

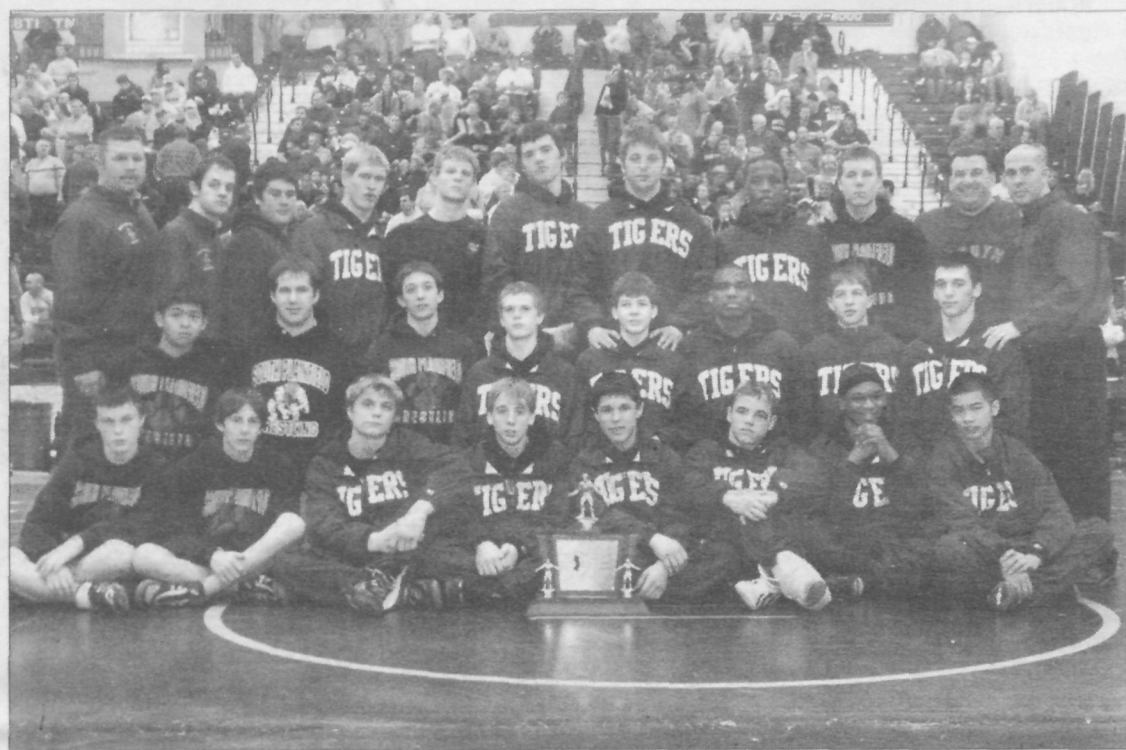
South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 25

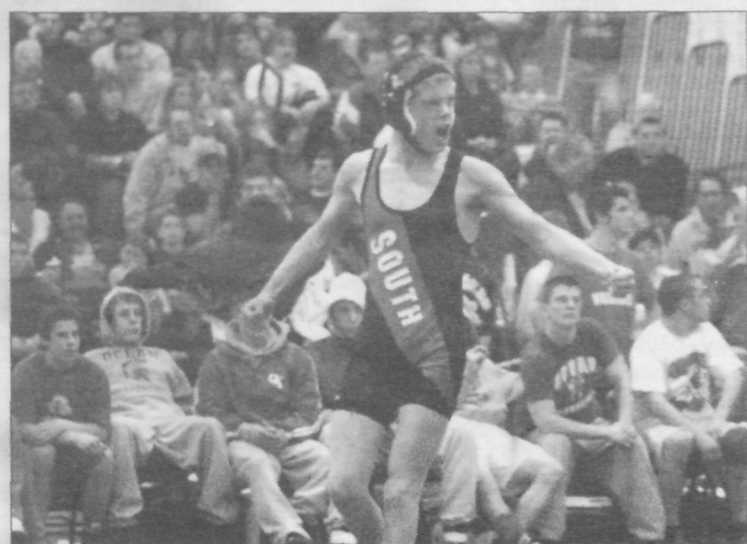
50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2005

Tiger Wrestlers Win State Championship!



The South Plainfield High School Tigers are the 2005 New Jersey State Group III Wrestling Champions.



Patrick Hunter celebrates after defeating Mike Beradesco 21-6 to clinch the Group III Title.

By Bob Hunter

It seems like such a long time ago that the wrestling season began and the Tigers had set their hopes high for another successful season. As the dual meet season came to a close, the undefeated Tigers now set their sights on the sectional and state titles.

The magical mystery tour started in December with the Tigers winning the Morris Knolls tournament. They crowned three champions at Hunterdon Central Tournament and rolled up impressive wins against Hunterdon Central and powerhouse Kittatinny, who was then the number one ranked team in the state. Old Bridge was the next Tiger victim before heading into the GMC tournament, where they won by almost 100 points. Then they beat a strong High Point team and rival Delaware Valley, both state-ranked teams.

With the sectional playoffs ready to begin, the Tigers looked to capture a sectional title in North Jersey Section 2 before moving on to the Group III state championship round. First the

Tigers had to win in the semi-finals of the sectionals, which they did easily, by defeating Livingston 47-17.

The victory over Livingston set up the championship match, with North Hunterdon coming to town trying to stop the undefeated Tigers. But that was not to be, as the Tigers rolled over North Hunterdon 50-12 to win their first sectional title since 2001 and a spot in the Group III championships. Standing in their way was High Point, who gave the Tigers a difficult bout the first time around, but the Tigers came out ready and defeated High Point 34-21, for the second time this year. With the match starting at (112) Billy Ashnault got the Tigers going with a tech fall over Ryan Swarts 20-5. Jimmy Conroy (119) then pinned John Scalise at 3:06 to give them an 11-0 lead. Viet Vo (125), who lost by tech-fall to Ryan Forbeck in the first match, was next and gave Forbeck all he could handle before dropping a 8-6 decision in overtime. Nick Dorey (130) then got payback from High Point's Greg Martin, who defeated him in the earlier dual meet,

by scoring a 5-3 victory. Ed McCray (135) followed with a major decision 15-2 victory over Connor Perdisatt. Pete DeAndrea (140) then defeated Lee Tisler by decision 8-4. Paul Ritchey (145) then pinned Vin Gallo at 1:35 to extend the Tiger lead. The Tigers then dropped three close decisions before Kevin Crilley (189) got the Tigers back on track with a 15-6 major decision over Kasey Campbell. Preston Johnson (215) appeared to have Greg Borras pinned as the clock ran down, but it wasn't enough as Johnson came up short 7-6.

Patrick Hunter (103), wrestling in the last match, avenged an earlier loss to Gavin Tarsa by winning a 6-3 decision. This set up a showdown with a very talented team from Ocean Twp.

As the time drew closer to the 3:30 p.m. starting time, some 300 of the South Plainfield faithful who had made the ride down the shore, poured into the crowded Ritacco Center in Toms River to witness possible history in the making. It was about five years ago to the day, on a cold snowy day in Sussex County, that South Plainfield won its first state championship by defeating Kittatinny and the Tiger faithful hoped history was on their side. Those faithful included former wrestlers from the great Tiger teams of past years like 1989, 1994 and 2000, former coaches Bill Pavlak and Mike Buggy and South Plainfield's first state champion, Joe Lemmo. It appeared as if all the great forces of South Plainfield's proud wrestling history were coming together Sunday afternoon to support and to witness the present team, arguably the greatest in school history, in its final and greatest test. Would the Tigers step up to the challenge that Ocean presented them with?

The Ocean team, a 39-20 winner over Central Regional in the semi-

(Continued on page 12)

Board of Education Ups Financing by \$652,575

By Libby Barsky

The South Plainfield Board of Education awarded a Lease Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$1,617,575 to Commerce Commercial Leasing LLC during last week's board meeting.

In doing so, the Board has increased the original amount by \$652,575.12 on top of the \$965,000 lease purchase financing plan that uses district textbooks as collateral for the loan—a method the board is undertaking as a way to cover the 2004/2005 budget gap.

The additional amount of \$652,575.12 will be used to purchase items that are needed in the 2005-2006 budget. They include three new busses to replace busses which will be 12 years old in July (by law busses can't be used after 12 years); two new boilers to replace those at Franklin and Kennedy elementary schools, 84 new fire doors for South Plainfield High School and the possible acquisition of new science textbooks to replace those that are 10 years old, according to interim Board Secretary Robert Davis.

The Apris Group, Ltd. served as financial advisor to conduct the competitive bidding. There were five companies that responded with Commerce Commercial Leasing providing the lowest rate bids at a blended rate of 4.11% over five years. The total interest pay-

ment will be \$118,620.

There are two pieces of the lease purchase arrangement—Part A and Part B. The first part, Part A, \$965,000 has a taxable interest rate of 4.75 percent. Davis said the Part A rate is higher because it is an arrangement covering the deficit in the 2004-2005 budget.

The Board undertook this method of financing in order to maintain existing programs and teaching positions. "We need the financing to finish this year," said Board President Pio Pennisi.

The second part of the lease, or Part B, is for next year's purchase of the busses, boilers and fire doors and the possible acquisition of new science books for K-12. Because this is for new equipment, Part B is tax exempt and its interest rate will be 3.15 percent. This agreement locks in both rates and gives the blended rate of 4.11 percent over five years.

The Board is currently in the process of establishing the 2005/2006 budget which must go to the State by March 8.

"The amount of the payment toward the lease loan has to be included in the 2005/2006 budget. It is part of the budget. If we were to put these items—busses, fire doors and boilers as capital projects in the budget for next year, we wouldn't be able to do it. It would mean that we would have to cut \$2.6 million from next year's budget," said Pennisi.

Elderly Couple Found Dead in Grant Ave. Home

At around 12:30 p.m. last Friday afternoon, the South Plainfield Police responded to the home of J. Oliver and Evelyn Lindstrom at 1905 Grant Ave., only to find the couple had been deceased for approximately a week.

According to Police Capt. Paul Brembt, Mr. Lindstrom's brother contacted them when he hadn't heard from the couple in over a month. Police walked around the house and gained entry by breaking a glass in the side door. Mr. Lindstrom, age 84, was found dead in his bed under the covers in the back bedroom. His wife, age 84, was found on the living room floor. Mr. Lindstrom is reported to have had diabetes and a heart condition and his wife suffered from Alzheimer's.

There appeared to be nothing

suspicious about the deaths. Police suspect that Mr. Lindstrom had passed away in his sleep and the wife could not care for herself. Autopsies are being performed; however, the results will not be known for several weeks.

PSE&G and the South Plainfield Fire Department were called in to determine if there was any detectable carbon monoxide in the home and found none.

Capt. Brembt also stated that they are looking into some kind of call system to check on elderly residents in the borough.

The Lindstroms had been residents of South Plainfield since the 1950's.

Complete obituaries and funeral arrangements can be found on page 16.

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
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

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

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.—March 15 and April 12.

2004/2005 Budget Working Meetings—Feb. 28, March 3 and 7 at 7 p.m.—Introducing the Budget on March 8 at 7 p.m.—Final Adoption of the Budget on March 29 at 8 p.m.

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.

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

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

To the Editor:

The Knights of Columbus held a Spaghetti Dinner at Sacred Heart Cafeteria on Feb. 5. We would like to thank the following for their help in making this dinner a success.

First, Ferraro Foods for their generous donations, Anthony and Sons for the delicious bread, Tramontano and Son for the salad, Nadia and Guillermo Valencia for donating your time and talents in the kitchen and the many Knights who donated their time. Also thanks to the teens earning service hours, who were very polite and professional and the volunteer bakers (the desserts were delicious).

We truly appreciate all your support.

**SINCERELY,
JOSEPH SCRUDATO, GRAND
KNIGHT OF THE SOUTH
PLAINFIELD KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS**

To the Editor:

I would like to make residents aware of another problem with some of the middle school students (and parents) in town. Just like last weeks letter from Eric Arnowitz of the Library Board, some of these students are creating problems at high school sporting events.

I work as staff during football, basketball and wrestling home contests. I have noticed over the past few years that the behavior of some of these students (not all) is becoming unruly. Take last Thursday night as an example. It was the wrestling state sectional final, no school the next day, so plenty of students headed to the match to “support their team!!!!” Not exactly. The parents drop them off in carloads, hand them \$5 and leave. For the next three hours they are out of the parents hands.

