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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 13

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 2, 2005

Dan Smith Named BOE Vice President



BOE Vice President Dan Smith

By Libby Barsky

Dan Smith was elected vice president of the South Plainfield Board of Education by a vote of 5 to 4 during the board's Committee of the Whole meeting on Smith, a former board member, was defeated in last April's election and then selected by the board to finish the term of Board President Michael English, who resigned in October. Also nominated for the position was Sue Peck.

Smith's position was acknowledged at the board's regular meeting on Nov. 15. "It's gratifying to have the support of my colleagues and to be named to that position," said Smith, who served as vice president in 2001. "I just want to focus on doing what's right for the community and the kids in our schools."

Smith is the new chairperson of the Building and Grounds Committee, replacing Steve Bohn and is also a member of the Public Relations Committee.



SPHS Tigers cheerleaders gear up for the Thanksgiving game at the annual pep rally.

Tigers Edged Out at Thanksg iving Game

Story/photo by Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Tigers roared and charged, fighting a mighty battle against the North Plainfield Canucks. Despite their gargantuan efforts, the Tigers football team lost the annual game against North Plainfield, by just one point. Their loss was certainly not for lack of school spirit, which was alive and kicking the entire game.

Football players, cheerleaders, color guard and band were joined by family, friends and faculty at a exhilarating pep rally held the evening before the big game. After the rally the high-spirited crowd headed outdoors to watch the traditional bonfire. As the fire began to die, the energized fans headed home anticipating victory. While their wish was not granted this year, "The South" will rise again!

SPHS Drama Club Presents "13 Past Midnight" This Weekend



The SPHS 2005 Players Drama Club

Borough May Appeal Judge's Ruling on Pinto Settlement

A Superior Court judge has ordered the Borough of South Plainfield to turn over the details of how it settled a discrimination lawsuit by a former Borough official.

According to Borough Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri, the borough is considering appealing the judge's ruling.

In the suit, former Democratic Councilwoman Darlene Pinto claimed sexual discrimination by the borough in 2002 when she applied for a position in the tax office. According to Pinto, the mayor and council refused to hire her because she was a single mother, did not need to work and would miss work when her children were sick. After settling the suit in 2004, the borough did not release the details, saying it was bound by a confiden-

tiality agreement. The refusal prompted the South Plainfield Republican Organization to file suit under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA), claiming that the borough was violating OPRA by withholding public records. Judge Yolanda Ciccone, sitting in New Brunswick, agreed and ordered the municipality to turn over the settlement agreement within 20 days.

According to Ciccone, "The settlement documents are public records that should be made available." Ciccone declined the request for copies of depositions taken in the Pinto suit. The SPHS 2005 Players Drama Club will perform "13 Past Midnight," a fast paced murder-mysterycomedy by Billy St. John that offers something for everyone.

The show is directed by Gloria Naso. Assistant director is Dolly Cammaere and Dawn Noonan is stage manager/tech director.

Baker's Play catalog offered this synopsis: "When powerful millionaire Victor Winslow, producer of a popular TV soap opera, invites members of the cast and crew to his mansion for a party, none dare refuse. Winslow rms his guests that he has asseminfo bled them to help him develop a new murder mystery game he's invented called "13 Past Midnight". Before the game begins, the host gives them plenty of motives to want to kill him - for real! The game becomes deadly when someone in the house is actu-ally murdered. Pete Griffin, a private investigator Winslow hired to act as a consultant, must try to catch the killer before he or she strikes again. As well as Winslow, Griffin and the

As well as Winslow, Griffin and the guests, the cast includes his wife, who suspects he is planning to divorce her, the servants, and a gossip columnist. As part of the game, a life-size dummy which represents Winslow, is intended to be the victim. The players' attempts to "kill" his stand-in are hilarious."

"13 Past Midnight" is the first fall production since 1998. Show dates are Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m and on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.



Indian guest with hosts Dana Miller and David Martin

Residents Recreate First Feast

One autumn afternoon long ago the Pilgrims and Indians sat side by side and shared the wealth of the fall harvest. They dined together as family and friends. On Nov. 19, a crisp cold autumn afternoon, South Plainfield residents David Martin and Dana Miller dressed as pilgrims set out to recreate that first feast.

A homemade teepee and stockade were erected on their 1200 S. 9th corner lawn. Nearby, a long line of decorative tables was filled with guests. Many wore appropriate costumes depicting the early settlers and Native Americans. One guest had a place of honor on the front lawn–a live turkey comfortably ensconced in a straw filled cage. David and Dana added an important touch of modern day Thanksgiving–football! Several people were attired in football shirts.

people were attired in football shirts. In keeping with tradition everyone provided something for the meal. On the front porch of the home were tables of food ranging from turkey and all the trimmings, to roast beef, ham, pasta, salads, desserts and much more. There were cold beverages and hot toddys.

Guests of all ages enjoyed bobbing for apples, pumpkin bowling, pie throwing and eating contests and a pinata. A portable fire place offered a chance to warm chilled hands.

The hosts normally hold an outdoor Christmas party in December but decided it was time to add a bit more warmth temperature wise to their annual event. Guests numbered 55 adults and 30 children from all over New Jersey. One family member traveled from Texas to attend.

The evening chill did not break up the party; guests simply gathered closer to the fire to bask in the warmth of family and friendship.

INVALRAPINIAN

Proud Sponsors Of The 2005 South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleaders-Thank You!

The South Plainfield Eagles JR Midget Cheerleaders and the following businesses for their support in their "Sponsor a Cheerleader" Promise Pledge Campaign. In addition, they would like to thank the numerous individuals, family, friends and community as well as those who requested to remain anonymous who also pledged their support as "Proud Sponsors" of the 2005 SP Faeles I. Midger Cheerleaders

anonymous who also pledged their support as "Proud Sponsors" of the 2005 SP Eagles Jr Midget Cheerleaders American Gymnastics Academy, AKA, Inc., All Health Care, Ash/Ace Truck-ing, B & C Deli, Brush Stop, Buckhead Beef, Buy-Rite Liquots, CandyLand Academy, Century 21 Moretri Realty, Carpets Plus, Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, Ciccio's Pizza, Club at Ricochet, Corner Deli, Cornerstone Ar-chitectural Group, Crown Cadillac, Curves, Dave's Stationary, Di-Lex Trucking, Inc., Dr. Frank Licaro, Dr. Jay Terzis, Dr Allen Levine & Dr James Occhipinti, Eding Meating & Colling Ferry Licate America Panes Delis Ferrelia School chitectural Group, Crown Cadillac, Curves, Dave's Stationary, Di-Lex Trucking, Inc., Dr. Frank Licato, Dr. Jay Terzis, Dr Allen Levine & Dr James Occhipinti, Edison Heating & Cooling, Frank Licato Agency, Fresco Deli, Franklin School PTA, Grant School PTO, Graphix One, Haisch's Bakery, Home Depor, Home-town Heros, Hunterdon-Somerset Spinal Rehab, Industrial Cooling Corp., In-surance Restoration Specialists, Jeff Licato, KC's Corner, Ken's Links, Knights of Columbus, Liberty Wood Products, Looking Upwards Pediatric Therapy, McCriskin's Funeral Home, Meineke, Mohn's Florist, My Lynn Nails, National Industrial Supply, Network Info Tech, New Pak, Inc., New Image Landscaping, Nischwitz Feed & Fuel, Oak Tree Farms, Omega Diner, One Stop Barber Shop, Our Town Deli, Pace Productions, Park Ave. Sevice Exxon, Party Pro's, Paulo's BBQ, Pinto Brother's Disposal, Pizza Stop, Preferred Remodeling, Presto Print-ing, ProCare Physical Therapy, Prudential NJ Properties, Razor's Edge, Red's Sport Heaven, Remrek Services, Rich's Pharmacy, Roosevelr School PTA, Safe & Sound Professional Inspectors, Sal's Spirit Shop, Sherban's Diner, Sky-Hy Erectors, South Plainfield Football Eagles, South Plainfield PBA, South Plainfield Democratic Organization, SPEA, Sportworld, Spoelight on Dance, Starboard Financial, Starewide Conditioning, Inc., stulo Escavating, Superior Integrared Solutions, Thermal Service of NJ, Tri-State Paving, Twin City, Pharmacy, Wealth Planning Group, Witty's Liquor, Zen Nail Spa and Friends & Family of the 2005 Jr Midget Cheerleaders Please support these businesses and organizations as they have supported us!

Please support these businesses and organizations as they have supported us!

Mark Your Loa on to southplainfieldnj.com **Calendars** for the latest meeting agenda council 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 December 6. . 8:00 p.m. All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue. planningboard Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Dec. 13, Dec. 27. zoning Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Dec. 8, Dec. 22 boardofeducationmeetings Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted Com.of the Whole ,Tuesdays 7 p.m.–Dec. 13, Jan. 10, 2006, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28. Regular Meeting Tuesdays 8 p.m.–Dec. 20, Jan. 17, 2006, Feb. 21. March 21 and April 4. Soun Plainfield Associate Publisher Observer SUSAN KANEPS Art Director/Associate Editor The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday PATRICIA ABBOTT Staff Writer/Photographe G&G Graphics, Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B South Plainfield, NJ 07080 LIBBY BARKSY Staff Writer CAROL GRENNIER Editorial Assistant (908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819 NANCY GRENNIER Publisher/Editor-in-Chief NATIA KATSANTONIS TARYN BILLICH Production Assistant WAYNE GRENNIER WATNE GREINNIEH Web page: www.spobserver.com (under construction) For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010. ROXANNE CORTESE JANE DORNICK WILLIAM TUTHILL Advertising Sales The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

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.

To the Editor, The South Plainfield High School Girls' Soccer Team dinner honoring all the girls and seniors Nicole Cursi and Clara Eskander was held on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the South Plainfield Italian American Club. It was catered by Flanagan's Restaurant. Thank you to John and April and Cathy of Flanagan's

for all your hard work. The girls supported each other throughout the season and shared laughter, tears and many sleepovers. Thank you girls for being there for each other.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Italian/American Club and to Jimmy and Lou Colicchio, Lori Little for a job well done on the certificates and to Lynn Gaspari, Kathie Keller, Tom Har-dy and Michael Boyle for set up and Millie Hunt for the program prepara-tion. Ashley Gaspari and Beckey Keller the slide show was great!

Thank you to Head Coach Hunt, Coach Curcio and Coach "Fig" for all your hard work and dedication to the

girls and the soccer program. Thank you to Dr. Rosado, Athletic Director Buggey, Principal Dr. Ken May and Vice-Principal Errico, from the girls and parents for your atten-dance at the dinner and your support of the soccer program. Board President Steve Bohn, who sent his regrets because of previous commitment to at-tend a special education meeting out of town and could not attend the dinner. Next year's dinner will be held at the

Italian/American Club in South Plain-field on Friday, Nov. 17.

On another note, congratulations and best wishes to Al Czech, who has been appointed as the SPHS Freshman Girls' Basketball Coach along with Head Coach Maureen Flannery Barnett for the year 2005-06. SINCERELY, DEBBIE BOYLE, DINNER COORDINATOR AND PARENT

To the Editor, On Oct. 28, John E. Riley Elementary School held their annual Halloween Festival. Both children and parents had lots of fun, whether playing golf, visiting the fortune teller, taking a trip through the "haunted hallway," or just dancing to the music of DJ Don Slanina. I would like to thank the following

people without whom this evening of fun would not have been possible: Mr. Czech (Principal), Kathie and George Pittenger, Laura Conrad, Mr. Artie, Ann and Glenn DellaSala, "Babs" Jenkin, Jen Curtis, Alisha Hedden, Jennifer Smithline, Joseph Affinito, Mohn's Florist, Donald Ardito, Mike Rochotte, (the punch man!) Diane Heilman, Cathy Fisher, Debbi Abood, Joan O'briend, and Karen Kozak, who Joan O'oriend, and Karen Kozak, who did a fabulous job on the "haunted hallway!" And also to my little "Gob-lins"-Emily Pittenger, Jennifer Wolak, Austin Jenkin, Joey Affinito, Natalie Kozak, Sarah Hunterdon and Gracie Picturale Piekarski.

Thanks for a fabulous team effort in coordinating a successful event. SINCERELY,

SHIRLEY AFFINITO, HALLOWEEN COM. CHAIRPERSON

Letter to the Editor; The South Plainfield Education Foundation will hold their annual telethon the week of Dec. 5. Students from several groups in the high school will be making phone calls to the parents of every student in the South Plainfield district. They will be asking for your help with a monetary pledge to the education foundation. A follow up letter will be mailed to remind each person of the amount that has been pledged. There are several areas throughout the district where parents can direct financial help.

