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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 18

50 CENTS

JANUARY 6, 2006

Council Welcomes New Members *Kubala, Thomas Recognized for Service to Borough*

Sunday's Borough Reorganization meeting saw two Republicans take seats on the previously all-Democratic council. Democrats welcomed the newest members, and all members vowed to work together for the betterment of the borough. However, when the council voted on borough attorney and other special appointments, Republicans Matthew Anesh and Rob Bengivenga voted no to the appointment of Patrick Diegnan as borough attorney, as well as to most of the other special appointments.

In his annual message, Mayor Dan Gallagher asked that Diegnan prepare

an ordinance on Pay-to-Play within 30 days, adding that he didn't believe that any Republican or Democrat was guilty of corruption. He also said he does not expect to have a municipal tax increase this year and asked that the Board of Education attempt to do the same.

Councilman Rob Bengivenga delivered the Republicans' message, saying there are many important issues that need to be addressed, such as keeping South Plainfield an affordable place to live and finding a balance between industry, business and residential development. (Both speeches can be found on page 7.)

English Retires as Rec Director

By Libby Barsky

Michael English has retired from his position as the borough's director of Recreation. His retirement was accepted by the council at Tuesday evening's meeting. Although the retirement will officially take effect on July 31, he will no longer be behind the director's desk at the PAL.

That seat will now be occupied by Assistant Recreation Director Kevin Hughes. The council appointed him acting director effective Jan. 1.

Hughes taught physical education at Indian Hills High School for 10 years before becoming assistant Recreation director last year.

English left his teaching position at South Plainfield High School in 1998 to become director of Recreation, replacing Jay Joyce, who left in 1998.

During his seven years as director, English has overseen the 14,000 sq. ft. addition to the PAL building, almost doubling its size, to accommodate an expanded weight room with state-of-the-art exercise equipment and an increased indoor sports program.

Before teaching history at South Plainfield High School, English was a member of the Borough Council from 1978 to 1981. In 1982 he ran for mayor on the Democratic ticket against incumbent Richard Kennedy and won by only three votes. "This was a Republican town when I came on the council in 1978," English recalled, comparing the recent election to when he entered politics. "It's cyclical. So it's not a surprise that this year there are two Republican council members. But I believe the 12 years for the Democrats (in office) was a longer time than for Republicans."

During his four year term (1982-1986), Spring Lake Park became part of the Middlesex County Park system, with the lake providing an enlarged water retention system to collect runoff water and prevent flooding on Plainfield Ave. The park has a walking path and tennis and basketball courts.

English was also elected to a three year term on the Board of Education, where he was chairman of the Curriculum Committee. English resigned last August citing the need to spend more time with his family. Former two-term Board of Education member Dan Smith was appointed to replace him for the remainder of his term, which expires this spring.

English will begin his retirement by returning to the classroom. He has two courses to complete before receiving his Master's in Judean-Christian Philosophy from Seton Hall University. He will teach high school World and American History at Hilled Yeshiva School in Ocean Township, NJ.



The South Plainfield Borough Council for 2006 is (seated, left to right) Ray Petronko, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Council President Dennis Cerami. Standing from left are Matthew Anesh, Robert Cusick, Charles Butrico and Rob Bengivenga.



Rob Bengivenga is sworn by Municipal Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri. Pictured from left to right are Mark Johnson, Amy Bengivenga, Jacquelyn DeAngelis, Rob Bengivenga, April Bengivenga, and Robert Bengivenga, Sr.



Matthew Anesh is sworn in by Municipal Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri. Pictured with Anesh are his wife Kim and four year-old-twin boys, Harrison and Joseph. Councilman Ray Petronko is pictured in the background.



Mayor Dan Gallagher congratulates outgoing Councilman Ed Kubala (left) for his many years of service to the borough. Gallagher presented Kubala a plaque and certificate of appreciation for his 12 years on the council. Kathy Thomas (above right) accepts a plaque and certificate of appreciation from the Mayor for her service as borough councilwoman for the past two years.



IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

Our daughter Alyssa was diagnosed at 22 months with Neuroblastoma. (A rare childhood cancer) She is now two years old and undergoing chemotherapy at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, following the protocol from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is responding well to the chemotherapy.

We would like to say thank you to Joe Vitulli, Geoff Jacobs and the rest of our family at Midco Residential Services in South Plainfield. We appreciate all the support and love they have given us.

Many thanks to "Open Your Heart to Children Foundation" for their helping hands.

We would also like to thank

Watchung Hills Youth Benevolent Association for their generous donation.

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, support and donations. Your help and generosity is greatly appreciated.

CARLO, DANA, CHRISTOPHER AND ALYSSA RICCIARDI

To the Editor,

The Nov. 10th Benefit for Alyssa Ricciardi at Primavera Regency was a great success. I would like to thank the Forum Club, all the sponsors and everyone that attended to make this possible.

Again on behalf of the family, I would like to say "thank you" for your prayers and support.

MAGGIE

To the Editor

After reading the latest Letter to the Editor signed by the Mayor and 2005 Council members, I feel I need to clarify some statements that I feel are misrepresented in this letter.

I would like to start off by saying all of this has caused emotional distress to me and my family, but I will not allow my reputation to be destroyed by any politician, Democrat or Republican. I realize the Democrats have their side, and the Republicans have certain questions they would like answered, but it is the health and welfare of me and my children being hurt by this.