Do they go in the gym and sit down and watch the match? NO!!! They ‘hang’ in the hallways, then, when we tell them to either go into the gym or in the cafeteria, they head for the cafeteria. A few minutes later they are running around and throwing food, pushing fellow students on the chairs, etc. We ask them to go into the gym or go outside. This time they go outside. A few minutes later we hear of some girls pushing each other around. We get the police on duty to go outside. Five minutes later they are all back in the hallway goofing around. This goes on all night, not once going into the gym to watch. Occasionally we get some kids talking back to us after we ask them to leave, showing no respect for us or administration. It’s great when you ask a young student to stop doing something and they tell you “you can’t do anything to me, my dad’s a cop, or my mom works in the school.” Yes, we have heard this many times. Later that night we hear of an eighth grader getting beat up by a couple of ninth graders in the park. And where are their parents? Home relaxing with no kids to worry about.

IN YOUR OPINION

It’s probably the same kids from the library!

Yes the town may need some place for the kids to go and ‘hang out’ but not at high school sporting events. That admission price entitles you to a seat in the gym. This also goes for the parents who do come to the game/match, but give their kids \$5 and tell them not to get into trouble. I have witnessed this first hand. We are not a ‘babysitting service.’ I have a recommendation for the board for next year’s events. Admission for those students under 15 years of age would be \$15 without a parent and \$2 if accompanied by a parent. (I’m not sure that would even work).

The next time you send your kids to a game/match, try talking to them or even better yet, come and watch them.

**CONCERNED,
NORM LOENSER**

To the Editor,

At the Borough Council Meeting held on Feb. 15, the council passed by unanimous vote the ordinance to change the Tingley Rubber site from commercial to residential. This property, which is owned by Jack Morris, has been proposed to be developed for age-restricted housing. The current proposal calls for 484 units to be built, which would bring approximately 1,000 more cars to the area.

Everyone I’ve spoken with in the past 2½ years consistently complains how South Plainfield is being overdeveloped and the traffic is horren-

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.

dous. Apparently the Borough Council has turned a deaf ear. They all seem to think that this site is a great place to build age-restricted housing. Let’s not confuse this with senior housing, which the town desperately needs.

This is a major Democratic campaign contributor looking to make millions at our expense. During the meeting someone questioned the integrity of the council and a few of them became quite defensive. I feel that they are honest and hard working people, but I can see why this question arose. If you check the record you will find that their campaign contributors get the no-bid contracts and the opportunity to build a development of this magnitude.

At the political debate last October when the question of this development arose, the Democratic candidates said it was a non-issue and should not even be discussed. Six weeks into their new administration they pass the ordinance change. Wow, things sure happen fast or was it just another political ploy until after election day?

RAY RUSNAK

Emergency Kosher Food Pantry in Need of Food

Jewish Family and Vocational Service’s Kosher Food Pantry, which has provided emergency food packages to individuals and families in need, now needs your help.

Due to the winter season, we now find our pantry depleted of several non-perishable staples. Please help fill our shelves so we can continue to help those who need us in the Middlesex County community.

We need pasta/tomato sauces, jelly, macaroni and cheese, coffee, tea, hot and cold cereals, canned vegetables, soups, tuna, sardines, salmon, non-

refrigerated juices and fruit bars or granola bars.

Peanut butter and canned fruits are particularly needed, as our shelves are completely depleted of those items.

Other types of non-perishable foods, such as packaged cheese/peanut butter type crackers, pudding packs, cake mixes, hot cocoa mix, rice or rice type mixes (such as Near East), pasta and soup mixes are welcome as well.

Kosher food items can be dropped off at our offices at 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201, Edison, NJ—Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

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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.

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1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Sacred Heart School and CCD students are ready to volunteer their services at the Friday night Fish Fry held in the Sacred Heart cafeteria. These volunteer students serve coffee and dessert and help keep the cafeteria clean; all will smile on their faces.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Bruce Harger

Upcoming and ongoing programs—

There are two adult-related activities coming up in the Library for which participants must pre-register: Bernice Krieger is presenting a "Handwriting Analysis" workshop on Sunday, March 6, beginning at 2 p.m. (limited to 30). And on March 7, Ronda Wisniewski will lead two sessions of a "Make and Take Craft—Paper Quilting" project; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 7 to 8 p.m. (there is a \$1 materials fee for this project).

Ms. Linda continues to offer "Storytime & Craft" for children ages three-plus on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons at 1:15 p.m., as well as the ever-popular "Books-n-Babies" program on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. (except on the first Friday of the month). Ms. Linda would also like to remind all of the young at heart to come and celebrate "Read Across America Day" on Wednesday, March 2. For those in "the know"—it always takes place on Dr. Seuss' birthday. When was the last time you had Green Eggs and Ham?

If you haven't already purchased tickets for the "Basket Raffle" now is the time to come in and take a chance on winning. The raffle will be held at 6 p.m. this Monday, Feb. 28. Tickets are only \$1 and can be obtained at the circulation desk during regular hours.

Correction

Incorrect information was given to the *Observer* regarding the Jan. 31 fire on Maple Ave. The correct address is number 1119, the home of Harold (Red) and Adele Boyton, who resided with their adult son. Mrs. Boyton was taken to JFK Medical Center in Edison for treatment of smoke inhalation. Mr. Boyton is currently in JFK Medical Center suffering from congestive heart failure due to stress from the incident. The family is currently renting an apartment at Woodland Manor in South Plainfield. We apologize for inaccurately reporting the incident.

Tax information available in the Library—

It's that time of year again! No, not spring... at least, not yet. But it is time to roll up your sleeves and get out the calculator to do your taxes. There are several resources available at the library to assist you in preparing your taxes, but please don't ask the library staff to fill out your tax form. There are reproducible copies of Federal and State tax forms and instructions in Ready Reference at the desk, as well as one copy of IRS publication 17 (*Your Federal Income Tax for Individuals*) and IRS publication 1194-B (*Business Taxpayer Information Publications*). On the New Books shelves, you will find four additional circulating copies of IRS publication 17 and two copies of J.K. Lasser's *Your Income Tax 2005* edition. Lasser's includes reproducible tax forms and tips for filing online. For the computer-able there is always access to www.irs.gov, a truly "user-friendly" website presenting instant access to instructions and downloadable forms. The IRS also offers a "Frequently Asked Questions" file searchable by categories and subject keywords. With a little time at the computer you can learn a lot about the intricacies of our tax laws. If all else fails and you are unable to get the information you need at the Library there is always the IRS' toll free assistance lines: (800) 829-1040 (for individuals) and (800) 829-4933 (for business tax questions).

The Library currently has copies of the NJ State 1040 (for residents and non-residents) available for distribution, and some (but not all) of the forms for filing your Federal Income Tax. As a general rule of thumb, if you don't see the forms you need on display, you may be able to access and download copies from the internet or make copies from the reproducible forms available at the Reference Desk. It's a good idea to know what you need before you come to the Library in order to save yourself some time and aggravation running back and forth. Here's wishing you all the best in the weeks ahead!

Cub Scouts Celebrate Scout Sabbath And Earn Religious Medals

Scout Sabbath, Feb. 6, is a day when Boy and Cub Scouts around the nation celebrate their religion. On this day at Sacred Heart Parish, scouts showed their reverence by wearing their uniforms to mass.

Scouts from John E. Riley Pack 224 worked hard to earn the religious emblems of their level. To earn the medal, the boys, with required help from their parents, completed a series of steps outlined in either the Light of Christ or Parvuli Dei Activity Booklets. The steps included learning about families, God's Call, the Eucharist, forgiveness and Family of God and much more. After completing the steps, the boys met with either Father Alvarado or Father Lambert to review what they learned. Once this was complete, they applied for the medal from the Catholic Committee on scouting. Religious awards programs keep with the religious principle of the Boy Scouts of America. The programs make every effort to strengthen scouts in their re-



Cub scouts Christopher Markey, Trevor Abood, John O'Sullivan, Frank Ferraro and James Markey. Not pictured are Anthony Santone and Daniel Pecheco.

ligious obligations. It also is an exercise in personal growth.

Tiger Scout Trevor Abood, along with Wolf Scouts James Markey, John

O'Sullivan, Anthony Santone, Daniel Pecheco and Frank Ferraro earned their Light Of Christ. Webelos Scout Christopher Markey earned his Parvuli Dei, the second emblem in the Catholic Emblem series. For a scout this is a big deal. The Religious emblem and the Arrow of Light are the only Cub Scout awards that can be displayed on a Boy Scout uniform as they move from Cub to Boy Scouts.

The pendants or emblems are awarded by the related religious groups. They are not a scouting recognition. Each faith has its own requirements for earning its emblem. Most call for religious knowledge and service.

Duty to God is a fundamental principle of scouting. It is a pledge to which every Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Explorer and scout leader is committed to as a member of the Boy Scout movement.

Submitted by Marie Markey

Curves Supports Communities Nationwide with Annual Food Drive

Curves 30 Minute Fitness and Weight Loss Center in South Plainfield will be joining the Curves International Inc. "Curves Food Drive" to benefit local food banks.

Last year, the Curves food drive collected over 4,000 tons of food for local communities.

Anyone joining Curves the week of March 7 may bring a bag of groceries and have the normal service fee waived. Anyone may drop off non-perishable food items at Curves Monday through Friday during business hours during the month of March.

"The Curves Food Drive promo-

tion allows us, the franchisees, to help more women reach their fitness goals, while giving back to the community simultaneously," explained Jerri and Elissa, the owners of the South Plainfield club.

With over 8,000 locations worldwide, Curves is the world's largest fitness franchise and the fastest growing franchise in history. Currently, Curves helps over four million women realize their fitness and weight loss goals every day.

Curves is located at 27 South Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield.

News from the Suburban Woman's Club

The March meeting of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club will be held on Thursday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave.

The program will feature Joanne Murset speaking on "Leave a Legacy." She will demonstrate various decorating techniques one might use in scrapbooking today's pictures for tomorrow's memories.

Visitors are always welcomed. For further information concerning this program or club membership, please call (908) 757-3527.

BOE Announces School Budget Meeting for 2005-2006

The South Plainfield Board of Education has announced several meetings they will be holding during the next month concerning the 2005/2006 school budget.

The board will hold budget working sessions on Feb. 28, March 3 and 7, all starting at 7 p.m. Since these are working sessions, no public comments will be taken.

The board will be introducing and adopting the 2005/2006 budget at a meeting on Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

A special business meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29 at 8 p.m.

to formally adopt the 2005/06 Budget.

All meetings take place in the gymnasium at the Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

Kindergarten Enrollment Set for March and April

Kindergarten enrollment in the South Plainfield School District for the 2005/2006 school year will be held during the months of March and April, 2005. Kindergarten enrollment packets are available in the Registrar's Office, located at the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

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Around Town

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 at 7 p.m. and 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.

Sons of American Legion Spaghetti Dinner

February 26

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron #243 will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. at American Legion Post located on Oak Tree Ave.

Cost for adults is \$7, children under 12 are \$5 or free if under six. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are available at the door. Proceeds benefit the various charities and community organizations that the legion supports.

'Breakfast and a Book' Program at Library

February 26

The library will present the program "Breakfast and a Book" on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m.

The program will feature a dramatic presentation of the book, *What Planet Are You From, Clarice Bean?*, followed by a discussion period. The program is for children ages six to 10 and is presented free of charge. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885.

Eleanor Roosevelt Program at Library

February 27

The library will host the program "Eleanor Roosevelt" on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m.

Rene Goodwin will appear in the role of Eleanor Roosevelt, followed by questions from the audience. There is no admission charge and no pre-registration is required. The program is sponsored by the SP Historical Society.

For information visit their website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

VFW Breakfast

March 6

VFW Post #6763 will hold a breakfast on Sunday, March 6 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The VFW is located on Front St. Proceeds benefit VA Hospital in Lyons. All are welcome.

Send-Off Mission at Wesley Methodist

March 6

Wesley Methodist Church invites you to attend the send-off of the Mission Volunteers to Tsunami victims in India on Sunday, March 6 at 12 noon.

Send Us Your Around Town Events

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

What's happening in FEB/MARCH

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 24... Lifeline Screening
March 7... Best of Branson at Hunterdon Hills
April 7... Oklahoma at NJPAC

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1 pm	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11 & 1pm Lifeline Screening	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza lunch available
28	1	2	3	4

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

The service will include lighting memorial candles for the 165,000 who perished in 12 countries.