This is our most important fund raiser of the year. Through this fund raiser we are able to continue providing scholarships to deserving senio from South Plainfield High School. We from South Plainfield High School. We are able to continue to support the Gold Card Program at the high school. In-cluded in the pledge letter you will re-ceive our newsletter. The newsletter will provide you with information about the foundation. We have been in exist-ence since 1994 and are a separate nonprofit 501c-3 organization. Please be advised that the education foundation is not affiliated with the school board. We provide monies for scholarships and incentive programs for the entire district as an independent non-profit organizatio

south plainfield education FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Thanks So Much!!

We would like to thank everyone for their support for Jamie Cammarata's Blood Drive which was held on Wednesday, Nov. 16. The drive was very successful, with more than 130 people willing to donate. We were able to collect 84 pints of blood which will help 168 people over the coming weeks! THANKS YOU FOR YOUR

SUPPORT!!!!! THE CAMMARATA FAMILY

Dear Editor, The South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleaders would like to thank all their "proud sponsors" - individuals, organizations and businesses that pledged support in our "Sponsor a Cheerleader" Promise Pledge Cam-paign. We would also like to thank the South Plainfield community which donated generously during our canning and other fundraising efforts. The South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleading Team was awarded fourth place honors at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Championships at Sov-ereign Bank Arena on Nov. 20. Although they will not be advancing to the National Finals in Orlando, they have made history as the first Pop Warner Cheerleading team from South Plainfield to not only advance to the Eastern Region Championships two years in a row, but were named among the winning teams both times! Without the support of so many individu-als, businesses and community, the dream of reaching the Nationals could not even be a possibility. We did meet our goal and we thank you all for being a part of that. In addition to the many individu-

als who supported us which are too numerous to mention, as well as those sponsors who preferred to remain anonymous, we would like to thank the businesses/organizations for being "Proud Sponsors" of the 2005 SP Eagles Jr Midget Cheerleaders. Please ee the sponsors in the box on the left. We thank you for making a difference! WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION,

THE SP EAGLES JR. MIDGET **CHEERLEADING TEAM**

(Continued on page 22)

What if you could give someone a gift that could change their life? 63*000 A free two-month membership to Curves may be the best present you'll ever give. Because along with the beautiful certificate, someone will be getting the best excuse ever to meet new friends, accomplish new goals

and feel a joy that will last long after the holiday season. That's a powerful gift for \$99.

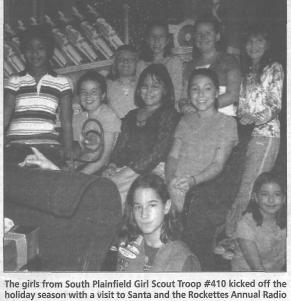
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December 2, 2005



holiday season with a visit to Santa and the Rockettes Annual Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Pictured are (left to right), Nicole Jones, Bianca LoBosco, Emily Reineke, Jessica Saffold, Meghan Heim, Kristen Forbes, Angela Spadavecchia, Samantha Hunterton, Alexa Douras and Christina Kasmer. All had a "spectacular" time.

Knights Announce Family and Knight Awards

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 have announced their Knight and Family of the Quarter awards. Brian Cargill won the Knight of the Quarter and Tony Moskal won for the Family of the Quarter. Brian and Tony were given their awards at a special awards meeting on October 18. These awards are presented by the officers on the council from Brian and Tony's accomplishments from July through Sept. 2005.

Brian Cargill was selected as Knight of the Quarter because of his many contributions to the council, community and family events our council has run over the past four months. Brian's greatest accomplishment was chairing a concert with Billy and Rose Falcon that was held in July. Over 125 people attended and the concert was a major fundraiser with all of the proceeds (\$2,000) being donated to the Susan B Kolman Breast Cancer Foundation. Brian is also the council's Family and Membership director. Brian ran the council family picnic in September with great success. Brian is also the

Grand Knight Joe Scruda (right) to presents a plaque to Brian Cargill Tony Moskal. councils first ever recipient of the Shining Armor Award. This award is presented to only new Knights of Columbus members and involves completing several major goals in a one

Year time frame. Tony Moskal and his wife, Kathy, and daughter, Nicole, were selected as Family of the Quarter because of the great support for the church, community and the Knights of Columbus. Tony is the councils' Deputy Grand Knight and program director. Last year Tony was the councils' Faithful Navigator for the 4th Degree Knights. This included attending all of the 4th degree callouts. Whenever there is a family, youth, community or council event that the Knights have, Tony and his family are always there supporting the event and the Knights.

Notes from The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

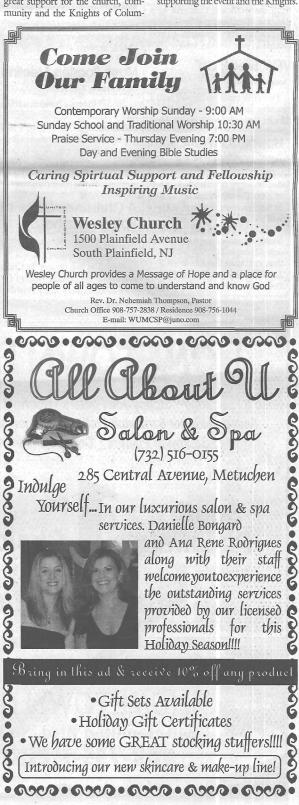
During this season of Thanksgiving I find myself recalling all of the kindness and generosity that I have experienced this year, both at the South Plainfield Senior Center and personally. I have much to be thankful for and want to publicly express my appreciation to all those who have made the South Plainfield Senior Center a part of their giving.

In particular, I would like to recognize several businesses who have made considerable contributions to our center. The South Plainfield Funeral Home has made several generous donations this year. Their most recent donation financed a six piece orchestra to play at our Thanksgiving dinner dance, which really made for an outstanding evening. I would also like to thank Mohn's Florist and its owner, Georgeanne DiGrazia. Mohn's Florists donates beautiful flowers and gifts throughout the year, which always brightens up the Senior Center. Special thanks also go to Sherban's Diner for their culinary donations and KLK Trucking for their donation of landscaping stone and mulch.

Several youth groups have also made significant contributions to our program as well. First, my sincere thanks to Girl Scout Troop #117 and event coordinator, Kristin Coffey, for all their hard work. They have been a special part of many of our social functions for several years now. Each year they co-sponsor our Senior Prom and turn the auditorium into a showplace. I want to also offer special thanks to the South Plainfield High School Peer Leadership Group for sponsoring a summer picnic for our seniors and for their participation in our Thanksgiving dinner dance held a few weeks ago. It's really great to have our youth and our seniors get together for an evening. It made for a really fun and entertaining event and everyone had a terrific time. On behalf of the South Plainfield

On behalf of the South Plainfield Office on Aging and our seniors, thank you very much to our many benefactors and friends who have given so much support to us throughout the year. May God bless each of you and may your kindness be returned to you tenfold.







Knights Breakfast with Santa December 3

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Knights Hall on Hamilton Blvd, Price for breakfast (includes eggs, bacon, and French toast) is \$3 a child, \$5 for an adult or \$15 for a family. Reservations required. Call Steve Belanger at (908) 791-0640 for reservations

Cultural Arts Presents Line Dancing

December 3

The Cultural Arts Commission will present Country Western Line Dancing on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave.

Instructor is Georgeanne Valis from the Colorado Café. All ages welcome. The evening is free and refreshments are included. Come dressed in your country best!

VFW Breakfast

December 4

The VFW on Front St. will hold a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 8 to 11 a.m. Proceeds benefit the VA Hos-

Hawaii. San Francisco And Las Vegas Trip

The Rec Dept. is planning a 10-day, nine-night vacation trip for July of 2006. The trip includes two days in San Francisco, five days in Ha-

waii and two days in Las Vegas. Price is \$1,995 per person, double occupancy and is limited to only 40 people. For more information, call Mike English at (908) 226-7714 or Joann Graff at (908) 754-1047.



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Choir will be on hand to lead us in holiday songs.

After caroling everyone is invited to the Senior Center for refreshments. Come join us for an afternoon of singing, camaraderie and holiday cheer.

Rainbow Academy Open House

January 7

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit the needs of children ages six weeks to 7 years.

Those interested are also invited to meet the staff and visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For information, visit the website at www.rainbowacademy.com or call (908) 769-3224.

– Out of Town –

Musical Program at Monday Afternoon Club December 5

"Union Harmonica Band" will present a musical program on Dec. 5 at 2 pm at the Monday Afternoon Club of Plainfield at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. The Monday Afternoon Club is in

its 188th year of community service, and it was founded by Eliza Elvira Kenyon, who was known as the First Lady of Plainfield. They meet the first Monday of each month at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church and wel-(Continued on next page)







(Continued from previous page) come guests and new members. For more information call Mildred Colley at (908) 756-3476.

Holiday Dance Extravaganza December 4

The Edison Arts Society presents "Winter Wonderland", a holiday dance extravaganza on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. at the JP Stevens High School on Grove Ave. in Edison. Performance features students from Yvonne's School of Dance, DanceForce, Jo-Ann's Studio of Dance, Spotlight on Dance and the Edison Recreation Dance & Theater Co. The JP Stevens High School Chamber Choir Carolers will also perform.

Tickets are \$13 each and can be purchased by calling (908) 753-2787.

Nite of DooWop

February 4

The Dunellen Legion Post #119, along with the Dunellen High School Class of 2008, are sponsoring "A Nite of Doo-Wop 2005," featuring Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge and The Duprees on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. at Raritan Valley Community College's Edward Nash Theatre, in Branchburg.

For tickets, contact Phyllis Piano at (732) 968-0885, ext. 104, 7 a.m.- 3 p.m. daily or Bill Unler at (732) 968-5381 night and weekends.

Woman's Club Monthly Meeting December 7

The Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Hall, 17 Oak Ave. in Metuchen. The program will include vocalist Arlene Britt.

Guests are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information please contact Diana at (732) 548-0925.

Depression Bipolar Support Meeting December 7

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature a clinical social worker on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. Using stories, metaphors and humor, the social worker will paint a unique picture of the illnesses from a personal and professional point of view.

For information call (973) 994-1143 or the NJ Self-Help Group Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

Woodbridge WOWs December 7

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will have a business meeting and social hour on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the main public library on St. George's Ave. in Woodbridge. Light refreshments will be served.

MOMS Club of Edison Meeting

December 8

The MOMS Club of Edison, which serves Edison, Metuchen, South Plainfield, Piscataway and Highland Park, is looking for new members and will be holding its monthly meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at The Heritage in Clara Barton at 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. We will be having a holiday party with a pot luck lunch and the children will be doing a talent show. Come meet our members and see what we're all about.

The MOMS Club is a national support group for mothers who stay at home with their children. The group offers a wide range of activities including playgroups, a monthly moms *night out*, *kids in the kitchen, movie* time, special programs for mothers and children, and get-togethers for the whole family. The MOMS club also performs service projects benefiting needy children in our community. Children are welcome at all MOMS Club activities.

For information come to our meeting or check our website at: <u>http://</u> <u>www.momsclub.org/</u>. Call Kristin at (908) 755-9114 for more information.

Edison Symphony Holiday Concert December 17

The Edison Arts Society will present the Edison Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center in Edison.

Tickets are currently on sale at the Edison Arts Society for \$35 adults/ \$20 students. Group rates available. Call (908)753-2787 to reserve seats.

Woodbridge WOWs Social Dance December 18

The Woodbridge WOWs will hold a member/guest dance-social on Sunday, Dec 18 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Elks' Hall on Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Refreshments and gifts. For information, call (732) 291-1775.

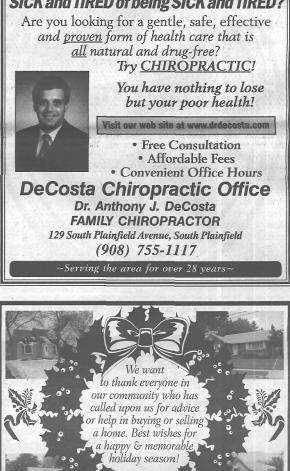
Starlight Socials

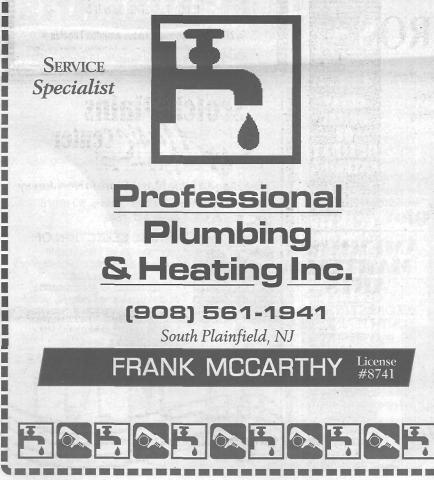
Starlight Socials will hold a happy hour/chat group on Thursday, Dec. 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Houlihan's on Rt. 22 East in Bridgewater.

