Hay, Jessica Bohn and Katie Staynings.

## Art Teacher Attends NY Art Lecture

Barbara Harris, art teacher at John E. Riley and John F. Kennedy Schools, recently attended a lecture at the City University of New York featuring contemporary artist Chuck Close and *New York Times* art critic Michael Kimmelman. Harris's students have recently been studying the work of Close, who became famous in the 1970's for his huge paintings and prints of portraits, which he calls "heads."

"Although I already know a lot about Chuck Close, I learned so much more about his work, process, theories and philosophy by listening to him in person. I will be discussing the new information with my students. This lecture was definitely money well spent," Harris said.

Beginning with the last school year, Harris has been teaching her students about American art, starting with Native American cultures and continuing with the Colonial Period, the 18th and 19th Centuries and the early 20th Century, ending with American art of the 1950's. In September her students continued their study of the 1950's (realism and abstract expressionism) and have been learning about the art movements and many artists of each subsequent decade. This American Art

Unit encompasses all the usual and performing art standards established by the State of New Jersey. These standards include the understanding of aesthetics, creation and performance (art production), the elements and principles of art design, critique and the study of history and culture through art.

The movements or art styles and philosophies which were studied include op and pop art, earth art, conceptualism, color field painting, neon art and minimalism, kinetic art, photorealism (with which Chuck Close is associated), staged or manipulated photography, neo-expressionism and computer art. The American Art Unit will conclude with the art of the 1990's and 21st Century plus a look at the emergence of the Crafts Movement and American/Folk/Outside art.

Just this school, in addition to chuck Close, Harris's classes have studied the work of Andrew Wyeth, Jackson Pollock, Louise Nevelson, David Smith, Georgia O'Keeffe, Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana, Roy Lichtenstein, James Dine, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Claes Oldenburg, George Segal, Victor Vasarely, Bridget Riley, Frank Stella, Morris Lewis, Duane Hansen,

Keith Haring, Julian Schnabel and Grandma Moses, as well as others.

"Art class is so much more than just creating art work. One of the main objectives of this long range unit has been to trace the development of contemporary American art and to understand how the definition of art, i.e. "What is art?" and the appearance of art, i.e., its aesthetic qualities, change over time. The children have been learning how each movement or style is a reaction against previous art philosophies and reflects the historical events and popular culture of each decade. What we perceive as "good art" or even "beautiful art" is constantly evolving. Chuck Close's work is a perfect example this," Harris said.

### Last Chance to Take Advantage Of Tree Pick Up

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.

## police report

• On Jan. 18 Michael Ian Joseph, 26, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusing to submit to a breathalyzer test, being an unlicensed driver, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report an accident and reckless driving at a motor vehicle accident.

• On Jan. 19 Satish Kissoon, 19, of Plainfield was arrested at CVS on Plainfield Ave. for shoplifting two bottles of cologne worth \$80.

• Hugo Cortzomi-Mani, 36, of Passaic was arrested at the DMV for exhibiting fraudulent government documents for identification.

• Won Him, 28, of Edison was arrested for hindering apprehension and driver Andrew Cho, 23, of Edison was also arrested for hindering apprehension, driving while suspended and failure to exhibit a driver's license at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Jan. 21 Jon Edward Ross, 39, of New York was arrested for driving while suspended and three outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle accident.

• On Jan. 22 a Kearny resident reported the theft of his company Nextel cell phone while at Liquid Assets.

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**Wow! In the coming weeks you can find Observer classifieds online at our website: [www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com)**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PARKS AND RECREATION—Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County**—is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Assistant Director Parks and Recreation. Applicant should have a Recreation and/or Sports Management Degree. Applicant must have experience with computerized recreational programs, Pool Management Certification and Rutgers Safety Instructors Certification. Annual salary range \$30,000 to \$40,000 based on experience. Full contributory benefit package. Please forward your resume and salary requirements to Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Administrator, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 or e-mail to: [vbuttiglieri@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:vbuttiglieri@southplainfieldnj.com). EOE.