Paper Quilting Program at Library

March 7

A craft program featuring "paper quilting" will be held at South Plainfield Library on Monday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

"Practical Crafting" instructor Ron-da Wisniewski will lead the class. Participants may sign up for either the morning or evening session and are requested to bring a pair of scissors and a roll of transparent tape. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. A materials fee of \$2 payable at registration.

South Plainfield Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex on Plainfield Ave. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885, or visit the Library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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 sessions to receive certification. There is no age restriction. Fee is \$10. 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. 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 for \$10. Order quickly; tickets sell out every year. 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.

Knights Annual St. Patrick's Day Party

March 19

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual St. Patrick's Day Party. The event takes place on Saturday, March 19 at the Knights Hall at 334 Hamilton Blvd. from 8 to 12 p.m. The cost of \$20 per person includes a corn beef and cabbage dinner, an open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a DJ, who will play classic Irish music.

Contact Jim Shea at (908) 756-0478 or (908) 755-6203 for tickets. Seats are limited.

SPHS Music Boosters Trip to Atlantic City

April 2

The SPHS Music Boosters are sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City on Saturday, April 2. The bus leaves the South Plainfield High School parking lot by the gym at 9 a.m. and returns approximately 8 p.m. The cost is \$30 with a cash back of \$15 per person from the casino.

For information or to reserve your seat, call Julie at (908) 791-0294.

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 —

"Strictly Business" Breakfast

February 25

The First Annual "Strictly Business" Breakfast will honor businesses that contribute to the health and growth of the region's economy through a commitment to workforce development on Friday, Feb. 25, 7:45-9:15 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel, 2055 Lincoln Highway, Edison. For more information, please contact Lisa Fiore at JFVS, (732) 777-1940.

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.

25th Annual Doll Show

February 26

The 25th Annual Doll and Teddy Bear Show will be held at the Somerset County 4-H Center, Milltown Rd. in Bridgewater on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.50.

For further information, call Deb Metting at (609) 466-8005 or email at mettingd@yahoo.com.

"Alive with the Sound of Music"

February 27

The Edison Arts Society "Alive with the Sound of Music," will feature concert with the von Trapp children and the Edison Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Feb. 27, starting at 2 p.m. at the State Theatre in New Brunswick.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (732) 346-7469.

A Celebration of Indian Rhythm

February 27

On Sunday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m., Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission presents A Celebration of Indian Rhythm: Dhol & Bhangra, at J. P. Stevens High School, 855 Grove Ave. in Edison.

A Celebration of Indian Rhythm is offered free of charge; however, regis-

tration is required as space is limited. If you would like to attend, call (732) 745-4489.

Adoption Support Meeting

February 28

"The Lifelong Impact of Adoption on Everyone Involved" will be led by Hollee McGinnis, Policy Director of New York City's Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute at the CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) meeting at 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption-related stories; light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for more information.

Woodbridge WOW's

March 2

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a business meeting and social hour on Wednesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Main Public Library on Amboy Ave. in Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served. For information, call (732) 297-1775.

Irish Renaissance Man Returns

March 2

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey welcome the return of musician and vocalist Mick Moloney to Middlesex County for the 11th year. The Irish Renaissance Man returns Wednesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at the E. Brunswick Vocational High School on Rues Lane.

To attend this Folklife program, call (732) 745-4489.

Rutgers Offers Divorce Mediation Seminar

March 1-May 17

Rutgers University's School of Social Work, Center for Children and Families, is offering a 40-hour Divorce Mediation Seminar to train professionals in the divorce mediation process. The seminar will be held from 6-9:30 p.m. every Tuesday evening from March 1 through May 17 in the School of Social Work's Continuing Education building on the Piscataway Campus.

For more information on enrollment, please call (732) 445-3178 ext. 152.

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Borough of South Plainfield's official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com

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- Senior Corner
- Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board
- Civic Organizations
- Election Results and more

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Or call 908-226-7656



Engine City Technical Institute students were awarded scholarships during ceremonies held recently.

Engine City Students Awarded Scholarships

Engine City, located on Hadley Blvd. held a special ceremony recently to award scholarships to a talented group of students who attend the Technical Institute. The event was attended by representatives of the companies awarding the scholarships as well as the families of the students.

Some of the scholarships were awarded by companies who intend to hire the students upon their graduation. The monetary scholarships will help cover their tuition fees while attending the school. The students are all outstanding academically, most with 3.5 to 4.0 grade point averages.

• Don Kasper, school director and Tim O'Connor, director of training from Engine City Technical Institute presented Vernal Sundlangi of South Plainfield High School with a 1/2-paid scholarship; John Kenney of Warren Hills High School with a 1/4-paid tuition scholarship and to Brian Avila of Orange/Ulster B.O.C.E.S. in Goshen,



Don Kasper and Tim O'Connor of Engine City awarded scholarships to students Vernal Sundlangi and John Kenney.

NY a 1/2-paid tuition scholarship.

• Robert Day representing Campbell Freightliner of Edison awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Peter Haenchen of Belleville High School.

• Bill Connolly and Ceil Mueller representing Foley Caterpillar of Piscataway awarded \$2,000 scholarships to Andre Knuth of Middlesex County College and Joseph Moffitt of Wallkill Valley High School.

• Michael Petershun from Old Dominion of Jersey City awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to Carlos Robalino of Kearny High School.

• Ron Garber from Giles &

Ransome Caterpillar of Bensalem, Pa. awarded \$2,000 scholarships to Gary Petrizzo of Keyport High School and Michael Sutton of Marlboro High School.

• The Edward W. Pawluk, Sr. Memorial Scholarship, offered by the NJ Equipment Managers Council of America awarded scholarships of \$1,000 to Gary Petrizzo of Keyport High School and Brian Avila of Orange/Ulster B.O.C.E.S., Goshen, NY. Also \$500 scholarships went to Andre Knuth of Middlesex County College and Brian Konopka of West Orange High School.

Lenten Concert Series at First Presbyterian

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen will present a series of concerts to celebrate the Lenten Season. The concerts, held each Wednesday from noon until 12:30 p.m., will run through March 16. Each will feature a different musical performance.

The entire concert series is free and open to the public.

Concert series dates and performers are: March 2-Sandy Slobodien, Mezzo Soprano; March 9-Brenda Day, Organist and March 16-Concord Bell Ringers.

English to Stay on at Recreation

Mike English has agreed to stay on for five more years as Recreation Director, much to the delight of the members of the Recreation Commission. English had announced that he

would be retiring this year and a search for his replacement had begun.

It soon became apparent to those on the search committee that finding a replacement for English would be difficult. English was approached and asked to stay on and he agreed if the commission would hire an assistant to help with the work load. The assistant would be trained and upon English's retirement, take over the job.

The job was posted a few weeks ago and interviews should be taking place in the near future.

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 a.m. Mass
Fish dinners every Friday 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.

Lenten Mission—March 6 through 9—Preacher and Director Rev. Paul Ruttle, CP will hold the Lenten Mission. Mission services begin at 7:30 p.m. and are not masses. Themes for the four evenings will be listening, compassion, forgiveness, journey and faith. Mark your calendars and invite others to join this parish event.

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.

Wesley Five Weeks Of Lenten Love—As Christians we are thankful for God's amazing grace and love. God wants us to enrich our lives by passing on this love to others. Wesley Church encourages you to reach out to those in need of His love during the five weeks of Lent. Each week a different area of love will be emphasized.

February 27—Love and Gifts—There are many kinds of gifts, store-bought or handmade. Gifts of kindness and compassion are some of the greatest gifts that God shows us how to give. Show God's love with a gift that comes from your heart to those who have immediate needs.

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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Corporate Accounts Welcome

Cedar Oaks Opens Oak Garden Room; New Sensory Room Beneficial to Patients

Cedar Oaks Care Center, located on Durham Ave., recently held a ribbon cutting at their newly decorated Oak Garden room. The big room is located on the first floor in the center of the patients rooms. It was designed with soothing colors and patterns so that patients can walk out of their rooms and meet other patients or just relax and read a book.

Cedar Oaks has also introduced a new innovative approach to patients who suffer from dementia, Alzheimers Disease or just plain stress.

According to Morris Wiesel, administrator, the newly opened sensory room is a quiet, peaceful space which contains objects that can be seen and touched. The room contains a variety of visual objects, most of them fiber optics, which have movements that are mesmerizing. There are also objects projected on the walls and ceilings which have movement, such as fish and clouds. Lighting in the room is kept very low, so the objects are more visible.

Patients are brought into the room for two to four hours so they can experience the peaceful, simulating atmosphere as their brains take in the subtle movement of the objects.

This new innovative sensory room is one of the first created in New Jersey and the results have been phenomenal. Not only do the patients seem to be calmer, they sleep better at night and the staff has reports they are less likely to be angry, aggravated or cause problems with other patients and nurses.

Patients suffering from Alzheimers Disease and dementia become bored because they spend the day sitting around all day long. This causes them to be irritable and they do not sleep

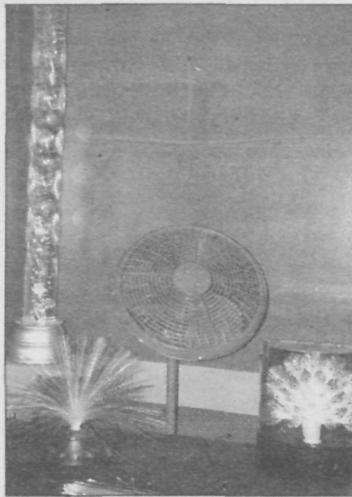


Cedar Oaks Administrator Morris Wiesel and Social Services Director Vicki Sals cut the ribbon to the new Oak Garden Room.

well. The new sensory room seems to really be helping. A sensory cart is also available for patients who cannot be transported to the room.

Cedar Oaks patients who are undergoing short term therapy also are able to visit the room to relieve their stress. The facility has both long- and short-term patients. Many short term patients come from a hospital stay, but are not ready to go home yet. They spend time getting ready to go home and live on their own. Cedar Oaks has a large occupational therapy set up for heart, stroke and surgical patients.

Wiesel says he does not consider Cedar Oaks a nursing home, but a care center, where patients can learn how to cope and care for themselves after surgery, a stroke or heart attack. He says he feels that Cedar Oaks patients and staff are all part of one large family. Wiesel greets each patient and member of the staff by name and



Fiber optic lights in the sensory room proves to be good therapy.

seems to remember what each is there for and what their needs are.

For information on Cedar Oaks Care Center, call (732) 287-9555.

School Board Candidacy Deadline Nears

This is the last week for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education. The deadline is 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28 according to interim Board Administrator Robert David. 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.

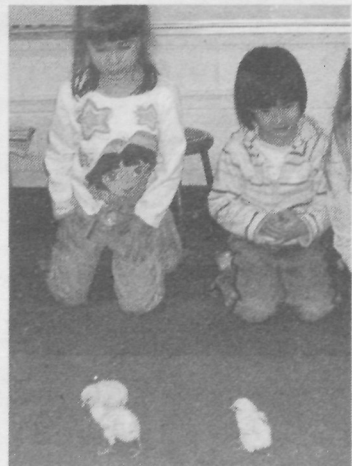
"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said James J. Dougherty, Jr., NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider board of education membership. Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The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

Invest in Yourself.

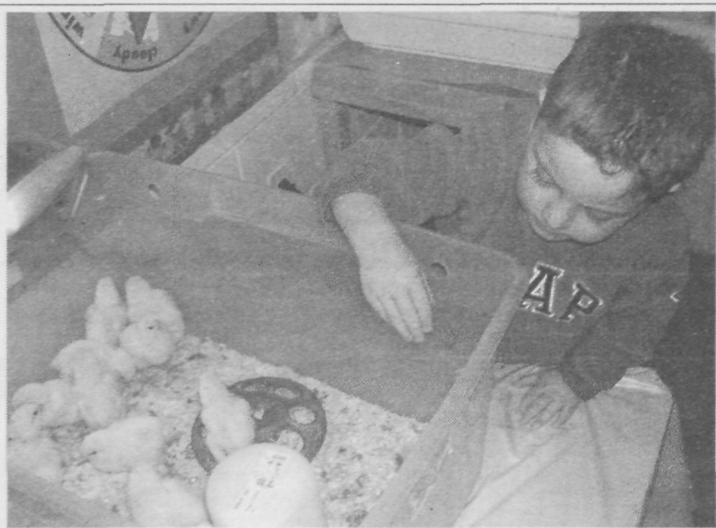
Spend \$15 a week on an ad in the B&P section of the Observer. Isn't your business worth the investment?



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watch them walk around on the floor for a bid before their return to the farm on Friday.



Baby Chicks Hatch at Future Stars

By Jane Dornick

The highly anticipated arrival of several dozen chicken eggs from Quiver Farms in Pennsylvania came to Future Star classes last Monday for their annual week long hatching project.

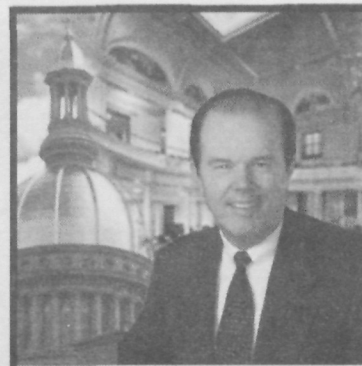
When the eggs arrive they are in their final stages before birth. They are placed in a brooder under lights to keep them warm. Eggsitting preschoolers came to class every day waiting for the babies to start pecking their way out of their shells. After the chicks birth they were placed in fish tanks with special heaters to keep them warm and safe. Students even got to pet the new arrivals and

I am pleased to report on the successful conclusion of two projects, which Assemblyman Barnes and I have been working on for several years. Last week the Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office obtained a court order mandating the cleanup of Borough Auto Wreckers on Hamilton Boulevard. The Order directed that the operation of the salvage yard be immediately discontinued to allow the Department of Environmental Protection to oversee the cleanup of the site. The owner was allowed 45 days to remove his equipment from the site after which the cleanup will begin. The process is expected to take 18 months. After the cleanup is completed, a lien will be placed on the property to recover the cost, which is estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 million. I cannot compliment D.E.P. Commissioner Brad Campbell enough for his dedication and persistence in addressing this environmental threat to the residents of South Plainfield. He not only listened to my concerns, he acted upon them. The owner of the facility entered into an agreement to clean up the site over 15 years ago. This order sends a clear message to polluters that no longer will the state of New Jersey tolerate delay when the health and safety of the public are put at risk.

The second project is the revitalization of the Edison Valley Playhouse on the corner of Oak Tree Road and Woodland Avenue. When I was first elected to the Assembly, Bill Sesselberg, who lives in South Plainfield, and is one of the guiding forces in the South Plainfield Summer Drama program, shared with me the dream of some day reopening the playhouse. We talked about how great it would be for all age groups in the area to be able to participate in plays and workshops all year round, not just in the summer. I committed to Bill at that time that I would work to obtain state grants to renovate the playhouse. The arts are an important cornerstone of society. Government should support projects such as the Edison Playhouse. The reopening of this theatre represents an opportunity to bring the arts to the approximately 200,000 residents who live within a ten-mile radius. Last fall, Assemblyman Barnes and I were able to obtain a \$25,000 arts grant to help with the cost of needed renovations to the playhouse. It has been closed for years and major work needs to be done, starting with a new roof. Last month we successfully secured an additional \$75,000 in funding which will finance a major portion of the renovations. If completed on schedule, performances will begin this fall.

Nothing is more fulfilling than to be able to see projects successfully completed only because South Plainfield has a voice in the legislature. Assemblyman Barnes, Senator Buono and I work as a team. I can't thank them enough for all of their help every time we need them.

If you have any suggestions as to future projects or improvements to South Plainfield or to our state, please contact me. My email address is Asmdiegnan@njleg.org. My office number is (908) 757-1677 and my office is located at 908 Oak Tree Ave., Unit P in South Plainfield.



News

From The State House

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

SPHS Silver Dreams Winterguard Places First

The South Plainfield High School Silver Dreams Winterguard competed in its second competition of the season this past Sunday at Roselle Park High School. The guard, under the direction of Mark Tweed and Kathy Petrocelli came in a very impressive first place in the Scholastic Novice Division with a score of 76.6.

This years show theme is "Blue Skies" and features the girls performing the music of the Holly Cole Trio. The show conceptualization and choreography is done by Darren Delaney and Danny Matos.

The winterguard would like to thank all of their friends, teachers, parents and neighbors who participated

in the Friday's fundraiser which was recently held. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

The winterguard will be performing next on Sunday, March 5 at Triton High School in Runnemede.

HSPA Testing Takes Place Next Week

The HSPA testing will be held on March 1, 2 and 3 at South Plainfield High School. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be tested. There will be half day sessions during these dates.

Seniors will be required to attend various programs for all of the three days.

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New Music Programs Offered at Grant School

Mary Beth Clyde, Grant School music teacher, has initiated several programs and coordinated events to highlight her music program for this school year.

One such project, a newsletter called "Grant Orchestra News," is an effort to better communicate with her students' parents. The first issue went out last December.

Included in the newsletter was information on the music department's successful concert at the high school on Dec. 8. Students from Grant School were able to hear a portion of the concert during the day at an assembly also held at the high school. Orchestra students performed holiday music, *Hanukkah is Here* and *Christmas Bits and Pieces*, that taught them new fingerings and new notes. In addition, 6/8 time was introduced and dotted rhythms were learned. Learning *Wexford Circle* taught the students to play four parts independently. They also had an opportunity to play in a minor key, which gave them experience in a new tonality. The selection *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* gave everyone in the orchestra a chance to play the melody. Select first violin students had a challenging descant part

to perform.

Grant's remaining concerts will be held on April 7 and May 4.

Also in December, Advanced Orchestra and Sixth Grade Band students performed new holiday music in the lobby. They had two weeks to prepare this music at home. Each period's lesson groups combined to perform for the school and visitors. The instrumental students had a party on Dec. 22 during their lunch periods. The chorus students also performed, singing selected music during the snack periods on Dec. 23.

All 41 orchestra students who prepared for the Winter Holiday Concert have been invited to participate in the All-District Fifth and Sixth Grade Grant School Orchestra on April 7. They are currently hard at work preparing music during their orchestra rehearsal periods.

To encourage and promote practicing their music, Clyde has initiated a Practicing Contest for all her orchestra students. There are weekly, monthly and end-of-the-year contests to see who practices the most. Students must write down how many minutes they practice each day on their practice forms and have a parent sign the sheet at the end of the week. Clyde records each student's total at each lesson. Prizes are awarded to winners in the different categories.

Clyde has been trying to start a Music Parents Booster Club for Grant School. The purpose of this group is to involve the parents in the music program there. The parents would work with the music teachers to organize activities to enrich the students' musical experience. These activities would include, but not be limited to, travel to concerts at The State Theatre, PNC Arts Center (NJPAQ), bake sales to raise funds for these activities, help with chaperoning students during large concert activities and input into the music newsletter. The Music Booster Club is in the early formation stage. Any Grant School parent who is interested in the idea or would like more information should contact Mary Beth Clyde at Grant School, (908) 754-4620 ext. 452.



Roosevelt School Celebrates Diversity with 10th Annual Multicultural Celebration

Roosevelt School, under the direction of art teacher Glenda Posey recently completed their 10th Annual Multicultural Celebration. All of the teachers and students, plus many parents and families, participated to make this year's event successful. The series of celebrations included songs, dances and crafts from around the world, as well as classroom projects and a feast of international "goodies."

Each grade spent time studying a continent. In art class, Posey taught the children crafts that related to what they studied in class with their teachers. The first graders studied Australia and made bark paintings with Australian animals. In second grade they concentrated on Asia and made a variety of art projects, including Korean owls, Japanese fish kites, peacocks from India and jasmine flowers. Grade three learned about Europe. They created marionettes from Italy, rainbows and pots of gold for Ireland, French hats and Eiffel tower reliefs using straws, cut paper flowers representing Poland and Russian folk art plates. In art class, the fourth graders made African Kente cloth print designs, which combined line design with a printing lesson. Each student designed their own pattern and the combined their efforts to create large Kente cloths for each class on fabric provided by music teacher Sharon Perez. Meanwhile in their fourth grade classrooms, students also learned about North and South America and made written reports with their teachers. (The

kindergarteners studied Africa with their classroom teachers but do not have art class with Posey.)

The artwork and other projects are currently on display throughout the school for everyone to admire.

Posey kicked off the final events by

by hundreds of parents and children. Under the direction of Sharon Perez, the children performed songs from around the world. Two students performed an Indian dance from the Near East and Irish step dancing. At the evening event, everyone saw



organizing an assembly with African drummers and dancers. The Dzifa Mask Dance Theater/Dromatata of Philadelphia employs the folk-art of mask dancing and its related arts of dance and music. The group is "dedicated to the preservation and restoration of all traditional African masquerade, music, dance, drama and folklore."

A few days later, on Feb. 1, the Multicultural Celebration culminated with another assembly during the day and a family evening attended

samples of God's eyes, worry dolls and other world crafts while parents had the opportunity to create their own origami, Japanese fish kites, etc. Many parents also contributed a variety of their own ethnic foods and American favorites which were enjoyed by everyone. Many of Roosevelt's teachers and parents volunteered their time to set up and man the various stations for the evening to make the 10th anniversary a resounding success.

South Plainfield Will Be Celebrating 'Read Across America'

By proclamation, Mayor Gallagher proclaimed March 2 as 'Read Across America Day' in South Plainfield.

The annual celebration of reading honors the late Theodor Seuss Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss) on March 2, which would have been his 101st birthday. In New Jersey, 'Read Across America' will be conducted by the New Jersey Education Association, in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Library Association and Saturn-VAW.

"Dr. Seuss helped to instill the joy of reading in millions of children," said Mayor Gallagher. "By celebrating his birthday, we hope to bring the joy of reading to the next generation."

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Bakers Hold Their Annual Tailgate Superbowl Party

On Superbowl Sunday at 10 a.m. Tom Baker and his wife, Sally, get together with Sally's sisters Joanne Okoczko, Maryellen Harris, Colleen Arndt and Susan Loiacono along with their husbands, as well as Tom's brother-in-law, Thomas Heim, Jr.

The group all heads down to Cotton St. Park along with all of their children (Tom's in-laws have 17 grandchildren) for a "family" game of football. If it snows, it's even better.

Then at around 2 p.m. they all

gather at Tom's father-in-law's huge driveway for their annual "tailgate" party. There is always plenty of good food to enjoy. Cars who drive by the tailgating party honk their horns to acknowledge their celebration.

At 6 p.m. the group heads into the house and down to the basement to watch the "big game." To keep everyone interested, they have a box pool to keep, even if their favorite team fails to reach "football heaven."

Submitted by Tom Baker.

Borough Notes

- At a special meeting held last week, which was required by the Middlesex County Housing & Community Development Program, the HCD allocation of \$80,100 was announced as follows: \$56,900 will be used to perform upgrades to the Senior Citizen Center, more specifically for improvements to the kitchen area as well as to purchase a room divider. The balance of \$23,200 will be used to offset salaries.

- Darlene Marin has been appointed as a member to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department.

- The council awarded a contract to Moore Industries to perform a physical inventory of all borough-owned property at a fee not to exceed \$4,000.

- Jayson & Company has been hired to move an air-conditioning unit located on the roof of the municipal building at a cost not to exceed \$3,550.

- New sign making equipment and software will be purchased from Creative Visual Systems for use of the Department of Public Works for \$7,135.62.

- The Borough has received a \$2,500 Grant from the Middlesex County Safe Kids Program.

- Mary Wrotny has been appointed as secretary to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee as well as senior clerk transcriber in the police department.

E-Week 4-H Summer Program

Middlesex County 4-H will be hosting the 2005 Explorations Week Summer Program from Monday, July 11 to Friday, July 15 at the Middlesex County 4-H Center in East Brunswick. The program focuses on acceptance and belonging among attendees as well as having fun and promoting self-confidence. Helping kids make new friends and achieve a sense of accomplishment are also important goals of the program. E-Week is open to boys and girls who will have completed grades three through seven in 2005. Children from grades three through five are especially encouraged to take part, as there are many spaces open for this age group. Arrangements can be made for kids with special needs.