RSVP <u>AngelButterfly37@aol.com</u> or (732) 764-9073.



Our Lady Of Czestochowa







Santa's Coming To Town... on a Fire Engine

It's that time of year again, when Santa will be traveling around town by fire truck visiting the children.

.6.

To help raise money for their up-coming 100th Anni-

versary (May 2007) and Firemen's Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine?

Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$25 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$25 should

- Arta gift for Santa to give to your

child. Small presents are all that is necessary.

Gifts should cost no more than \$20. Mark the gift with your child's name and address in big letters, the rest is up to us. Firefighters will visit every block in the Borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and ctivate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. Sit back, relax and enjoy the moment and of course take pictures. Families must off your check. Gifts can be dropped On Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 after Dec. 8.

Santa will be delivering presents through the various school districts be-tween Monday, Dec. 12 through Thursday, Dec. 15 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. Delivery schedule is as follows: Kennedy School District is Monday, Dec. 12; Riley School District is Tuesday, Dec. 13; Franklin School District is Wednesday, Dec. 14 and Roosevelt School District is Thursday, Dec. 15. This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Vol-unteer Fire Department so it is very important that your address and child's name are on each gift so each child is not disappointed.

Santa's hotline number is (908) 412-8868. Leave a message. Calls will be returned during the evening. SPHS Students, Staff Receive **Certificate of Recognition**

held their third annual awards and training luncheon on Oct. 19 at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft. Two South Plainfield High School students and two educators re-

Come Meet Our New Staff

ceived Certificates of Recognition. Students Danny McCreesh and Michael Glover, along with SAC Counselor Tom Baker and Staff Developer Ellen Martko were recognized for the achievements they have made in preventing and educating students and the community against bigotry and hate

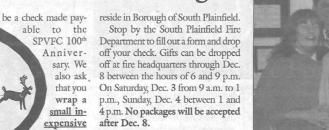
Glover and McCreesh have been involved in peer mediation groups training younger students, as well as multicultural programs for the Plainfields and speaking at colleges, including Kean University and they have attended many discussion groups. The students help counselors with issues at the high school and are advisors to RARE (Respect All Races Everywhere), a statewide program, and the student council.

The luncheon also included a three course session with presentations on Cyber Bullying, Victim Impact and Gangs in Our Schools. A keynote speaker was Deputy Attorney General Hester Agudosi of the Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Bias Crime.

By Jane Dornick The NJ Bias Officers Association









in Middlesex County.

Resident Wants to Bring Christmas Cheer to Elderly

Shirley Thompson and her family are planning to bring Christmas cheer to the elderly, disabled and those in need on Christmas Day

For the third year in a row the Thompson's are planning to cook and deliver a hot Christmas dinner to any elderly or disabled person who is not able to cook for themselves and they will do it all free of any charge

Last year the Thompson's delivered 93 hot dinners on Christmas morning, with the help of family and a group of volunteers. Also last year, Shirley learned of several families with children that were also in need and her family decided to adopt them. Soon not only her family but neighbors and co-workers volunteered to help out. They not only received a hot meal, but wrapped gifts on Christmas. This list of people included 35 in all. If you would like Christmas dinner

or know of someone who is in need of a dinner, just contact Shirley Thompson at (908) 756-7686. Call between 12 a.m. and 12 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Awareness Day for the children at SHS, pictured here after a ceremony in the gym. Students and faculty donated over \$600 to the organization. All who donated received the pink ribbon that designates the organization.

Man Sought in Attempted Abduction

A 14 year-old borough female walk-A 14 year-old bolduginemate waik-ing alone on Spicer Ave. was ap-proached on Nov. 17 by a man in a red colored truck who pulled up alongside her and yelled "get in my truck."The frightened girl immediately ran to a nearby friend's home. The South Plainfield Police were called and

the area was checked, but they were unable to locate the vehicle.

The driver is described as an older hite male with a beard driving a full size GMC red or maroon pick-up truck. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Det. Christopher Colucci at (908) 226-7668.

Communities of Light Countywide Lighting

Now celebrating 26 years of pro-viding domestic violence crisis and prevention service, Woman Aware. Inc. is proud to partner in their 2006 Communities of Light event with Womanspace of Mercer County, Re-source Center for Women and Their Families, Somerset County, Providence House, Ocean County and Women's Crisis Services, Hunterdon County, to increase awareness of domestic violence and the services available to victims, survivors and their families

Businesses and neighborhoods across these five contiguous counties will unite through the lighting of luminaries at dusk (approximately 5 p.m.) on Sunday, Dec. 18. The light from 100,000 candles will be a powerful symbol of hope to families living in violent homes and a message from community members who support the right of all families to live in peace.

The First Baptist Church, located on Hamilton Blvd. in South Plainfield will be participating in the lighting again this year as they have in the past.

11.11

Kits can be purchased at Twin City Pharmacy on Park Ave.

One of the largest tasks a victim of domestic violence faces is that of overcoming the change and isolation resulting from abuse, breaking the silence and reaching out for help. By participating in Communities of Light, residents will be supporting Women Aware from all of the towns in Middlesex County. They will be joined by the supporters of domestic violence prevention in Mercer, Ocean, Somerset and Hunterdon counties who have chosen to take a public stand against domestic violence by creating a visible symbol of hope for all victims across the center of the state from the Delaware River to the Atlantic Ocean.

Proceeds from luminary sales (\$10 per kit) will benefit the organizations, ensuring that victims have a safe place to turn for shelter, counseling and support. Each luminary kit comes complete with six candles, six white bags, sand and instructions to light approximately 100 linear feet of drive

or walkway. For information, to volunteer or purchase luminary kits please contact Yvonne Hook at (732) 249-4900 or email womenaware@aol.com

Century 21 **Provides** for **Families** in Need

The season from Thanksgiving to Christmas is a wonderful time of year, for most people, unless there is not enough money for a holiday meal or to grant a child's wish from Santa. Nine area families in need will enjoy a memorable holiday season thanks to the efforts of the realtors at Century 21 Moretti Realty in South Plainfield.

Under the direction of Broker-Associate MaryAnn Lisewski, turkeys and food packages were delivered for a Thanksgiving meal, and she is making sure that Santa will grant the wishes of the children in these families as well. Their hopes and wishes are hanging on an "angel" tree in the real estate office for "Santa's Helper-Associates."

"The tradition of adopting families in need for the holiday season is an annual event," said Lisewski. "It is one more way we give back to the communities in which we all live and work."

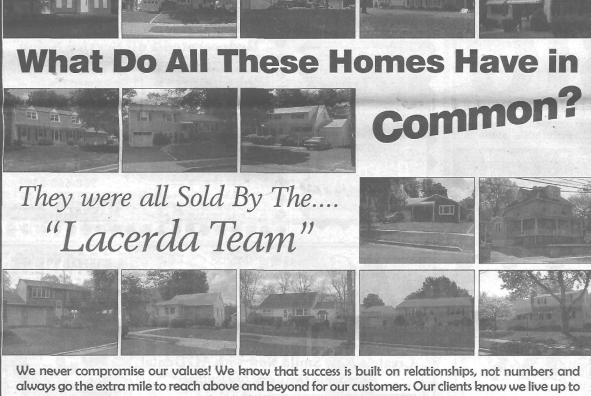
Century 21 Moretti Realty ranks among the top 10 Century 21 offices in the State of NJ. In business over 25 years, the company has been affiliated with the Century 21 system for the past nine years. Located at 225 Maple Ave, Century 21 Moretti Realty is a full service, multi-lingual bro-kerage firm with 60+ active agents providing real estate services throughout central New Jersey. Guy and Toni Moretti and The

Moretti Team send their best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a peaceful New Year to all.

Holiday Giving For Needy Pets

Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet food to the drop off box located at 2215 Park Ave. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food will be distributed to local

non-profit pet organizations. Thank you for your generosity and have a happy and healthy holiday.



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South Plainfield and Piscataway Funeral Homes Make House Calls on Thanksgiving

Tamara Hawbaker, Franklin Rainear and Thomas Adamecs, funeral directors at the South Plainfield and Piscataway Funeral Homes, lent a helping hand to several seniors within the community on Thanksgiving Day. The funeral homes, working with John and Peter of Sherbans Diner located in South Plainfield, located seniors who were unable to get out on this wonderful holiday.

"We enjoyed helping folks celebrate this wonderful holiday, because we have so much to be thankful for. said Tamara Hawbaker, manager of the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

"Our sincere gratitude goes out to John and Peter, owners of Sherbans, who provided the meals at a substantially reduced cost," explained Frank-lin Rainear, associate Funeral Director at both South Plainfield and Piscataway Funeral Homes

"Nancy and Tracey of Forever Flowers in Piscataway were extremely kind in helping us to provide festive floral arrangements for each home we visited, which they generously do-

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Tami Hawbakef and Frank Rainear delivering meals to those in need along with a Thanksgiving day flower.

nated," said Tom Adamecs, Manager of the Piscataway Funeral Fome. "Evervone enjoyed the meals and the flowers and were truly thankful for the outpouring of generosity provided by all those who were involved ved and will be forever grateful on this wonderful holiday that we call Thanksgiving.

policereport

• On Nov. 15 Derrick L. Benford, 35, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, unregistered vehicle, no insurance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle

stop.
Alex Pagan, 26, of Newark was arrested at Sears Essentials for shop-lifting \$319.41 worth of women's perfume and cosmetics.

· Giuseppe W. Fronte, 58, of Glassboro was arrested for failure to turn and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.Troy Ricardo Skeete, 21, of

Plainfield was arrested for no insurance, speeding and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop. · Canada Dry on New Durham Rd.

reported the theft of two 12 volt batteries from a company truck.

• On Nov. 18 Just Packaging Inc. on Oak Tree Ave, reported the theft

of 29 cases of Perry Ellis fragrance. • On Nov. 19 Timothy Patrick Gallagher, 47, of No. Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and no insurance at a motor vehicle stop.

• Brian Keith Caldwell, 36, of Irvington was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop. • A South Plainfield resident re-

• James M. Kloman, 21, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• A juvenile reported the theft of his backpack from the vestibule at CVS on Plainfield Ave.

 On Nov. 23 the High School re-ported that the side of the building had been spray painted. • On Nov. 24 Timothy P. McNulty,

44, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding, refusal to take a breathalizer test, reckless driving and failure to keep right at a motor vehicle stop. • Aaron T. Black, 23, of South

Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

 On Nov. 25 Jose A. Guillen, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, improper passing, reckless driving, failure to produce a driver's license and being an unlicensed driver at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Nov. 26 a Pitt St. resident reported that the two left tires of their rehicle had been punctured, the drivers side mirror was broken. The key-pad on the drivers side door was damaged and the passenger side front fender was dented.

• On Nov. 27 Joseph M. Ozeransky, 44, of So Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and failure to keep right at a motor vehicle stop

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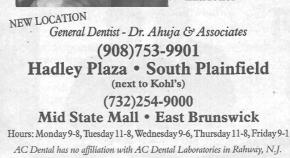
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

FISH Honors Anthony Wargacki

By Patricia Abbott

The area FISH Hospitality Program, Inc. honored their volunteers recently and presented the Servant of Hope Award to three loyal workers. The award "honors volunteers who have given many hours of service to the FISH Hospitality program and to the larger community as well." Among the recipients was South Plainfield resident Anthony Wargacki. The event was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Dunellen. The evening consisted of a welcome by Bob Spencer, president of the Board of Directors, a buffet dinner and a presentation.

Anthony Wargacki of South Plainfield has always found time to volunteer to help others. He is very active in our community and has been volunteering with FISH Hospitality for five years. He and his family delivered food for FISH during the holidays, including Easter, Thanksgiving and

Christmas, for about ten years as well. Anthony grew up in Newark and later moved to Piscataway where he attended Piscataway High School. He graduated from Newark State University, now Kean College. He and his wife Kathleen moved to South Plainfield in 1977. He has been an active volunteer in the area for many years. From 1973-1974, he ran an after school program in Plainfield. In the early 1980's, he taught a Bible study class at the Middlesex County Jail, as well as volunteering at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home. Anthony and his family delivered food for FISH for approximately ten years and for the past five years he has been a volunteer with the FISH Hospitality Program. His extensive experience proves that volunteering to help othnoted he was very surprised and pleased with the honor. He said, "Jesus said to love God and your neighbor as yourself. I love the stranger as my neighbor.

