

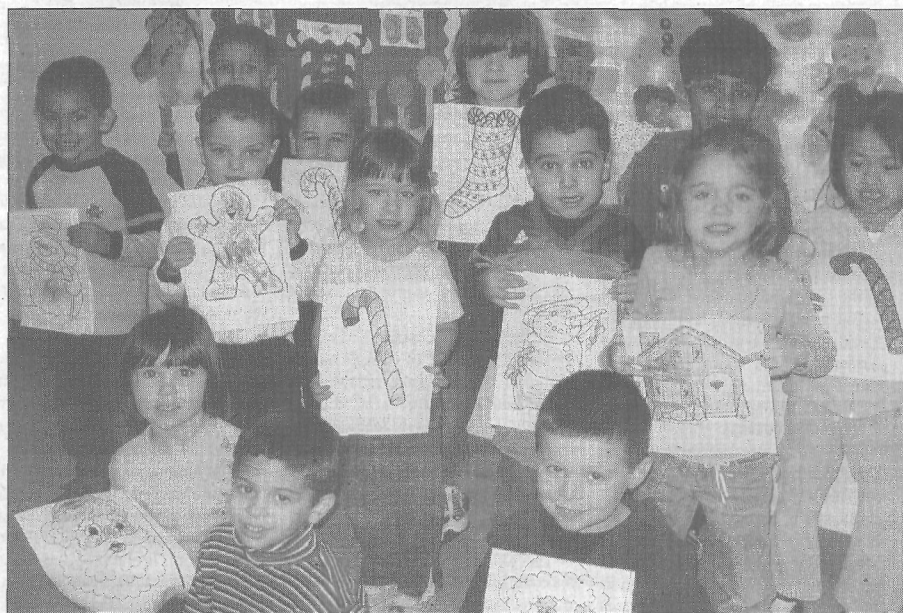
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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 14

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 9, 2005



Dot Ewing's four-year-old Future Stars Preschool class.

Future Stars Send Holiday Cheer to Soldiers

Ryan Purcell, with the help of his fellow Future Star classmates, are doing something that they hope will put a few smiles on those serving in the armed forces. Ryan's cousin, Jason, is in the Army serving in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Unit from Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After Ryan's parents explained that

Jason and his fellow servicemen are a little sad because some people who are not very nice are doing some bad things and hurting some of his friends, he decided he wanted to make his cousin and his friends smile and be happy during the holiday season.

Ryan decided to draw pictures to help decorate Jason's tent and make

it look like the holidays. He asked his classmates to help him with their own drawings and pictures. A box was placed in front of Mrs. Ewing's classroom to collect the donations to send to the servicemen.

Ryan's parents have packaged the donations and will be shipping them to the servicemen in Iraq.

Historical Society Finds Temporary Home

The South Plainfield Historical Society is pleased to announce that a temporary solution has been found for its present homeless situation. Its new, temporary headquarters will be in a ground floor classroom at 125 Jackson Ave. (the Roosevelt Administration Building) beginning in January. The room has access by both staircase and elevator. Hours of operation will be announced once the collections are moved and displays assembled for public viewing.

For many years the Historical Society has sought a headquarters to house and display its collections. Founded as an outgrowth of the patriotic fervor of the 1976 Bicentennial, the Historical Society membership immediately sought to establish a

house museum, setting its sites on the abandoned former Lehigh Valley Railroad Station at the Metuchen Road grade crossing. Unfortunately, Conrail could not be persuaded and demolished the structure in 1977 with the blessings of the town's governing body. In the 1980s, an attempt was made to move a donated house (the Ledden House, c.1820) on Front St. to borough-owned property at the corner of Lakeside and Church St., but the costs were daunting and public support lacking. Other places sought were Grant School, the Boice farmhouse on Hamilton Blvd. and more recently, a Victorian carriage house on Plainfield Ave.

Realizing that a house museum may well be beyond reach, the Historical

Society asked the Board of Education two years ago to consider housing it in old Roosevelt School. When the ground floor classroom recently

(Continued on page 11)

101st Airborne Tree Lighting This Saturday

The New York Chapter's Association of the 101st Airborne will hold the annual memorial service and tree lighting ceremony this Saturday at 11 a.m. under the tree on the front lawn of McCriskin Home For Funerals located on Plainfield Ave.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the US Army airplane crash in New Gander, New Foundland, which was carrying members of the 101st Airborne in which all 265 perished.

The huge tree on the front lawn of the funeral home was first decorated to mark the holiday season in 1985. While preparing the tree for the lighting, the 101st Airborne crash occurred. The McCriskin Family choose to dedicate the tree in memory of those who died in the crash.

Since 1985, the McCriskin Family has lit the tree and the NY Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association has conducted a memorial service.

After the service, refreshments will be served at the VFW Memorial Post 6763 on Front St. in South Plainfield. All are welcome to attend.

Purse Snatching At Hadley Center

Suspect at Large, Police Seek Information

South Plainfield Police are investigating a purse snatching which occurred at Hadley Center on Stelton Rd. on Nov 30.

The victim, a 77 year old Plainfield resident, told police that as she was walking in the mall parking lot toward a department store, a vehicle slowly approached her from behind. The driver of the vehicle reached out as he was passing her and pulled the purse off her shoulder. The vehicle then sped out of the parking lot.

The victim, although shocked and

upset, did not sustain any injuries. Several police units responded to the scene, but were unable to locate the vehicle. The victim described the vehicle as a black SUV, possibly an older Ford Explorer. No license plate information was obtained. The only description the victim could give of the suspect was that he was a male with a black hooded sweatshirt.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective Gene Bataille at (908) 226-7664.

UPDATE on BOROUGH CONSTRUCTION

The South Plainfield Business Association received the latest construction update during their November meeting held at Sherban's Diner. Bob Russo of CME and Councilman Charles Buttrick gave the latest construction information and answered questions from those attending. According to Buttrick, the utility work which is taking place near Ryan St. and St. Nicholas is near completion, with the exception of the traffic signal, which may not be installed until spring. The construction crew is putting up guard rails and will be paving that section on Dec. 16. When completed, the work will shift to the other side of Hamilton Blvd.

Work will continue until the winter weather prohibits reconstruction and will resume again in the spring. Traffic during winter months will return to the normal pattern.

Most utility work along the Boulevard should be completed in the next few weeks. Utility work continues at the intersection of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. After widening the intersection, a new light will be installed. However, it has been delayed until an underground tank is removed.

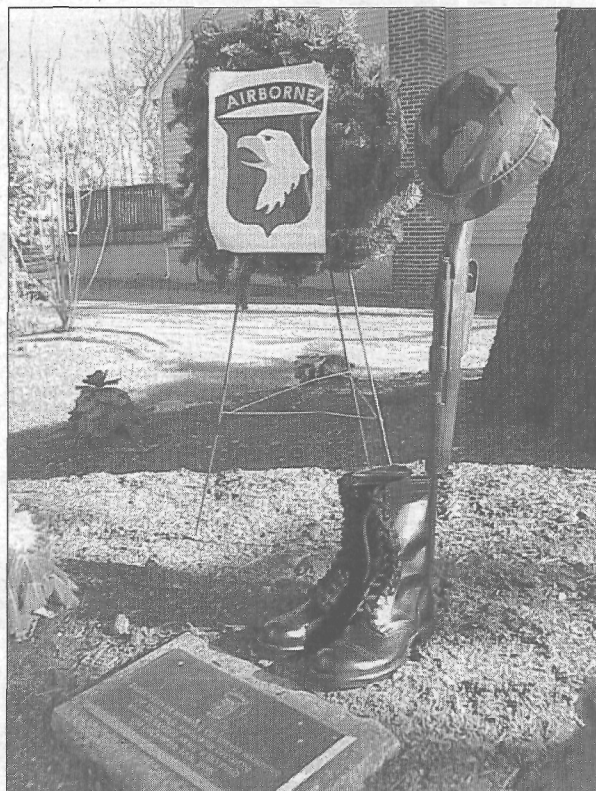
Snow Removal Reminder

The owners of property abutting or bordering sidewalks of public streets, avenues and highways of the borough must remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of their premises within 12 hours of daylight after a snowfall.

Building owners must remove all snow and ice from driveways and

parking lots and from walkways between the public sidewalks, parking lots or driveways and entrances to buildings within 12 hours of daylight after the snow or ice has fallen or formed. Snow or ice cannot be deposited or moved to any public street, avenue, highway or sidewalk.

The South Plainfield Police Dept. and the Code Enforcement officer can issue fines for violations between \$100 and \$1,000 for noncompliance.



Mark Your Calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

Council Meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date

January 1 Reorganization 2:00 p.m.

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

Planning Board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Dec. 13, Dec. 27.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 Dec. 22.

Board of Education Meetings

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.

Taxpayers Advisory Group

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

Site Plans Sub-Committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m. Dec. 20.

Recreation Commission

Meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716 Dec. 13.

Environmental Commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
Dec. 14 and Jan. 11, 2006

Business Advisory Group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

Board of Education Curriculum/Technology Meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.
Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. and March 20.

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South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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WAYNE GRENNIER

Web page:

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Advertising Sales

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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: sposerver@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:

In these days, many people have so many do-dads and gadgets that they can't appreciate some of the simple things that are disappearing year by year.

When I was a youngster back in the 30's, Christmas light displays around town were a great sight to see. Many large towns and cities strung lights along and across the streets. Of course this was to attract shoppers to town. But just to go into town to see the lights for many people that lived out in the boon docks was a great treat. I remember my father taking me from Woodbridge to Newark to see the big display on the Public Service building. The main feature was an evergreen wreath entwined with colored lights about six stories tall. There were many other smaller wreaths and lights in the area, but that one took the cake. Even in the early 1960's, Plainfield lit up Front St. from Madison Ave. to Norwood Ave. and Park Ave. from Front St. to 3rd or 4th St.

In many areas people are decorating their own properties, but it doesn't seem to spread the same feeling of joy of the Christmas season.

But in all this mad dash to spend, spend, spend, let us remember what the holiday is all about. Let us keep Christ in Christmas.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
WILLIAM TUTHILL**

Dear Editor,

With all the articles written lately about taking In God We Trust, One Nation Under God, God Bless and Xmas (taking Christ out) are we not forgetting the very basis this country and our Christian faith was formed of? For all of us that even have a lick of faith, we are assured of one thing, God made us and God can take us out! If anyone out there is foolish enough to believe that he's not coming back again, you better smell the coffee real soon!

After recently reading about Sodom and Gomorrah, again, this writer can see too many similarities to ignore! We have every sinful sign here as they had there and what happened? Did Lot's wife become salt of the Earth? Amen! Everyone will do as they please or as they believe, but a quick reminder—if you choose to omit God now, you might want to pray very strongly that he doesn't choose to omit you upon his return! You're facing eternity with one of two choices and with no do-overs. Can you really afford to be wrong? I can't.

WILLIAM ABBAS

To the Editor:

Just a few words to thank the South Plainfield Labor Day Committee for the outstanding job they performed in putting together the Labor Day Parade.

There is always a large turnout each year and everyone is so receptive to the marchers. Congratulations to John Sorrentino-chairman, Joe Scudato-judging the parade bands, announcers-Al Czech at Boro Hall and Bill Cochrane at the reviewing stand, Don Alexa and Patricia Vargo-parade committee and all of the parade marshals! You know how to put on a great parade. Keep up the good work, because it is through your efforts and prompting that have I decided to return for my 20th year dressed as Charlie Chaplin!

**LOUIS AND ROSEMARY CARUSO
NORTH PLAINFIELD**

Dear Eagle Supporters;

Thank you for your pledges of support in our "Sponsor a Cheerleader" Promise Pledge Campaign. The South Plainfield Eagles Jr. Midget Cheerleading Team was awarded fourth place honors at the Pop Warner Eastern Region Championships at Sovereign 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 advance to the Eastern Region Championships two years straight and

to be named among the winning teams each time!

Although we will not be needing your generous donation to finance our trip to the Nationals at this time, your pledge of support is appreciated just the same! Without the support of so many individuals, businesses and community, the dream of reaching the Nationals could not even be a possibility. We met our goal and we thank you for being a part of that. We are proud to be sponsored by such a wonderful group of people and proud to represent South Plainfield and the South Plainfield Eagles.

We look forward to your continued support in the future and thank you for making a difference!

**WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION,
THE SP EAGLES JR. MIDGET
CHEERLEADING TEAM**

Dear Editor:

The "Holidays" All About Me or God?

I find it very interesting and ironic that in our secular society, which is making every attempt to legislate Christ out of "the holidays," we still use these "holidays" to give gifts to each other.

All the mercantile established which have banned all use of Christ's name, all the schools which have outlawed the use of the "J" word in their "holiday concerts" and all government agencies that have removed creches from their property—all of them are banking on Christmas to boost gift-giving sales and provide an extended vacation from workdays!

The word "holiday" was formerly "holy day." We have removed the "Y"—the first letter of the Jewish "YHWH (Jehova)"—from the middle of the term and substituted the big "T" instead. Selfishness and greed are riding high! What a wonderful society we have become!

It was God's gift of His Son Jesus Christ, and, through His Son, eternal life which started the whole concept of a season for gift-giving.

"...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"—Romans 6:23.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the Word of Truth..."—James 1:17, 18a.

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this (faith) is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God..."—Ephesians 2:8.

(Jesus said) "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish..."—John 10:28a.

When a true gift is given, it is motivated by love, and if it is refused, it is an insult to the giver.

It seems to me that American society, as a whole, is insulting the God of the universe! Are we wise in doing so? I think not.

But those of us who have received the gift of God, can adopt the follow-

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: sposerver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

ing blessing for ourselves:

"Now may the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."—2 Thessalonians 3:16.

KINGSLEY M. BAEHR

Dear Editor:

The hardest job for a student in a leadership role at South Plainfield High School is to draw that line between leader and disciplinarian. Whether it is an athletic captain, a cheerleading captain or a marching band drum major, they are put into the awkward spot of maintaining the standards expected of the team while earning the respect of their fellow students.

These students are chosen for these positions because of their leadership qualities and their exceptional knowledge of their craft, knowledge they want to share with their peers.

I just want to say thank you to Mrs. Williams, Mr. Errico and all the others involved in putting together the Leadership Program at South Plainfield High School. In the program the students who have a leadership position in SPHS meet to share their experiences.

The first meeting went very well. These students realized how similar their situations are even though they all do different things. Marching band drum majors right to football captains all struggle with the same conflicts. All agreed it takes good and knowledgeable directors or coaches to back and support their choices in leadership; to maintain respect of the students for their leaders and to allow the student leaders to do what they are there to do...lead, not discipline. When correctly done by all involved the outcome will be a well-oiled team.

Unfortunately, one thing that was realized in this meeting is that their school is not unified. Each team stays to themselves and only associates within their group. This must change and these great students are going to change it. So, football players, let's see you at some marching band competitions. Cheerleaders and winter guard students, let's see you out there cheering for each other, and marching band, how about a pep band for all other sports teams, not just football.

**SINCERELY,
DONNA RANN, PROUD PARENT OF
A STUDENT LEADER**

(Continued on page 10)

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Mrs. Goetz's fourth grade class from Sacred Heart School recently took a walking tour of some of the older buildings in South Plainfield. The tour began at Sacred Heart Church, which celebrated its 100th Anniversary in August. The fourth grade would like to thank George Menken from Vail Hardware, Kevin and Tom from Sportworld, and Nischwitz for being so generous with their time.