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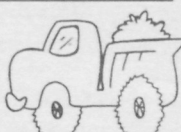
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Tom Guerin, owner of ATA Black Belt Academy, shows second grader Morgan Evans what to do when confronted by a stranger.

## Kennedy Students Get a Lesson About Bullying

Bu Jane Dornick

Tom Guerin, owner of ATA Black Belt Academy, located on Maple Ave., recently brought his bullying and safety programs to the students at Kennedy Elementary School.

Grades three and four participated in role playing to show the different types of bullies and the ways students can deal with being bullied.

Youngsters in kindergarten through the second grade were reminded about safety, such as knowing their name, address, phone number and dialing 911. Guerin did some extensive role playing on how to deal with strangers,

such as running away quickly and telling an adult, something that really needs to be stressed in this day and age.

On Saturday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. ATA Academy will be holding a free special class to give children the opportunity to participate in a martial arts program. The program has proven effective in developing courtesy, respect, confidence and leadership skills and to further learn the mental and physical techniques used to avoid dangerous situations, strangers and bullies. Pizza will be served afterwards.

For more information contact the academy at (908) 755-5440.

## Wesley Lenten and Easter Worship Services

Wesley Church invites you to join us as we begin the Christian observance of Lent and self examination for a Service of Ashes on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. During the Lenten season we celebrate five weeks of Lenten Love during our 9 and 10:30 a.m. worship times. This concludes with a Prayer Vigil on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and is open to all

friends, guests and members of Wesley Church.

Welcome in Christ on Palm Sunday, March 20 and know the glory of Christ on Easter Sunday, March 27. Worship begins at 9 and 10:30 a.m. times. It is our prayer to see you there.

Contact Pastor Thompson at (908) 757-2838 or (908) 756-1044 for any spiritual needs.

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## Dine Out and Support Silver Dreams Fundraiser

The Silver Dreams Winterguard from the South Plainfield High School is hosting a fundraiser at T.G.I. Friday's in Piscataway on Monday, Feb. 7 from 6-10 p.m. Twenty percent of your purchase will be donated by T.G.I. Friday's to the Silver Dreams Winterguard to help defray the cost of uniforms and sup-

plies needed for this year's performance.

The Silver Dreams Winterguard is an award-winning indoor colorguard who currently holds three Chapter Championships and were last year's third place finisher at the Atlantic Coast Championship held in Wildwood. The guard is under the direc-

tion of Mark Tweed and Kathy Petrocelli. Please join us in helping make this fundraiser a huge success. Just present this voucher/ad to your server upon ordering and T.G.I. Friday's will do the rest. Thank you in advance for supporting this talented group. Call Julie at (908) 791-0294 for any additional information.

## Obituaries

### Louise M. Trasky, 79

Louise M. Trasky died suddenly on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she had resided in New Jersey before settling in South Plainfield more than 30 years ago.

She had recently retired from Pepperidge Farm, where she had worked for the past 17 years in various stores and most recently in Edison. In addition, she was the owner/operator of the former Trasky Decorators. She made custom draperies and slip covers.

Louise was an accomplished ball room dancer. Her love and talents made her the recipient of many awards for her graceful and elegant abilities as a dancer. She later taught those talents to others at various studios in the central Jersey area. Even recently, her and her companion could still be found dancing the night away.

Her love for life and family will always be treasured.

She is predeceased by her husband, Steven N. Trasky and a son, Herbert B. Gerstley.

Surviving are her companion and longtime friend, Tony Chicketano; two daughters, Sandra Rogers of E. Bridgewater, Massachusetts and Carol and her husband, George Maysa of Piscataway; a nephew, Herbert McNeil of Florida and four grandchildren, Walter Brown, Wanda Sloan and Brian and Kristin Maysa. Also surviving are three great grandchildren, Chris, Wally and Angela.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Salvatore A. Cursi, Sr., 76

Salvatore A. Cursi, Sr., died on Tuesday, Jan. 18 in John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Edison.

Born in Avenel, he resided in Edison for most of his life.