Piscataway residents Sarah Coppola and Bill Schultz also received the Servant of Hope award. The FISH Hospitality Program is an affiliate of FISH, Inc., Dunellen area. Founded in 1990, it is a tri-county program that assists women and families that have become homeless. The program serves Middlesex, Union and Somerset counties. Director of the program is Christy Ward. The sixteen church network offers a fourteen bed shelter, day and night hosting 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Guests are assisted by social workers and volunteers. The list of services is extensive and includes; assistance with applying for welfare and affordable housing, three meals a day, clothing, medications, diapers and formula, counseling, transportation and much more.

Volunteers are needed to help provide; encouragement, transportation,



Anthony Wargacki and Christy Ward, FISH Hospitality Program, Inc. director

assistance to Spanish speaking guests, tutoring and budgeting help. Mail your tax deductible donation to: FISH Hospitality Program, PO Box 170, Dunellen, NJ 08812 For more information, phone (732) 968-5957, fax (732) 968-2870, or email fishhosp@aol.com.

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nail: JackPeders

After the recent hurricanes, Mary 'Terri' Esposito, a South Plainfield resident for more than 40 years, wanted to do something to help the victims. She felt she couldn't donate enough money, so she decided to become an American Red Cross volunteer. In early October, Terri was assigned to Biloxi, Miss. where she spent two weeks providing food to the victims. Her experience was "heartbreaking," tiresome, but extremely rewarding." According to Terri, she's "a better per-

son now Esposito has been named the 'Vol-unteer of the Day' by the American Red Cross for her work in Biloxi help-ing the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Many shelters are still open and will remain in place until residents can safely return home. The ARC is providing meals and snacks in some areas and distributing supplies so residents can clean and disinfect their homes. The relief response will continue for many months due to the large num-

Resident Honored by Red Cross ber of people and geographical area impacted by the hurricanes.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. If you wish to assist the victims of the hurricanes, we encourage you to contribute to the American Red Cross by calling 1-800-HELP NOW or visiting www. redcross.org. Interested in becoming an Ameri-

can Red Cross volunteer? Contact the Tri-County Chapter (908) 756-6414.





Monday-Friday 9am-6pm & Saturday 9am-1pm



southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Michael Loenser Participates in Philadelphia Marathon

Michael Loenser completed the Philadelphia Marathon on Nov. 20 in a personal best two hours 47 minutes and 17 seconds. Mike finished the 26.2 miles in 68th place out of 5,887 runners. He was the fourth best finisher for NJ residents.

Mike ran his first marathon back in January of 2005 at the Walt Disney World Marathon in a time of 3:05:04. He will be returning to Orlando in January, 2006 to improve

on last year's time. Mike also just completed his requirements for a B.S. degree in Health and Physical Education: Teacher Certification from East Stroudsburg University in Pa. He ran cross country and track all four years in high school and college. He gradu-ated SPHS in the class of 2000.

Congratulations Mike on these two fine accomplishments!

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Mike and Rose Santoro (left) marked their 60 years of marriage at a celebration with their family. The Santoros on their wedding day (right)

Santoros Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Lifetime South Plainfield residents, Mike and Rose Santoro recently marked their 60th wedding anniversary with a family celebration at Carpaccio's Restaurant

Mike Santoro and Rose Fittipaldi were married on June 24, 1945 at Sacred Heart Church. Mike served in the South Pacific with the Marine Corps during World War II and in Zicha Selected to All-State Dance Team 1946, joined the then two-person Kimberly Zicha, granddaughter of June Russo of South Plainfield and a South Plainfield Post Office, where he worked until his retirement in senior and cheerleader on the varsity

Rose Santoro graduated from Muhlenberg Hospital's nursing program in 1943 and spent her career vith Muhlenberg, retiring in 1980.

Rose continues to volunteer at Muhlenberg and Mike volunteers at the VA Hospital in Lyons and in many veterans' organizations.

The anniversary celebration was hosted by their three sons and their spouses: Mike and Martha Santoro

co-ed squad at Jackson Memorial High

School in Jackson Township, was se-lected to the NJCCA 2005-2006 All-

State Cheerleading and Dance Team

of Wilbraham, Mass., John Santoro and Pam Bennett-Santoro of Morristown and Dan Santoro and Lisa Baughman of Johnstown, Pa.

Mike and Rose have four grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews.

The 2005-2006 All-State Team was

recently presented and honored at a

brunch held Oct. 23 in Bordentown.

up of 25 members chosen from a very

competitive field of candidates across

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South Plainfield Police Captain Paul Brembt and Police Chief John Ferraro received a donation from several members of the South Plainfield Business Association for much needed police cameras. SPBA President Jack Pedersen, Joe Alvino from New England Motor Freight, Sue Kristopek from KLK Trucking, Rudy Willemson from The Club at Ricochet and Dale Jayne of Halls Trucking presented the check.

South Plainfield Business Association Makes Donations for Police Cameras

South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro and Captain Paul Brembt were on hand to thank Hall's Fast Motor Freight, KLK Trucking, The Club at Ricochet and the South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) for raising \$4,190 for cameras and accessories the police department desperately needed for crime scene documentation.

The police also asked for help in purchasing additional "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" signs which have been placed around the Borough in mostly residential neighborhoods. According to Chief John Ferraro, the signs made a significant reduction in complaints of speeders in residential

The Observer, Cornerstone Archi-

Local Schools Collecting **Cell Phones as Fundraiser**

Motorola will be partnering with the South Plainfield School District and will donate \$3 for every cell phone turned in. All schools in South Plainfield are now set up as drop off locations in their respective main offices

This is a great way to get money for our school district without buying anything! Just bring any brand used cell phone to any school in the district and that specific school will benefit. If you have any questions please call Stefanie Walsh at (201) 906-5626.

tectural Group, Bett-A-Way, Edison Heating and Cooling, Attorney Renato Biribin, Halls's Fast Motor Freight, KLK Trucking, and Pruden-tial New Jersey Properties all promised contributions totaling \$300, which the SPBA will match for a donation of \$600 to purchase an additional 60 signs which will be placed around the borough in the Spring. If you would like to contribute to-

wards the signs, send your donation to the SPBA Keep Kids Alive, PO Box 852, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. The SPBA is looking for someone who would be willing to help put to-gether next years agenda. If you are willing, call (908) 757-8811 or email spba@comcast.net to arrange a meet-ing. Frank Rainear from The South Plainfield Funeral Home has already agreed to help.

Traditions Complex Resident Robbed at Gunpoint Tuesday On Tuesday night a resident of Traditions on New Durham Ave. was robbed at gunpoint by a man wearing

an oversized winter coat and ski mask The victim and his two year-old daughter were approached in a stairwell by the suspect who pulled out a gun and demanded "Give me what you got." The robber fled the area with a small amount of cash. No one was in-

of the County Road Department projects, through which the Borough pays for the materials but the County's

clearing out the yard so that it could be graded and paved, while keeping operations uninterrupted. He had the large roll-offs moved to the leaf collection side of the Yard Waste area. He and Bob Perrette wrestled drums of batteries and scrap refrigerators offsite, killed weeds, repaired steps, scraped and repainted catwalk, sheds, and bins. Once the yard was paved, the asphalt had to cure so that the heavy roll-off containers would not sink right in. The staff spent a hot and dusty August and September working Recycling at the unpaved Yard Waste

The Drop-off Center first opened in 1987, just before New Jersey made recycling mandatory. Until 1995, when the Borough joined the County recycling program, everyone brought their recyclables there. Even now, despite the County's biweekly curbside collection, many residents continue to use the Recycling Center, as do many of the smaller businesses in town. About 35 tons of used paper, cans, bottles, scrap metal, motor oil, clothing, batteries and paint pass through the Center every month, on their way to a new life in freshly manufactured products. The renovations should make their trip a little easier and safer

et, denim jeans with patches on the

inner thighs and a black ski mask. The

weapon appeared to be a thin silver

Anyone with information is asked to contact South Plainfield Police Det.

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revolver.

payed and all the old, out-of-date road crews do the work. Jersey Sign signage has been replaced with bright Corp. made the signage. Recycling Groundskeeper Jay Visitors should find it easier to move McNerney coordinated the logistics of around, especially in wet and freezing

South Plainfield Recycling

The South Plainfield Recycling

Drop-off Center on Kenneth Avenue

has a new, tidy look. The yard has been

weather, now that they won't have to

cope with the mud puddles and half-

plowed snow that came every winter

with the old gravel surface. The clean,

easy-to-read graphics on the new signs

announce clearly where to put the vari-

The asphalt contains recycled material, and the aluminum signs are

made with recycled aluminum. Some

of the sign posts are made of 100%

The old signs were installed over ten

years ago, before South Plainfield

joined the Middlesex County Recy-

cling Program. Those signs were wordy, to help recyclers comply with

the regulations of the time. Only cer-

tain kinds of paper were accepted, and we had to separate different kinds of

plastic bottles, cans and different col-

ors of glass. As the program changed, misinformation was corrected by

grouping signs together, covering

some words with tape, removing some signs altogether, and just ignoring oth-

ers. The new, straightforward signs are

a matching grant from the Middlesex

County Division of Solid Waste Management. Paving was included as one

The face lift was partially funded by

easy to understand.

post-consumer recycled plastic.

ous recyclable materials.

signs.

Center - New And Improved!

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The Senior Center was filled with shoppers on the "Open Your Heart" Vendor Night.

WILD BIRD SEED

5

Vendor Night Helps "Open Your Heart"

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer's Third Annual Vendor Night, which was held on Thursday, Nov. 10 at the Senior Center, was a success according to Chairperson Karen Cammarata.

"We had a great turn out and about 20 vendors participated. Live music was provided by the band Last Call and there was a continuous array of

food for everyone to enjoy and enjoy they did.

It takes a lot of support and help from everyone to pull off a successful event - and this could not have taken place without help from the many vol-unteers from the Vendor Night Committee, the participating vendors and our generous community!

A special thanks to Oak Tree Farms

for the preparation of the delicious food available for purchase at the event and their generous donation.

Thanks goes out to Flanagan's Tav-ern, Haisch's Bakery, Entenmann's Outlet and Sherban's Diner for the donation of the delicious desserts sold at the event

We would also like to thank Mohn's Florist, Columbia Bank, Unity Bank, ATA Black Belt Academy, Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, Oak Tree Discount Wines & Spirits and Witty's Discount Liquors for their generous do-nations. We raised more than \$2,000 for Children Battling Cancer!

<u>Holiday</u>

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Greetinğs

All About Pets....

By Anthony Loomis

The upcoming holiday season poses several risks for your pets. Here are some suggestions to help ensure a happy and safe holiday for all.

Pet-proof your Christmas tree. Place breakable ornaments up high. Make sure your tree is secure. Consider, anchoring the top of the tree to the wall using a strong

cord or rope if you have a curious cat or dog. Also, keep your pets away from the tree stand, as many preservatives used in the water are potentially toxic.

Pets, particularly cats, love to chew and play with glittery tinsel, ribbons and bows. If ingested these items can become entangled in the intestinal tract. This often requires surgery to remove these string foreign bodies.

Holiday lights and decorations mean more electrical cords. Electrocution can cause anything from minor burns to more serious conditions in-

volving the heart and lungs. Make sure all cords are secured and tucked out of the way.

Keep holiday plants out of reach: poinsettias, holly berries and leaves, pinecones, and mistletoe can cause problems ranging from vomiting and diarrhea to severe intestinal conditions.

Resist the temptation to give someone a new pet as a holiday gift. In-stead, wrap up a collar and leash or some pet toys and select a puppy or kitten together after the excitement of the holiday.

If you run into any of these holiday hazards please contact your veterinarian immediately for advice on first aid and further treatment.

Anthony Loomis, DVM grew up in Scotch Plains, attended St. Joseph's High School, the University of Georgia and Oklahoma State University for veterinary school. He practices at Plainfield Animal Hospital with a special interest is exotic al medicine and surgery.

Prudential New Jersey Properties Metuchen Welcomes Jack Pedersen

South Plainfield resident John Jack" Pedersen has joined Prudential New Jersey Properties as a sales associate in their Metuchen office.

