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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 16

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 23, 2005

A Happy and Joyful Holiday to You and Yours!



It was a busy weekend of holiday activities in South Plainfield. On Saturday Santa Claus visited the Senior Center. Children had the opportunity to convey their Christmas dreams. They had their photos taken with the jolly old man and each child received a gift.

On Sunday the Recreation Department and Senior Center combined their events. The festivities began with over 130 senior citizens enjoying a holiday meal at the Senior Center. Many then took the short walk to Spring Lake Park to participate in the caroling. The high school traveling choir and band members were on hand to perform. Despite the cold, there was a nice crowd for the sing-a-long.

The highlight of the afternoon was Santa's arrival via fire truck. South Plainfield's official Santa (aka Ed Kubala) greeted the crowd and handed out candy canes. Carolers warmed up and enjoyed refreshments at the Senior Center at the end of the afternoon.

484 Age Restricted Units Proposed to Planning Board

By Libby Barsky

Plans which have been underway since 2003 to build a new private 484 unit age-restricted development on 27 acres formerly occupied by Tingley Rubber, were unveiled at last week's Planning Board meeting. The plans include building 11 two-story buildings, with 44 units where one member of the household must be 55 and no one younger than 19. Seventeen acres would be used for buildings and parking lots and 10 acres would be devoted to vegetation. Plans also

call for a 16,000 sq. ft. clubhouse that would include studios, spas and a business center.

The applicant is also seeking two bulk variances, a setback of 37.23 ft. instead of 50 ft. from a Texas Eastern Transmission gas line on the property and four signs instead of one for the site.

"There is a need for private senior citizen housing in South Plainfield," noted State Senator Bob Smith, attorney for developer Jack Morris. Smith estimated the development would add \$3M in revenue to South Plainfield adding, "With no school age children there will be little demand for services."

Frank Mikorski challenged Smith on the need for 484 senior units. According to Mikorski, the borough had the opportunity to put in an additional 100 units of senior housing

on Morris Ave. adjacent to the current senior citizen building and turned it down. Mayor Dan Gallagher defended rejecting the Bitonti Development proposal saying that with a school and a T intersection, the Morris Ave. site couldn't take the expansion. "It was never a question of the need for senior housing," Gallagher added.

Mikorski also challenged the manner in which the planning board had changed the zoning ordinance. In 2003 with the board's endorsement, the mayor and council amended the zoning ordinance by voting to rezone a portion of industrial area for age restricted housing. "Look at the long term implications. It's creating spot zoning and it sets a precedent that will be used by others to seek to build housing on industrial property," said Mikorski.

Walter Pasaquita, chairman of

the Men's Senior Forum, also questioned converting the ordinance to residential from industrial saying the additional 484 units would result in increased traffic and noise. He recalled the fire at JSM's Traditions and asked if the 24 ft. streets would be wide enough for emergency fire equipment. Resi-

dent Jake Cataldo questioned if the water pressure for fire hydrants and water sprinklers would be adequate to fight fires.

Time ran out before the experts on noise, the planner and architect were able to address these questions. The next hearing will be held Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Resident Busted After Selling Drugs to Undercover Agent

Pitt St. resident Dante Rice, 32, was arrested last Wednesday on Stockton St. in Perth Amboy after selling two pounds of cocaine to an undercover federal drug enforcement agent.

The South Plainfield Police were originally tipped off about Rice, but

contacted the DEA when his dealings took them out of the county's jurisdiction.

Police also found another six ounces of cocaine in his home, along with drug paraphernalia and \$1,000 in cash. They also seized the 2005 GMC Yukon that Rice was driving.

CORRECTION

Last week's headline, "SPEA Telethon Raises \$15,000," should have read "South Plainfield Education Foundation..." We apologize for the error.

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, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641 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.-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 Plan Sub-Committee

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

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

Environmental Commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
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.
Jan. 23, Feb. and March 20.

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South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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To the Editor,

I would like to recognize Hometown Heroes for showing outstanding quality in customer satisfaction.

From the moment we placed our first order, I found that they demonstrated their focus on the best interest of their customers. They strive to provide the best quality and service possible. Charlie, Deb and the rest of the staff are all extremely conscientious, pleasant to deal with, highly responsive and perform at a high level of skill and professionalism. They all go the extra mile for their customers.

It is businesses like Hometown Heroes that every business should take a lesson from, a business proud of their name and the hard work of its employees.

Thank you and much success in the future.

SINCERELY,
KIM VOORHEES

To the Editor,

Now that the 2005 Pop Warner Football season is officially over, I would like to take a moment to thank some local businesses that helped us out this year. Contributing to our Tiger Drive were Auto Salvage, Curves and the American Legion. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

Also a special thank you goes out to Frank Rainear and Tamara Hawbaker of the South Plainfield Funeral Home. They graciously donated the monies to pay for our "end of year" party for the Kelly, Mitey Mite and Jr. Pee Wee teams. They also supplied 18 engraved medals which they awarded to our 2005 Pop Warner All American Scholars for their academic and athletic achievements.

Congratulations to Zoya Hodge, Gerianne Scarpitto, Kimberly Walsh, Alexis Cargill, Jamie Glavashich, Brigitte Kelly, Michelle O'Sullivan, Kathleen Vincent, Patrick Boyle, Kyle Brady, Tyler Calderone, Joshua Coupe, Troy Heilmann, Johnny Di Dolce, Cory Stasenko, Steven Vincent, Stephen Petriello and Anthony Spallieri.

It is nice to live in a town where the local businesses support the children of their community.

THANKS,
TIGER DRIVE COMMITTEE

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their generous support of the South Plainfield Education Foundation. This year's telephone has received \$15,000 so far in pledges from the parents of students in South Plainfield. The Foundation truly appreciates every donation. When you receive your pledge card in the mail, you may designate the areas where you would like to see your pledge distributed.

We lost one day of calling due to outside problems with the power at the high school. We were scheduled to fill that night with Dec 15; however, this time the weather did not cooperate. We may choose another night the first week in January. However, if we cannot get another night, we will finish by mailing a letter to each parent.

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Corporate Accounts Welcome

IN YOUR OPINION

We are also mailing pledge cards and letters to the rest of the residents of South Plainfield.

We are very proud of our students in South Plainfield. We are so grateful to all the students that have participated. We would like to send a special thank you to Gina Severini and Charlie Decker for all their help in getting so many student volunteers.

We would also like to thank High School Assistant Principal Ralph Errico for coordinating the students and paperwork for us. Thank you also to Russ Mattoon for providing the phone set up in the library. And I would also like to thank our Foundation members for helping each night. I know there are a lot of people to thank, but I would be remiss if I didn't thank Ciccio's pizza for helping us with pizza each night and Marriott services for supplying the soda and paper products.

I believe Emil Leporino would be proud of how far we have come over the years.

Again, we are grateful to all who have helped in the telephone and to the residents for all their contributions. If you want further information on the Education Foundation, you can visit our website at www.vision2001.com or you can log on through the South Plainfield School system link.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT
- SOUTH PLAINFIELD EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield High School Fall Sports Awards were held on Wednesday, Dec. 14. It was great to see all team members in attendance remain until the end of the awards in support of each other. I would like to thank Carol Ullom and Connie Besser for helping me setup for refreshments.

Rich D'Urso, thank you so much for printing the raffle tickets in support of the fifth grade Grant Stokes trip for 2007. I truly appreciate all of your help and the Graphic Arts Club at the high school. It is wonderful that employees of the school system are willing to lend a helping hand to each other.

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: spsobserver@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.

Frank Ferraro of the South Plainfield Italian American Club, the high school girl's soccer teams extend their thanks to you for hosting their dinner.

Stephanie Walsh, chairperson of the Grant School fifth grade cookie dough fundraiser, your sales were super. Thank you for all your hard work and to all those who volunteered your time helping Stephanie.

Cathy Pittenger, thank you so much for all of your donated time helping Debby DeDolci with the Yankee candle packing.

Genevieve Zipp, chairperson for the Grant School holiday boutique, had a sell-out day the first day of the boutique and she and her volunteers had to replenish the boutique items that evening for the next day. Thank you for all of your hard work and to all those who volunteered their time.

The South Plainfield High School Girls Basketball Freshman, JV and Varsity teams enjoyed a pasta dinner at our home on Thursday, Dec. 15 including the coaches. It is great to see the support you show each other! Good luck this season. Debbie Czech made the best salad! Thanks to everyone for the various desserts.

Reminder: Grant School Family Movie Day will be Monday, Dec. 26 at 9:45 a.m. at the Dunellen Theater. \$9 per person.

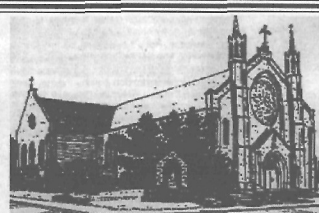
Also, thank you to Gail Butrico for running the 50/50 to benefit the fifth grade Stokes committee at the Fall Music Festival. Great job.

DEBBIE BOYLE, BOOSTER CLUB
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Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

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Residents Fill Borough Hall to Oppose Sampton Avenue Development

By Libby Barsky

On Dec. 13, the Planning Board granted Northeast Developers final major subdivision approval to build 11 single family homes in a cul de sac off Sampton Ave.

Approximately 75 to 100 residents whose homes are off Sampton Ave. attended the hearing to express their concern that, if built, the new homes would increase runoff and flooding on their property. Many of those present did not attend the preliminary hearings held in October, where all of the experts testified. Since they did not live within 200 feet of the development, they were not notified. They found out through word of mouth and flyers that the Board would be giving the subdivision a final approval vote.

According to Board Attorney Chris Nelson, the time to ask questions and object was during the preliminary hearings. Unless someone could prove the testimony at the preliminary hearings was false, they could not vote against it.

"We have serious flooding problems," said Ron Hepburn of 101 Borman Rd. "Sampton typically floods from New Market and South Clinton to Sampton and Borman Rd."

Robert Russo, borough engineer explained that the engineering plans for the project include a detention basin covering an entire lot and underground pipes. Run off water would be collected in the detention basin and from there the water would be metered into the storm water sewer system.

Anthony Cottone, who has lived on Fred Allen Dr. for 40 years, asked what would happen if the sewer storm system was overwhelmed and there was no place for the water to go if the borough experienced a 500 year storm.

Chairman Bob Ackerman said that the builder had to conform to New Jersey Department of Environment

standards for a 100 year storm. "We (the Planning Board) are not allowed to impose those standards (to withstand a 500 year storm)," explained Ackerman.

Earlier Ackerman told the residents who objected to the plans, that if the Board denied the Northeast Developers final subdivision approval, the borough would be sued. "It would put us in court and I'm not going to put us in a courtroom to waste money. Ackerman also noted that if the case went to court and the judge found in favor of the developer then any conditions for improvements to the subdivision that the Board asked for would not have to be completed by the developer.

Mark Lahey spoke about the difficulty he had in having a tree with a two foot diameter trunk removed by county personnel when it landed in a stream near his home, backing up water run off for two years. Lahey asked if provisions were made so the detention basin could be cleared of debris so water wouldn't back up.

Construction/zoning officer John Pabst suggested that the applicants proposed detention basin be dedicated to a Homeowners Association. If the basin had to be cleared of refuse or trees then the Homeowner's Association would be responsible to clear it and if they didn't then the borough could come in and assess the Homeowners Association for the cost of clearing the basin.

Pabst's recommendation was made a condition for approval of the subdivision. Another condition was to enlarge the detention basin.

The Board also imposed a developer fee of 1% of the total amount of sales of the homes, which will be placed into a fund to be used for borough affordable housing.



A new Grant School sign, donated by the Grant School PTO 2003-2004, was recently installed in front of the school. Charlie Garcia, Sr., from Iron and Metal Work, his son-in-law Ernie, as well as Mike and his son from Downes and Downes Construction and Masonry, hand dug the hole and built the box form. Principal Leo Whalen arranged for the utilities and borough inspections. The Boyle Memorial Foundation and the 2005 PTO donated the cement.

Red Cross Offers Emergency Preparedness Presentations

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross (TCC-ARC) will provide lifesaving information and tips to local community groups and organizations so residents can prepare themselves and their homes for the upcoming winter season and in case of an emergency.

While the American Red Cross is the nation's premier emergency response organization, it also recognizes the importance of being prepared. Through presentations and educational material, the 850 chapters nationwide continually provide the American people with the necessary tools to be prepared for emergencies at home, work and school.

To help the residents in Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties get prepared at home, a representative from the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will come to your organization or business and provide a

45 minute presentation on winterizing your home and preparing for emergencies. Some of the topics covered in this presentation are the items necessary for every home emergency kit and tips for winterizing your house, including suggestions for saving your electronic equipment and computer files in case of a power outage.

To request a presentation on win-

terizing your home and preparing for emergencies from the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross, please call Gina Lewis at the Plainfield office at (908) 756-6414 ext. 23.

The Tri-County Chapter was established in 1917 and serves residents in 22 towns in Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties.

For more information, visit the website at www.tricountyredcross.org.

Recycling Ctr. Holiday Hours

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24, noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28. The center will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 3, and open noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

The Yard Waste Site, at the end of Kenneth Ave., will be open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday through Saturday to the end of the year, for Christmas tree collection. Remove all ornaments and bases.

Regular recycling drop-off center hours are noon-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular Yard Waste hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays. 2006 Yard Waste decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring your vehicle registration. For updates, call (908) 226-7620.

Last Chance for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Looking for a last minute stocking stuffer or holiday family treat? A limited number of tickets to the Middlesex County Plays in the Park production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat are available.