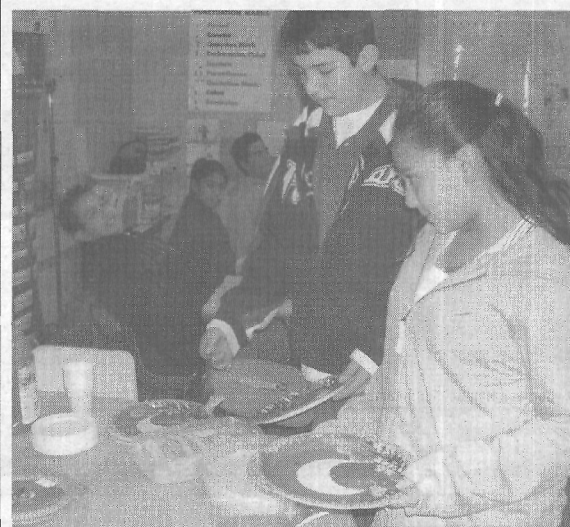
Holiday 'Books to Keep' Program

The South Plainfield Library will be participating in the 'Books to Keep' program this holiday season.

'Books to Keep' is an outreach project of the Libraries of Middlesex and the Middlesex County College Library. It collects books for distribution during the holiday season to disadvantaged children throughout the county. Since 1990, over 100,000 books have been distributed by 'Books to Keep'.

Donations of new children's books, both hardcover and paperback, may be dropped off at South Plainfield Library until Dec. 15. Tax-deductible monetary contributions towards the program's expenses are also accepted; donation envelopes are located with the book collection box at the library's main desk.

For information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.



ESL Students Celebrate Thanksgiving Together

The ESL (English as a Second Language) students in the Middle School and Grant Elementary have been studying about the history, culture, traditions and celebrations of Thanksgiving in the United States. Part of the culture they studied is the Thanksgiving meal, which they learned as part of their lesson.

Since most of the students are newcomers to the United States and are not familiar with the special

traditions associated with Thanksgiving, Mrs. Guirguis, the ESL teacher, closed her lessons with a Thanksgiving meal which included turkey with stuffing and gravy, two kinds of vegetables, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pies for dessert.

The students greatly enjoyed the meal and felt it was a real experience which they will always remember.

County Helps Bring Senior Citizens And Disabled to Houses of Worship

The Middlesex County Transportation Department is helping to expand a non-profit organization's program that brings homebound seniors, seniors living in assisted living facilities and disabled residents to houses of worship throughout the county.

Occupational therapist Robert Leith and Rabbi Evan Jaffe, who founded the Open Road program in

1999, presented a certificate of appreciation to Freeholder Director David B. Crabel and Freeholder P. James Polos, chair of the county's Public Works and Transportation Committee.

Leith and Jaffe said the agreement their organization has with Middlesex County has served as a model as they approach other counties in their at-

tempts to establish the program nationwide.

"I want to commend the Freeholders of Middlesex County for their support until now and would ask for the same support and more in the future," said Rabbi Jaffe. "You can be proud of the foresight you have displayed in providing the model for a program that is unlike any other I have seen in the state, perhaps the country."

Currently, the Middlesex County Department of Transportation is using two of its vans to transport about 20 seniors and disabled residents from their homes to houses of worship throughout the county. Open Road pays a discounted fee to the county for the use of the vehicles.

Freeholder Polos said the county would work to bring more attention to the service.

"It is a wonderful program that increases the quality of life of its participants," Polos said. "The program deserves a high profile because it answers the needs of our residents and could be helping so many more."

The Open Road program provides rides once a month to ambulatory and non-ambulatory residents of institutions, group homes, assisted living facilities and homebound senior citizens. The program is operational in Camden, Hunterdon and Somerset counties in addition to Middlesex. Jaffe said the client list grows monthly.

There's No Place Like Home!
Happy Holidays South Plainfield!
2005

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Mr. Kurt Returns to the Library

The South Plainfield Library will welcome Mr. Kurt back for another Sing-Along program on Wednesday, Dec. 14 starting at 6:30 p.m.

A longtime favorite of South Plainfield audiences, Mr. Kurt will perform his trademark silly songs, as well as Holiday favorites. The program is recommended for children up to age

seven. It is being presented free of charge, but pre-registration is required.

For information, call the library at (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You can also visit Mr. Kurt's website at www.kurtgallagher.com.



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Around Town

VFW Breakfast

December 11

The VFW on Front St. will hold a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 8 to 11 a.m. Proceeds benefit the VA Hospital at Lyons. The public is invited.

For more information call Robert Debbie at (908) 472-3762.

A Christmas Carol at Edison Playhouse

December 11

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present "A Christmas Carol" on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. at the Edison Valley Playhouse on Oak Tree Rd. For information and reservations, call (908) 753-0327.

VFW Dinner

December 16

The VFW on Front St. will hold a dinner on Friday, Dec. 16 from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited.

For more information call Robert Debbie at (908) 472-3762.

Recreation Sponsors a Visit With Santa

December 17

The South Plainfield Recreation is inviting all children ages newborn to 10-years-old to a visit with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Children will have the opportunity to talk with Santa and have their pictures taken. Each child receives a gift.

Register at the PAL until Dec. 12. Fee is \$5 per participant.

Caroling at Spring Lake

December 18

The holiday season is right around the corner. Recreation Director Mike English is inviting all South Plainfield residents to take time out from their busy schedule and join in an afternoon of "Caroling in the Park" on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. The South Plainfield High School Band and Choir will be on hand to lead us in holiday songs.

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

Breakfast with Santa at American Legion

December 18

On Sunday, Dec. 18, at the American Legion, located on Oak Tree Ave. will be hold their annual Breakfast With Santa from 8 to 12 a.m. The cost

What's happening in DECEMBER

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

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS  Knitting/Crocheting 12 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am Speaker Program 1pm "Alzheimer's & Dementia"	Hunterdon Hills Christmas Show December 15 - \$58.00 Christmas with Santa Dec. 17 Christmas Luncheon December 18 1pm Followed by Caroling in the Park Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available Advisory Board Meeting 4:30 pm	Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Listening to Children 10am Tai Chi Class 2pm	Senior Center EVENTS Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Line Dancing 10-11am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available BINGO 10am-2pm Lunch Available

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

for the all you can eat breakfast is \$5.
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Elks to hold Breakfast with Santa

December 18

Bring your cameras and appetites to the Elks Lodge on New Market Ave. on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 8 a.m. to noon for our annual breakfast with Santa. The all you can eat breakfast includes pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, eggs, coffee, tea, milk, juice and pictures with Santa. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children five to 12, under five are free.

Any questions call Kathy Horvath (908) 754-7268.

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.

Elks Steak Dinner

January 7

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge on New Market Ave. will hold a steak dinner on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 4 p.m.

until the steaks run out. The steak dinner is \$15 per person includes steak, salad, potato, vegetable and dessert and cash bar. Pay at the door.

For more information call Kathy Horvath (908) 754-7268.

Recreation Going to See "Tarzan"

July 23

The South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the new Disney musical, "Tarzan", on July 23. The bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$85/person. Tickets can be purchased up at the PAL. There are only 43 tickets available, purchase yours today.

— Out of Town —

WOWs Dance

December 9

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold an open dance on Friday, Dec. 9, from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at St. Demetrius Community Center in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. All are welcome. Admission is \$8 for members and \$9 for guests. For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

JavaMoonCafe Fired up for Fundraiser

December 10

JavaMoonCafe is all fired up for its upcoming fundraiser to benefit Raritan Engine Company #2 of the Edison Fire Department. On Dec. 10, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., firefighters will wait tables at the restaurant and

give fire truck tours to children. In addition to all tips collected, JavaMoonCafe will be donating one half of their proceeds that day to support the firefighters.

JavaMoonCafe is located on 3126 Woodbridge Ave. in Edison. For more information and a complete list of hours, call (732) 738-JAVA (5282).

Willow Grove to Hold Advent Festival

December 10

Catch the Christmas spirit. Come to Willow Grove in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 4-7 p.m. for a fun-filled time for you and your family. From gingerbread houses to holiday movies and stories, to wreaths and balls to coloring cards and gingerbread houses, to pizza and self-decorated Christmas cookies, to an extra special puppetry closing program.