I was an elected councilwoman who served a three year term. I still believe that I was elected because of my integrity and more importantly my honesty. The comment in the letter is about the borough insurance company, who pays the premiums? Answer: the borough does: Where does the borough get the money to pay the premiums? Answer: Tax dollars! Also, for the record it is the Joint Insurance Fund, not some insurance company.

I can not get into the specifics of the settlement because of a confidential agreement. I take all confidential agreements very seriously and it is appalling for the Democrats that signed that letter to suggest I shared the details with the Republican Chair, who happens to be a lawyer. If the concerned parties now want to change that agreement, there is no reason for grandstanding, contact my attorney Dan Fleming of Wong Fleming with any revisions. For the record, as of the writing of this letter, no one has contacted my attorney. I realize this year was a big loss for the Democrats and they will stop at nothing and need a scapegoat to blame because of the loss. I will not be their scapegoat, nor will my children be subjected to anymore of this. How dare the Mayor and 2005 council offer their regrets to my children. Do you know the hurt you have caused them? This shows in my opinion what type of integrity all of you possess, NONE, you tried to tell the world my lawsuit was frivolous and now you are going to slander me and my reputation. What is wrong with each and everyone one of you?

The other misrepresentation in the letter was that I was a campaign advisor to the Republicans, I do thank you for the compliment, but I can not take the credit this year for that. It is true that I switched my party affiliation and two years ago I helped with that campaign, but this year I did not have the time to earn the title of an advisor. I am enrolled in college, work full time for a company that doesn't discriminate against single mothers and any free time I have I attend to my children's sporting functions and volunteer my time for worthy causes.

The comment that I hold regular campaign meetings in my home, this is laughable and I think the gentlemen signing the letter are a little confused. During the last two years that I have been a Republican, I had a few meetings on campaign issues during the first

year, and during the second year I did not have any time to be involved with the campaign due to the other activities in my life that I already mentioned. Personally, my faith has been broken since I do have first hand knowledge of the political world.

Mr. Bengivena and Mr. Anesh have never been to my house. So gentlemen your spies are totally wrong. Do you have nothing better to do? Is this considered stalking? Who ever is evading my privacy isn't doing a good job.

What is true is that I did run on election night to pick up the counts in a district with my daughter. My children and I have done this for the past two years for the Republicans, and I have done this task for the Democrats for about seven or eight years prior. The Democrats didn't have an issue when I performed this task for them, so why is it an issue now?

I have never set foot in the Republican Campaign Headquarters which is located on old Hamilton Blvd. If you are referring to election night at the American Legion I do believe your spies are wrong again. The elected officials families and those that volunteered and worked the campaign were the loudest and rightfully so, but that is a matter of opinion. Again...am I being spied on or stalked? It was also a nice surprise to see some of my former fellow democrats, who have jumped ship.

Gentlemen I know it is hard to get the facts straight, but at least give it an honest effort before you make these allegations public. I will not allow ANY of you to attack my character or integrity and how dare each and every one of you even mention my children. My children are my pride and joy and anyone that knows me

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: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

can attest to that. You are absolutely right that "the Pinto Family represents what makes South Plainfield such a great place to live" and I am part of that family. The only reason I stay in this town is for my children to be close to the family. Are you trying to drive a wedge between my exhusband and me for your own gratification? I have volunteered for years and countless hours and have worked tirelessly to make South Plainfield a great place to live and raise a family, as have many others that don't have political strings attached to them. They are the people that count, the volunteer coaches, the soccer moms, the PTAs, the hard working families trying to make ends meet, the single moms and you know what gentlemen...those people have spoken...It is time for a change, so the only embarrassment you have caused anyone is not accepting your defeat.

I am asking you now to move on and try to do what you were elected to do. Do you even remember? There are many issues in this town that need to be addressed. I brought on a lawsuit to defend my rights because I do not believe any politician or any per-

(Continued on page 10)

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	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
January 17	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
February 7	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
February 21	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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

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

planningboard

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

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

zoningboardofadjustment

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

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

boardofeducationmeetings

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.-Jan. 17, 2006, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 4.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

siteplansub-committee

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

recreationcommission

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

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

Jan. 11, 2006

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

boardofeducationcurriculum/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.

South Plainfield Observer

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WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher
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Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer/Photographer

LIBBY BARKSY
Staff Writer

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Editorial Assistant

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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 spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A plaque honoring the fire chiefs who served the South Plainfield Fire Department was recently installed at the fireman's memorial. Atop the memorial stone sits the bell from a 1949 Mac Pumper. Only 10 men have held the position of chief since its inception in 1907. Pictured left to right are Chief Larry Del Negro, John Mikorski, Former Chief John Cotone; Thomas Ponton, project coordinator, Reliable-Miller Casket Co.; Richard McCriskin and Former Chief Joe Abbruzzese. Ponton and McCriskin made contributions to help fund the memorial.

The Senior Men's Forum is opposed to the proposal for a developer to construct eleven four-story buildings and a clubhouse at the former

FROM THE Senior Men's FORUM

By Walter J. Pasacrita,
Chairman

Tingley Rubber Site in South Plainfield. We do not believe there is need for adding a density burden to our town, already filled with new commercial and residential construction. At capacity, the proposed "condos" would add 484 units, one, two and three bedroom sizes and an additional 1,024 parking spaces; surely adding even more automobiles to our roads. Since there is no present need for living spaces for 484 units here in South Plainfield, tenancy would have to be from other towns and places.

The site in question was recently changed from industrial zone to residential by the Borough's Planning Board. This change can result in even more multi-level buildings being added to our town gained by developers by precedent. In time, this once quiet, laid-back town can eventually take on the appearance of tenement districts such as noted in Hudson counties. Along with run-a-way construction of this nature, there surely will be the need for new schools to accommodate new students. Developers who have advocated age-restrictions in other towns are finding that the limitations are turned around simply by tenants who move and sell their housing units to younger occupants with school age families as permitted legally.

To build in the former industrial area is less than a suitable place for seniors, who would be located away from local town functions but in an area where there is two underground gas feed lines within 50 ft. distances; already the builder is asking for a variance to 38 feet. Many townspeople will remember the fire at the Durham Ave. housing site when a 50' gas line ruptured and caused a terrific fire observable from most residents in the town. If building plans call for pile driving to provide adequate foundations for all the buildings, potential peril will already be set in motion.

Our fire department will also be

burdened with such concerns as water supplies and pressures for exposures never experienced before, narrow streets, two-houses measuring only 20 feet in width for ladder trucks measuring 47 ft. in length and even a railway crossing besides the heavy traffic to and from Rt. 287 directly involved.

We have other concerns as well, such as the building construction type, not yet available to us, the decision of whether automatic sprinklers will be used throughout, building security, etc.

If you believe with us that this project is unnecessary, make your objections known. The next meeting covering the proposal will be held by the Planning Board at 7 p.m., January 10. You could make a difference.

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

Bloustein Scholarships Awarded

South Plainfield High School has announced the current seniors who are recipients of the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholarship award from the Garden State Scholarship Program. The criteria for these high achieving students is that they rank in the top 10% of their class and have a minimum combined SAT score of 1260, or are ranked first, second or third in their class, as of the end of their junior year. In New Jersey, more than 5,000 Distinguished Scholars received an award offer for the 2006-07 collegiate academic year. Distinguished Scholars are offered an annual award of \$1,000 without regard to financial need. Students must attend an undergraduate program at a New Jersey college or university and the award is renewable for each of the four years.

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), an independent agency of the State of New Jersey, administers the Garden State Scholarship Program, which includes the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar and Urban Scholar awards. Each year, more than 7,000 students statewide receive scholarships in recognition of their high level of academic achievement. Students may use these awards to continue their education at New Jersey institutions of higher education. For more information about HESAA's programs, call 1-800-792-8670 or visit on-line at www.hesaa.org.

The Bloustein Distinguished Scholars are Nicole Aiello, Samantha Deffler, Joseph DeNizio, Keith Dezmim, Zachary Gray, Bryan Militia, Alexander Nau, Eric Reiner, Jessica Schwartz, Gina Severini and Ryan Smith.

The South Plainfield Administration and faculty are very proud of the academic achievements of these seniors.



Middle School students ready for their annual tuba performance in Rockefeller Center.

Middle School Students Perform in Rockefeller Center

On Dec. 11, five Middle School students and one Grant School student performed at the 32nd Annual Tuba Christmas Concert. The concert is a celebration of low brass instruments and the wonderful sound they make. It is also a memorial to William J. Bell, a very influential tuba player and teacher.

Approximately 350 tubas, baritone and euphoniums performed 30 minutes of Christmas carols on the ice rink under the gigantic Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

The conductor of the celebration was C. Christian Wilhelm, who is the

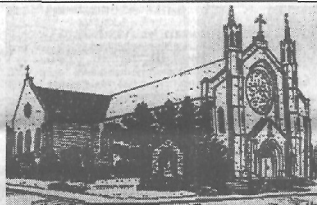
conductor of New York's Famous Goldman Band and the Ridgewood Concert Band. Among the musicians performing were the tuba and baritone sections from the Penn State Blue Band and the tuba section from the Baltimore Ravens National Football League Marching Band.

Middle School students involved are Anthony Baldassarre, Jimmy Bijlani, Elizabeth Balon, Richard Rotella and Phil Longo. The Grant School was represented by Jake Rotella. The group was accompanied by Mr. Weiss, Mrs. Gennings and Mr. Longo.

Sacred Heart Church

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

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Around Town

SDW Looking for Your Special Talent

January 6

Interested in performing your special talent for a special event? The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will be holding talent show auditions on Friday, Jan. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

South Plainfield students grade six through high school can enter. Be prepared with sheet music, recorded music, an instrument or whatever is needed (no heavy metal or hard rock). Time slots are limited for the Feb. 11 performance.

If you have any question please call the SPSSDW at (908) 561-5255.

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 seven 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-Friday). For information, visit: 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.

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. Varied menu. Proceeds benefit the VA Hospital at Lyons. The public is invited. Adults

What's happening in JANUARY

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

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

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Planning Board-Tinghley Rubber Senior Housing Application-Jan 10 at 7pm American Red Cross Program Winterizing & Emergency Preparedness Jan. 12 at 1pm				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Advisory Board Meeting 4:30pm Planning Bd Mtg 7pm Tinghley Rubber Site	Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm Red Cross Program 1pm	BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available
9	10	11	12	13

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

are \$5, children 12 and under are \$3.

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

Benefit for Alyssa Ricciardi

January 8

A night of music and entertainment will be held on Sunday, Jan. 8 to benefit Alyssa Ricciardi.

Two-year-old Alyssa has been undergoing aggressive chemotherapy at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. The event takes place from 6 to 11 p.m. at Webster Hall, 125 East 11th St. in New York.

Tickets are \$30 and available at: www.websterhall.com or by calling Marco Fuschetto at (908) 380-1732.

If you can't attend and would like to make a donation you can mail your check to: The Ithurts2bFabulous Foundation, 258 Probasco Rd., E. Windsor, NJ 08520 (in memo section write for Alyssa). We thank you, for your continued support.

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 information, call (908) 754-7885.

Historical Society Meeting

January 10

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its first meeting the new year on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Dues are \$10 and due this month. We will be happy to welcome back anyone who may have missed some of our meetings and invite any new members. You do not have to be a resident to become a member.

Come and find out the progress of the planned museum.

Pancake Breakfast at American Legion

January 15

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost for adults is \$5, children are \$3 and kids under six are free. All profits go to the South Plainfield Scholarship Fund.

AARP #4144 Meeting

January 19

AARP Chapter 4144's next meeting will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Thursday, Jan. 19 starting at 12:30 p.m.

The program will be presentation by Dave Mollen from the New Jersey AARP Speaker's Bureau, who will present a program on Medicare Part D, sponsored by Twin City Pharmacy, located on Park Ave.

Needlecrafters meet on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

VFW Plans Italian Night

January 20

VFW Post #6763 will hold an Ital-

ian Night on Friday, Jan. 20. Full course dinner is \$8 adults and children 12 years and under \$4. Take outs are .50 cents extra.

For information phone (908) 668-9751.

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. 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 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 information, call (908) 754-7885. You may also visit Ms. Novak's website at www.JamieNovak.com.

— Out of Town —

Special Screening of TSANJ HBO Special

January 12

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey has announced a private screening of the HBO special, "I have Tourette's, but Tourette's Doesn't Have Me" at the January meeting of the Middlesex/Union County Support Group meeting.

The thirty-minute documentary will be shown on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at the JFK Neuroscience Institute 65 James St. in Edison. The showing will be followed by an open discussion of the film.

Call TSANJ at (908) 575-7350 or visit the website at www.tsanj.org for details and directions. There is no charge to attend.

Middlesex East WOWs Dance

January 13

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold an open dance on Friday, Jan. 13 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. All are welcome. Admission is \$8, guests \$9.

The Middlesex WOWs meet the

second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center in Carteret.

For information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

Blackrosé to Perform

January 14 and 21

Blackrosé, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Season's Restaurant, located on Rt. 27 in Edison on Saturday, Jan. 14. They will also perform at Tim Kerwins, located on Rt. 28 in Middlesex on Saturday, Jan. 14.

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 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 Dinner

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 buffet dinner, 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 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 2006," 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, or Bill Unler at (732) 968-5381.

Music, Art Program for Children with Autism

February 4

Classes for the Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement and Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors will resume in February. The 10 week workshops will be held on Saturdays, Feb. 4 to Apr. 8 in New Brunswick. Workshop is free of charge.

Music/movement and art workshops will be held at Rutgers University, in cooperation with the Visual Arts Department and at the Elks Lodge.

For information, call (732) 745-3885, 745-5935, 745-3913 (TTY), or info@vsanj.org.

Application deadline is Jan. 12.

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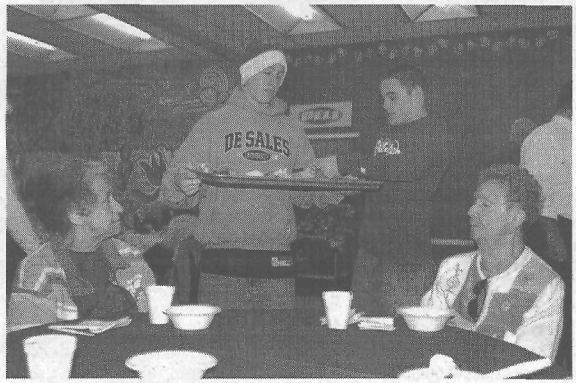
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Photos by Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield senior citizens got an early start on celebrating the holidays when they were invited to the high school for a shortened version of the holiday concert. They enjoyed selections from the band, orchestra and choral groups. After the concert they were treated to a luncheon by the school's Leadership Club. Over a hundred seniors were served a holiday meal with all the trimmings.



Junior Journalist Corner



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

Mike Olano, Kennedy School Fourth Grader, Named This Week's "Junior Journalist"

Mike Olano, J.F. Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. His story, "Is There a Monster Under My Bed," has earned him 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.



Kennedy School teacher Cynthia Severino, Mike Olano and Principal Fred Oberkehr.

Is There A Monster Under My Bed?

By Mike Olano

One time in Frog Creek, Pennsylvania, the Johnson family was eating dinner. There were five Johnsons, Mom, Dad, George the oldest, Bob the middle child, and Leighton the baby. When Bob was about to put a piece of pasta in his mouth, he said, "Are there such things as monsters?" "Of course not," said his mother, "but why do you ask?" "Davy Rosen, from school, said that

his big brother Danny told him that there were monsters," said Bob.

"Well, let's go to bed now," said his mother, trying to forget about the situation. Bob kept thinking and thinking and thinking. He was scared to go to bed. Bob went into bed. His mom came in.

"Bob," said Mom.

"Yes," said Bob.

"I know you're scared, but you have to get over it," said Mom.

"Night," said Bob.

"Good night," said Mom. Mom left the room and it was silent, very silent, and...

"BOO," shouted George.

"What do you want," asked Bob.

"I just wanted to tell you that there are such things as monsters," George responded.

"Mom told me there is no such thing," said Bob.

"Well, Mom's wrong," said George, "there are and they live under your

bed, I've seen them."

"Whatever," said Bob.

"Have a nice monsterful night, hahaha!" George said.

Bob began to get scared and went under his covers. He began to hear noises, his bed started to move. Then... "HELLO," said a very strange monster. "I am Mondy, the BFM, who are you?"

"I'm Bob," said Bob.

"Is there anything you want?" Mondy said.

"Yes," said Bob.

"What is it," asked Mondy.

"I want you to scare my older brother, George," said Bob.

"Okay," said Mondy, "I'll go." Bob heard a scream in the distance and Mondy came back into Bob's bedroom.

"I did it!" Mondy said. Then Mondy and Bob heard a strange noise from in Leighton's room and he started to cry and said, "Is there a monster under my bed?"

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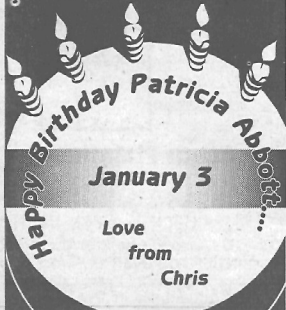
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Elks Are Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment book for \$25.

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2006 Borough Reorganization

Mayoral Appointments

By Virtue Of The Power Vested In Me As Mayor Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, And Pursuant To Ordinance #728 And N.J.S.A.40:55d, I, Daniel J. Gallagher, Do Hereby Appoint

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Marc Sternersen	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2008
Dorothy Miele	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2008
Jennifer M. Pear	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2008
Kathleen Thomas	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2008
Larry Randolph	Environmental Commission – Chair	December 31, 2006
Ed P. Kubala	Mayor's HCD Representative	December 31, 2006
Cheryl Nagel-Smiley	Mayor's Rep. Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2006
John Pabst	Planning Board – Class II	December 31, 2006
Kathleen Thomas	Planning Board – Class IV	December 31, 2009
Paul Grzenda	Planning Board – Class IV	December 31, 2009
Peter Smith	Planning Board – Class IV	December 31, 2009
John Mocharski	Planning Board – Alternate I	December 31, 2008
Franky J. Salerno	Planning Board – Alternate II	December 31, 2008
Salvatore Severini	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2010
Christine F. Marks	Recreation Commission – Alternate III	December 31, 2010
Dennis Cerami	Traffic Safety – Council Liaison	December 31, 2006
Vincent Buttiglieri	Mayor's Rep. – Middlesex County Transportation Coord. Committee	December 31, 2006



Councilman Dennis Cerami gives high fives to Councilman Matthew Anesh's twins, Joseph and Harrison.

Council Appointments

Be It Resolved By The Governing Body Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, New Jersey, And Pursuant To Ordinance #728 And N.J.S.A. 40:55d That:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Walter X. Kalman	Affordable Housing Committee	December 31, 2006
James Vokral	Affordable Housing Committee	December 31, 2006
Glenn Cullen	Affordable Housing Committee	December 31, 2006
Linda Zushma	Affordable Housing Committee	December 31, 2006
Charles Butrico	Affordable Housing Committee-Council Liaison	December 31, 2006
Anthony Giammarino	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2008
Robert Longo	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2008
John Pabst	Business Advisory Group – Zoning Rep.	December 31, 2006
David J. Samuels (CME)	Business Advisory Group – Engin. Rep.	December 31, 2006
Alice Tempel	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission	December 31, 2006
Charles Butrico	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm. – Alternate I	December 31, 2006
David J. Samuels (CME)	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm. – Alternate II	December 31, 2006
Raymond Petronko	Council's HCD Representative	December 31, 2006
Charles Butrico	Planning Board – Class III	December 31, 2006
Raymond Petronko	Office on Aging Advisory Comm. – Liaison	December 31, 2006
Peter Vanderhelm	Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2008

Councilmembers and Board and Commission Appointees Are Aworn in at Reorganization



Residents appointed to various boards and commissions are sworn in.

Mayor Appointments

With Advice And Consent Of Council

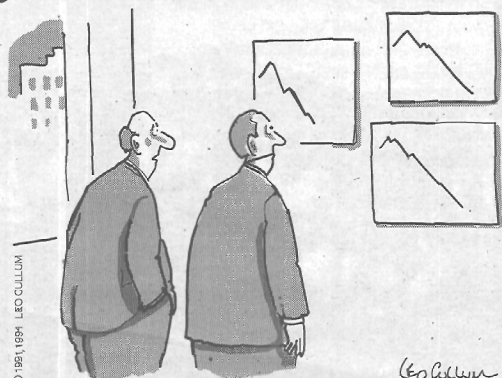
Be It Resolved By The Governing Body Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, New Jersey, That:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Joseph DeAndrea	Construction Board of Appeals	December 31, 2008
Joseph Padula	Construction Board of Appeals	December 31, 2008
Dominick Demico, Jr.	Construction Board of Appeals	December 31, 2008
George Deluca	Construction Board of Appeals (Alt-Building)	December 31, 2008
Tami Cole	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2008
Fred Toth	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2008
Natalie Bergen	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2008
Happy Hylkema	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2006
Stephen Magura	Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2009
Dr. Robert Rosado	Library Board of Trustees – Bd. of Ed Rep.	December 31, 2006
Joseph DeAndrea	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2008
Joseph Padula	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2008
Dominick Demico, Jr.	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2008
Timothy Morgan	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. – Bd. of Ed Rep.	December 31, 2006
Lt. Kevin Murtagh	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm – Police Rep	December 31, 2006
Joseph Glowacki	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. – DPW Rep.	December 31, 2006
Kathy Dimeglio	Traffic Safety Advisory Commission	December 31, 2008
Frank Mikorski	Traffic Safety Advisory Commission	December 31, 2008
Dennis Cerami	Youth Guidance Council – Council Liaison	December 31, 2006
Officer Gary Kline	Youth Guidance Council – Police Rep.	December 31, 2006
William Thomas	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2009
Christine Buteas	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2007
Michele George	Zoning Board of Adjustment – Alternate I	December 31, 2009
Gino Leonardis	Zoning Board of Adjustment – Alternate II	December 31, 2009



Rev. Charles Mingle give the invocation at Sunday's Reorganization meeting.

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Mayor Gallagher's Reorganization Address

Welcome everyone to this observance of our American freedoms. While the citizens of Iraq are celebrating their first free elections, we all too often take this cherished liberty for granted. Too many of our bravest young men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect these uniquely American rights. We honor their service by these ceremonies today.

Welcome to the new members of the borough council, Matthew Anesh and Robert Bengivenga. You are to be congratulated not only for conducting a successful campaign, but also for your dedication to public service. The highest honor that any individual can achieve in a democracy is to be chosen as a representative of the people. I know you will never take this honor lightly and that you'll serve the citizens of South Plainfield well.

To former council members Ed Kubala and Kathy Thomas... thank you for your service. Ed served this borough with honor and distinction for 12 years, one of the longest tenures of anyone who has ever served on the borough council. We don't have the time to list all of Ed's accomplishments, but let me highlight just two. During his time as chairperson of Administration and Finance, our taxes were the lowest in the county and our debt was cut in half. No one in the history of the borough even comes close to that record. But the shining achievement of Councilmember Kubala is the beautiful senior housing on Morris Ave. It was always Ed's dream. He was the driving force behind it and I will always remember the tear in his eye the day we cut the ribbon and residents started moving in. Ed, your hard work will continue to benefit the residents of our Borough for decades to come.

Although she served on the Borough council for only two years, Councilwoman Kathy Thomas has been as outstanding a councilmember as I have ever worked with. Kathy has the unique ability to not see a problem, but a solution. Her work on the new library has been the glue that has kept the project together and moving ahead. This is as complicated a project as you can imagine. First, there had to be a concept, then property acquisition, then a thorough search for an architect, then final design. Most importantly, Kathy set up a structure, which not only encouraged, but required citizen input. Kathy, I will continue to rely on you to see the library finished. Don't go too far away. We need your intelligence, focus and hard work.

2005 was an excellent year for our borough. After years of planning, the total reconstruction of Hamilton Blvd. was started in the spring. The cost of the project, which is being funded by Middlesex County, is in excess of \$11 million. It is an enormous project which includes relocation of all utilities including water and gas lines and all electric and telephone utilities. For example, Verizon has one of its main facilities located near Saint Nicholas Ave. and it will take months for it to be relocated. I must compliment the contractor for continuing the work through all of these obstacles. When the project is completed there will be new curbs and sidewalks, decorative pavers, lights, historic signs, landscaping and new drainage all the way from New Market Ave. to the overpass near the Valley Bank. New traffic signals will be installed at St. Nicholas Ave. and Ryan St. Phase I, which will extend to Easton Ave., will be completed by this fall and Phase II, which will widen Hamilton Blvd. to four lanes from the Valley Bank to Stetson Rd. will commence next Spring. As part of that phase a traffic signal will be installed at South Clinton Ave. and Hamilton Blvd.

This spring Durham Ave. will also be widened to four lanes from Rt. 287 to Hamilton Blvd. A turning lane will be added at Quick Chek at the corner of Helen St. This project will greatly enhance traffic flow from Rt. 287 onto Hamilton Blvd. In addition, our assemblyman, Patrick Diegnan, has had meetings with the commissioner of transportation to add a right hand turning lane on the exit ramp from Rt. 287 onto Durham Ave., which would result in two right hand and two left hand turning lanes. When the Durham Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. projects are completed, along with the additional turning lane, there will be a tremendous improvement in traffic flow. In addition, Council President Cerami is coordinating design of an extension of New Market Ave. to Belmont Ave. If this project can be completed, we could then prohibit truck traffic on Hamilton Blvd. from New Market Ave. to St. Nicholas Ave. and direct it onto South Clinton Ave., which is already an industrial area. This design will improve the quality of life on the south side of our borough more than any other project I can think of. This will not happen overnight but as in life, good things take hard work and perseverance.

At the same time, the Helen St. Project is continuing to advance. I must congratulate Councilmember Butrico for his dedication to

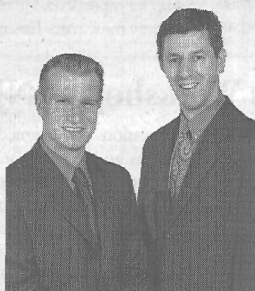
this project. The required documents have been submitted to address the environmental concerns that were raised in the review process. We expect to receive approval to proceed with the final design stage after which property acquisition will occur and construction will start. We are hopeful that we will be driving on Helen St. within four years. But it may take longer. To those who criticize or ridicule the Helen Street Project, I ask the obvious question... "Just because it's difficult and is taking longer to complete than we had hoped, would you abandon the project?" The Federal Government has already spent close to \$1M on the Helen Street extension and when it is completed it will cost nearly \$20M. It is the only demonstration project of its type in the nation. Yes, it's complicated but it's worth it and it will be completed.

In addition we will be repaving eight roads, Bullard Pl., Cedarbrook Ave., Chambers St., Meadow Terr., Redding Ave., Revere Rd., Wells Dr. and Lewis Pl. this summer as always on a 'pay as you go' basis. Over half the cost of these projects will be offset by a state grant of \$175,000, which we were notified of last week as a result of Assemblyman Diegnan's work for his hometown.

The new library on Plainfield Ave. is moving along. The library board is in the process of finalizing its contract with the architect. Design should be completed within months, after which we will go out to bid and arrange financing. I expect a groundbreaking ceremony in the fall. Again, I must congratulate former Councilwoman Kathy Thomas for her dedication to this project and Kathy we will continue to rely on your expertise.

The new police facility behind Borough Hall is under construction. This building will be used as a forensic lab and investigatory facility and will finally give a private location for our juvenile matters. The total cost of construction is being offset by the use of confiscated money and a state grant, which was also arranged by Assemblyman Diegnan.

The environmental classroom at the Highland Woods will be ready for use in the spring, giving South Plainfield a one of a kind learning center for young and old alike. I must thank Freeholder John Pulomena for arranging for a grant from Middlesex County to pay for this facility.



Rob Bengivenga & Matthew Anesh

Just think of all the people that help make our community tick. Volunteers put out fires. They mentor children on soccer fields, baseball fields and football fields. Others serve on the P.T.A., the school board and the planning board. Volunteers even answer the call when a family member is ill and needs to be rushed to the emergency room.

What do all these people have in common? They set an example by volunteering to work together to make South Plainfield a better place. Yes, South Plainfield has much to be proud of. And it results from neighbors working together.

As members of the council, we can learn from these volunteers. In 2006, we can have the most successful year in our town's history if we work together. That's not to say there aren't serious challenges ahead, like taming rising costs, controlling overdevelopment and managing increasingly limited resources. But by working together, as a team, this council can surely rise to the occasion.

As a team there are important issues we must address immediately. First and foremost, making and keeping South Plainfield affordable should always be our aim. For decades, a delicate balance between industry, business and residential development made our town an affordable place for parents to raise their children. That balance is something we should strive to maintain. We must also re-examine how we spend the public's tax dollars. Making our vendors compete for the services they provide is one way we can conserve scarce public funds. Also, let's take a fresh look at each line of the budget. In the past, the Mayor has asked the council when looking at the budget to sharpen its pencils and not to forget the erasers. We couldn't agree more. Let's work together and do just that.

Wisely planning our town's growth is another challenge. Uncontrolled growth is the single-biggest threat to our community. That is not to say that we should stop growing or that we should impose unrealistic restrictions on growth. But we need solid planning. Our blueprint for South Plainfield should keep in mind the limits of our town's infrastructure and its single-family-home character. We can and will control overdevelopment if we work together toward that goal.

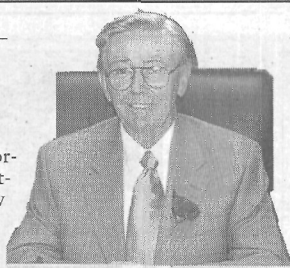
Open government and ethical reform also merit this council's attention. Democracy means a government "of the people." We should strive to keep the citizens of South Plainfield informed, and we should actively encourage their participation. Let's work together to make South Plainfield the most accessible and ethical local government in the state by enacting things, like meaningful pay-to-play reform, developer disclosure require-

The bridge over the creek between the fireman's memorial and the veteran's memorial is being designed. We should have the memorial walkway completed by summer. Won't it be beautiful to stroll with your family along a path connecting these moving tributes on a beautiful summer's day? I would like to see the veteran's memorial in Veteran's Park relocated to the rear of the senior center and extend the walk to include it so that all of the memorials will be linked. In addition, I think it would be terrific to extend the walk along the fence line at Veteran's Park to the entrance of the open space area next to the brook. We would then create a beautiful walking path to be enjoyed by our residents. I am directing Councilmember Petronko to take the lead on this project.

Let's talk about taxes. As you know, South Plainfield has one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Middlesex County. We pride ourselves on our history of little or no tax increases. 2005 was a difficult year because of unanticipated healthcare and pension costs. True to our policy of 'pay as you go government', we didn't look for gimmicks, and property taxes were raised to cover the cost. Because of that prudent approach, I am committed to a budget this year which will not increase municipal taxes. One of the things that makes South Plainfield such a great borough to live in is lower property taxes than neighboring communities. Let's keep it that way. Councilmember Cusick and the Administration and Finance Committee, sharpen those pencils and submit a budget that does not increase taxes. I also ask that the board of education join us in this goal. As you know there are three parts to your property tax bill, local, county and board of education. Let all three elements work toward the same goal of property tax relief.

Last month the state senate approved legislation allowing towns to create their own ordinances controlling political contributions by those who work for the municipality. These are usually called "Pay to Play" laws. The state assembly passed the same legislation earlier in the year and the Governor is scheduled to sign it into law. I congratulate the legislature for addressing this issue. Although both parties in South Plainfield have always acted honestly, I think it is important to adopt a formal ordinance putting into law rules to protect the integrity of the political process. I am directing

our borough attorney to draft an ordinance for the



DANIEL J. GALLAGHER

consideration of the council within 30 days. Let no one ever be able to charge pay to play in South Plainfield.

I also congratulate the council for committing itself to putting into place an ordinance opening up the process of committee appointments. Again I thank former Councilwoman Thomas for bringing this proposal to our attention. I can assure you it will be acted on promptly.

South Plainfield is a small borough. It's impossible to go to the A&P or the Drug Fair without running into someone you know. We don't need our hometown closeness contaminated by political charges. Hopefully these two ordinances will assure that never happens.

I look forward to my sixteenth year as your mayor. So much has been accomplished. Remember when Hadley Rd. looked like a moon crater? Remember when people said we would never have senior housing in South Plainfield? Remember when some actually believed the senior recreation center was a fairy tale? Remember when some wanted to close down the community pool because they thought we couldn't afford to fix it? Remember when the PAL was half its size and there was no weight room or enough space for kids to play basketball? Remember when they were planning a grand opening for a Walgreens on what is now the beautiful Putnam Park jogging trail? Remember when borough budgets doubled in one year and people said you couldn't have pay as you go government? It's been a fulfilling time for me and I hope I have served our citizens well. I can assure you I have never taken your trust for granted. I will give the same commitment and dedication as long as I am honored to serve you as your mayor.

Let us all commit ourselves today to always work for what's best for South Plainfield, and 2006 will be every bit as rewarding as the years that have come before it.

Thank you all for coming. Good health and happiness to all in the new year.

From the Republicans.....

Mayor Gallagher, Fellow Members of the Council, Family and Friends:

South Plainfield has much to be proud of as we enter 2006. The Republican members of the council join the Mayor and our fellow members in celebrating all that makes South Plainfield unique: its sense of community, its rich history, its fine schools, and its abundant, tireless volunteers.

ments, and an open applications ordinance. These are just a few ways to earn the faith of those we serve.

I've said what we think this body's top priorities should be in 2006. But what are we, as the Republican members of the council, going to do to further these priorities? First, Matt and I promise to work together with the other council members. We'll strive to keep an open mind and to show our sincere respect for the process, as well as our Democratic colleagues. Yes, there will be times we won't agree. But nothing is wrong with honest disagreement. Two-party government does not mean combative government. It means fresh ideas, different perspectives and open discussion.

The public and the other members of the council have our word that when we disagree, we will do so in a civil and mutually respectful manner. This is not to say that we won't forcefully state our case. But the public elected us to work together, and our common desire to make our town a better place—a desire shared by every person on the governing body—unites us. Just as it has united the many former mayors and council members who've served our town, some of whom I see as I look around this room. These are people to whom we owe our appreciation, an appreciation we can demonstrate by the way we conduct the public's business and by working together.

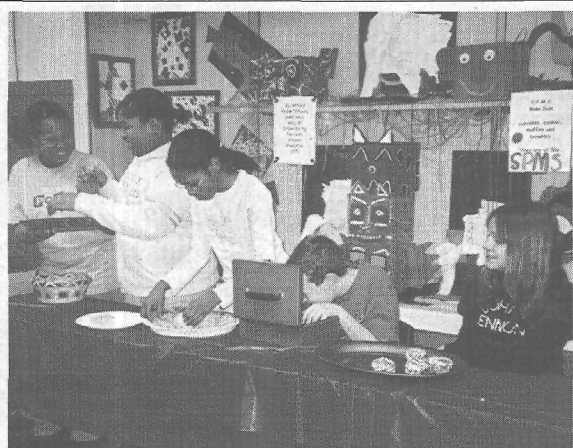
Examples of areas we can work hand-in-hand are easy to find. For instance, the plans for a new library. An investment in a library is an investment in our future. Let's make sure the facility meets the needs of the community for decades to come. And just as important as the bricks and mortar, let's make sure what's inside—the library's resources and programs—get just as much of our attention.

We can also work as a team in trying to offset public dollars going toward the project. Our South Plainfield Education Foundation is a great example of what can get done when people work together to raise funds for a worthy project. More than ever we need an aggressive library foundation to raise funds, as well as to search out both public- and private-sector grants, for the construction.

Matt and I also want to work with the governing body in developing what we called during our campaign, the "South Plainfield Volunteer Corps." From talking to Joanne Graf, I understand that she has been spearheading a similar plan. The idea is to enlist volunteers that will help seniors who are having trouble maintaining their homes—things like raking leaves, fixing or painting a fence, or moving a piece of small furniture. Helping our seniors stay in their homes is something I'm sure everyone sitting at this table can agree is a worthy endeavor. Let's work together to make it happen.

That's the key: working together. Governing bodies over the years have succeeded when they worked together. And if we continue in that tradition, we'll face the challenges that are before us as successfully as the council members of the past faced their challenges. Both Matt and I are optimistic for what we—meaning the entire council—can do in 2006 and the years to come.

Here's to 2006 being a year of health, happiness and progress for the people of South Plainfield.



Middle School Bake Sale Raises \$180 for Cystic Fibrosis

The South Plainfield Middle School Student Alliance and Peer-to-Peer groups held a bake sale on Dec. 8. Together they raised \$180 under the leadership of teacher Miss Schocklin.

The students worked hard baking cupcakes, cookies, muffins and brownies for the sale, including some of the teachers.

The money raised exceeded the

groups goal of \$150 and will go toward the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The Student Alliance and Peer-to-Peer groups meet after school and focus on ideals such as peer leadership, tolerance and making the school and community better places.

Their next fundraiser will be held in February to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Free Ultrasounds at Life Choices

Life Choices is offering free ultrasounds to ladies who are pregnant from seven to 24 weeks. This service is available from Jan. 10 to 20, so that the center can complete its medical conversion and nurse training. The ultrasounds will be performed under the supervision of a registered ultrasonographer. Each participant will receive a photo of her baby and be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Toys R Us.

Life Choices Resource Center is a crisis pregnancy center that has been serving women in Middlesex and Union counties for over 20 years. They provide pregnancy tests, confidential pre and post abortion counseling, net working for pre-natal care, housing, childbirth and parenting classes, etc.

Life Choices is located at 503 Main St., Metuchen, across from the Municipal Building. