

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2005



The South Plainfield Girls Varsity Basketball Team presented 20-year coach Bill Schulte with a plaque and team ball after his 300th win on Jan. 31 against Bishop Ahr. Pictured are seniors Danielle Arndt, Erika Blaszk, Jessica Miller, Rachel Perez, Ashli Roberts, Coral Willis; juniors Darice Bishop and Shaunique Cisson; sophomores Dorian Bishop and Niya Santiago and Freshman Blaire Houston. Not pictured is sophomore Asia Hollis.

Coach Celebrates 300th Career Victory

By Michael Duquette

Bill Schulte, head coach of South Plainfield High School's Varsity Girls' Basketball Team, recently marked an impressive 300th victory with the team.

In just twenty years, starting with the 1984-85 season, Schulte has led the girls to victory. He attained this landmark win on Jan. 31, with a vic-

tory against Bishop Ahr.

Schulte, who also serves as the boys' football coach, attributes his success to both the hard work and dedication of his lineup over the years, as well as the support of his fellow coaches, both in basketball and other sports. "I've been fortunate to be here, surrounded by good coaches," he said, noting the encouragement of such coaches as Steve Novak, South

Plainfield High School's vice-principal, who previously had served as coach of the baseball team.

The girls have had an incredibly successful season this year, currently standing at 13-4. The remainder of the season, to be played this week, will determine the possibility of the team's standings in the county finals, which Schulte considers to be the foremost goal for his team at this point.

Wesley Youth Are Heading To India For Tsunami Rehabilitation Work



Nicole Woo, left, will join Jennifer GaNun, right, as part of a delegation of volunteers that will rehabilitate children orphaned by the Indian Ocean tsunami.



South Plainfield youths Jennifer GaNun and Nicole Woo will be part of a delegation of volunteers organized by the Wesley United Methodist Church to do volunteer service to rehabilitate orphan children still in refugee camps in the southern most tip of India—Kanyakumari. The volunteers, led by their pastor the Rev. Nehemiah Thompson, a native of India, whose home district (county) was severely damaged, with thousands losing their homes and at least 1,500 losing their lives, will leave on March 7 from Newark International Airport on an Air India jet to the sub-conti-

nent. When they arrive in India they will join other youth and begin to set up an orphanage for the orphans in the refugee camps. Local volunteers are doing the preliminary work and preparing the ground to receive the American volunteer visitors. While there they will attend a groundbreaking ceremony to build a comfortable facility for the orphans.

The borough youth will join a much larger pool of the rehabilitation volunteers from around the world from government and NGO organizations that are working in India. The South Plainfield contri-

bution through these youths will be specific and identifiable. They will also receive college credit hours for their volunteerism. The idea of rehabilitation in India is to not simply restore the victims' lives to what it was before the tsunami, but to make them better. Most who lost their lives, their loved ones and livelihoods were poor people living below the poverty line. The orphans will be given an opportunity to live a better life with good homes, loving care, good education, nutritious food and a good moral environment. The South Plainfield volunteers will ensure that this happens when they establish the Nesamony Children's Home in a town called Nagercoil, seven miles north of the Indian Ocean. Funds for these good deeds are being donated by individuals in the borough as well as outside. Wesley Church is facilitating this volunteerism of our youth. Anyone who would like to get in touch with Jennifer or Nicole to offer financial support and moral assistance may do so by calling the church office at (908) 757-2838 or Pastor Thompson at (908) 756-1044.

There will be a send off ecumenical ceremony on Sunday, March 6 at Wesley Church on Plainfield Ave. at 12 noon with a light lunch in which civic leaders from South Plainfield are expected to attend to encourage

(Continued on page 11)

Tingley Rubber Site Proposed for Age Restricted Zoning

The former site of Tingley Rubber, located on the south side of town near Rt. 287, has been proposed for a zoning change. The property, which has been vacated by Tingley Rubber for years, could become an age restricted residential zone, if passed by the council at next Tuesday's meeting.

A legal notice in last week's *Observer* laid out the proposed zoning change which will make the property restricted to a senior citizen active adult zone. Located on Coolidge Street bounded by South Ave., the property consists of approximately 27 acres and is near a huge apartment complex in neighboring Edison.

The senior citizen active adult zone will permit construction of single family homes, townhouses, condominiums and apartment dwellings. The age restriction will mean that at least one member living there must be at least 55 years old.

The ordinance, which the council

will vote on Tuesday, only rezones the property. Before any construction can take place, the property owner must come before the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment with specific plans, including the number of units, type of dwellings and parking, to receive approval to build there.

Last January Jack Morris, owner of Edgewood Properties, appeared before the council with a proposed plan to develop the Tingley Rubber property and asked that the Borough rezone the property from industrial to residential. At that time he proposed building approximately 484 units, both one- and two-bedrooms, contained in three story buildings. Each unit would have their own garage on the ground floor. The complex would include a 15,000-square-foot clubhouse, a swimming pool, bocci ball and tennis courts, putting area and open space areas. All plans were

(Continued on page 11)

Fire Destroys Maple Ave. Home

South Plainfield Police, the Fire Department and Rescue Squad responded to a house fire at 1115 Maple Ave. on the evening of Jan. 31. When firemen arrived, the two-story Cape Cod single family residence was in flames. The occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Odom and their two adult sons, were quickly evacuated. The fire was extinguished in approximately 20 minutes by the fire department.

Adele Odom, the wife, was transported to

Muhlenberg Hospital by the rescue squad for smoke inhalation. She was released later that night.

The fire department has determined that the fire was caused by an electrical cord in a first floor bedroom.

Traffic was detoured for several hours on Maple Ave. near the fire scene. Deputy Fire Chief John Mocharski stated the residence was uninhabitable and the Odoms are staying with family in the area.



An electrical cord malfunction caused a fire which destroyed this Maple Ave. home.

Police Arrest Detroit Fugitive

The South Plainfield Police were contacted by the Detroit Police Department last Thursday regarding an anonymous tip that a fugitive was staying at a local hotel. Police responded to the Best Western Hotel where they encountered the suspect. Arrested at the hotel without incident was David Coumarbatch, 45, of 1430 South Liebold St., Detroit.

Coumarbatch is single and unemployed. Detroit police have charged him with two counts of kidnapping, two counts of sexual assault and one count of home invasion. Local police charged Coumarbatch with being a fugitive from justice. He was transported to the Middlesex County Correctional Center and held without bail pending extradition to Michigan.

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 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. |
| April 5 | 7:00 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. |
| April 18 | 7:00 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. |

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

planning board

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

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

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. 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.

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.

(No meeting February) and March 21

Senior Housing at Tingley Still an Issue

During a Senior Center meeting a few months ago, Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield Chairman Walter Pasacrita asked Mayor Gallagher whether plans for having a new Senior Housing project at the Tingley Rubber site were still viable. Mayor Gallagher stated unequivocally that senior housing was no longer being considered at that location. However, during the latest Council meeting, it was learned that in spite of what was said previously, plans are not quite dead. In fact, the Council will soon be voting to change the zoning thereat from industrial to residential in order to gain approval for the Tingley site.

The Senior Men's Forum has opposed this location for a senior hous-

ing facility for several years and has not changed its mind for reasons made known to both the public, the Mayor and Council.

FROM THE Senior Men's FORUM

We are disappointed with the Mayor's decision to continue to foster approval of this location when other more appropriate central locations for seniors should be considered. The Mayor turned down the proposal to build next to the existing Morris Ave. senior building indicating that there would be interference of parking at Riley School and traffic congestion in the surrounding area. However, the Forum found evidence to fault such findings. If the project is resurrected at Tingley, not only will traffic be severely impacted particu-

larly at the Rt. 287 entrance and exit, but the seniors living at Tingley will find total dissatisfaction along with the rest of our borough residents.

The forum urges seniors to attend the next Block Grant Meeting at Town Hall and let their views be voiced when the Housing and Community Development committee votes for the zone change affecting the Tingley project. It is high time for seniors to get involved. The Block Grant Meeting is scheduled at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Editors Note: Walter Pasacrita is chairman of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum will periodically submit columns on their views and opinions. If you would like to know more about the group, you are invited to attend one of their meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center; 1:30 p.m.

GOP: Tingley Rezoning Will be Disaster for Borough

South Plainfield—Calling a proposal to rezone the Tingley Rubber site near Route 287 "ill-considered," South Plainfield Republicans are calling upon the Borough Council to drop its plan to rezone the property for up to 486 units of multi-family, age-restricted housing.

"The plan for Tingley puts the wrong housing in the wrong spot," said GOP Chair Bob Jones. "It's a high-traffic industrial area near a railroad line and truck terminals. It's not the place for almost 500 senior-housing units. The plan is ill-considered and, what's worse, it will add to our town's already-rampant overdevelopment."

Under the proposal at least one resident must be 55 or older, but other

residents can be as young as 19. Jones questioned whether this is true senior housing: "We're talking about working people with college-aged kids."

Developer Jack Morris, a big Democratic campaign contributor in Middlesex County, first proposed rezoning the 27-acre site last year. But after a local senior-citizen group and others complained about the location and the effect on traffic, council members shelved the idea, saying they had questions about it.

During the 2004 council campaign, however, Republicans predicted the plan would resurface after the election. "We knew this plan would be back in front of the council after the campaign ended," said Jones.

"While South Plainfield needs se-

nior housing, this is not what we need. The project is too large, and it opens that entire industrial area to residential development. It will be a domino effect. And if people think traffic is bad now, wait until 1,000 more cars hit the streets. It will be a disaster."

Republicans said they would support a plan for senior housing in a better location, close to medical providers, shopping, and other services seniors need. They'd also like to see a smaller plan—one that would serve the needs of South Plainfield's aging population but wouldn't add to sprawl.

Jones said his group is encouraging residents to oppose the Tingley rezoning at a final hearing set for 8 p.m. on Feb. 15 at Borough Hall.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Grant Elementary School would like to thank the following local businesses for their support and help with our "Eat Out Week" fundraiser for the 2005-06 sixth grade class trip to Stokes (New Jersey School of Conservation).

Thank you to the following businesses: Ciccio's Pizza, Munchies, Burger King, Wendy's and Carmen's Trattoria.

South Plainfield is very lucky to have these businesses in our town. They are always willing to help and are so very generous to our schools. Thanks again and please don't forget to support our local businesses.

**SINCERELY,
PATTI McLAUGHLIN, GRANT
CHAIRPERSON FOR "EAT OUT WEEK"**

To the Editor,

On May 1, 2005, nearly seven million people will be participating in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica to help save babies from premature birth—a common, serious and costly problem that affects more than 470,000 babies in the US every year. And the rate of premature births continue to rise. If we don't join together to fight premature birth, the problem only gets worse.

On June 7, 2002, I gave birth to my son eight weeks early. He weighed a little over four pounds and could not breath without a respirator. I could hold him in the palm of my hand and his ankle could fit inside my husbands wedding band. He was immediately whisked away after delivery and admitted into the neonatal unit as his lungs were not mature enough to breath on his own. For eight days he was given surfactant therapy and breathing with the assistance of a ventilator. At 16 days old, he was finally able to breath on his own and they began to wean him off the IV for food. In all, Bryan spent exactly 30 days in the neonatal unit.

This story explains how I became

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.

involved with the March of Dimes. In 1990, the FDA approved the use of surfactant therapy. The March of Dimes played a leading role in developing this medication for premature babies. Surfactant is a natural substance produced by the lungs. This substance is produced by the lungs during the final weeks of a full term pregnancy. Without this research, my son's story would have had a different

ending.

Through WalkAmerica the March of Dimes raises money to fund research to find out what causes premature birth and how it can be stopped.

My family is proud to support WalkAmerica in our community and we have set a goal to raise \$3,000. We are asking that you take the time to join us by either walking with Middlesex County on May 1 or by supporting us through contributions to help us give babies a fighting start.

To make a donation please visit http://www.walkamerica.org/team_ey or send your donation made payable to "March of Dimes" c/o the South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

For more information about the walk and the mission of the March of Dimes, visit www.WalkAmerica.com.

**THANK YOU
MICHELE RABER**

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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.
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Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan presents a \$25,000 check to Edison Valley Playhouse President Richard Monterio, as Robert Bengivenga and Bill Seesselberg look on.

Edison Valley Playhouse Receives State Grant

Edison Valley Playhouse, a landmark on Oak Tree Rd., has received a \$25,000 grant from the State of New Jersey. Plans are underway to reopen the playhouse this year and this funding will start the project going by enabling much needed repairs.

"The building needs a new roof and some exterior repair," said Richard Monterio, president of Valley Playhouse Productions, which owns the theater. "These funds will get our renovation and reopening project going in the right direction."

Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan and Peter Barnes of the 18th district helped the group find available funding for emergency repairs. "I believe the arts are an essential part of our lives," Diegnan said. "Opportunities such as this, bringing back Edison Valley Playhouse as a cultural arts center, should be supported by everyone."

Assemblyman Diegnan accompanied President Monterio, Vice President Bill Seesselberg and Trustee Robert Bengivenga on a tour of the theater, showing them what work will be started with the funding.

"When the weather breaks a little, we will start replacing the roof and begin repairing the exterior damage to the building," said Bengivenga. "Then we can begin repairing the interior."

In 2004, the playhouse was named a local historic site by Edison Township. The theater was formerly the Marconner Union Chapel, originally constructed in 1895. Until 1966 it served as a church. In 1968 it was purchased by Valley Playhouse Productions, a group organized in the Oak Tree area that had been producing shows in the local school and church halls. The group will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2005.

"Many area residents will remember the fine shows seen on the Edison Valley stage," stated Seesselberg. "Some of those residents got a chance to perform and even begin their show business careers from that same stage."

Speaking for all the officers, Bengivenga added, "I would like to personally thank Assemblymen Diegnan and Barnes for their support. Bill, Rich and I each have 20 to 30 years of involvement in area theatre and are excited about reopening the playhouse and in returning live theatre to the area."

Some of the reopening plans include brining back not only stage shows and

musicals, but also other cultural events such as recitals, classes and lectures. There will also be opportunities for displaying art and photographs in the theatre during performances.

"Bill and I have spoken about this for the past few years," added Diegnan, "and it looks like the dream is really on it's way to becoming true."

"We hope to bring this back as a truly community theatre," Seesselberg said. "Not only for the residential community, but also the business, social and cultural communities in the area." Volunteers who are interested in helping out are encouraged to contact the playhouse. They are also looking for tax-deductible donations and the contribution of material or services by area businesses, contractors or suppliers.

For information or to get involved, visit www.evplayhouse.com, contact the playhouse at (908) 755-4654.

Knights of Columbus Present Awards

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held a communion breakfast on Jan. 30 for five members who celebrated 50 years of service and to give out Knight and Family of the Quarter Awards. Receiving 50 year awards were: Al Lane, William Sheedy Jr, PGK, James Williamson and Jerry Douglass. Charles Rusin was recognized for 57 years. All were given certificate of application plaques and awards from Grand Knight Joseph Scrudato and Faithful Navigator Anthony Moskal.

Also awarded were the Knight and Family of the Quarter awards. Bill Butrico won the Knight of the Quarter award for his great leadership skills and running many service projects within the community and the church. The Butrico family, including father Charlie and sons Bill, Mike and Vinny, won the Family of the Quarter award for the council. Two of the Butrico's family greatest accomplishments were the donation of a new flagpole to the Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield and their part in organizing the painting of the Sacred Heart cafeteria.

When Father John Paul Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church informed Bill Butrico that the church's cafeteria was in dire need of an uplift, it took only a



Grand Knight Joseph Scrudato presents the Knight of the Quarter plaque to Bill Butrico.

short time for Bill to ask the Knights Council to volunteer their time to refurbish and paint the cafeteria. In fact the council also painted the stairwells and the kitchen, as well as performing a major cleanup of the entire room. More than 30 members of the South

Plainfield council helped out with this major project for the church. The job took a total of 430 man-hours, as well as 130 gallons of paint and saved the church well over \$10,000 for all of the work the Council did.

Is Your Family Ready for Primetime Television?

Swap: to exchange, to barter, to trade. People regularly swap clothes, cars, jewelry and homes, but what about if you could swap families for 10 days? Moms have a chance to do just that on ABC's new reality show, "Wife Swap."

"Wife Swap" delves into all the particulars in the lives of American families by having the mothers from two families switch places for 10 days.

Families (and viewers) will quickly discover that what is deemed "conventional" in one family can be considered unorthodox and completely bizarre in another.

During the first five days, the moms try to fit into the routine and adopt the lifestyle of their new family, giving all a chance to become familiar with each other. For the second five days, the new moms make any changes they

see fit and run the home in a way that suits them.

"Wife Swap" will document all the details: how couples share (or don't share) housework and child-rearing responsibilities, how they spend their money and how they spend their leisure time. At the end of each show, the families get a chance to take a step back and look at their own family dynamics from a slight distance—often gaining new and fascinating insights in the process.

"Wife Swap" is currently looking for families interested in participating in the fun! If you're a mom who would like to trade in her family for a bit, or a family who'd like to see what life would be like with a different kind of mom, call (212) 905-6059 or email wifewapshow@rdmedia.com for additional information, or check out our website <http://WifeSwapTVShow.com>.

School Board Candidacy Information Available

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

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 125 Jackson Ave., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School

Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said James J. Dougherty, Jr.,

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

**Our Lady Of Czestochowa
R.C. Church**

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays
(908) 756-1333

Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass
Thurs.-Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10am

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

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Events

Historical Society/Elks Valentine's Breakfast

February 13

The South Plainfield Historical Society and the South Plainfield Elks invite you to an all-you-can eat breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 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 on New Market Ave. Prices are \$6 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12. Children under four 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.

Sacred Heart Church to Hold Free Concert

February 13

Sacred Heart Church will present a free concert in observance of the Parish's Centennial Year. "Season of Love" will be performed by Sacred Heart parishioner "Pianare"-Dr. Patricia Landy, Robert Romano on clarinet and guest Wendy Romano, bassoon.

The concert takes place on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. in the church on South Plainfield Ave. A free-will offering will be accepted. If you have any questions, contact Dan Mahoney, Director of Music at Sacred Heart, at (908) 756-0633 ext. 30.

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 Monthly 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. Choice of chicken paprika or fish dinner. Cost is \$8 for adults and children and under are \$4. Take-out is .50 cents extra. For information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and noon weekends.

Spaghetti Dinner

February 19

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, located on Park Ave., is holding a All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner on Sat-

What's happening in FEBRUARY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Knitting/crocheting 9:30-11:30 am 14
Yoga 10:30-11:30 am
Drawing Class 11:30 am

Bingo 10am-2pm 15
Ladies Social 10am

Exercise 8:30am 16
Line Dancing 10am
AARP Crafts 1pm
Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1 pm

Weekly Shopping 17
Pathmark 9am
Practical Crafts 10am
Computer Class 11am & 1pm

Bingo 10am-2pm 18
Pizza lunch available

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

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

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

Senior Center EVENTS

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| February 24... Lifeline Screening March 7... Best of Branson at Hunterdon Hills April 7... Oklahoma at NJPAC | | | Weekly Shopping 10 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm | 11 Center Closed |
| Knitting/crocheting 9:30-11:30 am 14 Yoga 10:30-11:30 am Drawing Class 11:30 am | Bingo 10am-2pm 15 Ladies Social 10am | Exercise 8:30am 16 Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1 pm | Weekly Shopping 17 Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm | Bingo 10am-2pm 18 Pizza lunch available |

urday, Feb. 19 from 5-7 p.m. No reservations are needed.

A free-will offering will be taken. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. This price includes beverage and dessert.

For information, call (908) 757-4474.

Pilgrim Covenant Open House

February 23

Parents and their children are invited to attend an Open House on Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, Inc., located at 3121 Park Ave.

The Learning Center, a state certified school with over 30 years of experience in childcare, offers a variety of programs for children ages 2½ to five years old. Programs include both full and part time classes, Kindergarten Enrichment and Summer Camp.

For further information, please call (908) 756-4879.

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. Tickets cost \$5 per person. A preview of the art selections starts at 7 p.m. and the auction starts at 8 p.m. in the church on Park Ave. There will be hors d'oeuvres, coffee, cake and a raffle.

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

Recreation Trip to Italy

March 6-14

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

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

AARP Safe Drivers Courses

March 10 & 11, 12 & 19

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP is holding two separate Safe Drivers courses, completion of which gives a three-year discount on automobile insurance, as well as a reduction of two points, if acquired.

The first course will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 10 and 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Piscataway

Kennedy Library. The second course is Saturday March 12 and 19, at Muhlenberg Hospital from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You must complete both four-hour sessions to receive certification for discount. There is no age restriction; any legally licensed, insured driver may attend. Fee is \$10, payable to AARP #4144. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764 to register.

High School Annual Auction/Raffle

March 12

South Plainfield High School is holding their annual Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 12, 2005. This year we have a laptop computer, Club Med trip, 32" TV, gas grill, Broadway tickets, Yankees basket, an iPod, a large assortment of gift certificates, theme baskets and much more. Tickets are on sale now for \$10. Order quickly; tickets sell out every year. The auction profits provide Project Graduation Class of 2005, along with a number of scholarships to deserving seniors.

Call Pat Anderson (756-6512) or Ellen Melanson (756-3731). No one under 18 will be admitted. Come out and support our graduating seniors.

Beach Boys' Revival

April 3

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

— Out of Town —

"Teaching As An Alternative Career"

February 10

Thinking about a career change? Would you consider "teaching" as an alternate career? An information session on the "New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey" will be held on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at Jewish Family & Vocational Services, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201 in Edison.

No charge for this seminar. Please call to register at (732) 777-1940.

Middlesex East WOWs

February 11

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold an open Valentine's Dance on Friday, Feb. 11 at St. Demetrius

Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave. in 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.

"Step Up to Leadership" Program

February 11

A "Step Up to Leadership" program will be held on Friday, Feb. 11 at the Stockton College's new Carnegie Library Center, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Pacific Ave. in Atlantic City. The day long event begins at 8 a.m. and runs through 5 p.m. Cost of the program is \$199.

For information, call (609) 652-4227 or log on to: www.stocktonpdce.net/ps.htm.

Red Cross Holds Rummage Sale

February 11

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will be holding a Rummage Sale on Friday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. in its 203 West Jersey St. location in Elizabeth. The office will be relocating in two weeks and will be selling a great number of items.

Call (908) 966-1220 for more information.

MCRCC Business Networking Event

February 17

A "Business After Business" Networking reception will be held on Thursday, Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Edison Hotel.

Come join your friends from the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce and Edison Chamber of Commerce and also have a chance to meet and chat with the new president of Middlesex County College - Joann La Perla-Morales for this HUGE networking event.

Cost for members is \$10, member walk-in \$15 and non-members \$25.

Please fax to 732-821-5852 or register on-line at www.mcrcc.org.

Spiritual Singles Evening

February 19

An Evening for Spiritual Singles, ages 25 to 49, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at Provisi's Italian Restaurant in Morristown. \$10 service fee plus cost of dinner. A spiritual advisor will be available to chat with at dinner. Seating is limited.

RSVP by Feb. 18 to (732) 764-9073 or angelicbutterfly@iwon.com.

Commemorative Ceremony

February 19

On Saturday, Feb. 19 at 11 a.m., Raritan will host a commemorative ceremony honoring its National World War II hero, Marine Sergeant John Basilone on the 60th anniversary of his death and the Battle of Iwo Jima. Sergeant Basilone received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his action during the Battle of Guadalcanal in the 1942 and the Navy Cross posthumously for heroism in the Battle of Iwo Jima where he was killed in 1945.

The ceremony takes place at his statue in Raritan and will include naming the newly constructed Lyman Street Bridge the "John Basilone Veterans Memorial Bridge" by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Pat Cooper at Hunterdon Hills

February 25-28

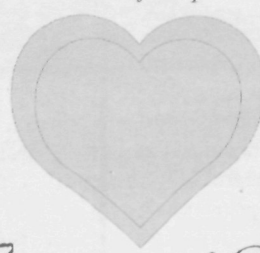
Pat Cooper will be appearing in concert at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Feb. 25 through 28.

For reservations call (800) 447-7313 or (908) 730-8007.

Sacred Heart Church

presents

A free concert in celebration of the parish's Centennial Year



"Season of Love"

Performed by "Pianare"
Dr. Patricia Landy - Piano (Sacred Heart Parishoner) and
Robert Romano - Clarinet
Guest Artist - Wendy Romano - Bassoon

Works by:

Saint Saens, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Finzi, Templeton, Mendelssohn and Joplin

Sunday, February 13, 2005 - 3 p.m.

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Free-will offering will be accepted.

Questions? Please call Director of Sacred Music Dan Mahoney at (908) 756-0633, ext. 30

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southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Theresa DiSesso Celebrates Ninetieth Birthday



Mom Mom Tessie, who is celebrating her 90th birthday with her great grandchildren.

Mrs. Theresa (Buttrico) DiSesso will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Feb. 11. She will be honored with a small party in the home of her daughter Patty on Sunday, Feb. 13.

Mrs. DiSesso, better known as "Aunt Tessie" has lived in South Plainfield her entire life. She previously owned DiSesso's Market on Hamilton Blvd. and with her husband's help, babysat children from South Plainfield in her home for over 35 years. She is an avid lottery player, who still finds time to bake and play with her six great grandchildren. (She resides with five of them.) The family of Mrs. DiSesso, who is now dubbed "Mom Mom Tessie," wants to wish her a happy 90th birthday and the very best of continued good health and happiness.

Officer Campagna is Honored with a 'Save Kids Award'

South Plainfield Traffic Safety Police Officer Vincent Campagna was recently honored at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Injury Prevention/Safe Kids Middlesex County Coalition's First Annual Recognition Luncheon for his role as an "Outstanding Injury Prevention Advocate."

The luncheon was held at the Arline and Henry Schwartzman Courtyard at the hospital, where Campagna was recognized for his dedication to the field of injury prevention and his on-

going commitment to the coalition. He has been an active member for four years and has worked closely with the coalition to promote safety for the entire Middlesex County community.

Campagna has participated in numerous bike rodeos, safety workshops and car seat safety inspections and is a Certified Passenger Safety Technician and Senior Checker through the National Safe Kids campaign. He was instrumental in procuring National Safe Kids Pedestrian Safety Task Force Grants, which help promote pedes-

trian safety in South Plainfield with cross walk flags and "bright sticks" on pedestrian and stop signs plus several more upcoming projects this spring. His ongoing efforts have helped to educate the community about such topics as bike safety and helmets, pedestrian safety and car passenger safety, all in the name of saving lives.

Diana Doherty, coalition coordinator says, "Vince is a 'quiet leader'. He is always willing to help and has a wealth of knowledge to impart. He does this in such a way that encourages participation and cooperation among the members of the coalition. His continuous support has been a mainstay for the group and we appreciate him for his good work and sense of humor."

Toth Named to Dean List at Ramapo

Adam Toth has been named to the Deans List at Ramapo College of New Jersey for the first semester.

Adam is currently a freshman and

is planning to major in Biology.

His goals are to take his M-Cats upon graduation, then go on to med school to pursue a career in medicine.

Eighth Graders Take on History Project

Barbara Pinelli-McDonough's eighth grade US History classes are embarking on a long-range multi-faceted history report and research project. The children will be working individually or in small cooperative learning groups.

The students in the "Reg" and ICS classes were given four choices for this project.

The first choice was a chart to in-

clude a selection of five US Presidents from Thomas Jefferson through Abraham Lincoln. A variety of information must be researched and included for each president. In addition to their vital statistics, the students need to know the political party, vice president, cabinet members and positions, years in office and the important laws passed during their term.

Another choice involves the production of a 5-10 minute video tape on either the Civil War or Thomas Jefferson's presidency. The Civil War video must include the reasons, countries, major battles, major generals, leaders of the countries involved, dates, outcomes and treaty. The Jefferson video must include all the same information as the chart project,

plus any major controversies during his term.

A third choice is the creation of a mini-newspaper reporting on George Washington's or Andrew Jackson's presidency. Again, this project must include all the same information as the chart project, as well as the major controversies during their terms.

The final choice is a poster about the Gold Rush, to include how and where it began, locations and names involved, techniques to get it, groups and dates involved and the economic, social and political results.

The AE classes had different assignment choices. These projects include creating a film (video) of either the presidency of Washington, Jefferson or Jackson, or the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Mexican War, or the Gold Rush. After selecting a topic, the same information as stated above must be included in the final report.

Weekly
Worship

A guide to local houses of worship

Pilgrim Covenant Church

3121 Park Avenue

Reverend Arnold R. Bolin, interim pastor

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Bible Study at parsonage

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Prayer: 7:30 p.m., Bible Study

*

Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center

Phone (908) 756-4879—Church (908) 756-2474—Parsonage (908) 754-0768

*

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

3145 Park Ave. (908) 757-4474.

Reverend Richard J. Kiesling, Pastor

Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion celebrated weekly

Religious Education and Adult Bible Class is at 9:15 a.m.

During Lent, Wednesday night services at 7:30 p.m.,

preceded by an optional 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

St. Stephens also offers a Christian Martial Arts Program open to the community free of charge. This is held normally on Wednesday evenings, but during Lent it is on Thursday evenings. Ages 4-9 at 6:30 p.m. and 10-teens 7:30 p.m. Call the church office for more details on that program.

*

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Avenue

(908) 756-0633—www.ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net/

Rev. John P. Alvarado, Pastor

Weekend Masses—Saturday Vigil 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Daily Masses—Monday 7 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.,

Thursday 7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.

Holy Days: 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday 3 p.m. (Divine Mercy Chapel)—7 p.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday 6:45 p.m. with Benediction and

Saturday following 9:00 a.m. Mass

Friday Fish dinners during Lent are held in the cafeteria from 5 to 7 p.m., sponsored by Saint Vincent de Paul and members of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus.

*

Wesley Methodist Church

1500 Plainfield Ave.

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

During the Lenten season celebrate five weeks of Lenten Love during the 9 and 10 a.m. worship services. 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.



SPHS Parents Notice:

The South Plainfield High School Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the high school cafeterias.

Opening Valentine's Day

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NEW 2005 GMC W4500 CREW CAB

South Plainfield Scouting



Cub Pack 224 take a break during their winter hike in the woods.

Pack 224 Take Winter Hike

Cub Scouts from Wolf Den 5 and Webelos from Den 9 of South Plainfield's John E. Riley, Pack 224 took a winter hike this season. They started their hike with a compass course and set out to find gifts in the woods. They completed their hike with a tree decorated for the animals. They strung bagels, fruits and breads that were dipped in peanut butter and bird seeds to provide the animals with a winter feast before the snow began to fall.

Participants were: Christopher Markey, Rebecca Armond, James Markey, Joshua Siepmann, Jason Lowery, Frank Ferraro, Zachary Henderson and Matthew Siepmann.

A special thanks to South Plainfield Cake and Bagel for providing us with the bagels and breads for this activity.



Scouts Join Events at Washington Rock

South Plainfield Girl Scouts joined others from the Girl Scout Council of Washington Rock at several Camp Lou Henry Hoover events the past few months in northern New Jersey for fall activities and to earn badges and Try Its. The Junior Girl Scouts made candles, tie-dyed using natural dyes, learned to weave baskets, pressed cider and completed the challenging low ropes course.

Brownie Girl Scouts made paper, explored bubbles and magnets, made musical instruments, played group games, and other activities to earn their Play Around the World, Sounds of Music and Science Wonders Try-Its.



Junior Girl Scout Troop 888 visited Historic Speedwell Village to earn two badges, Local Lore and Yarn and Fabric Arts. The girls tried weaving, cross stitch and embroidery, made

natural dyes, toured the museum, learned about the beginnings of Morse Code and were introduced to fabric arts traditionally done by the girls and women of the period. Additionally, they completed a service project and learned about historic preservation by cleaning some pottery fragments found at the site.

Troop Visits Commerce Bank

The girls of Junior Troop 888 recently visited Commerce Bank in South Plainfield. While there the girls learned how ATM's work, learned how to open a bank account, balance a check book, write a check and they took a "behind the scenes" tour of the bank.



Back By Popular Demand!

THE BIG EVENT

You asked for it and we answered! Get the attention of every homeowner in South Plainfield in the The March 18 issue of the Observer ... that's 8,000 households and more than 21,000 residents. The only better way would be going door to door. To reserve space for this special issue, call 908-668-0010.

Deadline to reserve space is Monday, March 9. Call early for best placement.

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Coming Soon:
MASSAGE
Gift Certificates Available

Dzifa Mask Dance Theater Performs at Roosevelt School

By Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt School students got an early start on their month-long multicultural celebration with a visit from the Dzifa Mask Dance Theater of Philadelphia. The company presented the school with a brief glimpse into the African culture through the folk art of mask dancing. The program followed the music from African ports to the Caribbean and the Americas where it became entwined with the music of those cultures.

Dzifa, a word from the Fante language of Ghana, West Africa means "calm in the midst of a storm." The company's literature noted, "The themes reflect passages of life, celebration dances of freedom, initiation dances, harvest and hunting celebrations and jubilant dances of welcome and thanksgiving. In the tradition of Dzifa, the ensemble is proud to bring the message of African culture through youth arts-in-education programming, music/dance therapy classes, workshops, lectures and performances."

The charismatic performers enthralled students and staff alike with their colorful costumes, masks and drum music. Before the morning came to a close Dancer Arisa Ingram demonstrated several moves and soon had the entire audience up and dancing. Students also had an opportunity to try out the drums. Second grade student Rachael said, "The program was awesome!" Principal Jacqueline Keogh said, "The dancers were wonderful! They really put on a good pro-



Photos by Christopher Abbott

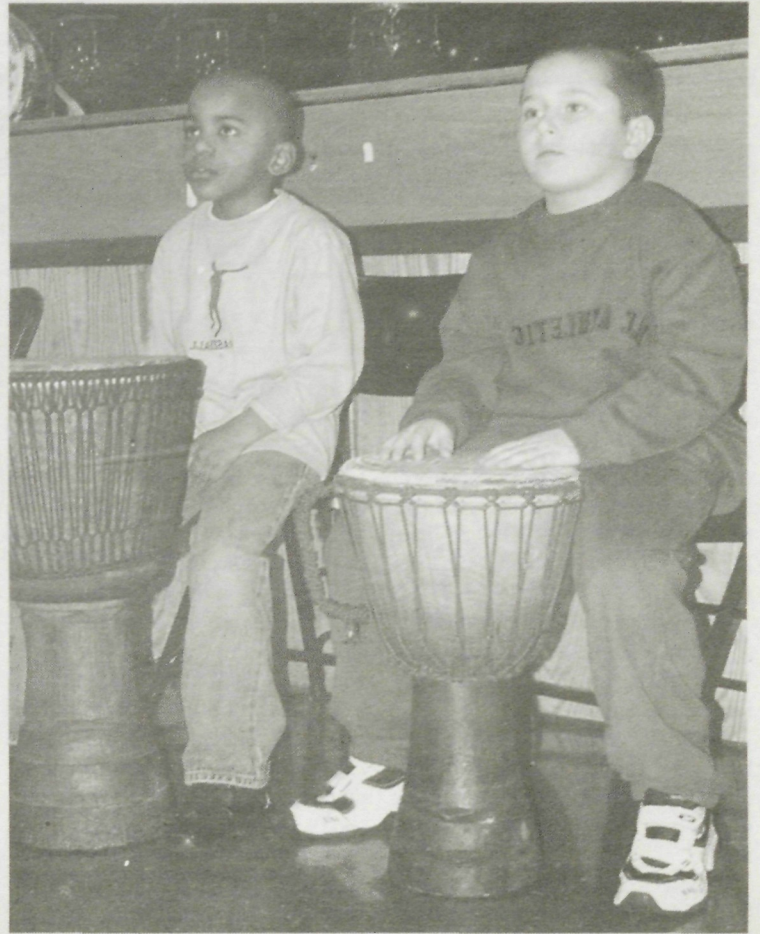
gram. Everyone loved it and they even asked for an encore."

The group was sponsored by Port Africa an art gallery/store located in Hadley Center near Kohl's. It was funded by the PTSO through Art to Remember, a fundraiser run by Art teacher Glenda Posey. Port Africa, owned by Darius Griffin is, "A world class art gallery that helps provide community programs such as drumming for youths, poetry slams, and educational classes for youths and young adults. These programs and others are performed for different schools, churches and private organizations in the community." In Celebration of Black History Month, Port Africa will offer "Drum Circles for Youths" drum instruction for ages four through 15 years-old. The four week session is \$35 per student. Classes are held on Saturdays through Feb. 26. There are two sessions to choose from, 10 to 11 a.m. and



11:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Darius described the class as "a fantastic drumming extravaganza. Whether it is interactive team building amongst peers or just pure fun, the Port Africa Drum Circle has the ability to deliver an unforgettable experience for kids of all ages. This one time fee



for the month will cover a professional drummer, rental of drums and a light snack. This class will definitely fill up fast so please RSVP your son or daughter as soon as possible to reserve their seat." Port Africa is located

at 4945 Stelton Rd. (Hadley Center), South Plainfield. Phone: (908) 222-1152.

Roosevelt held their annual Multicultural Program last week. See next week's *Observer* for photos.

Recycling Center's Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day Holiday Schedule

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Friday, Feb. 11, for Lincoln's Birthday. It will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10.

The Recycling Center will also be closed for the Presidents' Day Holiday on Tuesday, Feb. 22, and open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

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

urdays.

Both facilities will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12 and on Saturday, Feb. 19.

The Recycling Center will be accepting used paint for recycling from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on February 19. Sort latex-based paint from oil-based

paint.

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

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

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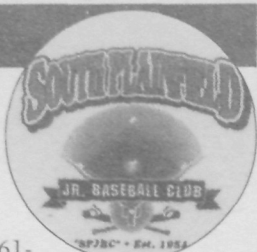
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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Parents can still sign up their children for the 2005 season. The deadline is Feb. 28. After that date, applicants will be subject to a waiting list. In order to sign-up, you must call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or Lee Flanagan at (732) 684-8347. The fee is \$115.

All managers and assistant coaches are set in all leagues except in Pony B. We are seeking a manager and an assistant on this level.

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 conducting a Rutgers certification course on Feb. 16. Please call Mike English for further details.

The next umpiring session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 6:45 p.m. Call Larry Hughes, umpire in chief, at

(908) 561-9314 if you have any questions concerning umpires.

Anthony Guida, freshmen boys baseball coach at South Plainfield High School, will be conducting a coach's clinic at the SPJBC on Feb. 17 beginning at 8 p.m. All managers and coaches are welcome to attend along with any players. Door prizes will be awarded at this clinic.

Tryouts will be Saturday, March 5 at the PAL Building for ages 8-12; all kids must tryout. You will be receiving a postcard in the mail with your child's assigned time to tryout.

We have tickets on sale for the new Mercedes. Michelle Kunie and First Class Travel are sponsoring the second prize. Tickets are available from Nancy Salici or any Executive Board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets at (908) 754-2090.

Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter

Tigers Dominate GMC Tournament

The South Plainfield Wrestling Team the number two ranked team in the state continued to separate themselves from the rest of the Middlesex County teams by winning their tenth GMC title in the past 13 years. The Tiger's rolled up 252½ points, nearly 100 points more than second place Old Bridge's 158 and Piscataway filling the third spot with 113½ points.

The Tigers crowned four individual champions and had seven in the finals. Every Tiger wrestler placed, but one and that was due to an injury.

On the opening night of the competition the Tigers advanced all 13 of its wrestlers into Saturdays quarter final round. In the quarterfinals the Tigers dropped two close matches 9-8 and 2-0. Eleven wrestlers headed into the semi-final round. Patrick Hunter (103) was the first to advance when he won by major decision 13-1 over Dievys Teles of Perth Amboy. Billy Ashnault (112) got off to a slow start, but came charging back with a 13-12 win over Gabriel Roman from Perth Amboy. Jimmy Conroy (119) continued his quest for a third county title by pinning Eric Tsang at 1:50.

Viet Vo (125) had a tough time with Hamilton Cook of JP Stevens losing by major decision 13-2. Nick Dorey (130), who lost a heartbreaker 2-0 in the quarterfinals battled back for a fifth place finish. Ed McCray (135) pinned Scott Poore of Sayerville at :24. Pete DeAndrea (140) who defeated Mike VanderValk of Oldbridge in the dual meet last week lost a close decision 4-3. Paul Ritchey (145) won by major decision 13-4 over Justin DelPiano of South Brunswick 13-4.

Sam Martin (160) had the worst call of the day when time ran out and the officials let the action continue for another 10 seconds and two points were awarded to Andre Hage of Spotswood which was the deciding factor in the 6-4 match. Mark Wagner (171) faced the number 4 ranked 171-pound Rob Damon of Piscataway, who gave him all he could handle before losing by decision. Kevin Crilley (189) the GMC champion last year got the fourth seed this year, which was enough of an incentive to go out and prove he was still number one. Crilley went out and pinned number one seed Matt Clancy of South

Brunswick at 5:46. Rob Maistickle (215) the number one seed pinned Anan Ramadami of Old Bridge at :41.

With the team title locked up the Tiger wrestlers looked to the finals to capture individual titles as well third place medals. Patrick Hunter led off for the Tigers and was trailing 3-1 when he appeared to turn Steve Fallon of Old Bridge to his back for near fall points when Hunter was called for a controversial locking hands violation nullifying the back points. Hunter then took Fallon down to make the final score 4-3. Billy Ashnault, a second place finisher last year faced Matt Pagon of Bishop Ahr who was ranked at number two in the state. Ashnault gave Pagon all he could handle in dropping a 3-1 decision. Jimmy Conroy won his third consecutive title when he shut out Gary Griffin of Woodbridge 13-0. Griffin did nothing the whole match. Ed McCray, last years Union County champion added another title to his resumé when he pinned Craig Batista of Woodbridge at 5:15. Paul Ritchey was in a real battle with Jack Barrett of Metuchen and lost a close decision 4-2. Next up was Kevin Crilley who faced number two seed Chris Jones of Piscataway and took right to him and nearly pinned Jones in the third period and went on to win by decision 9-4. Senior Captain Rob Maistickle claimed the last Tiger title when he pinned Pavel Stuchinsky of JP Stevens at 1:13.

Peter DeAndrea defeated Mike Tuhy of Monroe 3-2 for third place. Sam Martin came back strong after a disappointing loss in the semis to defeat Bill Dunn of Old Bridge 8-6 for third place. Viet Vo and Mark Wagner each finished in fourth place. Nick Dorey finished in fifth. Congratulations to Coach McCann and the Tiger Wrestler Team on a job well done.

Middle School Wrestlers Defeat Voorhees and Rahway

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team, under third year coach Kevin Hajduk, continue to win in the talented New Jersey Grade School Wrestling League. In a tri-match this past weekend the Tigers defeated Voorhees 70-21 and then handed the Rahway team a 76-18 loss.

In the Voorhees match, winning by fall were Tyler Hunt (70) in :57, Riche Szeliga (75) in :27 and Ryan Sacco (90) in :51. Winning by forfeit was Vinnie DaPonte (80) and Nick Heilmann (85), John Wylam (95) and Corey Hay (100). Joey Vetusch (107) won by fall at 1:10. Mike Wagner (112) won by major decision 13-3. Joel Santos (119) won by fall :22 and Nick Vallone (124) pinned his man at 1:10. Jonathan

Conroy (175) and Billy Whitefleet heavyweight, both won by forfeit.

Winners in the Rahway match were Tyler Hunt, Riche Szeliga, Nick Heilmann, Ryan Sacco, John Wylam, Corey Hay, Joey Vetusch, Mike Wagner, Joel Santos, Nick Vallone and Jonathan Conroy, all won by fall.

Next up this weekend, the Tigers will host the South Plainfield Middle School Duals, a team tournament with teams from as far as Maryland, Delaware and Connecticut along with other top New Jersey teams will square off for top team honors.

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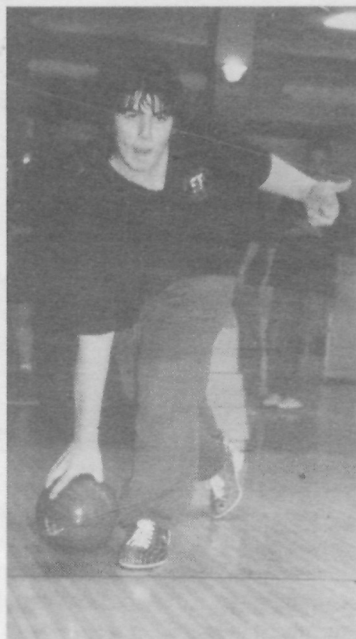
Sports

SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH



SPHS Junior Lindsay Hunsicker



SPHS Sophomore Bobby Parello

Lady Tigers Top Mighty Edison and South River

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| SPHS | 855 | 766 | 775 | 2396 |
| Edison | 814 | 760 | 812 | 2386 |
| South River | 727 | 743 | 823 | 2293 |

The Girls Bowling Team posted two thrilling upsets this week in tri-match action. The Lady Tigers jolted a good South River team (17-6-1) and stunned Red Division Champion Edison (21-3-1), winning both matches by 3-1 scores.

Leading the Tigers were Beverly Jamieson 189 and 516 high set and Kim Gaub with a solid 503 set. Also chipping in were Angelique Rualo 179, Jennifer Jasquez 178 and Anna Ferrer 160, as the Lady Tigers rolled their high games and series of the season.

Boy Bowlers Crush South River, But Edged by Edison

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|------|------|
| SPHS | 990 | 997 | 905 | 2892 |
| Edison | 1048 | 914 | 1078 | 3042 |
| South River | 769 | 791 | 744 | 2304 |

The Boys Bowling Team steamrolled South River, posting a 4-0 shutout; upset and threw a scare into powerhouse Edison before falling in the deciding third game.

Shawn Ferguson took scoring honors 237-204 and 605 set, closely followed by Vin Genova 216-224-600 set.

Nick Grego turned in a solid 534 set, Brett Morris 222 game, Matt Boley 201-208 for 582 and Geo Kleinknecht 192 to complete the scoring.