Reservations by Dec. 9. To make reservations or for information, call (908) 232-5678, e-mail: wilgrv@net-zero.com or check out our website: www.scotchplains.com/wgpc.

Willow Grove Holiday Luncheon/Program

December 13

Come, celebrate and make new friends at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 13, for a delicious luncheon and Christmas program. This will be co-sponsored by the 12 O'clock

club (for senior citizens) and the church Women's Association.

The 4+ class of the Willow Grove pre-school will present their Christmas Pageant, which is sure to make hearts melt. This will be followed by a delightful holiday carol sing-along.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678, e-mail us at: wilgrv@net-zero.com or check our website at www.scotchplains.com/wgpc.

WOWs Dinner Dance

December 14

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold their Annual Dinner Dance Extravaganza on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at St. Demetrius Community Center in Carteret. Admission is \$30. Everyone is welcome.

For information, call (732)-969-1123.

Blackrose to Perform

December 17

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Tim Kerwins, located on Rt. 28 in Middlesex on Saturday, Dec. 18.

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

December 29

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 AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

For Your Information...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

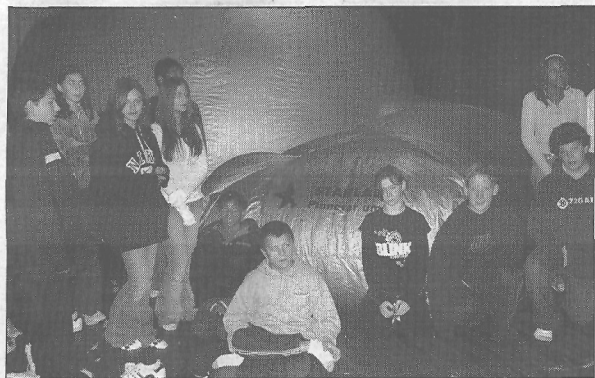
HOW TO CONTACT US. 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; phone: 908-668-0010; fax: 908-668-8819 or email: spobsrvr@comcast.net.

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Eighth grade Middle School students stargaze in a mobile star lab.

Star Lab Visits Middle School

By Jane Dornick

Eighth grade students at the Middle School spent their science periods stargazing as the mobile Star Lab provided by Central Jersey Instructional Media was brought to the school. A huge blow up dome provided the darkness of an evening sky as the science teachers operated a projection device showing different stars and constellations.

Science teachers Bob Cousins, Dana Morotto and Marilyn Hartshorn attended a three hour safety and operation workshop given by

author and astronomer Steve Tomecek of Central Jersey Instructional Media on how to operate the Star Lab. The lab comes with a projector and cylinders that cast light inside the dome. Science teachers can give lessons on weather, oceans, Greek mythology, constellations and star fields.

Teachers from any school in the six counties the media group services can sign up for membership, take the course and become certified to teach classes in the Star Lab. For more information contact Barbara Carlino at (800) 745-5734.

Sacred Heart School 1st Marking Period Honor Roll

Sacred Heart has announced their Principal List and Honor Roll for the first marking period.

Principal's List

Grade 5-Most Improved-Stephanie Kearney; Grade 6-Andrea Muglia, Carla Palma and Cecelia Uche; Grade 7-Caresse Simmonds; Grade 8A-Victoria Gaydos, Alfonse Muglia and Zachary Sikanowicz; Grade 8B-Alexandra Fee and Aaron Pinkard.

Honor Roll

Grade 5-Jane Edwards, Maia Plummer and Julia Soete; Grade 6-Kavanaugh Charles, Taylor David, Dominic Gonzales, Amanda Joe, Rhel Lapitan and Kyle Whitaker; Grade 7-Siobhan Barrington, Sabrina Douge, Christopher Gbogbi, Joseph Landry, Allyson Ricarte and Karla Rodriguez; Grade 8A-Julia Caruso, Kaitlyn Muglia, Richard Ortega, Gerianna Pinto, Jordan Simmons, Jaclyn Thomas and Crystal Williams; Grade 8B-Julianne Gulotta, Sean Piersanti, Sarah Rusk and Edward Amirault.



Fire Department volunteers teach school children about fire safety.

Fire Dept. Tours Schools For Fire Prevention Week

Each year volunteers from the South Plainfield Fire Dept. visit all of the elementary schools in the borough teaching youngsters about fire safety and prevention as part of national Fire Prevention Week.

Due to the number of schools and the amount of students to visit the fire department usually winds up spending an entire month on their journey, especially with all of the rain that has occurred lately.

The firemen go over how to prevent fires and the uses of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers at home. In case of a fire, children are taught to stop, drop and roll and how to

feel doors for heat. They get to witness one of the firemen putting on his protective gear and how he would look and sound if they were to encounter him during a fire. Everyone gets to take a look at the fire truck and take a walk through the inside. Children have the most fun when the firemen pull out the big hose. Everyone gets to grab on as the hose is turned on and water shoots out into the parking lot.

Repeating the program every year is important to the fire department as it helps to reaffirm basic fundamentals about fire safety that could be beneficial in saving their lives one day.

County Children's Commission Offers Directory of Medical Services

The latest edition of Middlesex County Covers Kids, a directory of children's health care services available throughout Middlesex County for families that have no medical insurance, is now available.

The Middlesex County Children's Commission, which produced the 195 page directory, will be distributing it to non-profit organizations throughout the county, all libraries, mayors and local social service agencies, all school nurses and school-based social workers, all churches and synagogues, all social workers and case workers and all local health departments throughout the County. The information in the directory is available on Middlesex County's Infoline, which is accessible by dialing 211 from any telephone in the county.

"This directory is intended to serve as a guide to help make eligible residents aware of these available services and the best ways to access and take

advantage of them," said Middlesex County Children's Commission Chairperson Mary Varga Crabel, who added that when the Board of Chosen Freeholders created the commission, it took the position that no child in Middlesex County should be denied access to first class medical care.

Crabel said services are available through county and local health departments, schools, area hospitals and

their clinics, homeless shelters, churches, the County Department of Human Services and the Middlesex County Board of Social Services.

Crabel said the creation of the directory helps the County Commission to identify areas of need not currently being served.

For information, or to obtain a Middlesex County Covers Kids directory call (732) 745-3729.

policereport

On Dec. 1 a Cherry St. resident reported that the front and rear windows of their vehicle had been spray painted while parked on Windrew Ave.

A high school student reported that his vehicle had been keyed down the entire passenger side while parked in the parking lot.

On Dec. 2 a Manning Ave. resident reported the theft of his Huffy bike from in front of Ciccio's Pizza.

On Dec. 3 Javier Rodriguez, 28, of South Plainfield was arrested for speeding, no license and three outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

Dearious A. Jenkins, 33, of Newark was arrested for no insurance, un-

registered vehicle, fictitious plates and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

On Dec. 4 Jason R. Moore, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for having a headlight out and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

Augustin Sonson, 39, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

A Lane Ave. resident reported the theft of a reindeer with light from their front lawn.

On Dec. 6 a Fairmount Ave. resident reported that two blow-up Christmas decoration on their lawn had been slashed.

Fifth Annual Holiday Toy Drive

Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County is seeking donations of new unwrapped toys, games, videos, books and other holiday gift items for infants through teens. The toys will be distributed to over 100 needy families in Middlesex County during our Annual Holiday Drive. Donations and gift-wrap can be brought to our offices at 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201 in Edison until Dec. 14.

For information, contact E.J. Berman, Volunteer and Essential Needs Coordinator at 732-777-1940, ext. 122 or e-mail ej.berman@jvs.org.

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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Junior Journalist Corner



Emily Mazellan, Roosevelt School First Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Roosevelt School Principal Charles Ford, Emily Mazellan and her teacher, Michele Santelli.

Emily Mazellan, Roosevelt School first grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. Her poem, "A Pet," has won her 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.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year end banquet.

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

SUBURBAN WOMAN'S CLUB Notes

The South Plainfield Women's Club is getting ready for Christmas by having Cindy Wolk-Weiss discuss "Stress Reduction," an appropriate subject for December. We will welcome any and all advice available to make this a smooth and joyful season.

The ladies will also exchange gifts by way of a grab bag and, if time permits, they may have a "Yankee Swap." Another part of this annual event is the preparation of at least one Christmas basket to be presented to a needy family.

We wish to all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and extend to all interested in this community service club a welcome to join us at our Jan. 5 meeting which will feature a talk entitled "Hypno-Therapy" to be presented by Bob Desch and Roxanne Cortese.

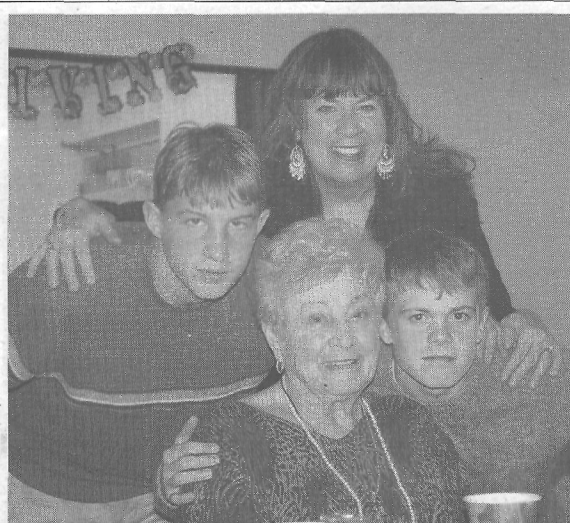
Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning, Publicity Chairman

Support Your Schools While Shopping Online

Did you know that shopping online this holiday season can save you time and benefit your local school? Many of the stores you shop from are available through www.boxtops4education.com, such as Lands End, JCPenney, Oriental Trading, Target, 1-800-Flowers and more.

By logging on to and registering as a supporter of John E. Riley School, the school will receive a percentage of your sale. Anyone can do this, even if you do not have a child at our school!

Riley School is also collecting Tyson strips, Campbell's Soup labels and the boxtops4education coupons found on many products you already use. Save them and drop them off at our school, give them to a student you know, or call us for pick-up at (908) 755-3213 (ask for Marie).



The SPHS Leadership Club served over 100 seniors a Thanksgiving dinner. Below seniors are joined by students doing the "Electric Slide."

Leadership Club Serves Seniors

By Patricia Abbott

Members of the SPHS Leadership Club thrive on helping other, whether it be helping those in need or just providing youthful energy and friendship. Their most recent endeavor was a pre-holiday dinner dance for members of the Senior Citizen Center.

Over 100 guests were served a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. The students served the food, beverages and dessert and cleared the tables while chatting with the seniors. After dinner they enjoyed a

band provided by the South Plainfield Funeral Home. The students encouraged the more reluctant guests to take a whirl around the dance floor. The seniors guided teenagers through older dances then surprised the youths by knowing the Electric Slide and requesting YMCA.

This is the fourth year the club has hosted the dinner dance for the senior citizens. More than 40 students assisted with the event. Advisors for the club are Mary Ellen Martko, Marla Vandemark, Dana Bertram, Angela Raimondo and Kevin Hajduk.



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A Pet
By Emily Mazellan

A pet is an animal that is sweet and kind. They will never leave you far behind. A pet can be big or small, it doesn't matter at all. A pet is here for us to love and mine was sent from up above.

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Welcome Harlee Rose

It's a Girl!

From your big sister Mckenzie!

Harlee Rose Larsen was born on November 8, 11:46 and was 7lb., 20 inches.

Evita Auditions Announced

Open Call Auditions for talented boys and girls, ages eight to 12, Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at NJPAC National Tour of Evita

Auditions will be held at NJPAC's Lucent Technologies Center for Education, 24 Rector Street, in downtown Newark, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., to fill eight children's roles in the National Tour of Evita, to play at NJPAC from Dec. 19-24 for seven performances.

Performers, ages eight to 12, no

taller than 5'2", must be able to sing and stand still for a long period of time. Auditionees must prepare a song from memory that best exemplifies their singing ability (this is a non-Equity audition), and bring sheet music in the chosen key (there will be no transposing at the audition). An accompanist will be provided.

For more information, call Patricia Blair at (973) 642-8989 ext. 3356.

Winner of seven Tony Awards, Evita brings to life the dynamic, larger-than-life persona of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator, Juan Peron. Blessed with charisma, Eva Peron captivated a nation by championing the working class. This exuberant production supervised by the legendary Hal Prince, creates a gripping theatrical experience and features Andrew Lloyd Webber's compelling Latin, pop and jazz influenced score. One of the most popular collaborations between Webber and Tim Rice, this legendary musical features the memorable song "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina." Tickets for the NJPAC performances of Evita are \$20-\$66 and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO-NJPAC (1-888-466-5722), at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark, or online at www.njpac.org.

Please Visit Our Advertisers this Holiday Season!

Middle School "Mixes It Up" For a Day to Promote Unity

By Patricia Abbott

November 15 was National Mix It Up Day at South Plainfield Middle School. Students were presented lessons in tolerance and acceptance throughout the day. They were encouraged to wear mixed up, mismatched clothing. According to the website, "Mix It Up believes in the power of youth to create and sustain real change. We want to provide ideas and tools to help you break the walls of division in your school and community."

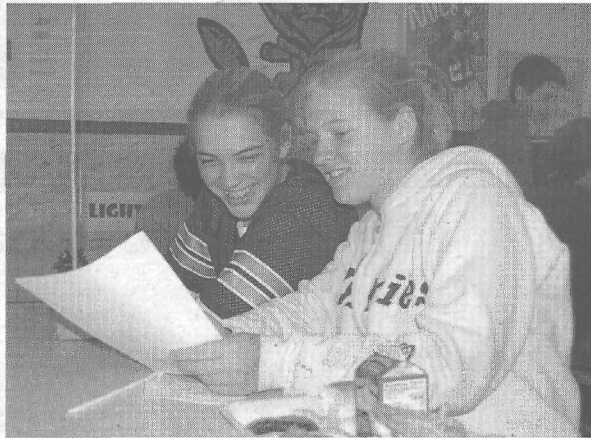
The highlight of the day was the 'mix it up at lunch' program. During homeroom students were given a table number for their lunch period. Middle School faculty tried to ensure there was a diverse group at each table. When the students entered the cafeteria they set out to find their assigned seat instead of heading for their established table and group of friends. The youths had no idea what to expect and the cafeteria was abnormally quiet. Some students found their friends were seated at a table next to them and immediately sat themselves as close as possible. Still others isolated themselves and ate a silent lunch. With encouragement from staff, students began to introduce themselves and chat. Teachers commented that they learned a lot from the students by watching them interact with each other. More than three million teenagers across the country participated in Mix It Up at Lunch Day.



Middle School Assistant Principal Kelly Panuzzo with student Carly Ashnault.

Reactions were mixed. Lauren Keane, grade seven said, "I thought it wasn't too bad. I got to sit with some people that I knew and talked to a few times. I felt like I got to know them a little better and we started to talk to each other a little bit more. I think it was a nice experience, but I wouldn't like to do it every week. I wouldn't mind doing it once a month maybe. I think it was a creative day which I never had before. I would like to have more unique things like this."

Seventh grade student Patrick Landy gave much thought to National Mix It Up Day. He created a list of pros and cons. He said, "Pro: It was fun to see people wear mismatched clothes. It promoted toler-



ance. Con: Almost nobody wore mismatched clothes. Including myself, I counted seven out of all the people I saw. I think it should have been announced more. I did not like sitting at a random table for lunch. I think I have enough friends."