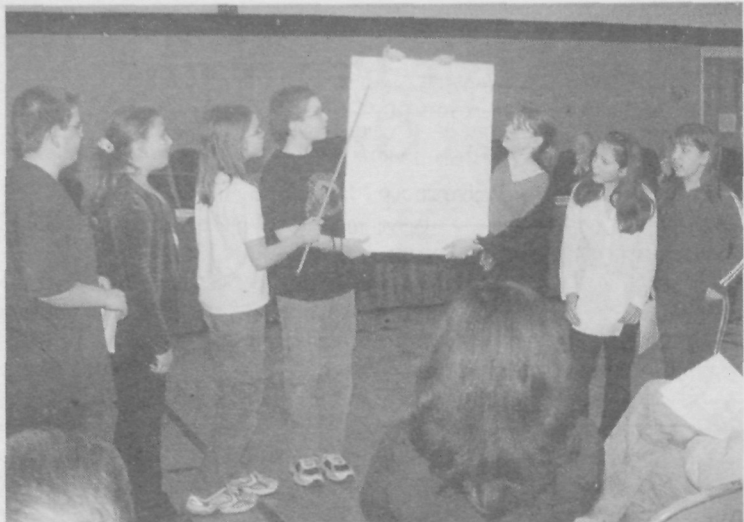
Attendees of the program will have a chance to choose from daily activities such as rockery, dance, cheerleading, wilderness survival, drama, drawing and biking. The theme of E-Week 2005 will be "Adventures in Space." The cost of the program is \$145 for 4-H members, \$150 for non-members and includes program materials, lunch and beverages, an E-Week t-shirt, field trip and an optional Friday night overnight stay. Explorations Week fills up fast, so call now to get your registration in.

If interested on E-Week or to register, contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 745-3446. 4-H will also accommodate efforts to carpool and the need for early drop off or late pick-up.

4-H is a Department of Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension of Middlesex County and offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 13 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

COMING SOON...

A new and improved website for the South Plainfield Observer. Watch for details.



Students from Grant School demonstrated their proficiency in Spanish at last week's Board of Education Meeting. Not only did they converse and sing in Spanish, they taught the audience a Spanish song.

NOTES FROM BUSINESS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Following are the minutes of last month's Business Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting.

New member Ed Colucci, owner of Cindy Michaels Jewelers was welcomed as a new member.

Upcoming Projects

- **Hamilton Boulevard Reconstruction**—Phase II road design has been adjusted by CME on the section in front of Binder Machinery to minimize the amount of property required to be acquired by the Borough. A meeting was held with CME and representatives from Binder to review the plan which shifts the road slightly and requires only 12 feet from their property, instead of 25 feet in the previous design. Binder was receptive to the changes. The only property that needs to be acquired is the Fortunes Common building on the corner of South Clinton and Hamilton.

- **Helen Street**—The wetlands approvals have been extended five years. The Borough is waiting for approval on \$215,000 in funding which will enable completion of the environmental study. If funding and subsequent approval are granted, funding for the design phase could be available as early as October of 2005.

- **333 Hamilton Project**—A meeting is trying to be arranged with all of the effected parties, including the EPA, to decide what steps should next be taken. The estimated \$70 million cost of the clean-up is about \$20 million more than the previous property owners are willing to contribute. The possibility of connecting New Market Ave. through the site to Metuchen Road was also discussed.

- **Church Street Sidewalk/Culvert Repairs**—CME has been retained to prepare design for the repairs. Construction should happen this spring.

- **Durham Avenue Widening**—CME will prepare the design drawing for the widening of Durham Ave. This project will provide two through lanes from Rt. 287 to the bridge at Hamilton Blvd. A third lane will be provided to turn right onto Helen St. When the Hamilton Blvd. project is complete the two lanes will extend

over the bridge to the new traffic light at Ryan Street.

New Business

- **Paving Schedule**—Other than Hamilton Blvd., no commercial roads are scheduled for paving.

- **Ground Sign Ordinance**—The changes to the zoning ordinance are pending which will allow ground signs in zones where the ordinance is currently silent were reviewed.

- **Property Acquisitions**—There are two current projects that will require property acquisitions, West 7th St. widening and Stelton Rd. realignment at New Durham Ave. Both projects will have a minimal effect on business owners, but BAG agreed to take a closer look at these projects.

- **Maple Ave.**—Curbs and sidewalks will be repaired/replaced the entire length of Maple Ave.

- **CME fees**—BAG discussed fees for Maple Ave and Church St. projects. Fees seem very high as a percentage of the overall construction cost. In the case of Church Street \$32,950 fee vs. grant of \$130,000, which was intended to cover design and construction. Maple Ave fee is \$73,250 vs. \$200,000 grant. BAG will monitor actual costs and review design fee as a percentage of the construction costs.

- **Sewer Fees**—Ferro is having problems regarding their sewer bill. There appears to be a problem with the sampling/testing process that determines the cost per gallon to treat the waste.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2 in the council meeting room. Meetings are open to the public.

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Junior Journalist WINNER



Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros present dinner to this last week's Junior Journalist contest winner Jessica DeCindio, pictured here with mom Katy, and sister Stephanie.

Congratulations Jessica!

Feed your soul...write!

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:

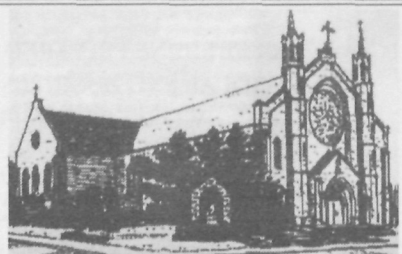
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

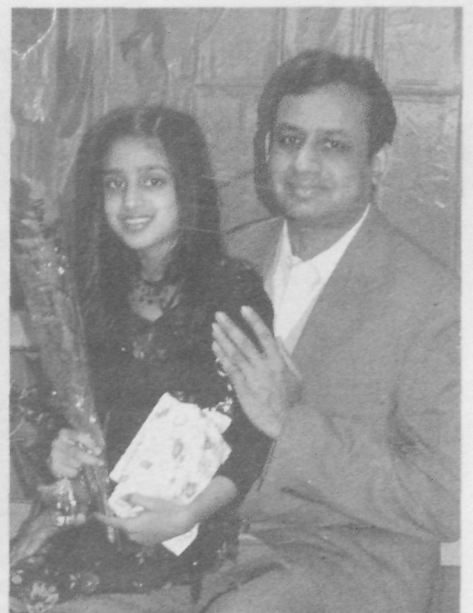
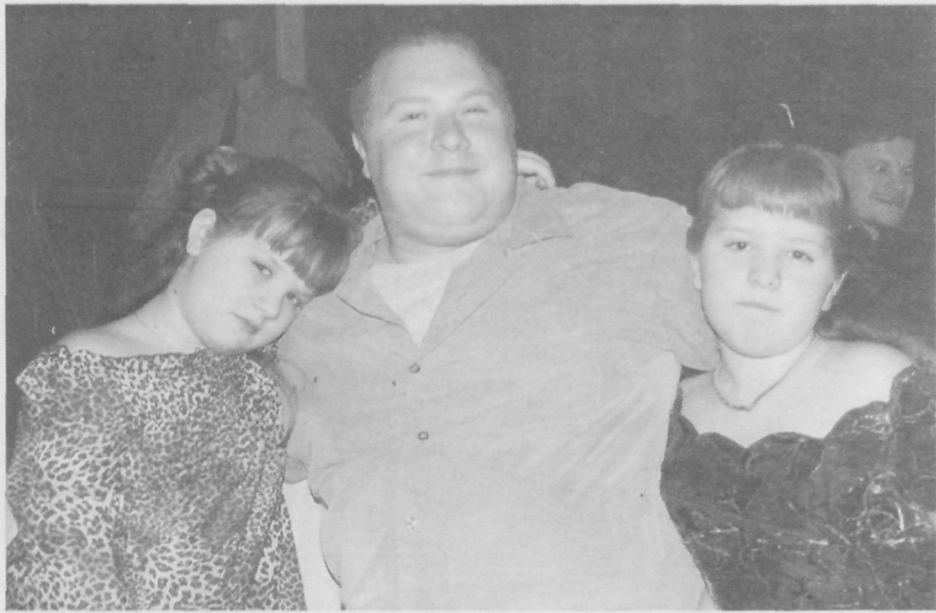
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

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.





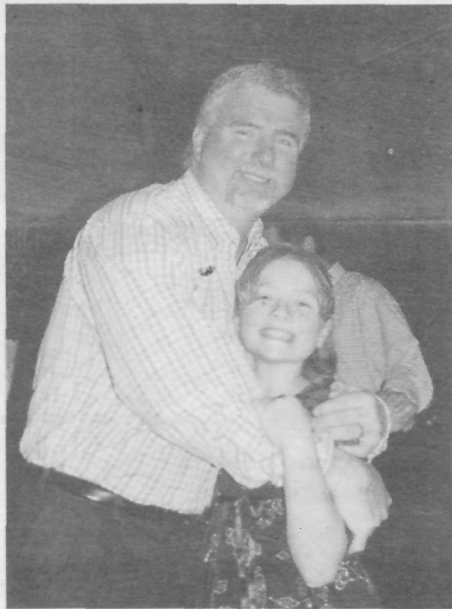
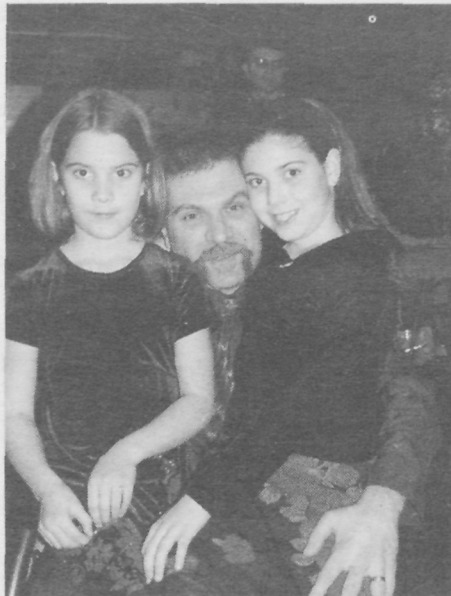
Father/Daughter School Dances Highlight Month of February

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

The young ladies of Kennedy School stepped out for a night on the town with their best beau, Daddy earlier this month. The event was the school's annual Father/Daughter Dance. The dainty debutantes, many sporting corsages courtesy of their dates, were dressed to the nines with makeup, heels and hairdos. Most of the dads dressed up for the occasion as well.

After signing in, the girls temporarily abandoned their dads and dashed for the dance floor. Gym teacher Al Hook deejayed the event. A long table filled with assorted goodies fueled the guests throughout the evening. Another table featured beautifully wrapped raffle baskets. The girls and fathers took their time debating which baskets to take a chance on.

The girls received a flower and a small photo album and each couple was photographed. Slow songs brought dads and daughters back together for a grown up dance. The evening was tailor made for photographs of daddy's little girl and cameras flashed like summer fireflies. After the final dance the tired but excited young ladies headed for home with their dads. Memories made that night will last a lifetime.



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THE BIG EVENT

You asked for it and we answered! Get the attention of every homeowner in South Plainfield in 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 March 9.
Call early for best placement.



In celebration of Catholic School Week, all of the teachers at Sacred Heart School were recognized for their dedication to the students. Teachers are: pre-kindergarten-Miss Thomas, Miss Bach; kindergarten-Mrs. Hohner and Mrs. Novak; first grade-Mrs. Houghton, second grade-Mrs. Semon, third grade-Mrs. Goetz and Mrs. Coker, fourth grade-Miss Martin, fifth grade-Mrs. Kardos, sixth grade-Mrs. Egneton, seventh grade-Mrs. Geene and Mrs. Langenbach, eighth grade-Miss Sims and Mr. Gillespie, physical ed-Miss Fusco, computers-Mrs. Approvata, art-Mrs. McCabe, music-Mr. Mahoney, library-Mrs. Ellersick, secretaries-Mrs. Rossi and Mrs. Salvatore and nurse-Mrs. Pinto.

Sacred Heart School Celebrates Catholic Education



The Sacred Heart School community celebrated the opening of Catholic School Week with a Mass attended by faculty, staff, students and their families on Jan. 30. After Mass, a very successful open house was held at the school.

Many activities were held during the weeklong celebration. Teacher Turn Around Day was a big hit. Eighth grade students were given the opportunity to teach a class. Administrative positions were also filled by students.

School Spirit Day featured a fun-filled Faculty vs. Students Volleyball game. The annual student vs. Faculty/Alumni held on Wednesday evening is also an exciting event, witnessed by a standing room only crowd. Many fans remarked on how nice it was to see more alumni return to play each year.

Teacher Appreciation Day was celebrated the First Friday Mass. Teachers were recognized for their dedication in providing a quality Catholic Education to their students.

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Riley second graders sing at the "No Name-Calling" Assembly.

Riley School Holds Weeklong 'Character Education Program'

As part of the Character Education Program at Riley School, the week of Feb. 7 was designated "No Name-Calling Week." The teachers incorporated lessons and activities into the week to highlight the importance of treating everyone respectfully and to demonstrate the hurtful nature of name-calling.

An assembly was held early Friday morning to culminate the week's activities. The program, which was prepared by Joanne Gurske, vocal music teacher and Joanne Orlowski, librarian, consisted of songs and poems. All the children, from the kindergartners to the fourth graders, actively participated in some way.

Randall Rossilli, Riley School Principal, introduced the assembly and its purpose. The children then sang songs that they had practiced in Gurske's classes. The three selections were "Squabbles and Hugs," "I'll Understand" and "There's Good in Everyone."

Fourth grader Joshua Rochotte read the biography of Mattie J. T. Stepanek, who began writing poetry at the age of three. Then each fourth grade class read four of his published poems in between the musical selections. These included "On Being a Champion," "Peace of Patience," "For Our World" and "A New Hope."

Calling All Future Lawyers! Middlesex Cty. to Sponsor Mock Trial Contest

Local Middlesex County high school students will become attorneys, witnesses, and jurors for the day during the countywide Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Middlesex County Bar Foundation and the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

The competition will take place at the Middlesex County Superior Court, in New Brunswick. Preliminary rounds were held earlier.

High school students try a case be-

fore judges and attorney and the winning teams competed in the Regionals in February. Regional winners will compete in the semi-finals to be held at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick on March 7, with the winners competing for the statewide championship on March 15.

The goal of the Mock Trial Competition is to promote better understanding of the law, court procedures, and the justice system.

Local Students are People to People Ambassadors

President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People during his administration and eight U.S. presidents have since served as honorary chairman.

People to People Student Ambassadors travel overseas for two to three weeks during the summer to learn, share, and represent their communities and schools.

From the Great Barrier Reef to South Africa's Cape, Student Ambassadors experience unparalleled opportunities for personal growth through an enriching program of educational and cultural interaction. By becoming a Student Ambassador, participants gain an appreciation for the world in which they live, build their self-confidence, enrich their education through learning in the global classroom, and develop increased levels of maturity and independence. Student Ambassador delegations of 30-40 students are led by experienced educators during this dynamic and exciting program. These delegation leaders guide students in preparing for the program during orientation meetings focusing on travel tips, the culture of the destination, bonding as a group and more.

The People to People Students Ambassador Program provides students a world of international opportunities.

There are 42 New Jersey Middle School children that will be traveling to Europe this summer as a group to represent the United States.

South Plainfield residents in this group are Sara Frazzano and Kelly McCormack. Rocco Severini will also be part of the program, but is traveling with another delegation.

Attention Local Bands:

The South Plainfield Juniores will hold a benefit concert to support Cherished Creations, whose mission is to create better lives for seriously-ill children and underprivileged families. The April 2 concert will be held at the PAL. We're looking for bands to perform to help raise money for the cause.

Please email a sample of your music and any questions you may have to: SPJuniores@yahoo.com.

Junior Journalist Corner



Holly McDede, Middle School Seventh Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Junior Journalist Holly McDede (right) with Middle School Language Arts teacher Ellyn Schwartz.

Holly McDede, Middle School seventh grader, is this week's winner in the *Observer*/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Her poem "My Dreams," has won dinner for her 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 honored at a year end banquet to be held on May 25.

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

My Dreams....

By Holly McDede

I have never found a pot of gold
I have never seen a shooting star
I have never found my prince charming
I have never had a dream unfold

But I still believe in the magic of a child's dreams
I still believe in the existence of miracles
I still believe in the power of an imagination
I still believe in things that I have never seen

And with these thoughts
These hopes, these prayers
I am taken to a world all my own
Where the sidewalks end
Where the grass turns to gold
Where the sea is an outstretched hand
Of a never ending possibility

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Richard R. Goyette requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 12' x 19.73' deck on the side of the house. Proposed deck lacks required 20' rear setback, 14.92' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1905 Stratford Avenue on Block 129, Lot 1 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, March 10, 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 February 25, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Sara and Paul Grzenda requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a second floor addition with a 2' cantilever. Proposed addition lacks (1) 8' required side setback, 4.9' being proposed and (2) 24' required front setback, 22.4' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 331 Clinton Place on Block 219, Lot 9 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, March 10, 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 February 25, 2005

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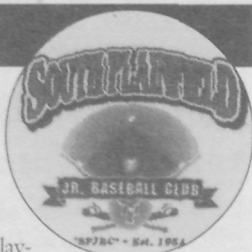
Serving South Plainfield. No other paper can say that.

Contratulations to the SPHS Boys Basketball Team! They defeated Colonia 56-44 in the GMC semifinals. They now move on to play St. Joseph's in the finals Friday night Louis Brown Athletic Center at 8 p.m.

Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Parents can still sign their children up for the 2005 season. The deadline is Feb. 28. After that date, children will be subject to a waiting list. In order to sign-up your child, call the SPJBC at 908-754-2090 or Lee Flanagan at 732-684-8347. The fee is \$115.00

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

Anthony Guida, freshmen boys baseball coach at South Plainfield High School, will be conducting a coach's clinic at the SPJBC on March 15 beginning at 7:30 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 this week.

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.

Junior Baseball Club Accepting College Scholarship Applications

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is accepting applications for college scholarships. Applications may be picked up at the SPHS guidance department or by contacting the Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduating high school student this June, must be a South Plainfield resident, and must have participated in the club for a minimum of five years.

The filing deadline is April 1.

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Tiger Seniors Bid Farewell

Standing left to right are Kim Gaub, Shannen Rivers, Anna Ferrer and Jennifer Vasquez. Kneeling left to right are Nick Grego, George Kleinknecht and Matt Boley. Not pictured is Shawn Ferguson.

NOTICE TO MILITARY SERVICE VOTERS AND TO THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

If you are in the military service, or the spouse or dependent of a person in military service or a patient in a veterans' hospital or a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States without the State of New Jersey, or the spouse and dependent of and accompanying or residing with a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, and desire to vote, or if you are a relative or friend of any such person who, you believe, will desire to vote in the School Election in South Plainfield to be held on April 19, 2005, kindly write to the undersigned at once making application for a military service ballot to be voted in said election to be forwarded to you, stating your name, age, serial number if you are in military service, home address and the address at which you are stationed or can be found, or if you desire the military service ballot for a relative or friend then make application under oath for a military service ballot to be forwarded to him, stating in your application that he is over the age of 18 years and stating his name, serial number if he is in military service, home address and the address at which he is stationed or can be found.

Military service voters may also apply for a military service ballot by sending a federal postcard application form to the undersigned.

On the application for a military service ballot, military service voters may request that a military service ballot be sent for all subsequent elections held during this calendar year.

(NOTE: MILITARY SERVICE VOTER CLAIMING MILITARY STATION AS HOME ADDRESS FOR VOTING PURPOSES MAY NOT USE MILITARY ABSENTEE BALLOT UNLESS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH STATION IS LOCATED.)

Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

DATE: February 25, 2005

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. BOX 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08903

\$130.00

1T-2/25/05

Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter



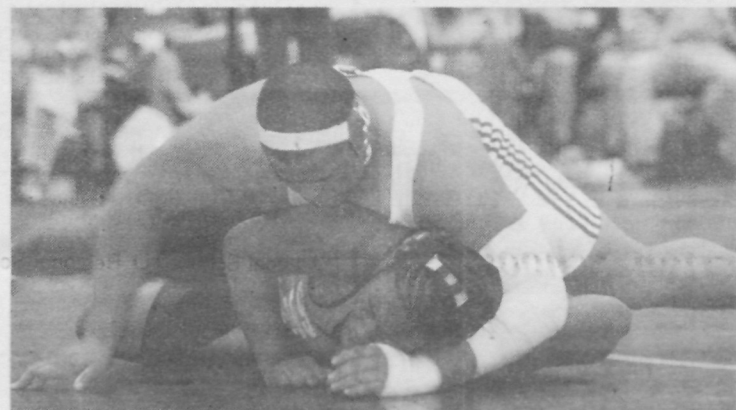
Middle School wrestlers took first place in the South Plainfield Middle School duals, pool B. Pictured here with the whole lineup: Ryan Billich, Joey Vetuschi, John Wylam, JJ DeLillo, Mike Wagner, Justin Smith, Bacilio Alvarado, Corey Hay, Jonathan Conroy, William Whitefleet, Randy Jakubik, Nick Vallone, Kyle Hughes, Joel Santos, Tyler Hunt, Ryan Sacco, Vinnie DaPonte, Nick Heilmann, Jeff Conroy, Richie Szeliga, Nick Pauls and Joey Gonzalez. Not pictured is Eric Niemeyer. Coaches are Kevin Hajduk, George D'Allessandro.

Tiger Wrestlers Win State Championship!

(Continued from page 1)

final round, entered the match prepared to take whatever the Tigers could dish out. The match began at 112, with Billy Ashnault ready to face Nick Menditto, but Ashnault got caught early on the first takedown with back points, falling behind 5-0. But Ashnault battled back, losing an 8-3 decision. Jimmy Conroy (119) gave the Tigers a boost when he pinned Ben Lowery in 43 seconds. The lead was short-lived as Danny Lopes pinned Viet Vo (125) and Nick Dorey (130) lost by decision of 10-4. Ed McCray (135) got the Tigers fans going as always when he pinned Chris Bannom in 46 seconds. Pete DeAndrea (140), who has been slowed by an injured shoulder, gave it his all but lost by decision 5-3. Paul Ritchey (145) got the Tigers back into the match by winning by tech-fall in dominant fashion over Bob Willard 18-1.

But Ocean came roaring back winning the next three matches by decision, major decision and by a fall. Going into the 189 pound match, the



Preston Johnson, heavyweight, fights off 6'5" Eric Adams and keeps the Tigers in position for the win.

Tigers were trailing 28-17. Then came Kevin Crilley (189), who has come up big all year whenever his team needed him to. Well it was no different this time, as Crilley again went out and pinned Mike Colalillo at 1:53. In the next match, senior Rob Maistickle (215) seemed to be on a mission as he launched a continuous attack on Alex Sher. Maistickle then hit Sher with a headlock and scored the needed

fall at 3:52. Preston Johnson (hwt.) was one of the biggest heroes, even in defeat. Johnson, giving up more than 75 pounds to Ocean's heavy weight, 6'5" Eric Adams, did his job by standing toe-to-toe with Adams and going the distance. He seemed to be in trouble several times, but managed to fight off his back and lost by major decision 13-4. As a result, Ocean gained four points, giving them a three-point lead heading into the final match at 103 pounds.

That set the stage for freshman Patrick Hunter (103), who needed at least a major decision by eight points or more to secure a Tiger victory. Stepping onto the mat with the pressure of having the final outcome of the match in his hands, once strictly the duties of the heavyweight, Hunter came out on fire. It took him only 15 seconds to take down Mike Beradesco. From that point on he would retain control and rapidly chip away at his opponent enroute to a 21-6 tech-fall to secure the Tiger victory, 34-32. The 300 Tiger faithful fans went wild in the stands, while the Tiger wrestlers raised their arms and voices in celebration.

In the 23-year history of the group final format, this is only the fourth championship title won by a Middlesex County team and South Plainfield has won three of them. A very fitting end to a magical season. The Tigers now focus on winning the District 12 title.

Congratulations to Coaches McCann, Kagan and Hamilton on a job well done. Let's not forget the wrestlers, who worked hard and kept their focus on the team and then went on to win it all as a team. The South Plainfield Tigers: 18-0, 2005 New Jersey State Group III Wrestling Champions.

AVISO PARA ELECTORES EN EL SERVICIO MILITAR, SUS PARIENTES Y AMIGOS

Si usted se encuentra en el servicio militar; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de alguien en el servicio; es paciente en un hospital para veteranos; es un civil adjunto a, ó sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, fuera del Estado de Nueva Jersey; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de un civil adjunto a, ó que sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. Si usted tiene estas características y desea votar, ó es un familiar ó amigo de alguien que las tenga y que usted crea que quiera votar, en la Elección Escolar en South Plainfield en Abril 19 de 2005. Escriba a la dirección de abajo para solicitar la papeleta del servicio militar, para votar en dicha elección. Si usted esta en el servicio incluya su nombre, edad, número de serie, dirección residencial y la dirección de su base ó donde se le pueda localizar. Si desea la papeleta para un pariente ó amigo, haga la petición bajo juramento, declarando que la persona es mayor de dieciocho años, su nombre, su número de serie si esta en el servicio militar, dirección residencial y dirección de su base ó de donde pueda ser localizado.

Electores del servicio militar pueden solicitar la papeleta de voto militar enviando una solicitud federal en forma de tarjeta postal al Secretario del Condado.

En la solicitud para la papeleta del servicio militar, electores del servicio militar pueden requerir que una papeleta del servicio militar les sea enviada para las demás elecciones que se lleven acabo éste año.

(NOTA: EL ELECTOR MILITAR QUE DECLARE SU ESTACION MILITAR COMO DOMICILIO PARA VOTAR NO PUEDE USAR LA PAPELETA DE MILITAR AUSENTE A MENOS QUE ESTE REGISTRADO PARA VOTAR EN EL MUNICIPIO DONDE DICHA ESTACION ESTA LOCALIZADA.)

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: Febrero 25, 2005

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY COURT HOUSE
P.O. BOX 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903

\$130.00

1T 2/25/05

Golfers: Register For County's Courses

It's never too early to think about hitting the links. In fact, now's the time to register at Middlesex County's four golf courses if you want to ensure you receive access to automated tee times and discounted rates all year long. You can also take advantage of the occasional sunny day to warm up for the season ahead.

Golfers may register at any one course to be a member of all the courses: the two at Tamarack in East Brunswick, The Meadows at Middlesex in Plainsboro and Raritan Landing in Piscataway.

Registered golfers receive discounted rates and the ability to use the county's automated tee time system. The system allows golfers to schedule, change, or cancel tee times by telephone or over the internet.

The annual registration fee is \$35 for county residents, \$30 for senior and student residents and \$45 for non-county residents.

Middlesex County's four courses are open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week year round.

"Traditionally, there are fewer crowds this time of year, so tee times are readily available and even walk-ons are accommodated. Overall, Middlesex County golf is a good bet now," said Leonard J., Roseman, chairman of the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, which owns and operates the courses.

For more information, call (732) 821-8881 for Tamarack; (609) 799-4000 for The Meadows at Middlesex or (732) 885-9600 for Raritan Landing, or visit the MCIA website at www.mciauth.com.

High School Travel Baseball Team Wanted

High School baseball teams are wanted to compete in competitive travel wood bat league. The league will start up the end of May (or when high school baseball is done). For all new teams that register before April 15, they will receive free wood bats. We are also interested in putting together teams for individual players. Contact us at (732) 382-4610 for details on how to enter a team.

Soccer Squirts Returns

The South Plainfield Soccer Club and United Soccer Academy will again be hosting the popular "Soccer Squirts" program this spring. Age groups are 3-5 and 5-7. Dates for the programs will be April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, and June 4. Cost is \$89. All sessions will be held at the Kenneth Ave. fields.

To enroll, please go to www.unitedsocceracademy.com.

Copy deadline for the Observer is every Monday, 5 p.m. for Friday's paper.

Please mail, fax or email your copy. (preferably type in upper and lower case & double space). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, or email spobserver@comcast.net.

NOTICE TO PERSONS DESIRING CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who expects to be absent outside the State on April 19, 2005 or a qualified and registered voter who will be within the State on April 19, 2005, but because of permanent and total disability, or because of illness or temporary physical disability, or because of the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of your religion, or because of resident attendance at a school, college, or university, or because of the nature and hours of employment, will be unable to cast your ballot at the polling place in your district on said date, and you desire to vote in the School Election to be held on April 19, 2005, kindly complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a civilian absentee ballot be forwarded to you. Such request must state your home address, and the address to which it should be sent, and must be signed with your signature, and state the reason why you will not be able to vote at your usual polling place. No civilian absentee ballot will be furnished or forwarded to any applicant unless request therefore is received not less than 7 days prior to the election, and contains the foregoing information.

VOTERS WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED SHALL, AFTER THEIR INITIAL REQUEST AND WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON THEIR PART, BE FORWARDED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION BY THE COUNTY CLERK FOR ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VOTERS ALSO HAVE THE OPTION OF INDICATING ON THEIR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR EACH ELECTION THAT TAKES PLACE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR. PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VOTERS WHO EXERCISE THIS OPTION WILL BE FURNISHED WITH ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR EACH ELECTION THAT TAKES PLACE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON THEIR PART. APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED BY APPLYING TO THE UNDERSIGNED EITHER IN WRITING OR BY TELEPHONE, OR THE APPLICATION FORM PROVIDED BELOW MAY BE COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO THE UNDERSIGNED.

DATE: February 25, 2005

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463
TDD (732) 754-5553

A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT OR TO BE ASSISTED AT THE POLLS BY TWO ELECTION CLERKS, ONE FROM EACH PARTY, OR BY A PERSON CHOSEN BY THE VOTER OTHER THAN THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER, OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION. VOTING LOCATIONS **MUST** BE ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING WITH PROPER SIGNAGE MUST BE PROVIDED. DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED VOTERS CAN ACCESS THE FOLLOWING TDD NUMBER: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED IN LARGE TYPE MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AT EACH PERMANENT REGISTRATION FACILITY AND POLLING PLACE. VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: (732) 745-3471.

☐ Marque aqui si usted quiere materiales electorales en Español.
CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION
You must apply for an Absentee Ballot for each Election. I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the (Check One)
☐ Primary ☐ General ☐ Municipal ☐ Special

☐ Local School ☐ Regional School ☐ Voc. Tech. School

☐ Other _____ To be held on _____ DATE
SPECIFY

CHECK AND COMPLETE
I live in the ☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Township ☐ Borough
☐ Village of _____
My legal residence address including Street Number and/or R.D. Number and Box Number is as follows:

STREET ADDRESS
MUNICIPALITY / ZIP CODE / PHONE

Mail my ballot to the following address:

STREET ADDRESS
MUNICIPALITY STATE ZIP CODE

CHECK REASON FOR BALLOT
I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day because:
☐ I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day.

(DATE OF DEPARTURE)
☐ Of illness or temporary physical disability.
☐ I am permanently and totally disabled. _____ state reason

☒ I am permanently and totally disabled and wish to receive an absentee ballot for all elections to be held during the remainder of the calendar year.
☐ Observance of a religious holiday on election day.
☐ Resident attendance at a school, college or university on election day.
☐ Of nature and hours of my employment on election day.

Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct.

SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN REGISTRY BOOK

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME
If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorized messenger. Messenger shall be a family member or a registered voter of this County.

I designate _____ to be my authorized messenger (NAME OF MESSENGER)

(SIGNATURE OF VOTER)

Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of County Clerk or County Clerk designee.

SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY ZIP CODE

VOTER NUMBER PARTY WARD DISTRICT

\$335.50

1T-2/25/05

ELECCIÓN ESCOLAR AVISO PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEEN PAPELETAS DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Si usted es un elector del Estado calificado y registrado, pero espera estar ausente del mismo en Abril 19 de 2005, o va a estar en el Estado en Abril 19 de 2005, pero no va a poder ir a su lugar de votación, por una las siguientes razones: Incapacidad permanente o temporal; por enfermedad o incapacidad física temporal; por causas religiosas; por asistir a la escuela, colegio o universidad; o por horario o tipo de trabajo. Si usted desea votar en la Elección Escolar en Abril 19 de 2005, por favor llene la solicitud de abajo y envíela a la dirección indicada; o escriba, o solicite personalmente a la dirección o teléfono de abajo, para que le envíen una papeleta por correo. Su solicitud debe incluir: su dirección residencial y la dirección a la cual quiere que le envíen la papeleta; su firma y la razón por la cual no podrá votar en su lugar de votación. No se le enviarán o proveerán papeletas de civil ausente a nadie, a menos que la solicitud sea recibida por lo menos 7 días antes de la elección y contenga la información requerida.

ELECTORES QUE SON PERMANENTE Y TOTALMENTE INCAPACITADOS DEBEN, DESPUES DE SU SOLICITUD INICIAL, AUTOMATICAMENTE, RECIBIR UNA PAPELETA DE CIVIL AUSENTE, DE LAS SECRETERIA DEL CONDADO, PARA TODAS LAS FUTURAS ELECCIONES PARA LAS CUALE SEAN ELEGIBLES. DICHAS SOLICITUDES PUEDEN SER OBTENIDAS ESCRIBIENDO O LLAMANDO A LA MENCIONADA DIRECCION O PUEDE ENVIAR LA SOLICITUD INCLUIDA ABAJO, A LA MISMA DIRECCION.

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en las siguiente dirección:

FECHA: Febrero 25, 2005

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463

UNA PERSONA INCAPACITADA TIENE EL DERECHO A VOTAR CON PAPELETA DE AUSENTE O A SER ASISTIDA EN LAS URNAS POR DOS OFICIALES DE ELECCIONES, UNO DE CADA PARTIDO, O POR UNA PERSONA ELEGIDA POR EL VOTANTE QUE NO SEA SU JEFE, O EL AGENTE DE ESE JEFE, U OFICIAL O AGENTE DE SU UNION. DEBEN SER PROVEIDOS LUGARES DE VOTACION Y ESTACIONAMIENTOS QUE DEBEN SER ACCESIBLES Y SEÑALIZADOS APROPIADAMENTE. VOTANTES SORDOS O CON POCA AUDICION, PUEDEN CONTACTAR EL SIGUIENTE NUMERO TDD: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCCIONES IMPRESAS EN LETRA GRANDE DEBEN SER CLARAMENTE EXHIBIDAS PERMANENTEMENTE EN CADA LUGAR DE REGISTRO O VOTACION. VIOLACIONES A LO ANTERIOR DEBERAN SER REFERIDAS A LA JUNTA DE ELECCIONES DEL CONDADO DE MIDDLESEX: (732) 745-3471.

SOLICITUD DE PAPELETA DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Usted debe solicitar una papeleta de ausente para cada elección. Por la presente solicito una papeleta de ausente para la elección (indique una)
☐ Primaria ☐ General ☐ Municipal ☐ Especial
☐ Local Escolar ☐ Regional Escolar ☐ Técnica Escolar

☐ Otra _____, que se realizará el _____
ESPECIFIQUE FECHA

REVISE Y COMPLETE

Vivo en ☐ la ciudad ☐ el pueblo ☐ el municipio ☐ el barrio
☐ la aldea de _____
Mi residencia legal, incluyendo el número de la calle, el de la ruta o ambos y el apartado, es la siguiente:

DIRECCIÓN

MUNICIPIO CÓDIGO POSTAL TELÉFONO

Envíen mi papeleta a la siguiente dirección:

DIRECCIÓN DE LA CALLE

MUNICIPIO ESTADO CÓDIGO POSTAL

INDIQUE LA RAZÓN PARA LA PAPELETA

El día de la elección no podré votar en mi urna regular debido a que:
☐ Espero encontrarme ausente del estado de Nueva Jersey el día de la elección _____

(FECHA DE LA PARTIDA)

☐ Una enfermedad o incapacidad física.
☐ Sufro de invalidez permanente y total.

Exprese la razón _____

☒ Sufro de invalidez permanente y total y deseo recibir una papeleta de ausente para todas las elecciones que que se llevarán acabo durante _____ lo que resta del año.
☐ El día de la elección deberé observar un feriado religioso.
☐ El día de la elección estaré asistiendo como residente a una escuela, escuela superior o universidad.
☐ La naturaleza de mi trabajo y su horario, el día de la elección. Bajo pena de ley, yo certifico que mis anteriores afirmaciones son veraces y correctas.

FIRME SU NOMBRE COMO APARECE EN EL LIBRO DE REGISTRO

ESCRIBA O IMPRIMA SU NOMBRE

Si el votante se encuentra enfermo o recluso, puede solicitar un voto de ausente por intermedio de un mensajero autorizado.

Nombre a _____ mi mensajero autorizado.
(NOMBRE DEL MENSAJERO)

(FIRMA DEL VOTANTE)

El mensajero autorizado debe firmar las solicitudes únicamente ante el Secretario del Condado o su delegado.

(FIRMA DEL MENSAJERO)

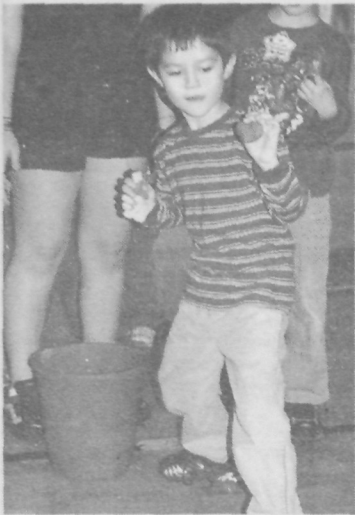
(DIRECCIÓN)

MUNICIPIO CÓDIGO POSTAL

VOTER NUMBER PARTY WARD DISTRICT

\$335.50

1T-2/25/05



Franklin Elementary School students enjoy a day at the beach courtesy of the school's PTA.

Franklin Students Enjoy a Day at the Beach

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Franklin School students recently enjoyed a day at the beach without leaving the building. There were no tourists, no long lines and no need for sunscreen. The event sponsors, the PTA, transformed the gym into an exciting boardwalk, complete with all the summertime fun essentials. Attire for the event was beach wear and summer play clothes.

Tickets in hand the students dashed from game to game. There was plenty

to choose from, including arts and crafts, face painting, spin art, tattoos, face painting, toss, bowling and dart games, as well as dozens of prizes to choose from. Half the gym was dedicated to volleyball. Teams played a lively game using a beach ball. DJ Kevin Murtagh filled the room with summer tunes and kept the crowd dancing. No boardwalk would be complete without food, and this party had plenty of it. The pint-sized beach bunnies and beach bums enjoyed hotdogs, pizza, snacks, soda and ices.



Beach party DJ Kevin Murtagh.

police report

• On Feb. 15 Desiree Monique Lilly, 20, of Trenton was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Raceway Gas on Clinton Ave. reported that a customer received \$26.50 worth of gas, but only had \$5 and would come back the next day with the rest. The customer never returned.

• On Feb. 17 Clive Anthony Rose, 42, of Piscataway was arrested for hindering apprehension and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Walter Douglas Walker, 32, of Scotch Plains was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to observe a red light and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• Eric V. Magazine, 31, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Sodexo worker reported that their rear windshield had been cracked while parked at Grant Central Elementary School.

• On Feb. 18 Aaron R. Brown, 30, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• The high school reported that a window had been broken on one of the schools' maintenance vehicles.

• A Front St. resident reported the theft of two portable CD players and five CD's from their unlocked vehicle.

• On Feb. 19 Sharif Ar-Raheem, 22, of Franklin Park was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test, reckless driving, having an open alcoholic container in a car, failure to follow approved turning course, failure to stay right, failure to exhibit an insurance card and having no insurance at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Feb. 20 Saturnino Bolvito Hernandez, 34, of Philadelphia, Pa. was arrested for exhibiting a fraudulent license, being an unlicensed driving and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

COMING SOON...

A new and improved website for the South Plainfield Observer. Watch for details.

Classifieds

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MERCHANDISER NEEDED FOR A rapidly growing company. Immediate FT servicing hardware dept in home improvement stores in New Jersey. Must be handy, hardworking individual w/dependable car, valid license. Bkg/drug screen. \$500/wk, car expenses, medical, 401k. Call 1-800-726-3404 ext 305.

ASSOCIATES WANTED-LOOKING for associates to give away freehealth care products. Must have access to a telephone and a computer. Exc. compensation plan. Work from home. For more info, contact Tom at (908) 757-6640.

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DINING ROOM SET-72X42 RECTAN-gular glass top on black metal base w/6 matching high back upholstered metal chairs. \$500 or B/O. Currently selling in Fortunoff for \$950. Call (908) 753-2328.

MINT-CONDITION PLATINUM GAME CUBE with platinum controller & Wavebird controller (wireless), plus 7 games. Asking \$150 (flexible). Call (732) 545-3132.

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- Resumes
- Flyers

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MATTRESS SET-QUEEN PILLOW top, new w/ warranty. \$135. Can Deliver. (732) 259-6690.

BEDROOM SET-SLEIGH BED, chest, dresser/mirror, n-stand. Value \$2400, sell \$975. (732) 259-6690.

BED-QUEEN SET, VISCO ELASTIC Memory Foam, as seen on TV, still in plastic. Value \$1300, sell \$390. Can deliver. (732) 259-6690.

DINING ROOM-BEAUTIFUL TABLE, 6 chairs, hutch and buffet. New in box. \$895. Can deliver (732) 259-6690.

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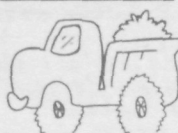
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Taxpayers with Access to Computer and Internet Qualify for Free File

The Internal Revenue Service today marked the opening of IRS e-file with an appeal to taxpayers and tax professionals alike: Hit the 'send' button.

Fast, accurate and secure, IRS e-file marks a major milestone this year as half of the nation's taxpayers are expected to file their tax returns electronically. The popular program favored by millions of taxpayers is now available for use.

Also, Free File - the free tax-service partnership and an important component of IRS e-file - opens its third year with free service offerings to more taxpayers than ever who have access to a computer and the Internet.

"IRS e-file has proven itself to taxpayers year after year. It is fast, accurate and secure. It's easy to use. Tax-

payers can receive their refunds in half the time," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "I also would urge all tax preparers to consider electronically filing their clients' returns. IRS e-file is good for business, whether you are a taxpayer or a tax professional."

In New Jersey, the IRS projects to receive nearly 4.1 million tax returns this year with over 1.7 million taxpayers opting for the easier and faster IRS e-file. Last year, 1.35 million tax returns were e-filed by New Jerseyans. Nationwide, the IRS expects half of the 132 million taxpayers will file their returns electronically. Last year, nearly 62 million tax returns were filed electronically.

IRS e-file began as a pilot project in three cities (Phoenix; Cincinnati,

Ohio and Raleigh/Durham, N.C.) in 1986 and 25,000 returns were electronically filed. The program opened nationwide in 1990 and 4.1 million returns were electronically filed.

Taxpayers can file their returns electronically either by using an e-file-approved tax professional, purchasing over-the-counter computer software or downloading Internet-based software.

Since 2003, taxpayers also have been able to access free tax software and free e-filing through the IRS Web site thanks to a public-private partnership. The IRS and a consortium of tax software manufacturers offer free services through Free File. Last year, more than 3.5 million taxpayers used Free File. At the start of this year, the Free File program includes

15 companies, with more possible in coming weeks.

For 2005, any taxpayer with access to a computer and the Internet will qualify for Free File. Each company sets its own criteria for free usage. The criteria varies but often is based on income, state residency and age. Some have no restrictions for participation.

Companies are allowed to alter their offers during the filing season.

"We've once again expanded the population of those who can participate in e-file," Everson said.

The vast majority of electronically prepared returns are filed by tax professionals. However, the fastest growth rate is among taxpayers using software to prepare their own returns. The number of self-prepared computer filed returns has nearly

tripled recently to 14.5 million returns in 2004 from 5 million returns in 2000. In New Jersey, nearly 303,000 returns in 2004 were self-prepared computer filed returns.

In addition, the IRS estimates that more than 35 million tax returns each year are prepared on a computer. However, instead of using the e-file option and hitting the 'send' button, taxpayers and tax preparers hit the "print" button and mail in the return. The IRS encourages these taxpayers to consider the benefits of filing electronically.

"It's the fastest, easiest way to do your tax return," Everson said. "There are fewer errors so there are fewer refund delays. And, if you e-file and use direct deposit, you can receive your refund in approximately two weeks."

Obituaries

Mary DiNardo

Mary DiNardo died on Tuesday, Feb. 15 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born and raised in Newark, she had lived in South Plainfield for the past 40 years.

Mary had worked for most of her life, beginning at Prudential in Newark, where she had worked as a payroll administrator for eight years. In the mid-1960s, she worked as a clerk in the South Plainfield Borough Hall and in the late 1960's, she was the co-owner of Josie's Bridal Shop in Plainfield. From 1979 to 1992, she owned and operated, with her late husband, Rocco DiNardo, DiNardo's Restaurants in Edison and South Plainfield. She retired in 1993.

In addition to her working, over the years she had been a volunteer at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield and she was a member of the Plainfield Area Chapter of Deborah. She was also a member of Sacred Heart Church.

Mary was a longtime bingo and card player and she enjoyed her trips to Atlantic City.

She was predeceased by both of her husbands, Rocco DiNardo in 1990 and Louis Garrubbo, who died in 1958. She was also predeceased by two sisters, Gloria Zable and Loretta Barylsky and by a brother, Nicholas Santora.

A loving mother and grandmother, she is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Lou and Louis Stieglmayer of South Plainfield, Carol Garrubbo-Boyer and Peter Boyer of Berkeley Heights and Dawn DiNardo-Lippi and Jon Lippi of South Plainfield; a son, Gary Garrubbo of South Plainfield; three sisters, Lena Balazs and her husband Joseph of South Plainfield, Rita DiCuollo Lambert of South Plainfield and Dolores Watson of Oklahoma and by six grandchildren, Mark and Ryan Stieglmayer, Jake, Matthew and Zachary Boyer and by one-week-old Rocco Mario Lippi.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Alice Lehman Lesche, 89

Alice Lehman Lesche, a resident at Hartwyck at Cedarbrook Nursing Home in Plainfield died on Sunday, Feb. 13.

Born in Allentown, Pa., she and her husband, Heinz, moved to Corning, New York in 1935, where they raised their family. In 1972, they retired to Venice, Fla. They were members of their church choir and volunteers at Bon Secour Hospital in Venice, Fla. In 1999, they moved to South Plainfield.

Although Alice spent a number of years as an executive secretary at the Corning Glass Works, her first love was her family. She was a wonderful homemaker and was admired for her fine needlework. She loved music, was an excellent pianist and with her husband, enjoyed traveling the world. All who knew Alice remarked about her kind, gentle soul.

Mrs. Lesche was predeceased by her husband, Heinz.

She is survived by three children, Virginia Green and her husband, Edward of South Plainfield, Nancy Kirchmyer and her husband, James of Hebron, Conn. and Robert Lesche and his wife, Deanna of Beltsville, MD.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Wesley Methodist Church at a date to be announced.

Arrangements are under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Mary Jane McLouth, 85

Mary Jane McLouth died on Sunday, Feb. 20 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, New York, she grew up in upstate New York and was a 1938 graduate of Greenbriar Junior College for Women in Greenbriar, W. Virginia. She was married at the age of 19 in 1939 and later resided in Lin-

den, before settling to Elizabeth where she had resided for many years. She moved to Plainfield five years ago.

A homemaker, Mrs. McLouth enjoyed spending her time reading and knitting.

Her husband, William B. McLouth, died in 1999.

She is survived by two daughters, Judy and Pamela McLouth, both of California; two sons, William B. Jr. and his wife, Barbara McLouth of South Plainfield and Peter and his wife, Diana McLouth of Va.

In addition, she is survived by eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held privately under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

J. Oliver Lindstrom, 84

J. Oliver Lindstrom died on Friday, Feb. 18 at home.

Born in Waterbury, Conn., he had resided in various states as the son of a Lutheran Minister. He later resided in Dunellen before settling to South Plainfield in the late 1950's.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the Army with the 137 4th Engineer Petroleum Company, participating in the invasion of Normandy Beach on D-Day.

He is a former member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church.

Employed by Celanese in Summit as a chemist, he retired in the late 1970's.

His wife, Evelyn (Wort) Lindstrom, died a short time after her husband.

Surviving are a daughter, Ann L. and her husband, Ken Semanchik of Lebanon; a sister, Nelma Luckow and a brother, Stuart Lindstrom. In addition, he is survived by four grandchildren, Andrew, Kasandra, Kristen and Michael Semanchik.

Funeral services were held privately at the wishes of the family under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals of South Plainfield.

Evelyn (Wort) Lindstrom, 86

Evelyn (Wort) Lindstrom died on Friday, Feb. 18 at home.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Dunellen before settling to South Plainfield in the late 1950s.

Mrs. Lindstrom had worked as a clerk for Prudential Insurance Co. in Newark and later was employed as OB/OR Technician for Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield before her retirement in the 1980's.

She is a former member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, J. Oliver Lindstrom, died a short time prior to her death.

Surviving are a daughter, Ann L. and her husband, Ken Semanchik of Lebanon and four grandchildren, Andrew, Kasandra, Kristen and Michael Semanchik.

Funeral services were held privately at the wishes of the family under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals of South Plainfield.

Wasy "Bill" Dubyna, 90

Wasy "Bill" Dubyna of Scotch Plains died Wednesday, Feb. 9 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Bill was born in the Ukraine and came to the United States in 1941, where he lived in Newark. He settled to Scotch Plains in 1956.

Bill was a member of St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook. He was a meat packer for 18 years, retiring in 1980 from Best Provision, Inc. in Newark.

Bill is survived by his wife, Irene (Bittner) Dubyna, a son, George Dubyna and a daughter, Loris Hewitt. He was grandfather of Mark and wife Paula, Jean Dubyna-Coury and husband Michael and Lisa and Chris Hewitt. He was great grandfather of Kristen and Brooke Dubyna and Chloe Coury. Bill is also survived by family members in the Ukraine.

Funeral services were held at the Rossi Funeral Home.

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