Sal was a custom home builder for over 50 years. When he first went into the home building business, he was president of Cursi Brothers of Edison. Later he went into business by himself and created Sal Cursi Construction Co. of Edison. Most recently, he

and his son, Leonard, created S&L Cursi Construction of South Plainfield. Throughout his career, he developed hundreds of homes and developments in Central New Jersey.

He was a charter member of the Avenel First Aid Squad and had volunteered for the Avenel Fire Department. He participated in the North Edison Little League for over 18 years as a coach. He also donated his services in constructing the clubhouse, dug outs and many of the playing fields. Sal was a member of the West Edison Rod and Gun Club and had served in the United States Army National Guard for seven years.

He is predeceased by his parents, Jenny and Albert Cursi, Sr.; a brother, Frank and two sisters, Minnie Cornacchia and Marion Cursi.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Geraldine (Geri) Cursi; four children, Salvatore, Jr. and his wife, Cathy of Fords, Kathleen Cursi of Edison, Patricia Haskins and her husband, Steve of Florida and Leonard Cursi and his wife, Debra of South Plainfield; a brother, Albert Cursi, Jr. of Avenel and a sister, Jean Fedison of Woodcliff Lake. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Sal, Jamie, Andrew, Dawn, Lee, Nicole, Kristina and Jonathan and three great grandchildren, Keoni, Tajaira and Adriana and a host of other loving family members.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Anna S. (Aniunas) Malecki, 83

Anna S. (Aniunas) Malecki died on Saturday, Jan. 22 at her home.

Born in Connellsville, Pa., Mrs. Malecki was a 1941 graduate of North Plainfield High School and had been a resident of South Plainfield for most of her life.

She was employed as a bookkeeper for SuperSeal of South Plainfield for several years before her retirement 14 years ago. Prior to SuperSeal, she had been employed by Eco Pumps and Bruno's Dress Factory, both formerly of South Plainfield.

A communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, she could often be found cooking for special events, selling 50/50s and was a former member of the Rosary Society. In addition, she was a charter member of the Polish National Home, where she also served as a director.

She is predeceased by four brothers, Joe, Stanley, John and Cashmir and by a sister, Stella.

Surviving are her husband of 59 years, Felix J.; a daughter, Judy and her husband, Charles Taber of South Plainfield; two sons, Felix D. of South Carolina and Jerry and his wife, Donna of Clinton; a brother, Theodore Aniunas of South Plainfield and five grandchildren, Gina, Craig, Kimberly, Kelly and Krista. Also surviving is a great grandson, Shane.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Anna was a strong woman who battled cancer for two years, beating the odds at her age. Therefore, the family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in her memory be made to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main Street, Fords, NJ 08818.

### Mary Celestine Conroy Miller, 86

Mary Celestine Conroy Miller of Manchester Twp. died on Sunday, Jan. 23 at her daughter's home.

She was born in Bound Brook where she lived for 29 years. Upon her marriage to James L. Miller Sr., she resided in Plainfield for 38 years before moving to Toms River for 15 years. She then moved in with her daughter, Kathleen Geisler of Manchester Twp. six years ago.

Mary was a secretary for the Social Security Administration in Somerville and then worked for the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City.

Mary was a communicant of St. Maximilian Kolbe R.C. Church in Toms River where she was a member of the Altar Rosary Society and the Catholic Daughters of America. She was a former long time member of St. Mary's Church in Plainfield.

Mary was also a member of the Toms River Woman's Club.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband of fifty years, James L. Miller Sr. who died in 1996.

She is survived by three daughters, Mary Ellen Miller Koch of Green Brook, Claire T. Miller of Toms River and Kathleen and her husband Richard Geisler with whom she lived; a son, James L. and his wife Lori Miller of Little Egg Harbor; a sister, Anne and her husband John Geiger of Greeley, Pa. and her beloved grandchildren, Jamie Koch, Kerry, Richard and Meghan Geisler, Brielle, Hollie, Colleen and Kelley Miller. She is also survived by her many nieces and nephews who lovingly called her "Auntie Dear."

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

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