History teacher Barbara McDonough organized the event. Armed with literature from www.mixitup.org she approached Principal Steve Novak in September with the idea for a tolerance lesson for the entire school. She has worked with the NJ Holocaust Foundation and regularly does tolerance lessons with her history classes. She explained, "It is part of the NJ State standards now, which include Holocaust and Genocide. My goal for the day was two-fold: to have the children celebrate their differences and to have them have an open mind, heart, ears and eyes. I honestly believe that if we educate our children about understanding and accepting differences at this age, we can avoid conflicts now and when they are older since they will have a greater understanding about

each other." Her classes participated in a tolerance experiment that involved three teams; pink, blue and green. The class was broken down into small groups with at least one member of each team in every group. The green team was only allowed to speak to other members of their team. Barbara said, "My students really enjoyed the

lesson. They related to the colors, saying that they would never want to be a green and be prejudice. They related the lesson to what is going on in the world. They can see by getting to understand their differences, even at this age, it would help them to understand why some people act the way that they do. They also related it to current events saying it would have been nice if current world leaders had lessons on this when they were younger."

Principal Steve Novak said, "Tolerance day at the middle school was a great success. Students had an opportunity to meet other students during the lunch periods and not just sit with their best friends. Teachers provided lessons throughout the day to teach that all people are unique and different and that we should respect everyone. They learned that we must all work together to make the middle school a better learning environment where there is opportunity to develop lifelong friends." Organizer Barbara McDonough was pleased with the success of the day and hopes to see it become an annual event.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

The tax assessment list for the 2006 tax year will be open for public inspection on Monday, December 19, 2005 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The list can be viewed at the office of the Tax Assessor in the Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

This advertisement complies with the New Jersey Statute 54:4-38.

Gary F. Toth, Tax Assessor

\$20.00

December 9, 2005

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Tam H. Nguyen requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a single family home. Proposed single family home lacks 100' lot width requirement, 77.2' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1503 Mellon Street on Block 182, Lot 4.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 22, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 December 9, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by John R. Bannon requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a mother/daughter, not a permitted use and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1324 Yurgel Drive on Block 528, Lot 3 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 22, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00 December 9, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

November 30, 2005

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on November 29, 2005.

A. Case #04-02- Charles & Carol Downey, Block 403; Lots 6 & 7.02; 326 Hillside Avenue. The applicant's request for minor subdivision approval w/bulk variances and additional voluntary conditions were hereby GRANTED.

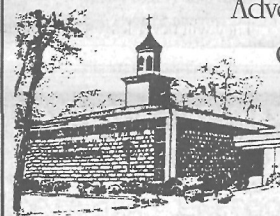
Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$21.00 December 9, 2005

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Advent Worship 10am

Christmas Eve
Candlelight 7:30 &
11:00 pm



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Sports

Wrestling

High School Tigers Are Ready to Rumble

By Bob Hunter

The 2005-2006 wrestling season is finally here and the South Plainfield High School wrestling team will be looking to defend their Group III New Jersey State title when the season opens on Saturday, Dec. 17 with the Morris Knolls Tournament. The Tigers will have a solid team returning which includes nine starters from last year's team. This year the Tigers look to revamp the lineup with the departure of Viet Vo (125), Pete DeAndrea (140), Paul Ritchey (145) and Rob Maistickie (215). This year wrestlers will be wrestling at their proper weights, which will strengthen the

overall line up.

Patrick Hunter, a sophomore, will lead off again this year at 103. Hunter 31-7 last year and a state tournament qualifier will look to improve on last year's success. Well we have some questions to be answered at 112 where we have a three-way battle for the spot. Vying for the spot will be Robert Gentile a junior and Nick Pauls and Rob Hoffman both freshmen.

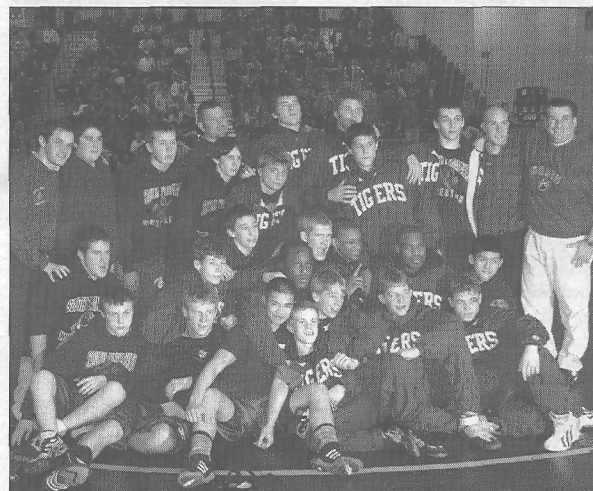
At 119, we are solid with state runner up Jimmy Conroy who will be seeking his fourth New Jersey State tournament medal and his second state title. At 125, we will have some extra help this year, but leading the way will be Billy Ashnault 31-7 last year. He is

a junior and was a state tournament runner-up last year. Ashnault will be looking to make his third trip to the state tournament. Nick Vetusch, a sophomore, was a third place winner at the New Jersey Kids State Tournament Cadet division last year, and will be a solid backup.

Junior Brian Hunt, who saw plenty of varsity action last year, will anchor the 130 spot, but will have freshman Nick Vallone, who had a good summer wrestling, will see some action as a back-up. At 135, junior Mike "the hammer" Jakubik, who wrestled up a couple of weight classes last year to help the team will be back where he belongs and Jake Smithline, a sophomore, may see some varsity action as his back-up.

Junior Nick Dorey will give the Tigers a lift at 140 and he looks to improve on last year's success. At 145, we are solid once again with senior Ed McCary, a state qualifier a year ago who will provide the same excitement he did last year. Junior Sam Martin will be back at his normal weight and will be strong at 152. Sophomore Mark Wagner will also move down a weight and wrestle at 160, providing the extra punch needed at a critical spot in the lineup.

At the 171 spot there is a three-way battle with Bryan Draper, a junior,



The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team last year after winning the state title.

Brad Martin a sophomore and freshmen Jonathan Conroy, all vying for the spot.

We are strong at 189, with senior Kevin Crilley, another state qualifier last year and a major force behind last year's success, looking for another trip to the state tournament. Preston Johnston, a junior who wrestled heavyweight last year, will see plenty of action at 215, but may also be called

upon to help out at heavyweight. Rocco Petriello, a sophomore, will see plenty of action this year at heavyweight (275). Also keep an eye out for Danny Pompillio, who will see plenty action filling in at the 145 and 152 weight classes when needed.

The JV also looks strong and might even have a full squad. That's a first! Good luck to all the wrestlers and coaches.

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Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

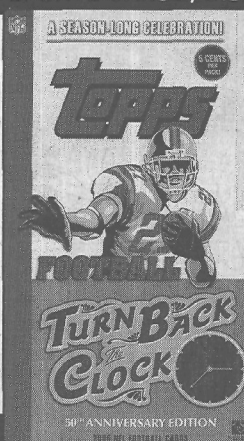
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The Middle School wrestling team won two of three matches on Saturday in a quad match held at Delaware Valley, which opened the New Jersey Grade School League season.

In the opening match the Tigers faced Randolph and won 43-39. Getting big pins for the team were Rich Szeliga, Nick Heilmann, Corey Hay, Mike Wagner and Billy Whitefleet. Robert Sacks, heavyweigh, had the match in his hands and came through with a big 2-0 decision victory to seal the team win. Randy Jakubik also had a big win in the 90 pound match, winning by decision 6-3.

In the Rahway match, the Tigers came out roaring and cruised to a 72-12 victory. Winning by fall were Rich Szeliga, Nick Heilmann, Ryan Sacco, Kyle Hughes, John Wylam, Mike

Wagner, Patrick Millard, Freddy Reichet, Billy Whitefleet and Robert Sacks. Corey Hay and Randy Jakubik also won by decisions.

After two big wins the Tigers were shocked by Del Val, dropping a 45 to 38 decision to the Terriers. It was a

back and forth match, but in the end the Tigers did not win the close ones needed to secure victory. Nick Heilmann, Ryan Sacco, John Wylam, Mike Wagner and Freddy Reichert had big pins to keep the Tigers in the match.

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Sports

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

Lady Tigers Place 13th in 29 Team Field

The girls bowling team fired games of 731-738 and 775, for a 2,244 series and a respectable 13th place finish in the Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic, which included teams from throughout the state.

The Tigers turned in a solid team performance led by Beverly Jamieson 167-161-202—530 set. Other scorers were Angelique Rualo 155-162-164—481, Katie Yon 148-165-144—457 and Freshman Jackie Kukruch 147-155-151—453. Toms River East placed first followed by highly competitive Carteret, Brick Township, Brick Memorial and Woodbridge.

Tigers Place 37th in 51 Team Field

The boys bowling team bowled a solid 928 right from the start, but inexperience held them from keeping up the pace needed to remain in the top ten. The Tigers followed the first game with 789 and 816, for a slumping 2,533 total.

Sophomore Ryan Pauls took scoring honors as he fired games of 222-161 and 169 and a 552 set. Vin Genova added 180-185 and 503 set. Freshman Mike Dandula chipped in with a game of 200 and 192.

Tiger Bowlers Edged by Pre-Season Favorite Colonia

South Plainfield	930	832	812	2564
Colonia	922	848	989	2759

The boys bowling team threw a scare into top ranked Colonia winning the first game before dropping a close second game. The Patriots found their groove in the deciding third game and the upset bid by the Tigers was foiled.

Senior Vin Genova bowled 201-199 and 557 set, with teammates Mike Dandula 201-524 set and Chris Esposito a solid 524 close behind. Chipping in were Ryan Pauls 197-502 set and Brett Morris with a 189 game.

Lady Tigers Shock Colonia Before Falling

South Plainfield	691	777	659	2127
Colonia	816	757	748	2321

Beverly Jamieson 531 set, on games of 175-191-165, spearheaded the girls bowling team, who got out to a slow start in the seasons' opener of the GMC. A solid second game effort put the upset bug in the minds of the young Tigers. However, Colonia's senior lady's team coasted to a third game advantage and the win. Other scorers for SPHS were Lindsey Hemsicker 165-428, Angelique Rualo 403 set, Jackie Kukruch 401 set and Lyndsey Murtagh with a 149 game.



2005 LBI Presidential Cup Open Champions

Stone Harbor, Harbor Pines and Sea Oaks were the host for the grueling two-day 63-hole President's Cup event. The champions squeezed out a 46 1/4 - 34 1/4 victory as they successfully defended the cup. Pictured left to right are Robert Pelligrino, Jack Kudrick, Bob Besser, Bill Schulte, Mike Sikanowicz, Frank Cirigliano, Joe Sosnak, Len Padula and Ralph Fech. Missing from photo due to pressing commitments are Charlie Woodhull, Tom Casavant and Bill Lane.

Red Cross Toy Drive

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter is requesting donations of new children's clothing or new unwrapped toys to support local families in need during this holiday season. The new toys and clothing can be dropped off at the Red Cross office in Plainfield, 332 W. Front St. All donated items must be dropped off by Monday, Dec. 19. If any groups or individuals are interested in doing a collection of items for the holidays and they are seeking an organization to distribute them, please give us a call at (908) 756-6414 ext. 21.

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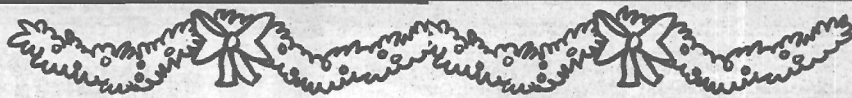
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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

To the Editor:

Recently there were a number of editorials in national newspapers concerning the dismal state of public education in the U.S.

Americans have heard a fair amount about the fact that their children lag behind the children of Britain, France, Germany, Japan, or the Czech Republic. Worst of all, they fall further and further behind their peers abroad the longer they stay in school.

American educators typically respond with yawns and a series of myths. One of the common myths: that America's elite children compare favorably with those abroad. This is simply not true. The most recent international data comparing students in the top five percent (in terms of achievement) ranks the United States 23rd out of 29.

Any meaningful educational reforms in the words of *New York Times* editorial "will require better teacher training and higher teacher qualifications. That in turn means cracking the whip on teachers' colleges, which basically ignore calls for improved standards."

In 1997, a correlation was made between students' SAT scores and their intended vocations. The average combined verbal and math score for all students was 1016. The SAT score for those who intended to become teachers was 964. The teacher hopefuls ranked fourth from the bottom of some twenty intended vocations, only surpassing such categories as "home economics" and "vocational training." The would-be teachers' score is not high enough to gain admission to most middle-rung liberal art colleges and the most startling fact is that the hopeful educators scored some 200 points below those who expect to train in math and science. The typical college-bound senior has 50 points more on their SATs than did their high school teacher at the same period of life.

To train as a public school teacher in America, one does not attend a liberal arts college and major in science or literature or history, then go on to teach. Instead, most would-be teachers take a four-year training course at an undergraduate level in one of the 1,200 schools and departments of education.

A candid and rather shocking view

of the academic caliber of education students comes from a retired faculty member of SUNY, who taught English education trainees for 35 years: "Over time, I saw a steady decline in the quality of these future teachers. Many had writing skills that ranged from depressing to horrifying, especially when we remember that these same people eventually went on to teach writing to high school students." The would-be English teachers in her class complained that *Moby Dick* was "too long and boring" to read and that *Slaughterhouse Five* was too hard to understand. Concludes the retiree: "The poor quality of teachers is the prime reason that our public schools are in such poor shape."

The teaching community may not be scholarly, but they are wise in the ways of public relations. They know that the community admires advanced training, an understanding that has sent teachers back to school en masse to obtain master's degrees. In one recent year, some 106,000 master's degrees were awarded to teachers both for prestige and an automatic pay raise. But it should be remembered that these are mainly not advanced degrees in fields such as English or bi-

ology, but only in the "art and science" of teaching.

A survey of 481 master's degrees in education—including several in Harvard and Columbia—showed that the average graduate student took 26 credits in still more education courses and only nine in the liberal arts.

At its annual meeting this past July, the most biased teachers union in America, the National Education Association, announced a sweeping range of political goals, including support of a nationwide boycott of Wal-Mart and a vow to fight any privatization of any government programs. Of the 70 resolutions passed at the meeting, the first 14 had nothing to do with educating children! The New Jersey Education Association is an affiliate of the National Education Association.

It is obvious from the above why American students lag so seriously in math and science skills and are abject failures in international competitions, including the sorry spectacle of "advanced placement" students, finishing 23rd out of 29 among international competitors.

BOGDAN FRYSCZYŃ

Kiwanis Club Volunteers Give Time and Money

The 3,088 volunteers from the 110 Kiwanis Clubs across the State of New Jersey donated over \$611,803, volunteered over 72,773 hours and completed over 1,620 hands-on service projects during the 2004-2005 administrative year. This data began being collected electronically in Oct. 1, 2002.

New Jersey Kiwanians have donated over \$1,848,633, volunteered over 194,376 hours, and completed over 4,876 hands-on service projects.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. More than 600,000 Kiwanis-family members in 94 countries make their mark by responding to the needs of their communities and pooling their resources to address worldwide issues.

For information on Kiwanis International, visit www.kiwanis.org or call (317) 875-8755. The New Jersey District is a group of Kiwanis Clubs within the State of New Jersey; for information visit www.njkiwanis.org or call (888) 510-7615.

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Historical Society Finds Home

(Continued from page 1)

became available, Dr. Robert Rosado, School Superintendant, contacted the group. The Roosevelt room is only temporary until the new public library facility on Plainfield Ave. is completed. At that time the Historical Society will move to its permanent headquarters, probably in two years time.

The Historical Society will continue to meet at the South Plainfield Senior Center the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is Dec. 13. Everyone is invited to attend and share their thoughts on future programming, projects and other issues. Membership for 2006 is \$10 for an individual; \$15 for a family.

The Historical Society may be reached at: (e-mail) sphistorical@cs.com or log on to: <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalociety> for news, updates, photos and programming scheduling.

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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Okay, you've spent a good part of the day maxing out your credit card and trudging through the mall in search of gifts and holiday supplies. All you want to do now is sit down and relax. Well, feel free to do so. All we ask is that you also take a moment to read about news from the South Plainfield Library.

We'll start off with our children's programs. Our Storytime programs for children ages three and over will be held this week on Tuesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's", appropriately enough for children ages two and three, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday evening at 6:30. And the "Books-N-Babies" program for children up to age three is set for Friday morning at 10:30. You don't need to register for these programs. However, our usual Wednesday evening Storytime program has been preempted in favor of our Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. Kurt, long a favorite with our patrons. That program starts at 6:30 and is meant for children up to age seven. We ask that you pre-register for this performance. For more information, please call us and ask for Miss Linda.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend and get the latest information on the library's present and future plans.

The December group of Circuit Videos and DVDs is now available. This month's titles include *We Were Soldiers*, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *The Human Stain*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, the MST3K title *I Accuse My Parents* and *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*. Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. This group will be available until Dec. 23.

Once again, the library is participating in the "Books to Keep" program, an outreach project of the Libraries of Middlesex and the Middlesex County College Library. This program collects new children's books, both hardcover and paperback, for distribution to needy kids during the Holiday season. You may also make a monetary donation towards the program's costs. The book collection box and donation envelopes are located at the Circulation Desk. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 15.

On the subject of donations, here's a brief note: we at the library appreciate it when people donate items to us (books, tapes, etc.). All we ask is that you leave a note with them so that we know they are, indeed, donated items. Sometimes, people mistakenly leave their own books with us, and we don't want to catalogue or sell anything that isn't intended to be. You don't have to leave your name, if you'd rather stay anonymous, but we would like some kind of indication.

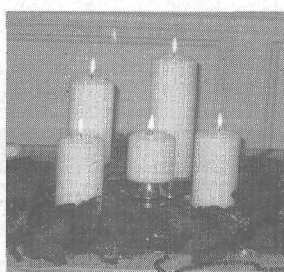
Finally, it's still technically autumn outside, but winter is on the way. There is a good possibility that we may have to close for part or all of a day due to the weather. If this occurs, we're going to make sure you know about it. We've arranged to have weather-related closings announced over radio stations WCTC (1450AM), WAWZ (99.1FM) and NJ101.5. Also, we'll take weather-closings into account when dealing with overdue and reserved items. We hope this will allow you to rest assured and, once the shoveling is done, enjoy the snow day. (We certainly will be.)

That's about all for now. If you'd like more information, feel free to call us at (908) 754-7885, or visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Now get some rest; you'll need it for tomorrow's shoveling.

McCriskin Hosts Holiday Bereavement Seminar

This past Sunday the McCriskin Home for Funerals held their third Grief Seminar entitled "Coping with Grief During the Holidays." The seminar was held at the South Plainfield American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. and despite the inclement weather, the seminar was not only a success, but helpful to all who attended. Nearly 70 people attended the seminar. Food and beverages were served throughout the day.

This was the third Grief Seminar which McCriskin Home for Funerals held and all three have been a great deal of help to the families and individuals who have a difficult time dealing with the issue of losing a loved one. Regardless if the loss occurred last



Five candles were lit representing the five stages of bereavement.

week, last month, last year, or many years ago, everyone reacts to losing a loved in their own personal way. Everyone heals in their own personal way

and that is the purpose behind the seminar - to give those who have lost a loved one, an opportunity to make that initial step in the healing process. Rick McCriskin, who has organized the event for the past three years, explained that the seminar is just an additional service that our staff at the funeral home can provide.

The seminar was sponsored by McCriskin. The guest speaker was Jessie Flynn, a certified grief specialist who specializes with the issue of loss. She runs the Center

For Living in Metuchen. For more information regarding issues with grief counseling and the issues of loss you may contact the funeral home at (908) 561-8000.

Bar Foundation Sponsoring Student Essay Contest

The Middlesex County Bar Foundation has announced that entries are being sought for the seventh annual Project Law student essay contest.

Project Law 2006 is open to sophomore, junior and senior high school students in 23 public high schools and one special needs high school in Middlesex County. Students must register for Project Law by Friday, Dec. 16. Deadline for submission is Friday, March 3, 2006. Contest information packets have been distributed to all high school principals, guidance departments, history, social studies and

English teachers and law-related club advisors.

Essay will be judged by an independent team of professional educators. Awards will be presented at a formal dinner on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 with presentations made by judges of the Middlesex County court. Grand winners in each category will receive a laptop computer and each first place winner will receive a desktop computer.

Information on Project Law 2006 may be obtained from the Guidance Offices at all Middlesex County high schools or by calling the Middlesex

County Bar Foundation office at (732) 828-3433 ext. 101.

For information contact Rich Reitman (908) 526-1390 or (908) 400-6061.

Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$25.00. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

Obituaries

Carmen D. Garzillo, 92

Carmen D. Garzillo died on Wednesday, Nov. 30 in Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, he resided in South Plainfield since 1943.

Carmen was employed by Mack Truck, formerly of Plainfield, as a machinist/welder for 25 years. Before retiring, he worked for Chelsea Fan also formerly of Plainfield as a welder for 10 years.

In his youth, Carmen was an avid bowler and golfer.

His first wife, Rose Chicarelli, died in 1969.

Surviving is his wife, Stella. A. Garzillo; three daughters and sons-in-law, Betty Lou and Walter Fregans of Yardville, Joann and Robert Rocco, Vickie and Paul Cooper, both of South Plainfield; a son and daughter-in-law, Patrick and Delores Garzillo of Barneget; a sister, Mary Jaeger of North Carolina and two brothers, Alex Garzillo of Toms River and Frank

DiGiovanni of South Plainfield. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Charles, Scott, Jonathan, Brandon, Meredith, and Mallory and six great grandchildren, Charlie Marie, Mary, Kasey, Paige, Nicholas and Grant.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St. Fords, N.J. 08818 would be appreciated.

and Marshall.

Surviving are her daughter Rosemarie Jeavettorea of South Plainfield; two sisters, Connie Pisaniello and Sally Del Negro, both of South Plainfield and several nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, great-great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, New Jersey, 08902.

Louise Jeavettorea

Louise Jeavettorea died on Tuesday, Dec. 6 in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New York City, Louise lived in South Plainfield for the past 83 years.

A member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, Mrs. Jeavettorea worked as a dressmaker for more than 20 years. She also enjoyed working in her flower garden.

She is pre-deceased by her husband, Anthony, who died in 1985 and by four brothers, Peter, Joseph, Lawrence,

John Viola, 85

John Viola, of South Plainfield, a WWII Veteran, died on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at his home.

Born in Plainfield, John resided in South Plainfield for the past 23 years.

Mr. Viola served an enlistment with the U.S. Army during WWII. He was stationed in Iceland, Germany, England and Ireland.

John worked in the electrical sign designing business for 33 years and then was employed at Muhlenburg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for

thirty four years.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield, Senior Center of South Plainfield, Tri-County Traveling Seniors, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and a member of the Friends of the South Plainfield Library.

He is predeceased by his first wife of 35 years, Josephine Battista.

He is survived by his present wife, Filomena Cusanelli Viola; a brother, Louis Viola; a step sister, Gerry Cacciato and husband Orlando; three children, Rosemarie Bonacker and her husband Vincent, John Viola and his wife Elaine and Carol Beck and her partner Dino; four step-children, Donna Egan and her husband Thomas, Dominic Cusanelli and his wife Diana, Marie Cusanelli and her husband Steven Thoman and Michael Cusanelli and his wife Alice and fourteen grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Mr. Viola to the Deborah Heart and Lung Center, 200 Trenton Rd., Brown Mills, NJ 08015 or to a charity of your choice.

Hillside Cemetery

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www.hillsidecemetery.com



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With the passing of another year, we reflect on the events that changed our lives—some of them good, but for some, there have been better years. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward—a promise of better years to come. Whatever last year brought you, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you for a healthy and happy new year.

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