Players Sought For Freeholders' Annual Basketball Tournament

The Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking players for its annual Board of Chosen Freeholders Basketball Tournament, which starts March 7.

Four divisions will play in the 2-week-long, single elimination tournament to be held at the Piscataway campus of the Middlesex County Vocational-Technical High School, 12 Suttons Lane.

The divisions are: Youth Division 1 (boys and girls age 12 and under), Youth Division 2 (boys and girls 13 and 14 years old), Youth Division 3 (boys and girls age 15 to 17 years old) and Adult Men's Division (18 and up).

Registration, a \$50 per-team entry fee and team rosters are due Feb. 21. Checks may be made payable to Treasurer-Middlesex County. Mail to: Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department, P.O. Box 61, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, Attn. Erin Carroll.

For more information, call Erin Carroll at (732) 745-4222 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

GMC PLAYOFFS

Tigers (1105) Boley (267) Cruise Past Perth Amboy, But Fall to JFK

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| (13) South Plainfield | 984-1105 |
| (20) Perth Amboy | 737-810 |

The Boys Bowling Team scorched the lanes as they clobbered the Panthers, winning the required two games right from the get go in GMC Playoff action. Matt Boley's 267 high game and George Kleinknecht's 227 led the parade in the first game. The Tigers came back to record their high game of the season, a booming 1105 on the strength of Boley 216, Kleinknecht's 206, Vin Genova's 206, Tiger rookies Daryl Valerio's 221 and Freshman Ryan Pauls a 235 game.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| (13) South Plainfield | 969-801 |
| (4) JF Kennedy | 1057-1010 |

The Tigers battled south seeded JFK on even terms until the last two frames when the Mustangs trotted away for the hard fought win in the opening game. A barrage of 200 games closed the door on the Tigers who suffered a meltdown in the second game. Vin Genova fired games of 219-182, Matt Boley 198, George Kleinknecht 191, Nick Grego 181 and Shawn Ferguson 180 for the upset minded Tigers.

Lady Tigers Romp Over New Brunswick, But Carteret Slips By

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| (15) South Plainfield | 840-747-813-2400 |
| (18) New Brunswick | -Did not show- |

The Lady Tigers were on a red hot tear, even though the Zebras failed to show, posting their high team series of the year. Leading the scoring for the Tigers were Beverly Jamieson 216-156-193-562 high set, closely followed by teammates Kim Gaub 194-169-166-529 high set, Angelique Rualo 162-152-174-487 and freshman Katie Yon a 160 game.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| (15) South Plainfield | 817-781-752 |
| (18) Carteret | 796-920-886 |

The Tigers shocked the second seeded Blue Division Champions Carteret by squeezing a 21 pin win in the first game. However, the Ramblers regrouped and came out with the heavy artillery which was too much for the Tigers to keep up with as their upset fell short. Angelique Rualo took scoring honors on games of 180-170-150-500 total. Chipping in were Beverly Jamieson (183-471), Kim Gaub (167-469), Katie Yon 173 and Lindsay Hunsicker a 198 game.

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|--|--|---|--|

| | | | | | | |
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| SUTTER HOME White Zinfandel 6.99 1.5 liter | SUTTER HOME Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 4.99 750 ml | COLUMBIA CREST TWO VINES Shiraz, Merlot 5.99 750 ml | ECCO DOMANI Pinot Grigio, Chianti 7.99 750 ml | LINDEMANS Cabernet Bin 45, Merlot Bin 40, Chardonnay Bin 65 10.99 750 ml | SANTA MARGHERITA Pinot Grigio 18.99 750 ml | |
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police report

• On Feb. 2 Mario C. Figueroa, 51, of New Brunswick was arrested at DMV for exhibiting fraudulent government documents to renew a driver's license.

• An Elsie Ave. resident report that someone had made a fraudulent purchase on the Internet using his personal checking account number.

• On Feb. 3 William Charles Cromer, 42 and William Charles Cromer, 22, of North Carolina where arrested at Best Western for possession of a controlled substance.

• Donald C. Highsmith, 56, of North Brunswick was arrested for driving on a suspended license, brake light out and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Feb. 4 Rida Gorgy, 49, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license, fraudulent inspection sticker and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Feb. 5 Warren H. Troy, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while suspended and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Juan Sebastian Franco-Salazar, 19, of Piscataway was arrested for exhibiting a fraudulent alien resident card and three outstanding warrants while walking down New Brunswick Ave.

• On Feb. 6 Leonard Sides, 55, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, an unregistered vehicle, fictitious plates and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

Feasibility Study Planned for Indoor Pool and Track

Recreation Director Mike English will be doing a feasibility study to find out what it would cost to construct a building next to the present PAL which would include an aquatic pool and indoor track. The study would also include if the indoor pool and track would generate enough revenue.

The Recreation Commission voted to authorize \$10,000 for English to conduct the study. English explained that an indoor aquatic pool and indoor track may bring in more revenue than the present pool, which is only open three months of the year.

He stressed that it is just a feasibility study and no decision or plans have been made, nor will any decisions be made until the study is complete. Both the aquatic pool and indoor track could be utilized year-round and even rented to outside groups.

LEGAL NOTICE

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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
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ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

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February 11, 2005

COMING SOON...

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website for the South
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Glitterbugs Feel A "Pain In The Drain"

David Street, an educator who specializes in presentations about the environment, joined the first meeting of the newly forming Glitterbug Club. A group of about fifteen children and their parents gathered at the PAL on Sunday afternoon to learn about litter – where it comes from, where it goes, and what harm it does. Street used slides and music to explain that the storm "sewers" that line our streets do not drain to a sewage treatment plant. Rather, the stormwater that runs into the grates drains directly into Spring Lake or our streams. The litter that gets washed into the catch basins gives us a "pain in the drain" because it pollutes waterways and wildlife habitat, can injure or kill animals, and looks ugly. After the presentation, everybody went outside and picked up litter around the PAL for two minutes. They found enough litter to fill a 2.5-gallon snack jar.

The children pledged not to be Litterbugs, and to do their part to help keep South Plainfield clean. Each family left with a Litter Detective log sheet, so they can record where the Borough is badly littered. They will turn their sheets in to the Clean Communities Advisory Board, which will use the information to help plan Volunteer



Litter Cleanup Week in April.

The Glitterbug Club will meet at the Nature Reserve on Sylvania Place on March 6 to do their first official cleanup.

The jar of litter will be filled with water and kept until the Pickup Picnic on April 23. Glitterbug Club members will be able to see if any of the litter they picked up on Jan. 30 de-

composed at all in three months.

The Glitterbug Club is open to all South Plainfield children at least five years old. It is sponsored by the Clean Communities Advisory Board, and membership is free.

For more information call CCAB member Marie Markey at (908) 755-3213 or Alice Tempel, Clean Communities Coordinator, at (908) 226-7621.



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Tingley Rubber Zite Rezoning

(Continued from page 1)

in the early stages and subject to change. Since then, the rezoning proposal has gone back and forth between several of the boards and commissions, and the result is Ordinance 1685, which is up for a final vote on Tuesday.

This age restricted zone should not be confused with the affordable senior housing complex presently located on Morris Ave. This property only charges rent according to residents' income and is owned and managed by the Lutheran Ministries. The rezoned Tingley Rubber property would require that 10 percent of the units be reserved as low and moderate income

housing, but the other 90 percent would be sold and rented at the going rate for such units.

An age restricted development would mean no extra students in the district, but at the same time have a positive tax revenue. Many groups have already expressed their opposition to the proposed rezoning, such as the members of the Senior Men's Forum and South Plainfield Republicans, both of which have submitted articles on page 2 of this week's *Observer*. The meeting takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. in the council chambers. The public will have a chance to speak before the ordinance is voted on.

Wesley Youth Heading to India

(Continued from page 1)

and support volunteerism. A memorial moment will be observed for the 160,000 persons who died as a result of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean basin states with music and photos of the horrendous tsunami activities.

Children will offer gifts to tsunami children that the volunteers will take with them to India. Many have come forward to adopt tsunami orphans who will be living in an orphanage. Many more sponsors are needed. Contributions to support the orphans may be made to Wesley United Meth-

odist Church with a memo for tsunami orphans. Anyone interested in sponsoring a child for \$20 a month can call the church office and request a form to fill out, or a one time contribution to build the orphanage would be appreciated as well.

When the volunteer team returns they will give a presentation of their experience at a similar ecumenical service at Wesley or another location. That date will be announced at the church office in March.

If you have any questions, call Wesley Church at (908) 757-2838.

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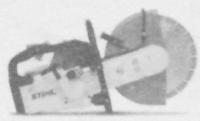


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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

February is a month of holidays – Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day and Washington's Birthday. Hopefully that means you will have some holiday time off from work. What better way to spend that leisure time than reading books or viewing videos/DVDs from the library. If you need help in the romance department, the library has books on *Guerilla Dating Tactics*; *He's Not Into You*, *Truth Dating*, etc. We have the *Sex and the City* videos and DVDs. We have romance novels, romance paperbacks and the paperback exchange which has many romance paperbacks. The paperback exchanges books may be borrowed and then returned to the rack or replaced with an equal number of your own paperback romances.

Miss Millie is having her annual

Valentine's Day paperback contest. To enter, you must be an adult with a library card or get a library card. What do you win? Romance paperbacks! The drawing of the winner will be on February 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the library. We will notify the winners to pick up their prizes.

The Library will be CLOSED on Friday, Feb. 11 in celebration of Lincoln's Birthday. The Library will be OPEN on Saturday, Feb. 12 and Sunday, Feb. 13.

There are many new books by popular authors coming out in the next few months. James Patterson latest, London Bridges, is a bestseller but he now has another new book coming out on Feb. 14 called *the Honeymoon*. Richard North Patterson has a new book called *Conviction*. Check the library's website for additional books, videos and DVDs that are new to the library.

Sacred Heart Honor Roll

Fifth Grade—Principal's List—Andrea Muglia and Carla Palma.

Honor Roll—Anthony Cardoso, Keavagh Charles, Amanda Joe and Cecelia Uche.

Sixth Grade—Honor Roll—Sabrina Douge, Christopher Gbogi, Joseph Landry and Careese Simmonds.

Seventh Grade—Principal's List—Alfonse Muglia and Aaron Pinkard.

Honor Roll—Lily Altamirano, Alexandra Fee, Victoria Gaydos, Jilleanne Gulotta, Alexandria Livingston, Kaitlin Muglia, Adrienne Novak, Patrick Ruiz, Jaclyn Thomas and Zachary Sikanowicz.

Eighth Grade—Principal's List—Ashley Forbes and Ryan Hohner.

Honor Roll: Aedan Bayona, Khaliah Douglas, Amaral Dullon Alexandra Grant, Warren Roberts II, Kaitlyn Salvatore, Ashley Smith and Walter Rodriguez.

Junior Journalist Corner



Kaitlyn Graziano, Grant School Sixth Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Grant School sixth grader Kaitlyn Graziano and Grant Principal Janis Burchell, is this week's winner of the Junior Journalist contest.

Grant School sixth grader Kaitlyn Graziano is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Her poem, "I am Tired of Winter" has won her family dinner, 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.

News from the Suburban Womans Club

Dorothy Goldstein, president and Betty Golden, vice president of NAMI-Middlesex presented the program at the South Plainfield Suburban Womans Club Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 3. NAMI-Middlesex is the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Middlesex County. It is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and their families affected by mental illness.

Golden discussed various mental diseases and their symptoms, while Goldstein told of the resources available in Middlesex County.

Club members were told that NAMI has a network of support and advocacy groups composed of families, friends and persons who are affected by mental illness. NAMI also provides a free family-to-family educational course for family caregivers.

Also discussed were treatments available and classes that teach family members to cope more effectively with their loved one's illness. The program ended with a question and answer period.

At the March meeting Joanne Murcet will present a program titled "Leaving a legacy." Women interested in attending or in joining the club should call (908) 757-3527 for further information.

I Am Tired of Winter

By Kaitlyn Graziano

I don't want more colds and sneezes, or cold winter breezes.
I want warm sunny flowers, Not cold shady showers.
I want spring to come early, Spring to come soon,
Spring to come on a beautiful full moon.
I want the flowers to pop up and see,
That spring has come for you and for me.
No more colds or sneezes, or cold winter breezes,
And no shady showers, Just warm spring flowers.

Obituaries

Frances A. DeSordi, 77

Frances A. DeSordi died on Thursday, Feb. 3, at her home.

Born to Boleslaw Adamiak and Mary Surowicz in Newark, she grew up in Irvington where she lived for most of her life. She then lived in Maplewood for over 20 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1996.

Before her retirement, Frances had been a secretary and had worked for Colombia High School in Maplewood for over 10 years. Prior to that, she had worked for the Lyons Institute in Newark.

Having enjoyed dancing, during the 1940s she had taught dancing for the Arthur Murray School of Dance, where she met her husband.

She was an active member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and was a participant in the Sharing and Caring Group of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, Angelo, died in 1994.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Valerie and Nestor Moreira and Virginia and Daniel Picciottoli, all of South Plainfield; a sister, Wanda Janiszewski of Union and by four grandchildren, Vanessa Moreira Corbett, Anthony Moreira and Michael and Natalie Picciottoli.

Funeral services were held at the

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made in her memory to the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08818-9972.

Helen Pesta Niemczyk, 91

Helen Pesta Niemczyk of Surfside Beach, SC, died on Thursday, Feb. 3 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach.

Born on Nov. 17, 1913 in Exeter, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Andrew and Mary Fedor Pesta. Mrs. Niemczyk lived most of her life in South Plainfield, Metuchen and Edison, where she was a homemaker. She devoted all of her life to her husband, children and home.

Mrs. Niemczyk was a longtime member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church where she served on their Rosary Society and also a member of the Polish National Home.

She is predeceased by her husband of 60 years, A. Michael Niemczyk; four brothers, Andrew, Michael, George and John; three sisters, Mary Fundalewicz, Anna Dudak Bolesta and Elizabeth Ziolkowski and a little sister, Agnes Pesta.

She is survived by two daughters, Doris Hoagland of Colonial Heights, Va. (formerly of New Brunswick) and Carol Weber and her husband, Ron of Surfside Beach, SC; six grandchildren, Susan, Edward, Betsy, Jill, Ronald and Eileen and eight great grandchildren, Brooke, Ashley, Christopher, Kyle, Caitlin, Elizabeth, Maria and Andrew.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Dominick E. Costanzo, 91

Dominick E. Costanzo died on Friday, Feb. 4 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mr. Costanzo was born in Calabria, Italy and came to the United States through Ellis Island in 1920. He had resided in Roselle Park and Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1959.

Mr. Costanzo was a volunteer for the Army National Guard during WWII.

Employed as a machinist with the former Lockheed Electronics of Watchung for 32 years, he retired in the 1980s.

Mr. Costanzo was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a former member of South Plainfield B.P.O.

Elks #2298, the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and the Progressive Dance Group of Nutley.

He was an avid bowler and played for various afternoon and night leagues at the Strike and Spare Bowling Alley in Green Brook.

His wife, Susan (LaVecchia) Costanzo died in Aug. of 2003 and a sister, Lucy Netta, has also predeceased him.

He is survived by a daughter, Arlene Hochstadter and her husband, John of South Plainfield; two sons, Joseph Costanzo of Florida and Daniel Costanzo and his wife, Valerie of Florida and by a sister, Jennie Gryn of Roselle Park.

Also surviving are nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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