"We are delighted to welcome Jack to our team," says Dorothy Winhold, manager of the Prudential New Jer-sey Properties Metuchen office. "His sion, as well as his commitment to exceeding the expectations of the buyers and sellers he assists,



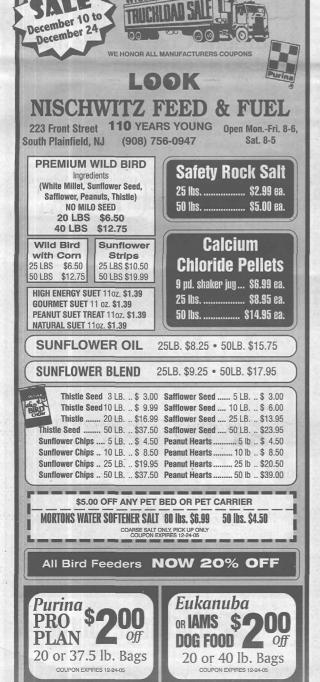
will be the cor Jack Pedersen nerstone for his success.

Pedersen is a member of the Middlesex County Multiple Listing Service and the National, New Jersey and Middlesex Co. Assoc. of Realtors'. A resident of South Plainfield for 11 years, he is very active in the community. He is the president of the South Plainfield Business Association, vice president-elect of the Metropolitan Real Estate Investors Association and a trustee for the South Plainfield Edu-

Program, a hands-on course created to help agents refine various skills

7677. The Metuchen office is located at 3 Amboy Ave.

www.PruNewJersey.com.





LYNNE GLASSER-SWARD P.T. LIC# 0A02309

cation Foundation. Pedersen is Quality Service Certified, which represents his commitment to only the highest level of service, and he recently completed Prudential New Jersey Properties' comprehensive, three-week Academy Sales Training

Jack can be reached at (732) 494-

For more information visit

From the South Plainfield Library 100 87797 83

By Allan M. Kleiman

Well, we've begun the Holiday Sea-son 2005! Greetings from the staff of the South Plainfield Library. *Food! Food! Food!*—Is your family tired of the same of Holiday dinners? Do you want to think of something new to make? Then we're the place to basin Reverse theoreth our merginger begin. Browse through our magazines like, Cooking Light, Cooks Illustrated, Everyday Food, Family Circle. Fine Cooking and Good Housekeep-

ing. The current issues are for library use only but back issues of the magazines can be checked out for two weeks. Just enough time to try out those new recipes. Hmmmmmmmm. I can smell the cooking baking in the oven already!

Books to Keep—Every year from November until mid December, the libraries of Middlesex County partici-pate in a program called, "Books-to-Keep" This program started in 1990 to promote the joy of reading, ento promote the joy of reading, en-courage library use, and pride in own-ing a book. People are encouraged to donate children's and young adult NEW books which then will be dis-tributed through social service agen-cies to needy children before the holi-days. The program also accepts cash donations which are used to purchase extra books. This program is solely sponsored and operated by staff mem-bers from public libraries of Middlesex County. The next time you are in the mall. purchase a book for a child who mall, purchase a book for a child who otherwise wouldn't have a book of their own. Your donations can be dropped off at any library. *Parenting Books*—Sometimes kids

dropped off at any library. Parenting Books—Sometimes kids ask the strangest questions! For those times, the library has developed a "Parenting Collection," which can be found opposite the windows in the Children's Room. Titles such as, 101 Questions About Santa Claus, Games Babies Play, The Potty Boom for Boys, Sometimes Bad Things Happen and Our Baby From China, are just some of the titles. Our Children's Librarian Miss Linda can make some other sug-gestions for you. Visit the collection on your next visit to the library. Celebrating Diversity—Librarians Chris Grippo, Linda Hansen and Allan Kleiman recently attended a statewide workshop on promoting Diversity in Libraries. Half of the morning's ses-sion was devoted to books in lan-guages other than English. The Children's Room has two special col-lections of materials that may be of interest to you. They are collections of materials for children in Spanish

interest to you. They are collections of materials for children in Spanish and Vietnamese. Many of the titles are bilingual allowing you to enjoy these books from other countries. It is an exciting way to understand dif-ferent cultures and authors. Also, re-member, we can still borrow specific books in other languages for you from either the Newark Library or other libraries in the New York City are

Letters, Letters, and More!-Working on a resume, writing a letter to your Aunt in Florida and don't have a computer. Well then look no further than your local library. Our computers can provide you access to the Internet or Microsoft Word to type a letter. Need to e-mail your resume for a job application, you can do that too! The library has also a large collection of materials on careers, jobs and resumes located on the first floor. If your New Year's resolution calls for a new job, we can help you find out more about it!

Teen Readers Vote for Favorite Book—Teen readers across the coun-try voted Girls In Pants: The Third try voted Girls in Panis: The Third Summer of the Sisterbood, as their fa-vorite book to take the #1 spot on the annual Teens' Top Ten (TTT), sponsored by The Young Adult Li-brary Services Association (YALSA), of the American Library Association (ALA). (ALA). The vote took place during Teen Read Week, Oct. 16-22, 2005, and gave teens an opportunity to voice their choice of the best new young adult books.

With Ann Brashares' third Sister-hood of the Traveling Pants novel top-ping the list, the 2005 Teens' Top Ten includes:

Includes: 1. Girls In Pants: The Third Sum-mer of the Sisterbood by Ann Brashares). 2. The Truth about For-ever by Sarah Dessen. 3. Looking For Alaska by John Green. 4. My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult. 5. Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick. 6. Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson. 7. The Gangsta Rap by Benjamin Zephaniah. 8. Teen Idol by Meg Cabot. 9. The Garden by Elise Aidinoff. 10. How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship & Musical Theater by Marc Acito. For further information on the TIT project, visit YALSA's Teens' Top Ten site at www.ala.org/teens-topten. 1. Girls In Pants: The Third Sum

topten. Basket Winner—Last but not least, this week we'd like to announce the winner of our fall basket of items with the "Thanksgiving theme." The win-ner is Zibby Dolinski. There were 114 entries. For those of you with chil-dren, our next free raffle will be held on Monday, Dec. 7 for four tickets to the RVCC Production of Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Seasons Greetings! See you in the stacks!

Contractor **Pleads Guilty To Scamming** Residents

Homes by Lisa owner Roger Hemhauser pleaded guilty on November 14 in a Middlesex County court-house to charges of cheating 18 cusromers in Edison, Union Twsp, Paramus and South Plainfield out of \$300,000 in deposits for renovations that were not completed.

The South Plainfield Police Detective Bureau began investigating the home improvement contractor after receiving complaints from residents and was arrested in town in June of last year. Hemhauser is reported to have taken close to \$300,000 in deposits, but since work was started on some of the homes, he is only required to pay back \$178,000 to nine homeowners after disappearing with their money

On June 30 a grand jury indicted the contractor on 51 counts includ-ing theft, misapplication of entrusted funds and writing \$12,000 in bad checks to two subcontractors who were never paid for their work. Hemhauser, who is free on bail, will be sentenced Jan. 17 in Middlesex County Superior Court.



Edison Heating & Cooling employees Lenny Zollner, Mark Schalje, Operations Manager, Mike Kikta, Frank White and Fred Schaaf.

Edison Heating and Cooling In South Plainfield 18 Years

The Edison Heating and Cooling Company, located on McKinley St., has been in South Plainfield for over 18 years. They have a large staff of expert installers and servicemen, who can handle any size heating or air conditioning projects.

Their large fleet of service vehicles allow them to work on several jobs at the same time and their workers are trained to in all aspects of the business. If a serviceman is accustomed to working on heating equipment and needed on an air conditioning job, he can adapt and help complete the task. Some employees at Edison Heating and Cooling have been with the company for 14 years.

· 13 ·

Edison Heating and Cooling is located at 129 McKinley Street in South Plainfield.

You can contact them at (908) 753-1777. Check out their website at: www.Edisonhvac.com.



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New Poinsettia Colors Debut at Parker Gardens

Parker Gardens Christmas Open House is always an exciting event but this year there will be added interest. "Parker Gardens will debut a new line of uniquely colored poinsettias during our Annual Open House this weekend," said Steve Parker, owner of Parker Gardens. Parker Gardens is introducing the Fantasy Poinsettia line to their already extensive collection of holiday plants including thousands of florist quality poinsettias in the traditional reds, whites, pinks and burgun-dies. Fantasy poinsettias range in color from blue to pink, turquoise, apricot and lilac. "These colors are like nothing I have ever seen in the many years I have been in the business and we are thrilled to be able to offer them to our customers," added Parker.

In addition to this wonderful new line of poinsettias, Parker Gardens Christmas Open House line up includes kids crafts, refreshments, a scavenger hunt and of course a visit from Santa both days. You can enjoy the activities Saturday and Sunday Dec. 3-4 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. both days; shopping is available 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Customers are invited to bring their cameras and take advantage of a beautifully created scene to use as a backdrop for your family holi day picture. "The whole event promises to be a fun filled event that the entire family can enjoy," said Parker.

As always, the 14 acre garden center will feature premium cut and live trees, greens and wreaths, many of which can be customized for your holiday décor. The Parker Gardens design staff is available to work with you to create the perfect holiday setting, hostess gift or centerpiece.

hostess gift or centerpiece. "Parker Gardens is decked out in true Christmas fashion; from decorated theme trees to greenhouses brimming with colorful holiday plants to cut trees outside under lights with the aroma of a bonfire; we present our customers Christmas the way it should be," noted Parker. Parker Gardens offers its customers a truly unique and colorful holiday shopping experience. For more information call (908)

322-5555 or visit <u>www.parkergar-</u> dens.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

PLANNING BOARD BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE se take Notice that the Planning Board of Borough of South Plainfield will consider an indment of the Housing Element of the bughs Mester Plan and a Fair Share Plan to cluate same.

Commerits from interested parties will be considered by the South Plainfield Planning Board during a public hearing on Dec. 13, 2005, in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 6 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this matter are available for public inspection in the Building Department, South Plainfield, Borough Hall, any weekday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

December 2, 2005

\$25.00

1 Source for South Plainfield New



• To subscribe to the South Plainfield Observer call 908-668-0010 •

Students Learn Defense Against Bullying and Stranger Danger

By Jane Dornick

. Tom Guerin, owner of ATA Black Belt Academy on Maple Ave., brought his very important program on stranger danger and bullying to Roosevelt students on Oct. 25.

Kindergartners through second grade were taught vital information about the consequences of young children encountering potentially dangerous situations with people who approach them that they don't know. He stresses his point through various role playing skits with student volunteers. Guerin gives them different scenarios and the best way to handle the situation such as screaming no and running away as fast as you can and tell an adult what happened.

Grades three and four received a lesson on dealing with bullies and how emotionally destructive they can be to a person. Guerin recounts

his own experiences when he was young being bullied and how that has effected his life. Through role playing again, he and co-presenter Tony Onorato, act out situations with the many types bullies they may come up against in school or on the street. There are large signs placed around with one word descriptions of different kinds of bullies and how to respond. He categorizes bullies as jock, druggie, in crowd, fashion, brain whining, prejudice and older grade. Then there are the host of answers you can give to ward off a bully such as call an authority, trick, walk away, humor, distract, yell, friends, ignore, reason and agree. Students then find themselves acting as bullies and victims in an effort to reinforce his message.

ATA Academy offers more programs on these subjects. For information contact them at (908) 755-5440.



December 2, 2005

Settlement Reached in Resident Killed in Crash

The estate of South Plainfield resident Ronald Hurst, who died from injuries he received by a drunk driver in a crash on Hamilton Blvd. on July 1, 2001., recently settled their lawsui against the driver and the club that served him drinks.

Justin King, 28, of Piscataway was coming from a party at the Italian-American Club in South Plainfield with fiancee Sherry Kurilew. King, who was driving with a 0.154 percent blood alcohol level, was arguing with Kurilew and lost control of his pickup truck at the bend near the Corner Deli and slammed into an oncoming SUV driven by Piscataway resident Mary Ludlow, Kurilew was thrown from the truck and injured her back and pelvis. Ludlow suffered numerous

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fractures including her knee and ankle which required reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation. Her passenger, Ronald Hurst, died three weeks later from head injuries.

Hurst's estate will receive \$300,000 of a total of \$800,000, \$50,000 will come from King's insurance policy and \$750,000 from the Italian-

American Club's insurance Ludlow will receive \$445,000 and Kurilew, who is now married to King, is entitled to \$55,000 in compensation.

King agreed last year at his trial to plead guilty to less serious charges than aggravated manslaughter and is currently serving a four year prison sentence

Middlesex Co. 4-H Gift Drive

Are you ready to share your good fortune this holiday season?

The Middlesex Co. 4-H Teen Council will be collecting gifts on Wednes-day, Dec. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. The gift drive will take place at the 4-H Center, on the corner of Cranbury and Fern roads in Fast Brunswick

Interested participants are encouraged to bring clothing, toys, games and other items suitable for children. All donations should be new. Donations to the gift drive will be used to support the 8th Annual Project GIFT event. Project GIFT is a holiday shopping event for families with limited claine's Style Studio 908-755-7337 ElaineStyle.co

Hair stylist and lifelong South Plainfield resident Erin O'Keefe (left) and new owner Heather Perry are proud of the newly remodeled shop and held a grand re-opening to celebrate.

Elaine's Style Studio Holds **Grand Re-Opening**

New owner Heather Perry took over her mother Elaine's hair salon at 1903 Park Ave. and held a Grand Re-Opening on Nov. 8. The salon has been completely remodeled with new chairs, floors, mirrors, pictures, equip-ment, stations and a fresh coat of paint. Their services include hair, nails and

Perry said, "My mother has been a

salon owner for 24 year, 10 years at this location, and has taught me everything she knows. I hope to carry on the business as well has my mother, my inspiration. Her motto 'treat others as you would want to be treated' has remained our motto at Elaine's Style Studio." The studio has participated in numerous fundraisers over the years and when Hurricane Katrina hit her mom mentioned that it was their turn to give back again. During the month of September the salon set aside a portion of their proceeds and raised \$545 that was donated to the Salvation Army for their hurricane relief fund. Elaine's Style Studio would like

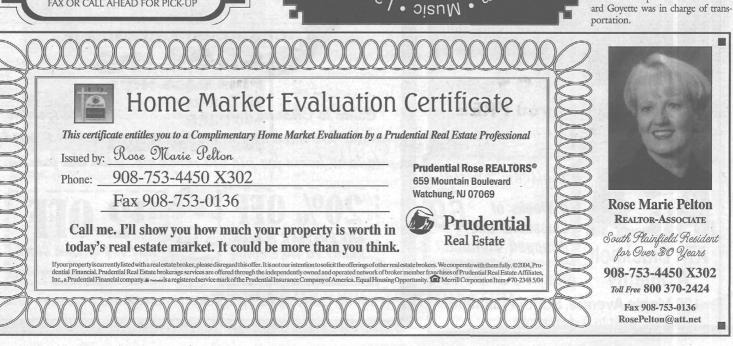
everyone to come and experience their down to Earth friendly atmosphere. They are open Tues. through Fri. from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat. from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For an appointment call (908) 755-7337.

Scouts Hike Along the Delaware

On Nov. 12, Scouts from Troop #309 completed a hike at the Wash ington Crossing historic trail. This 8.6 mile hike along the Delaware Canal, located alongside the Delaware River started out at the Thompson-Neely House, which was used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War and ended up at the Washington Crossing Historic Park where George Washington made his historic crossing of the Delaware River from Pennsylvania into New Jersey on Dec. 25, 1776.

honics

Scouts who participated on this hike were: Matthew Manning, James Conrad, Troy Kurilew, Chris Duffy, and Ray Coletta. They were accom-panied by Assistant Scout Master Jeffrey Pauls and James Conrad's father William. Troop Scout Master Richard Goyette was in charge of trans-



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"Lame Duck" Session Begins in Trenton

term in the New Jersey General Assembly I am also about to experience my second "lame duck" session. If you are like me you are wondering where the expression "lame duck" came from. My research revealed no consensus on where exactly the term came from. In the United States is the term used in the political context. In Great Britain it applies to the financial markets or a particular investment. The consensus is that the term refers to someone who is limited in what they can accomplish. Obviously a lame duck cannot run or fly as well as a duck in good health. Since this term of the legislature ends in just over a month, only certain issues can be addressed in that limited time. Therefore it is a "lame duck" ses-

islature adjourns on January 11, 2006. Among the bills to be decided is a ban on indoor smoking, which I support, addressing the School Construction Corporation, which I believe must be better regulated, and funding the Transportation Trust Fund. There are several bills that I have authored which I hope to advance during lame duck including a bill to protect baseball park owners from being sued by spectators hit by a foul ball during a game. One of the thrills of attending a game is the possibility of catching a foul ball. In addition, minor league baseball is growing in New Jersey. In fact the Trenton Thunder Team was recently named the minor league franchise of the year. A re-cent state Supreme Court decision, which allows spectators who are in-jured by a foul ball to sue, is contrary to common sense. If this decision



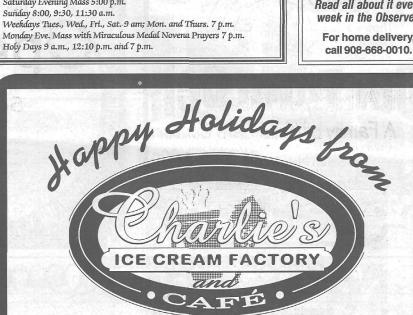
stands this growth industry may very well leave the state with the resulting loss of revenue and jobs.

In addition to the lame duck session, which is under way, Governor Elect Corzine has indicated that he will call a special session of the legislature, most likely in February, to address the issue of property taxes in New Jersey. The Office of Legislative Services estimates that there will be a \$5 billion shortfall in next year's state budget. The time has come to fully examine how we fund our state and local budgets. The over reliance on property taxes must end.

I expect the upcoming two years to be challenging and fulfilling. If you wish to discuss any issue facing our state, please contact my office. The address is Suite P, 908 Oak Tree Avenue, South Plainfield. The phone number is (908) 757-1677. The email address is AsmDiegnan @nileg.org.

What's going on in your neighborhood? Read all about it every week in the Observer. For home delivery,

he Gifft That Lasts This holiday season, give a gift that kids of all ages will enjoy: Gift wrap a uniform this holiday season. Call our certfied ATA school for more information. Holiday Special Only 4 Weeks of \$69 Classes & Gift Wrapped Uniform ATA Blackbe (908) 755-5440 Academy 120 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield (Next to Dunkin Donuts)



Come to Charlie's for all your holiday Ice Cream needs. We have dozens of flavors prepacked & ready to take home for pie ala mode etc. with the family.



Suspected Drug Dealers Flee Robert Place Home

South Plainfield Police, acting on tips of drug dealing at the home of Kevin Koonce, 33, and Leonda Harrell, 31, raided their house at 177 Robert Pl. on Nov. 17 and found no one home. They did find three pounds of high-grade marijuana val-ued at \$12,000 hidden in a bedroom closet along with two illegal 9mm loaded handguns and magazines con-

taining hollow-point bullets. Koonce, also known as Kevin Bag-well, is 5'10" tall and weighs 170 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. Harrell is 5'5" tall, approximately 140 pounds with black hair and

The South Plainfield Library will

participate in the Books to Keep' pro-gram this holiday season. The pro-gram, an outreach project of the Li-braries of Middlesex and Middlesex

County College Library, collects books for distribution to disadvan-

taged children throughout the county. Donations of new children's

brown eyes. She sometimes wears a red wig. The couple fled with Harrell's two sons, age 13 and 10, possibly in a black 2004 Chevy Monte Carlo with NJ license plate PSM37X. The boys' disappearance has been reported to the Division of Youth and Family Ser-

Both face charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession with intent to distribute and possession of firearms. A no bail warrant has been issued for their arrest.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Police Det. Garrett Cassio at (908) 226-7663.

books, hardcover and paperback, may

be dropped off at library until Dec. 15. Tax-deductible monetary contri-

butions towards the program's ex-penses are also accepted; donation envelopes are located at the library's main desk. Call (908) 754-7885 or

visit the library's website at www.south



Morgan Miller, Sacred Heart School Third Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"

Morgan Miller, Sacred Heart School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. Her story "Alison and the Book," has won dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros located on Hamilton Blvd. or the Observer office.

town Heros at (908) 755-4376.

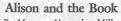




will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a series of the series of t Winners and their families Sacred Heart School Principal Sister

Eve

will be honored at a year end banquet. For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Home-



By Morgan Alexandra Miller Long ago there was a girl named Alison, she loved to read. But one day she went to the library and rented a book about witches. Alison didn't know the book had a spell on it. When she brought it home she started to read it. Then it was time for dinner, and she heard a sound like this, "HE, HE, HE, HE!" So Alison's father went upstairs to see what was going on. When dinner was over the father still didn't come downstairs. Alison waited for her mother. Her mother didn't come downstairs. Alison called her mom on her cell phone, even though she was home. Alison's mom didn't answer, so Alison grabbed her book and left home. She went to her best friend's house, and rang the doorbell. Her friend Max answered it. Max said, "nice book". So Alison and Max read it. The witches came to Max's house. Max read the book more. He found something that said to put salt and pepper with hot water on you, and the witches will die when they see you. Max and Alison covered themselves with salt and pep-per, and hot water. The witches came to Max's room and got close to him. The witch died, and the two other witches started to melt. Max and Alison started to dance and sing in victory!



sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the new Disney musical "Tarzan," on July 23. The bus will leave the PAL at 11 a.m. and arrive back 7 p.m. Tickets are \$85/person. Tickets can be picked up at the PAL. There are only 43 tickets available, so purchase yours today.



Holiday 'Books to Keep' Program

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December 2, 2005







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Parishioners gathered outside of Sacred Heart Church to help Father John Paul Alvarado bury the 100-yearcapsule, which signified the official end of the 100th Anniversary celebration at Sacred Heart Church. Many of the items in the capsule relate to the events that took place during the 100 year celebration.

District Test Scores Deemed Best Ever

By Libby Barsky

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado commended the teaching staff for the "great scores" that students achieved in meeting, and in most cases, going beyond the adequate yearly progress (AYP) goals the state set, giving the district the "best scores we've seen." Federal legislation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 data must be applied to all students- and the subgroups-assigned by ethnicity (white, African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hispanic, special education, limited English and economically disadvantaged) meet state set adequate yearly progress-(AYP)-benchmarks that combine the categories of proficient and advanced proficient. Those who fall into partially proficient haven't met the standard and need remediation. The 2004-2005 the scores for the 255 students who took the Fligh School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) were 88.6% (72.9% proficient, 15.7% advanced proficient, 15.7% advanced proficient, 26.28 proficient, 24.2% advanced proficient, 24.2% advanced proficient, the MSPA in order to graduate from high school and have three opportunities to take the test.

A total of 294 students took the brade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA) in 2004-2005 with scores of 78.6% (69.4% proficient, 9.2% advanced proficient) compared to AYP of 66% in Language Arts Literacy and 70.2% (47.1% proficient, 23.1% advanced proficient) compared to AYP of 49% in math.

For the first time this year a total of 262 third graders in the four elementary schools took the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge and tested 90.2 % (84.4% partially proficient and 5.8% advanced proficient) against AYP 75% in Language Arts Literacy and 86.2 % (58.2% Proficient) to AYP 62% in Mathematics.

The total number of fourth grade students taking the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge tests at 86% (83.3% proficient 2.7% advanced proficient) to AYP of 75% Language Arts Literacy and 89.5% (44.9% proficient, 45.6% advanced proficient) to AYP of 62% for mathematics. The results from third and fourth grades were combined to determine if the schools reached the AYP. Roosevelt school was placed in early warning status because the scores for those grouped as economically disadvantaged didn't meet the AYP of 75% in Language Arts literacy. If the scores for Language Arts literacy don't meet the AYP benchmark. in Spring 2006 testing, Roosevelt School will be a school in need of improvement. Strategies introduced in the past two years to increase test scores included aligning the teaching of the math curriculum to state curriculum standards, incorporating double periods of math instruction for Grant and some middle school students, and classes in test taking skills explained Kaye Orown curriculum coordinator.

This year Jae Jam and Barbara Boyer will teach after school programs to increase English fluency for ESL students fifth through high school. After school NJASK LAL test preparation will be offered by Ann Snee, Ellen Schwartz, Susan Fenning and a professional development workshops for teachers working with at-risk students will be provided by Rence Finan, Patricia Higgins and Mary Ellen Martko. The appointments will be funded by No Child Left Behind grants. The South Plainfield SAT Scores also improved for 2004-2005. They

The South Plainfield SAT Scores also improved for 2004-2005. They reached the highest the district has seen since 2000, with the average combined score at 1006 with and verbal average at 496 and math at 510

bined score at 1006 with and verbal average at 496 and math at 510. The number of high school students taking the nine advanced placement classes increased in 2005 to 138 compared to 130 in 2004. The number of students who passed the AP tests with a score of three or better to receive college credit declined to 66, compared to 103 students in 2004.

HIGH CHOLESTEROL? Are you 18 to 85 years of age? Anderson & Collins Clinical Research, Inc. is seeking volunteers for participation in a clinical

research study that examines an investigational medication to determine if it helps to improve cholesterol levels.

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732 287-5130

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Middle School Wrestlers Place Fourth at Randolph Duals

By Roh Hunter

Well the wrestling season is under-way. The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team finished in fourth place in the Randolph Middle School Duals, despite missing six starters who were playing in the Pop Warner Garden State Bowl at Rutgers Stadium. Although they were short handed, the Tigers still made a respectable showing by defeating Warwick, NY in the opening round 53-45. In this match the lower weights did the job for the Tigers, getting big pins from Troy Davidson, first period and then a pin from Scott Whalen, who was trailing 5-0. Jeff Conroy won by a major decision 9-0 and Ryan Billich won by fall to seal the victory.

In the second match the Tigers came out roaring and defeated Hopatcong 78-17. Andrew Sanchez scored his first pin of the season, while Tyler Hunt continued to win the tough one's with a 2-0 victory. Being short handed

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Troy Heilmann wrestled up a weight class and won by fall. Joey Vetuschi also had a tough match, but won 3-0. Robert Sacks a first year wrestler got the first pin of his career in the second period at 2:30 in the super heavyweight division

It's too bad that the Tigers had to face High Point in the semi finals. They were clearly the two best teams there. The Tigers took a beating, dropping a 66-22 decision to High Point, who went on to win the title. Tyler Hunt won by major decision 12-1. Nick Heilmann picked up the next Tiger win with a fall over Drew Waggenhoffer, with a double leg takedown, with Waggenhoffer going to his back and getting pinned. Seth Yocum, who did not wrestle last year, returned with vigor and won a big match by fall at 148. Welcome back Seth!

In the consolation finals the Tigers lost to Montville 52-46. At one point the Tigers trailed by 30 points, but came roaring back to tie the score at 46 going into the heavyweight match. Billy Whitefeet, who was physically overmatched, held on before getting pinned at end the match. Kyle Pompilio, who made his return to

wrestling a successful one, filled in at the 97 pound weight class and got a big pin to keep the Tigers in the match. o helping in the comeback was Ryan Sacco, who scored another big pin to keep the Tiger chances alive. Congratulations to the Pop Warner

Eagles on a big win at the Garden State Bowl with a convincing 37-14 win over Marlboro on Sunday afternoon. Next weeks edition of the Observer will feature the High School wrestling preview.

American Martial Arts Competes at Garden State Cup

On Sunday, Nov. 5 the Tae Kwon Do Garden State Cup was held in Rahway. Among those competing were 13 students from American Mar-tial Arts, located at 902 Oak Tree Rd.

Categories of competition included forms, breaking and sparring. All three AMA students who competed in forms, placed. Robby O'Connell and Jordan Swan took first place in their divisions and Maggie O'Connell won bronze.

In the wood breaking competition. Timmy Sweeny, Isaiah Mackson and Eric Hunt took home the gold and Juan Arrubla, silver.

And lastly, sparring, the biggest event of the day, Richard Kazandzhidi,

Cody Hresan, Robby O'Connell, Dheer Patel, Maggie O'Connell, and Jordan Swan fought their way to first; Timmy Sweeny, Alek Sheyer, and Juan Arrubla placed second and Kenny Nyugen, Lamar Mackson, and Eric Hunt placed third.

Proudly, every student from Ameri-can Martial Arts placed and for the fifth consecutive year, Master Kevin Vigneri, owner and master instructor of AMA, was awarded the Best Instructor Award and his school was again named the Best Tae Kwon Do School for the fifth year as well.

For information about American Martial Arts, please call (908) 561-4100 or visit DragonEliteTKD.com.



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Obituaries

Loretta Cooper

Loretta Cooper, the biggest fan of South Plainfield Sports, was lost on Thursday, Nov. 17, after passing at Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home with her family at her side.

Born in Elizabeth and raised in Scotch Plains, Mrs. Cooper moved to her beloved South Plainfield over 50 years ago.

She and her husband began an an-tique business in the early 1960's which evolved into Cooper's Office Furniture. It remains a family business in Plainfield today. A coach with the South Plainfield

Pop Warner Eagles Cheerleaders for more than 30 years, she also served as president of the Grant School PTA and was a member of both the South Plainfield High School Athletic and Music Booster Clubs for many years. In ad-dition, Loretta served on the South Plainfield Board of Education from 1983 to 1989.

Her love for the children led her to become a volunteer at South Plainfield High School until 2002. She remained a true Tigers sports fan until the time of her death.

Loretta is predeceased by her parents, Olivia and Frank Eannucci and her husband, Harry Cooper.

She is survived by three daughters, Sandy and her husband Tom Doyon with whom she lived. Jacquie and her husband Rich Bianchi of Woodbridge and Pamela Steves of Bound Brooks a son, Frank Belaney of Green Brook

and five grandchildren, Richard Steves, Tom Doyon, Kara and Kyle Bianchi and Jeffrey Frase. Also surviv-ing are two great grandchildren, Jefy Jr. and Chelsie Frase. Funeral services were held at the fre

McCriskin Home For Funerals

George J. Celentano, 76

George J. Celentano, 76, died on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at Muhlenberg Re-gional medical Center in Plainfield.

The son of Alfred and Anita Celentano, he was born in South Plainfield and grew up here. He has lived in Edison for over the past 50 years. After high school, he went to work as a truck driver for the teamsters union

for a few years. During the 1960's and through to the mid 1970's, he owned and operated three Shell gas stations which were located at Rt. 1 and Old Post Rd., Stelton Rd. and Plainfield Ave. and Rt. 37 and Talmadge Rd., all in Edison. In 1976, George sold his gas stations and opened Boulevard Auto Parts in South Plainfield, which he operated with his sons. He sold that business in 1985 when he retired. In addition, he was a veteran of the NJ National Guard and was based at the Westfield Armory.

George and his wife were long time parishioners of St. Matthew's RC Church in Edison. He had been known to many as a leader in the parish serving as a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the former Holv Name Society and working on the parish carnival.

He was predeceased by his brothers Guido Celentano and Julius "Supe" Celentano. Surviving are his wife of 55 years

Marion T. (Pendolino) Celentano; two sons, Mark Celentano of North Brunswick and Gregg Celentano and his wife Kathleen of Bavville: a sister. Alfrieda Campana of Freehold Twsp. and three grandchildren Nick, Ashley and Gina Marie Celentano.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations made to the Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Malina DiLiddo, 96

Malina DiLiddo died on Thursday, Nov. 17, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville

Born in Italy, she immigrated to the Unites States at the age of six, settling with her family in Plainfield. She resided in Plainfield and South Plainfield her entire life.

Malina is a long time member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield. She is survived by her brother, Jo-

seph and his wife Sadie DiLiddo of Branchburg; three nieces, Anita Gala of Michigan, Nancy Eastlund of Middlesex and Barbara Jager of Penn-sylvania and a nephew, Raymond Colucci of Georgia.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals. In lieu of flowers, the family has re-

quested donations in her memory may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Walter R. Schmid, 65

Walter R. Schmid of South Plainfield, died Thursday, Nov. 17, in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. Mr. Schmid was born in Germany.

but lived in South Plainfield for the past 35 years.

He worked as a tool and dye maker for Lz2 Tools and Engineering in Watchung.

Surviving are his loving wife of 40 years, Martha Schmid of South Plainfield; a son, Stefan Schmid and a brother, Gunter Schmid of Germany.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Edna L. Beck (Lifgren), 85,

Edna L. Beck (Lifgren) died suddenly at her home in South Plainfield.

She was born in Perth Amboy where she grew up. In 1941 she moved to New York City where she entered the

Roosevelt School of Nursing. After becoming a registered nurse she worked in a hospital while con-tinuing her education. During the 1950's she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and then her Master's Degree in Nursing, both from Columbia University in New York.

She held the position of Head Nurse, then became a nursing instructor in Roosevelt Hospital and was later an assistant professor of nursing at Cornell New York Hospital.

She was the co-author of the book titled, Medical Surgical Nursing, which was published in 1958.

After moving to South Plainfield in 1959, Edna became affiliated with Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nurs-ing and held the position of assistant director of the school, retiring in 1964.

director of the school, returng in 1964. Following her retirement, she vol-untcered, first at the Muhlenberg Medical Library, and for many years at South Plainfield Public Library. Her husband, Donald C. Beck, died

in 2004. She was also pre-deceased by her brother Robert. W. Lifgren.

Surviving are a sister, Ethel H. Cole of East Brunswick, a sister-in-law, Merle Matusz of Fords and a brotherin-law, Robert Norman Beck of Edison and many special nieces nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Josephine "Jo" Ever

Josephine "Jo" Eyer died on Saturday, Nov. 19 at her home.

Born and raised in Minersville, Pa., She had resided in Philadelphia before moving to Brooklyn after WWII. She moved to Queens after marriage, settled to South Plainfield 50 years ago. A homemaker for most of her life,

Mrs. Eyer loved to play bingo. As a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, she was a bingo volunteer for more than 20 years. She also enjoyed playing bingo at St. Helen's Church and Bishop Ahr High School, both in Edison. In ad-dition, she spent time reading and doing crossword puzzles. Mrs . Ever is also a longtime member of the Minersville, Pa. Moose Lodge. Surviving are her husband of 56

years, Frederick C. Eyer; a daughter, Joan and her husband, Michael Dudas of South Plainfield; a son, Frederick Jr. and his wife Donna of Edison and two grandchildren, Megan Dudas and Frederick Eyer III. In addition, she is survived by a large family, three sisters and three brothers in Pa. and New York.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Piscataway Regional Day School, PPA. Stelton Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Frances (Marino) Capraro, 90,

Frances (Marino) Capraro, 90, died on Sunday, Nov. 27 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Jersey City, she has resided most of her life in Dunellen before moving to Bridgewater just a few years ago.

Mrs. Capraro was preceded in death by her loving husband of 57 years, Joseph, who passed in 1992.

Surviving are her aunt, Katherine Taglialatella of Piscataway, a brother-in-law, Anthony P. Daddato of Astoria, NY and several nieces and nephews

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.



Hillside (emetery Scotch Plains ~ 908.756.1729 www.hillsidecemetery.com LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF EARLE W. HUTCHISON

ESTATE OF EARLE W. HUTCHISON Notice is given that Jettie June Hutchison, of 114 Quali Ridge Drive, Forest, VA 24551, was on September 15, 2005 appointed to adminis-ter and represent the estate of Earle W. Hutch-ison, formerly of 1990 RH 18N, Old Bridge, NJ 08857, who died on September 5, 2005. All persons having claims against the decedent must serve their claims to the abovementioned personal representative and administrator, Jettie June Hutchison, at the address aforementioned.

barred

The Estate will not be responsible for any transactions against this account after this notice has been received. Further information/ requests: Contact Jettie June Hutchison, Executor, during standard business hours at (434)525-4440.

December 2, 2005

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on DECEMBER 13, 2005 at ***10:00AM *** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the municipal building 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at which time and place bids will be opened and read in public.