Tickets are \$6 and seating is reserved. Shows are performed at the state Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick. Show times are 7 p.m. Dec. 28, 29 and 30. There is also a 3 p.m. performance Dec. 30. The Dec. 29 show is sign language interpreted.

Tickets are available at the State Theatre box office or by calling (732) 246-7469. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays. The box office is closed Sundays. You may visit the State Theatre website at statetheatrenj.org.

It's Back!

The South Plainfield Recreation Department has announced the return of men's softball. An Unlimited Arc men's open slow pitch league will start on April 24. Games will be played on Monday nights.

Registration runs from Jan. 3 to March 31. First eight teams will make up the league.

Contact the Recreation Department for details and registration forms (908) 226-7713.

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Around Town

VFW Breakfast

January 8

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front St. will be holding their monthly breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 8 from 8 to 11 a.m. Proceeds benefit the VA Hospital at Lyons. The public is invited.

For additional information, call (908) 668-9751.

Practical Crafting at Returning to Library

January 9

There will be a "Practical Crafting" program on Monday, Jan. 9, at South Plainfield Library.

Instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead students in making Canned Bracelets using polymer clay. Completed bracelets will be collected at the end of the class for firing and glazing. Students may pick up finished projects at the library after Friday, Jan. 13.

There will be two class sessions, at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. There is a materials charge of \$2, payable upon registration.

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

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.

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
Merry Christmas Happy Holiday To All!				
UPCOMING EVENTS			Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available 23
26 CENTER CLOSED Merry Christmas!!	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available	27 Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm	28 Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	29 BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available 30

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

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.

Conquer Clutter Program at Library

January 23

The library will host the program "Conquer Clutter and Chaos for Good" on Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.

The program host is professional organizer and HGTV host Jamie Novak, making a return appearance at the Library. She will give tips on how to start off the new year by dealing with excess clutter and better organizing your home. She will also

answer questions from the audience, and will be available to sign copies of her book, *1,001 Quick and Easy Organizing Secrets*. The program is presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required. In case of inclement weather, snow date is Monday, Jan. 30.

For more information, call the library at (908) 754-7885, or visit the website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You may also visit Ms. Novak's website at www.jamienovak.com.

AARP Defensive Driving Course

February 8-9

The AARP Defensive Drivers Course will be offered Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Plainfield Se-

nior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Cost is \$10, open to all legally licensed drivers.

This course will also be given at Muhlenberg Hospital on two Saturdays, Feb. 11 and 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You must attend both sessions.

These courses involve discussion only. No driving test is given. You may earn a three-year discount on your auto insurance policy. You may remove two points off your license. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764 for further information and registration.

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 at the PAL. There are only 43 tickets available, purchase yours today.

Got an event to share?

Send it to spobservers@comcast.net

Red Cross Offers CPR Courses

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering the following CPR courses:

- Adult CPR, Child CPR, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course will be held at the American Red Cross office at 16 Jefferson Ave. in Elizabeth. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

- Adult CPR, AED and Standard First Aid will be held on Monday, Jan. 9, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course will be held at the American Red Cross office in Elizabeth. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer will be held on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course will be held at the American Red Cross office at 332 West Front St. in Plainfield.

Adult CPR, Child CPR, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course will be held at the American Red Cross office in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course will be held at the American Red Cross office in Elizabeth.

Call (908) 756-6414, ext. 10 to register or for more information.

— Out of Town —

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.

Sierra Singles 50+ Meet and Greet

January 22

The Sierra Singles 50+ will hold a meet and greet in the bar area at the Black Forest Inn in North, Stanhope on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2:30 p.m.

RSVP required by Jan. 22 noon to MistyAngel22@aol.com or (973) 364-7573 push option #6.

Starlight' Singles

January 25

The Starlight Socials Single Professionals 30+ will sponsor an evening of dinner and dancing on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Robertos Ristorante in Rochelle Park.

Cost of \$25.95 includes full buffet dinner, elegant dining, American/Italian Continental cuisine, gourmet desserts, soda, coffee/tea, tax, tips, dancing and entrance fee to Singles Mingle. Professional attire. Walk-ins are welcomed, but RSVPs strongly recommended. RSVP requested by Jan. 25 noon to insure seating to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or call (732) 764-9073.

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 will be held 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 Unger at (732) 968-5381 night and weekends.

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Bizups Selling Christmas Trees Since 1978



Chris Bizup, 17 and Mom, Jean Bizup.

By Patricia Abbott

The weeks prior to Christmas are a busy time for the Bizup family. The South Plainfield residents run two Christmas tree lots. The family has been selling trees in town since 1978. The first lot was located on Oak Tree Rd. Wayne Bizup sold 200 Scotch Pine trees that year. Today they have a lot on the corner of Carmine and New Market avenues and another on Rt. 206 South in Hillsborough. They sell approximately 1,500 trees total at both locations. Many years the lots are sold out days before Christmas. Scotch Pine trees that were the foundation of the business have been replaced by Douglas fir, Fraser fir, Concolor fir, Balsam fir and Grand fir.

The South Plainfield lot has one steady employee, but there is never a shortage of help. Sons Chris, 17 and Matthew, 21 have been working at the farm and on the lots from the time that they were young. Friends and family also lend a hand. Their customers return year after year. "Some people even bring us pictures of their decorated trees," says Jean Bizup. Tree prices range from a small tabletop tree for \$25 to 16 ft. trees for \$200. Most big trees are sold at the Hillsborough location and range from \$36 to \$50. They opened this year on Nov. 30 and offer a wide assortment of wreaths, grave blankets and white pine garland. They hold an annual drawing and give away 10 free trees each year.

The tree business began as a hobby. Many years ago Wayne's parents, Mike and Lil, bought 22 acres of land in Benton, Pa. and built a cabin as a weekend getaway for the family. They planted some Scotch Pine Christmas trees and Wayne spent his younger years helping care for the trees. Wayne and his wife Jean bought a 30-acre parcel of land, and Bizup Tree Farm was born. They begin cutting trees on Thanksgiving weekend and Wayne heads to Pennsylvania each week to bring back a fresh supply of trees.

Growing Christmas trees is a year round job. A tree takes approximately 7-10 years to grow. In the summer trees have to be basal pruned, trimmed and fertilized. Each spring new trees are planted.

The Bizups belong to the National Christmas Tree Association and the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association, where Wayne is the current vice president. Jean is the primary wreath maker in the family. She has entered and placed in many wreath decorating contests. She has also served as a wreath judge for the Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York and the New York State Fair. Wayne has given seminars in running a retail

and fundraisers. Jean said, "This is our way of showing the true Christmas Spirit of giving." Wayne noted that some of his colleagues in Pennsylvania participated in "Trees for Troops" where they donate trees to be shipped overseas. The family looks forward to joining and expanding that effort next year. The farm recently held a tree raffle at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, where Jean is an employee. The junior class is sponsoring the raffle to raise funds for their class. They plan to donate half of the money to Kelly's Dream, Inc., a non-profit organization founded by Kelly E. Gibson, a relative of Jean's who recently lost her battle to melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer. Bizup Tree Farm also plans to donate greens and floral supplies for centerpieces for a Jan. 28 fundraiser (sponsored by the Coastal Jersey Parrot Head Club) to raise money for Kelly's Dream, Inc.

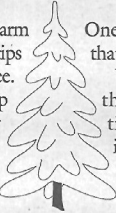
For more information on Kelly's Dream, Inc. 'Shedding the light on Melanoma' founded for melanoma awareness and research, please go to www.kellysdream.org. For information on the fundraiser, visit www.cjphc.com.

lot and wreath making at various tree conventions.

Bizup Tree Farm has always been an active participant in local charities

Tips on Choosing a Tree

Bizup's Tree Farm offers these tips for choosing a tree. Some natural drop of older, interior needles is natural. However, if exterior needles easily fall off at a gentle touch or when the tree is bounced on a hard surface, that tree is dry. You should always have a fresh cut before putting your tree in a water stand.



One half inch is all that is necessary. We also offer these considerations for choosing a real tree over an artificial tree: real trees are a renewable, recyclable resource. Artificial trees contain non-biodegradable plastics and possible metal toxins such as lead. For every real tree Christmas tree har-

vested, up to three seedlings are planted in its place the following spring. Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states and Canada, 85% of artificial trees are manufactured in China. Consumers can locate the nearest recycling program by logging onto www.realchristmastrees.org or calling 1-800-CLEANUP.

South Plainfield Scouting



Pictured on one of their many hikes are Brownies Noelle Rutowski, Sydni Surowiec, Savannah Hill, Gina Cummings, Hannah Arntz and Briana Spinella, along with their moms.

Troop #521 Attends Fall Fun Weekend

Franklin School Brownie Troop #521 attended the Brownie Fall Fun Weekend at Camp Hoover in Middleville. The event was hosted by the S.P.G.S.C.A. and Troops #314 and #431. During the course of the weekend, the girls participated in lots of hiking and science experiments, which earned them Try-Its. They also participated in the traditional campfire with s'mores and songs. The girls especially enjoyed learning some fun new campfire songs.

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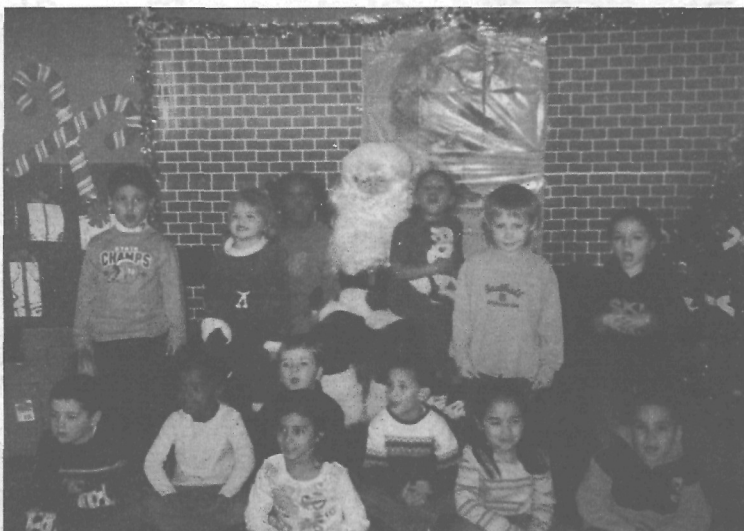


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Future Stars Frolic at Winter Festival



By Jane Dornick

The old Roosevelt School gym was transformed into a winter wonderland recently for the Future Stars Preschool Winter Festival.

Parent volunteers spent hours turning the gym into a fun place for youngsters to make crafts, play games and enjoy snacks. The walls were decorated in holiday season and winter themes with candy canes, snowmen, penguins, mittens and hats that were handmade by the students. There was a tent turned into an igloo by placing a white sheet on top. Buckets of water were filled with magnetic fish for some ice fishing. Moms commended a "knock down the box" game with soft balls. Children also enjoyed making applesauce, stocking and mitten ornaments and bagel bird feeders, all under Santa's watchful eye.





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Bill to Give Police Tools to Track Internet Criminals

A bill sponsored by Senators Paul A. Sarlo and Barbara Buono which would require Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to disclose certain identifying information to law enforcement agencies investigating a crime was approved by the Senate Law, Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee today by a vote of 4-0.

Under this bill, law enforcement officers would have at their disposal detailed identifying and usage information to press the case against those using the Internet to perpetrate fraud or worse.

The bill, S-2630, would expand

current law to increase the type of information ISPs are required to provide to law enforcement. The new regulations would require that ISPs disclose records of Internet activity session times and durations, the means through which a client is purchasing the service and any relevant credit card or bank account number, network address numbers, and the start date of the service. According to the bill, this information, as well as any other info already required under law, would only be available after a grand jury or trial subpoena are obtained.

"Through this legislation, we will be able to pinpoint a criminal's exact hours of usage, the online equivalent of placing them at the scene of the crime," said Senator Buono. "We would also be able to track when service is being purchased with stolen identifying materials, and crack down on identity thieves looking to hide their tracks with bogus service accounts. This bill will tighten the net around those individuals who would co-opt the Internet for nefarious purposes."

The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

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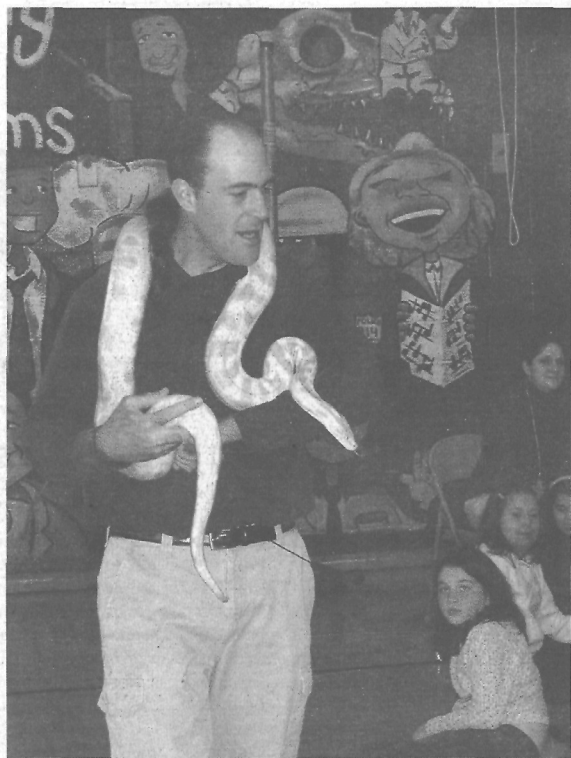
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Erik Jones shows students his python, Banana.

Reptiles are Cool at Kennedy School

Last month Kennedy Elementary School students got to see some fabulous reptiles up close and personal at a Mobile Ed Production entitled, "Reptiles are Cool."

The audience learned fascinating facts about different snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises and alligators, and had the opportunity to get an up close look at some of the creeping, crawling creatures as the presenter walked around holding his collection of various reptiles. The highlight of the show was seeing a 12 foot long albino Burmese python named "Banana."

Junior Journalist Corner



BE THE NEXT JUNIOR JOURNALIST WINNER. Send in your entries now!

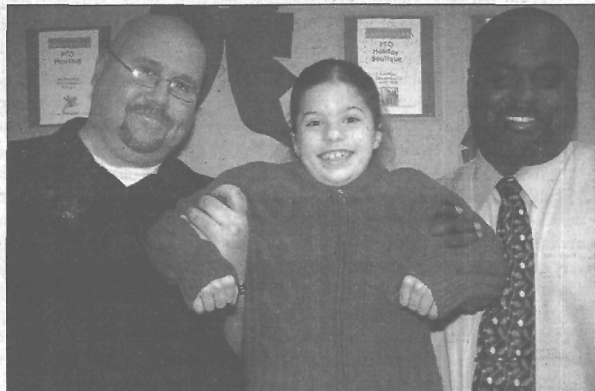
Nicole Sottiriou, Roosevelt School Third Grader, Named This Week's "Junior Journalist"

Nicole Sottiriou, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. Her poem, "Feel It," 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.



Third grade teacher Michael Bertram, Nicole Sottiriou and Principal Charles Ford.

Schools Collecting Used Cell Phones

Motorola is partnering with the South Plainfield School District and will give \$3 for every cell phone turned in. All schools are set up as drop off locations in their respective main offices. It's a great way to get money for our school district without buying anything!

If you have questions, please call Stephanie Walsh at (201) 906-5626.

Feel It

By Nicole Sottiriou

Feel the competition

The rough smooth glide swerving,

Leaping through the air,

Whipping me around like a twister.

As I swirl through the air my arms stretch,

My body flips

I land

Everybody claps like thunder

For me.

I stand proud

On the podium

Winning first place.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

As much as we enjoy the holiday season we also need to give ourselves a little down time to relax. And a good way to do that is popping in a movie. The library has many first-run movies. We have *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, *Cinderella Man*, *Bewitched*, *Longest Yard*, *Life Aquatic*, *The Muppet's Wizard of Oz*, *Lilo & Stitch 2*, etc. This is just a small selection of the VHS and DVD movies we have.

And let us not forget the library's large selection of music CDs. We have a separate section of holiday music CDs (everything from the traditional Johnny Mathis to *A Soap Opera Christmas*), plus a large selection of musical genres from classical to pop to rock to rap. There is something for everyone.

Of course, we still have our books and magazines. New books include *Shepherd's Abiding* by Jan Karon (author of the Mitford years), *Earthly Joys* by Phillipa Gregory (author of the very popular *The Other Boleyn Girl*), *The March* by E. L. Doctrow (author of *Ragtime*), *Son of a Witch* by Gregory Maguire (author of *Wicked* upon which the Broadway play is based), *The Preacher's Daughter* by Beverly Lewis (author of the Heritage of Lancaster County series set in the Amish farmland) and *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith (who made a smash debut with her novel *White Teeth*). Plus all the new books by James Patterson, Anita Shreve, Danielle Steel, etc.

Also this upcoming week of Dec. 26 the library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24, Sunday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Dec. 26. We will be open our regular hours Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Dec. 30. There will be no children's programs this week.

From the staff at the library we hope everyone has a happy holiday season.



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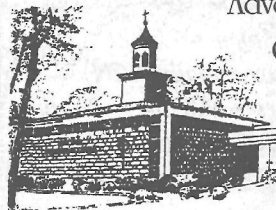
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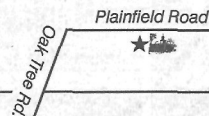
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Sports

Wrestling

By Bob Hunter

High School Tigers Claim Seventh Consecutive Morris Knolls Title

The SPHS Varsity Wrestling Team made it seven in a row, by winning the Morris Knolls Tournament title with a total score of 196 points. Second place went to Hackettstown with 162.5 points. Seton Hall Prep was third with 137.5 followed by Morris Knolls 92.5, Montvale 70, Morris Hills 56 and Governor Livingston with 42 points.

The Tigers sent nine wrestlers into the finals and had two place winners in the consolation round—overall a very good showing for this early season tournament.

Starting off for South Plainfield was Patrick Hunter (103), who reached the finals with two falls 25 and 28 seconds. In the finals Hunter won by tech-fall 19-3 over Chris Puorro of Seton Hall Prep for his second title championship. Nick Pauls (112), a freshmen wrestling in his first Morris Knolls tournament, made it to the finals with a 10-4 semi-final win, but in the finals just didn't have enough to fight off Luckson Etienne of Hackettstown for second place.

Jimmy Conroy (119), who won his fourth tournament title, had little trouble with Keith Morris of

Hackettstown recording the fall at 2:29. Conroy pinned in the semi-finals at 1:00 to reach the finals. Billy Ashnault (125), had a bye in the quarters and won by fall in the semis. In the finals Ashnault was down 4-2 going into the third period, but scored an escape and a takedown and near fall points to claim his title over the highly regarded Tom Edel of Seton Hall Prep 8-4. Ashnault was also named the Outstanding Tournament Wrestler. Congratulations!

Mike Jakubik (135) was the next Tiger wrestler and looked very strong throughout the tournament winning his first two matches by fall. In the finals he took the early lead and never looked back cruising to a 14-8 victory and his first Morris Knolls title. Nick Dorey 140 also recorded his first tournament title with a 9-2 decision over Mick Gacta of Montvale. Dorey was a third place winner the last two years.

Sam Martin (152) had a great tournament winning his first two by fall. Martin kept rolling in the finals with a fall over Andrew Goulian of Seton Hall Prep at 5:30 for his first tournament title. Mark Wagner (160) won his second title with a 9-0 major decision over

Eric Bergman of Seton Hall Prep. In the semis he won a tough 9-8 decision over Region 1 runner up JJ Mitchell of Hackettstown to reach the finals.

Kevin Crilley (189) closed the South Plainfield show in typical Crilley

fashion with a fall. With Crilley dominating the match he had Brian Lake of Seton Hall Prep on his back for about a minute before finally getting the call at 3:11 mark for his first Morris Knolls title. Bryan Hunt (130) lost a tough

match in the semi's but bounced back for a third place finish. Brad Martin (171) did a good job with a fourth place finish. Billy Daly (215) won two matches and Danny Pompilio (145) and Rocco Petriello Hwt each had a good showing.

Middle School Competes Six Times in Seven Days

The Middle School wrestling team were busy little road warriors this past weekend, wrestling six matches in three days and all on the road. First they traveled to Watchung and won convincingly 78-12. Then they traveled to Neshaminy Pa. for a dual tournament and won three out of four and on Sunday they traveled up to Voorhees and won 68-20.

Against Watchung the Tigers were led by Tyler Hunt, Riche Szeliga, Jeff Conroy, Kyle Hughes, John Wylam, Corey Hay, Mike Wagner, Patrick Mil-

lard and William Whitefleet all winning by a fall.

Even though forfeiting the first three weight classes, the Tigers still came up with a third place finish at this very tough tournament. In the opening match with Neshaminy it came down to the last match to secure the victory, with Bobby Sacks doing his job by not getting pinned. Sacks, clearly the smaller wrestler, only lost by decision 7-1 and did not give up any bonus points. Kyle Brady came through with a huge 8-6 overtime win and Randy Jakubik won a 1-0 decision. Kyle Pompilio also won by decision 6-1. Joey Vetuschi, his first match back after a shoulder injury, won by major decision 13-1. Winning by fall were Tyler Hunt, Scott Whalen, Riche Szeliga, Jeff Conroy, John Wylam and Billy Whitefleet.

Mike Wagner.

In round two action, the Tigers could not make up the 18 points they forfeited and lost to Council Rock, Pa. 73-47. In the consolation round, they defeated Neshaminy in another nail bitter 56-55. Randy Jakubik avenged an earlier loss, winning by decision 7-2. Going undefeated for the day were Kyle Brady 2-0, Tyler Hunt 4-0, Scott Whalen 4-0, Riche Szeliga 4-0, Jeff Conroy 4-0, John Wylam 4-0, Mike Wagner 4-0 and Billy Whitefleet.

On Sunday against Voorhees, leading the charge was Scott Whalen, Riche Szeliga, Jeff Conroy, John Wylam, Mike Wagner, Seth Yocum, Billy Whitefleet and Bobby Sacks all won by fall. Tyler Hunt won by tech-fall and Randy Jakubik won a double overtime match 7-6.

Rec Wrestlers Open With Win

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team opened their Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League season with a huge win over league rival Bridgewater 55-23.

After a slow start, the Tigers got on scoreboard when Ryan Walsh won by tech-fall 17-2. Trailing 19 to 5, Anthony Ashnault got the Tigers rolling with a 16-1 tech-fall over Dillon Reilly to close the gap to eight. Dillon Painton kept things rolling with a fall over Dominic Diaz at 0:36. Troy Heilmann put the Tigers ahead for good with a 0:18 fall over Matt Couch. Tyler Hunt won a tough 4-1 decision over AJ O'Sullivan. Scott Whalen then scored a tech-fall over Karl Szymanski 15-0. Cory Stasenka won by major decision 13-0 over Pierce Glayfelter. Nick Graves did a good job winning a 5-2 decision over Ryan Moran. Mike Molinaro then pinned Matt Polanko at 1:52. Chris Sloan kept things going with a tech-fall 16-1. Stephen Petriello closed the show with a fall at 0:20. Also wrestling for the Tigers were Jake Painton, Troy Davidson, Bobby Kolvities, Desmond Santos and Randy Hurst.



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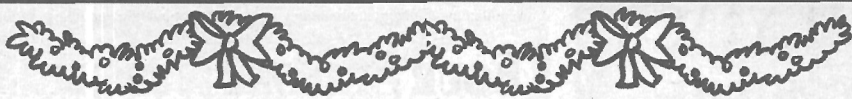
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junior journalist WINNER



Junior Journalist winner Madison Miller accepts dinner from Hometown Heros' Charlie and Debbie Kurland. She is joined by her parents Donna and John Sanfilippo.

Sports

SPHS Bowling

By RALPH FECH

Lady Tigers Place Tenth in 30th Annual Joe Romer Memorial

Beverly Jamieson rolled scores of 189-145-168 for a solid 502 set on a day when the lanes were producing a difficult scoring pattern. Posting a 798 first game put the girls bowling team in a positioned finish in the top ten in

the 22 team field. The high scorers for the Tigers were Angelique Rualo 192, Jackie Kukuch 174 and Lindsay Hunsicker 150-155. Woodbridge won the tournament, followed by Carteret and Mother Seton Regional.

Lady Tigers Shutout Sayreville, Jamieson (532)

SPHS	751	740	691	2182
Sayreville	707	708	664	2079

The Tigers traveled to mid-state lane in a non-division match and slipped by the bombers by sweeping all three games. Beverly Jamieson again led the Tigers with a solid 179-182-171 ef-

fort. Teammates Jackie Kukuch 184-440, Angelique Rualo 164-445 and Katie Yon 158-423 also scored well for the green and white. Lyndsey Murtagh chipped in with a 147 game.

Lady Tigers Fall to Mighty Woodbridge

SPHS	786	773	790	2,349
Woodbridge	920	881	904	2,705

Despite rolling their high series of the season, the Tigers were no match for the Baron Powerhouse. High scorers for SPHS were Beverly Jamieson 164-183-182—529, Jackie Kukuch

186-166-497, Angelique Rualo 175-461, and Lindsay Hunsicker 178-446. Gina Curcio chipped in with a 146 game.

Boys Tiger Bowlers 14th in 30th Joe Romer Event

The Romer Tournament is the GMC showcase as it features every school from the conference. However, Carolier Lanes threw up a lane condition that baffled practically every team. With scoring way down for all teams, Tigers Vin Genova rolled 172-190-188 for a good 550 set. Sophomore

Jeff Pryor added 178-194-510 set. Chipping in were Ryan Pauls 200, Mike Dandola 197 and Robert Parillo 164. Edison won the event by over-taking Woodbridge in the third game. It was day when strikes were infrequent and making spares was the ultimate way to victory.

Boys Tigers Fall to Powerhouse Woodbridge

SPHS	975	901	855	2,731
Woodbridge	1,086	1,122	1,011	3,219

The Tigers ran into a hot-shooting Woodbridge squad that shot their high series of the season. Actually the Tigers put the pressure on the Barons in the first game and had a 50 pin edge after the first eight frames, until the high powered offense kicked in.

Freshman Mike Dandola took scoring honors for the Tigers with a 611 set on games of 238-211-162. Vin Genova posted 162-222-176 for 563 set. Other scorers were Jeff Pryor 209, Chris Esposito 201 and Brett Morris a 200 game.


Genova (682) Dandola (630) in Loss to St. Joseph's

SPHS	928	935	973	2,836
St. Joseph's	1,082	1,065	1,070	3,215

The Boys Bowling team ran into another buzz saw as the Falcons scorched the lanes on three one thousand plus games.

247-245-190 for a brilliant 682 set. Freshman Mike Dandola closely followed with 202-182-242 and a superb 630 set. Ryan Pauls chipped in with 201 for the young Tigers.

Junior Journalist WINNER



Junior Journalist winner Emily Mazellan accepts dinner from *Hometown Heros* Charlie and Debbie Kurland. She is joined by her parents Maryann and Brian and brother Brian.

Holiday Basketball Tournament Results

The Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament for grades seven and eight was a great success again this year.

The 14th annual event featured boys' and girls' teams from the middle schools in Dunellen, East Brunswick, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield. The purpose of the tournament is two fold; provide a quality, healthy, athletic event to disseminate information regarding the dangers of smoking, drinking, and the use of controlled dangerous substances, including steroids. Bill Beegle, SPASA Coordinator and Director of Guidance for the South Plainfield School District and Cheryl Hughes, middle school health teacher, presented the video "Artificial Athletes" and led a discussion on the dangers of steroid use by athletes. They

stressed that athletic performance on the court and the playing field is greatly diminished when athletes abuse drugs, alcohol, smoke, cigarettes and use steroids.

Volunteering and serving as members of the board of directors for SPASA is Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy, along with DARE officers Al LaMonda and David Franchak. Kevin Hughes, Cheryl Hughes and Joe Blondo were a great help with organizing this tournament. Many thanks to these individuals for their dedication in making the SPASA organization and this tournament.

Shirts with the anti-drug message "Put the Jam on Drugs" were given to each player, coach and manager, along with substance awareness information. Jeff Spezio, graphics technology teacher in the middle school de-

signed the artwork for the shirts with silk screened provided by D&D Graphics.

The preliminary games for the girls on Monday, Dec. 12 had East Brunswick defeating Dunellen 28-18 and Sacred Heart defeating South Plainfield 46-22. On Tuesday, Dec. 13, the East Brunswick boys won over Dunellen 58-21, while the South Plainfield boys defeated Sacred Heart 54-22.

The finals were held on Thursday, Dec. 15. The Sacred Heart Lady Hawks won over the Destroyers from Dunellen in an exciting game by a score of 35-34. The boys final was won by the South Plainfield Tigers, who defeated the Bears of East Brunswick in an equally exciting game by a 53-52 margin in double overtime.

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CLOS DU BOIS 13.99 Pinot Noir This Pinot is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.		ST. FRANCIS 13.99 Old Vines Zinfandel This Zinfandel is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.	
FRANCISCAN 17.99 Oakville Cabernet This Cabernet is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.		ROMANA 17.99 Sambuca This Sambuca is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.	
TANQUERAY 23.99 #10 Gin This Gin is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.		CHIVAS 25.99 Regal 12 Year Old Premium Scotch Whisky This Whisky is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.	
KNOB CREEK 26.99 9 Year Old Single Batch Bourbon This Bourbon is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.		RUFFINO 27.99 Riserva Ducale Gold This Gold is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.	
SANTA RITA 8.99 Riserva Cabernet This Cabernet is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.		YELLOW TAIL 9.99 Reserve Shiraz This Shiraz is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger.	
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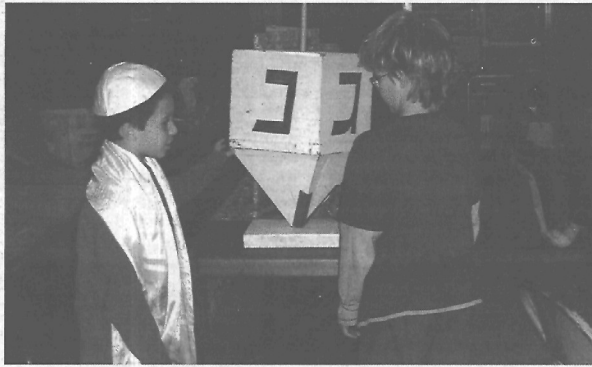
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Holiday Show Heightens Cultural Awareness



By Jane Dornick

Bruce Segal of Bruce Segal Assemblies presented a diverse holiday show for Kennedy and Riley Elementary school students.

Putting on clothing worn by his Ukrainian grandparents, Segal described how they celebrated their Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, even though this holiday was forbidden by law. He then put three student volunteers in native costumes and demonstrated how Christmas is celebrated in Sweden, Germany and Mexico.

Based on the O. Henry story, "Gift of the Magi," Segal told the story of the sacrifice and friendship made by two Irish school girls during the Christmas holiday season. The holiday of Kwanzaa is presented through a demonstration of artifacts and principles on which the holiday is based, in addition to students playing African musical instruments.

A video shown included information on Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, as well as Ramadan and the Asian New Year celebrations. By using audience volunteers, students helped Segal tell the story of a young boy who must "learn the meaning" of these December holidays or risk losing all his holiday gifts.



Knights Hold Annual Breakfast With Santa

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 held their annual "Breakfast with Santa" at the council hall on Dec. 3. The breakfast was held for all the members' children and the community to celebrate "Keep Christ in Christmas."

The Knights served eggs, bacon, and French toast to all who attended and, of course, there was a visit by

Santa for the children. Many games were played and a great time was had by all.

The Knights would like to thank everyone who attended and especially Steve Belanger, who was chairman of the event. The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus would also like to wish the entire South Plainfield Community and our Armed Forces abroad a very Merry Christmas.

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Adoption Center Needs Cat Care Volunteers

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving NJ, has an immediate need for volunteers to care for homeless cats living in the Cat Adoption Center at the PETs-MART store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall at the intersection of Route 28 and Route 287.

The cats at the center are housed in 10 cages that require cleaning twice a day including fresh food and water for the cats. In addition, the cats need love and attention to make their stay less stressful. The advantage of the Center is that the cats can be viewed by the public seven days a week and

hopefully increase their chances of finding a permanent home. Volunteers are asked to perform Luv-A-Pet housekeeping chores once a week or once every two weeks for either the morning or evening shift. It takes about one to two hours to clean. Volunteers must be willing and able to handle these friendly homeless cats and kittens so that they can be moved from cage to cage.

For more information call (908) 964-6887 ext. 310; leave a message for Martha. For info about the organization and about pets for adoption, go to www.pfa.petfinder.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

December 14, 2005

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on December 13, 2005.

A. Amendment of the Housing Element of the Master Plan: The proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield and the enactment of a new Affordable Housing Ordinance consistent with the amended Master Plan and recommend their adoption by the Borough Council.

B. Case #691/V/S—National Sign Services. Block 91; Lot 28; 2328 Plainfield Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval with a bulk variance was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case #696/V—South Plainfield Properties. Block 528; Lots 46, 47.07, 47.09 and 66; 5001 Stetson Road. The applicant's request for preliminary and final site plan approval with bulk variances was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Planning Board

\$49.00

December 23, 2005

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE 1715

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

Ord. 1715 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$78,083.00 FOR

RENOVATIONS TO THE OFFICE ON AGING BUILDING AND FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE BOROUGH'S 911 SYSTEM was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

\$24.50

December 23, 2005

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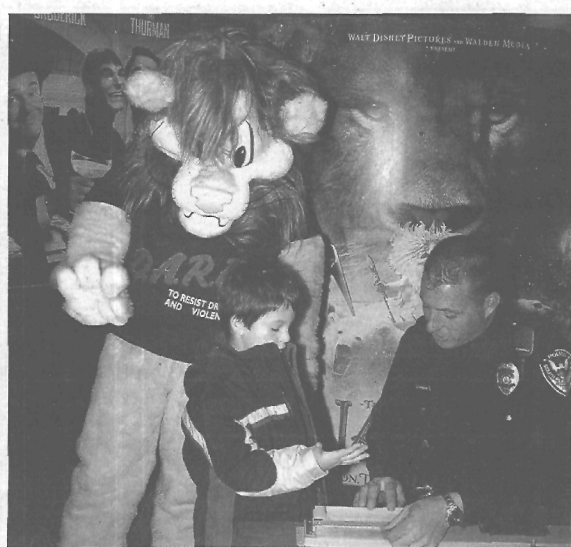
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In Loving Memory- Fifth Anniversary

I see the countless Christmas trees, around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring for it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so



ANTHONY EDWARD SINGH
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far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me loved ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or the love he has for you! So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Sadly Missed, Mommy & Daddy, The Singh, Guzinski, Spohn, Rafalko, Pullen, Kurilew & Harkey Families



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Obituaries

Joseph Lee Dixon

Joseph Lee Dixon passed away after a sudden illness on Monday, Dec. 12 at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick.

He was born on Sept. 27, 1947 in Kinston, North Carolina to the union of John Dixon Sr. and Edna (Joyner) Dixon Dobson.

He attended the public schools of Kinston, N.C. where he participated in various sports and musical activities. While growing up he attended the First Baptist Church and St. John Baptist Church, both of Kinston. After graduation from Adkin High School in 1966, he moved to New Jersey and obtained employment. For the last 37 years, he worked at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood.

In 1975, Joseph married his high school sweetheart, the former Linda Carol Burney. They resided in Hackensack for the first 13 years of marriage. In 1988, they moved to Somerset, where they currently resided until his untimely death.

Mr. Dixon loved assembling and collecting model cars, watching various sporting activities, and bike riding. Recently, he was learning how to play golf.

He is preceded in death by his father, John Dixon Sr.; his stepfather, Herman Dobson; father-in-law, Odell Burney; mother-in-law, Bessie Burney Williams and his sister-in-law, Delois Burney Altou.

Surviving are his loving wife, Linda C.; his mother, Edna Dobson of Kinston, N.C.; two brothers, John Jr. and his wife Doris of Newark and Greenville, N.C. and Edward Jerome and his wife Darice of South Plainfield; a sister, Viscurtine Hardy of Kinston, N.C.; a step-sister, Rachael Jones also of Kinston, five brothers-in-law; Isiah Hardy of Norfolk, Va., Dalton Simmons of Plainfield, Johnnie Burney of Camden, Clarence Burney of Richmond, Va. and Wilton Hooker of Newark; four sisters-in-law; Ruby Simmons of Plainfield, Doris Hooker of Newark, Rosa Burney of Camden and Ruth Burney of Richmond, Va. Also surviving are a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Margaret "Peg" Borkowski, 80

Margaret "Peg" Borkowski died on Friday, Dec. 16 in Haven Hospice at

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Jersey City in 1925, Peg resided in South Plainfield for the past 51 years.

Peg graduated from Jersey City Medical Center in 1946 as a US Army cadet nurse. She was a register nurse for 47 years and also worked at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center for five years in pediatrics.

She served as past president of the Chardavoyne Park Women's Club and was an active resident in South Plainfield festivities each Labor Day. Peg was also an active member for many years in the South Plainfield senior citizens AARP group.

She is predeceased by her husband, Sigmund, who passed in 1984 and a sister, Dorothy Hoogerhyde.

Surviving is a son, Zigmund Borkowski of Hempstead, TX; two daughters Melinda Borkowski of South Plainfield and Diane Williams of Nashua, NH; a grandson Russell Williams of Nashua, NH and a brother, Michael Phillips and his wife Vivian of Middlesex.

Private arrangement were made under the direction of the South Plainfield Funeral Home with a spring time memorial to follow.

Memorial donations may be made in Peg's name to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St., Fords, NJ 08818 or to the charity of your choice.

Dolly L. (Mason) Levourne, 74

Dolly L. (Mason) Levourne died on Friday, Dec. 16 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Linden, she had resided in Key West, Fla. and then returned to Linden before settling in South Plainfield in 1969.

She had been employed as a senior clerk for AT&T in Basking Ridge for 20 years before her retirement.

She is predeceased by two sisters, Merolyn Busch and Shirley Pulaski, a brother, Wesley Mason and her former husband, Francis.

The beloved mom of four is survived by two daughters, Dolly Wood of South Plainfield and Kathryn Sullivan and her husband John of South Plainfield and two sons, Francis Levourne of South Plainfield and Walter Levourne and his wife, Clare, of Middlesex.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Christina, Wesley, Troy, Nicole, Ashley, Johnny, Christa and Douglas.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Regina Famularo, 85

Regina Famularo died Monday, Dec. 19 at her home. Born in South Plainfield, she resided there until moving to Hillsborough in 1954.

Mrs. Famularo was employed as an LPN for Somerset Medical Center, retiring in 1985 only to then work at Foothills Acer Nursing Home in Hillsborough.

Regina was an active member in the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield's Woman's Club.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Alfred Famularo, who passed in 1995 and by her daughter, Anne Whelchel, and son, Jon Peter Fekete.

Surviving is a son, Alfred Famularo of Hillsborough; three daughters, Eileen DiNizo of Scotch Plains, Juanita Adams of Stroudsburg, Pa. and Lisa Avelian of Bergenfield; three sisters, Dete Daffard of Bound Brook, Valeda Kababick of Arizona and Nan Soloynsky of South Plainfield and 27 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Regina's name to the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield 201 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 and/or to Somerset Valley Hospice, 110 West End Ave., Somerville NJ 08822.

Frances R. (Bogdanski) Sopko, 87

Frances R. (Bogdanski) Sopko died on Saturday Dec. 17 at Orlando Regional Health Center in Orlando, Fla.

Born in Braddock, Pa., she had resided in Newark and Piscataway for 22 years and Martinsville for 30 years before settling in South Plainfield in 1977.

She had been employed as a packer for Holland Rantos Co. of Bound Brook and had previously worked for Markay Bag Co. of South Plainfield.

A long time communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield, she was also a member of their Altar Rosary Society.

Her husband, Andrew Sopko, died in 1977. She is also predeceased by a niece, Patricia Salkowitz.

She is survived by a daughter, Mary Sopko Keran and her husband, Tom of Sanford, Fla.; a sister, Jean Salkowitz and her husband Tom of South River; a niece, Doris Kirchner and her husband Jack and her two nephews, Donald and Thomas Salkowitz.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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Time has a way of changing things...

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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