2006 FIRE DEPARTMENT BRUSH / UTILITY VEHICLE

ations and other bid informat ned at the Municipal Clerk's Specifications and other bid microfination may be obtained at the Municipal Cierk's office in the municipal building at the above address during regular business hours 3:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM. Only bidders who have picked up specifi-cations will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms fur-nished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFELD in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly ex-ecuted Consent of Surety, Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of PL. 1975, c.127 (NJ.A.C. 17:27 et seq.) the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 10:2 EOE. ADA

A FEE OF \$25.00 MADE PAYABLE TO THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MUST ACOMPANY YOUR REQUEST FOR A COPY OF THE BID PACKAGE. Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$43.75 December 2, 2005



aforementioned. Claimants must provide full documentation for any purchases or other transactions that have take place on the account. Additionally. Claimants must file a copy of the claim with the Probate Court. The case number for filing is Docket #210648; address for the Clerk of the Court is as follows, Middlessex County Surrogate, Administration Building First Floor, 75 Bayard Street, New Furnswick, NJ 08903. All claims must be presented by December 30, 2005. Any claims not served or filed within this specified period, or any extension of law, is unenforceable thereafter and will be forever bared

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD – VHEREAS, the State Fiscal Year 2006 Budget was approv		
VHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been h	eld as advertised, and	gust, 2005, and
VHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget, IOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Gover		a of South Plainfield County o
Aiddlesex, that the following amendments to the approve	d State Fiscal Year 2006 B	udget be made:
CURRENT FU	IND BUDGET	
Anticipated Revenues:	From	То
eneral Revenues: Miscellaneous Revenues - Section B: State Aid Without		
Offsetting Appropriations:		200.000.00
Extraordinary Aid Total Miscellaneous Revenues - Section B	0.00	<u>200,000.00</u> 3,907,431.00
Miscellaneous Revenues - Section C: Dedicated		
Uniform Construction Code Fees Uniform Construction Code Fees	587,000.00	600,000.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues - Section C	587,000.00	600,000.00
 Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F: Public and Private Revenues Offset With Appropriations: 		
Senior Citizen Coordinator Grant	0.00	23,200.00
Recycling Tonnage Grant Total Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F	0.00	<u>18,896.13</u> 187,084.10
. Miscellaneous Revenues - Section G: Other	111,707.77	
Special Items: Comcast Cable Contribution - Additional	0.00	72,500.00
Utility Operating Surplus of Prior Year	360,000.00	395,000.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues - Section G. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	<u>1,769,198.29</u> 7,557,717.26	<u>1,876,698.29</u> 7,920,313.39
Subtotal General Revenues	10,312,717.26	10,675,313.39
Amount to be Raised by Taxes:		The product product and a second
(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	13,380,046.65	13,259,015.65
. Total General Revenues	\$23,692,763.91	\$23,934,329.04
Appropriations: 8. General Appropriations:		
(A) Operations within "CAPS"	Ballin and Astrophysics	ndalah bisi ang situ kabupatèn yang situ kabupatèn kabupatèn kabupatèn kabupatèn kabupatèn kabupatèn kabupatèn Kabupatèn kabupatèn ka
General Government Engineering Services and Costs		A standard anad
Other Expenses Public Safety	196,000.00	211.000.00
Police	190,000.00	
Salaries and Wages	<u>5,064,444.00</u> 334,848.00	<u>5,084,444.00</u> 217,848.00
Other Expenses Streets and Roads	334,040.00	317,848.00
Snow Removal	E0 000 00	45,000.00
Salaries and Wages Other Expenses	<u> </u>	30,000.00
Unclassified	0100200000000	204 844 00
	249,925.00	<u>304,844.00</u> 17,750.00
Fuel Oil	11,500.00	13,000.00
12. CO.	109,710.00	159,710.00
Total Operations Within "CAPS" Total Operations Include. Contingent Within "CAPS"	13,759,690.00	<u>13,900.859.00</u> 13,905,859.00
Octail: Russing Commercial Contents Contents of Incontents	Aled, Medical S	711.
Salaries and Wages Other Expenses	<u>8,598,928.00</u> 5,165,762.00	8,613,928.00 5,291,931.00
E) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures		Sale and a statistical man
funicipal within "CAPS" adgements	79,000.00	82,000.00 23,250.00
H-l) Total General Appropriations for Municipal	notice of the notice in the	23,230.00
Purposes Within "CAPS" A) Other Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	14,156,440.00	14,298,609.00
nsurance	un vento possoriu - puero novembro de la como A - Cali	
roup Insurance Plan for Employees otal Other Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	<u>2,555,400.00</u> 5,300,163.00	<u>2,557,700.00</u> 5,302,463.00
ublic and Private Programs Offset By Revenues		3,302,403.00
Senior Citizen Coordinator Grant	0.00	23,200.00
Recycling Tonnage Grant otal Public and Private Programs Offset By Revenues	<u> </u>	<u>18,896.13</u> 212,084.10
otal Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	5,470,150.97	5,514,547.10
Detail: Dther Expenses	5,019,359.97	5,063,756.10
C) Capital Improvements - Excluded from "CAPS"	和新闻的ALE 1977 1979	
Capital Improvement Fund Fotal Capital improvements - Excluded from "CAPS"	<u>225,000.00</u> 300,000.00	<u>280,000.00</u> 355,000.00
H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal		
Purposes Excluded from "CAPS" 0) Total General Appropriations-	8,591,232.91	8,690,629.04
Excluded from "CAPS"	8,591,323.91	8,690,720.04
L) Subtotal General Appropriations	22,747,763.91	22,989,329.04
. Total General Appropriations	\$23,692,763.91	\$23,934,329.04
. Dedicated Revenues From Sewer	FUND BUDGET	
Utility		
Sewer Rents	4,567,400.00	4,600,000.00
Interest on Investment otal Sewer Utility Revenues	28,500.00	<u>40,900.00</u> \$5,255,400.00
1. Appropriations For Sewer Utility		
Derating alaries and Wages	417,856.00	420,356.00
Dther Expenses	3,869,244.00	3,911,744.00
otal Sewer Utility Appropriations	\$5,210,400.00	\$5,255,400.00
0. Dedicated Revenues From Swim	TY FUND BUDGET	
Pool Utility		
(Deficit) General Budget	79,000.00	82,000.00
otal Swim Pool Utility Revenues 1. Appropriations For Swim Pool Utility	\$241,148.59	\$244,148.59
1. Appropriations for Swith From Chine		107.000.00
Dperating		127,000.00
Derating Salaries and Wages	<u>124,000.00</u> \$241,148,59	
Deraiting Salaries and Wages Otal Swim Pool Utility Appropriations E IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two (2) certified cor	\$241,148.59 pies of this resolution be fi	\$244,148.59 ed forthwith in the office of the
perating alaries and Wages otal Swim Pool Utility Appropriations	\$241,148.59 pies of this resolution be file rtification of the State Fisc	\$244,148.59 ed forthwith in the office of the al Year 2006 budget so amended.

It is hereby certified that this is a true copy of a resolution amending the budget, adopted by the governing body on the 21st day of November, 2005.

December 2, 2005

ATTEST: Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk

\$477.60



Fran Flannery deposits her raffle ticket in one of the baskets at the SPHS Athletic Booster Auction.

SPHS Athletic Booster Auction a Sellout

As usual the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club Sports Auction, held on Nov. 19, was another sold-out suc-cess. This annual fudraiser helps sup-port the athletes at South Plainfield High School.

Some of this year's big winners at the annual event were: Natalie Zeno won the 50/50, Chet Czaplinski won the microwave and a pearl and gold necklace, Beth Bors won the girls varsity soccer basket, John George won a

the flat screen TV. Fran Flannery won the reading book basket, Joanne Haus won the New Years Eve basket, which included several gift certificates, Vicki Uniacke won the snowman basket, Connie Besser won the autographed Flyers hockey picture and Frank Wrublevski won two front row tickets to a Giants football game.

Congratulations to all the winners and eveyone who supported this year's auction.



dinner from Hometown Heros' Charlie and Debbie Kurland. She is joined by her parents Carol and Lewis, sister Deidre and grandmother, Edith Kelly.

• To subscribe to the South Plainfield Observer call 908-668-0010 •

INYOUROPINION

(Continued from page 2) To the Editor.

The Fifth Grade Stokes' Committee met on Wednesday, Nov. 16 to discuss various ways to raid funds for their trip. To date we have held a sweatshirt and Yankee Candle fundraiser. A notice has been sent home

phone fundraiser which is ongoing. Collection boxes have been placed in the grammar schools and Grant School. All cell phones, whether in working condition or not, can be turned in. The grammar schools will donate 50% of the monies reimbursed



We are also in the process of Joe Corbi's Cookie Dough fundraiser which continues to Dec. 5. It has also been determined by the Stokes' Com-mittee, by vote, to place all the fundraising monies into a general fund to benefit all the children. The cost of the trip is approximately \$40,000 and \$2,000 of that has to go toward the entertainment and chil-dren who are financially unable to afford the trip otherwise. We will also hold a 50-50 in the new year, so watch for further notice. For questions on the cell phone program or the cookie dough, see Stephanie Walsh. There were 242 sweatshirts purchased which should here for the holidays. A family

portrait program was also discussed. The regular Grant PTO meeting was held following the fifth grade Stokes meeting. The PTO revised budget was discussed and approved by vote. The \$25 activity fee is due for all those wishing to participate. If you did not receive one you, can print a copy from the Grant School website. On Dec. 12, the Cultural Arts Pro-

gram will present The Town That Fought Hat. Our Holiday Boutique will take place on Dec. 14 and 15, enabling children to purchase holiday gifts at affordable prices. See Genevieve for any questions. She will

need help in setting up on Dec. 13 and help on the sale days from 7:45 a.m. to 2:10 p.m. Vice Principal Ron Richkus discussed the traffic situation at drop-off time. Parents suggested that when dropping off children in the school lot, to pull into the lot to drop off the children instead of in the street or in the entrance way of the lot. Mr. Richkus also announced that the Battle of the Books took place on Nov. 29. Please remember your box tops la beled with your child's name on the envelope or baggie to be dropped off. The next PTO meeting will be held on Dec. Hope to see you there.

Also, congratulations to Ms. Jack-on and Mr. Schulte on their basket-

ball appointments. SINCERELY, DEBBIE BOYLE, CORRESPONDING SEC. GRANT PTO, FIFTH GRADE STOKES CHAIR

To the Editor, I would like to share an inspiring story of an experience which happened recently on a trip to Haiti.

A group of doctors, nurses and tech-nicians from the U.S. were on a medical mission to Haiti to help the poor. One of the doctors and a nurse went on an emergency house call to exam-ine a young Haitian woman who was She delivered a baby boy who weighed

just over one pound. The mother was found to be in critical condition; the baby was breathing on his own in spite of the fact his lungs were not fully matured. The baby's grandmother told the doctor he could examine the baby at the

clinic in the morning. Later that evening, the mother died, but the baby still lived. The following morning someone brought the baby to the clinic in a cardboard box. He was still moving. There was no technology in the area to help the baby. After the doctors consulted with one another, they estimated the baby had only an hour to live.

Father Runale, a priest inHaiti began to baptize the baby. While the bap-tism took place, someone yelled that the baby's name was William John the Baptist. Shortly after the baptism, he died.

The point of this story is that Will-iam John the Baptist did not have the materialistic things of this world, but he did have the love and spiritual life as everyone in the clinic prayed for him ther. toge

Christ said, "Where two or more are gathered together in my name, I am







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N

Attention Seniors on Medicare

If you are confused about the 45 able to discuss your options.

Contact the Senior Center (908) Medicare Prescription Drug and that are available and have questions ment. Make sure you make and about which plan is right for you, a the prescription drugs you take and the monthly cost of each drug. They are ded to find the plan right for 754-1047) to make an appoint vou.

Students Named Rotary High School Seniors of the Month

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield High School Se-niors Eric Reiner and Katie Pollack were chosen as Rotary High School Seniors of the Month for September. They were recognized for their contributions to the community of South Plainfield at a breakfast held at the Victorian Manor in Edison on Oct. 6 given by the Edison Rotary Club.

The semi-formal occasion included a Rotarian reading a short bio of each student as a part of their introduction. Each honoree then read a pre-

pared acceptance essay discussing how they started volunteering, who encouraged them, what first motivated them, their current volunteering efforts and future plans and what continues to motivate them, as well as what they plan to volunteer at during college, their most memorable experience and what they have learned through their volunteer activities. Monthly winners are also asked to hand in an essay on how volunteering has impacted them and what they will do in the future and will be eligible for a senior of the year banquet held in May.



SPHS students who worked together to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina stand in front of the packages they spent their entire day off on Nov. 8 with Marla Vandermark and Anthony Encinas to pack and wrap boxes for the project.

High School Students Help Katrina Victims ply bags for students, assembled over

Various South Plainfield High School leadership organizations came together in September, with the help of Principal Dr. Ken May and Leader-ship Advisor Mary Ellen Martko to plan how they could helping Hurri-cane Katrina victims.

Ideas came from the Commissioner of Education Office on how districts could get involved. The group, which decided to put together school sup-

DOLLAR WORL

400 bags. When the time came to ship the boxes Martko was dismayed to find out that each box would cost between \$12 and \$17 to ship-they only collected \$400 for postage and the ac-tual cost would be around \$1,500.

SPHS student Lauren Fry's father of-fered to ship all of it at no cost through his business. Sodexho School Services

PLUS

employees then packed up and moved to a central location for pickup. South Plainfield School District

will send \$16,000 worth of supplies to Greenbriar School in Baton Rouge. School Principal Mike Comeau has offered to distribute any extra supplies to other needy district schools. The project took place with the support of the school administration

and involved parents.

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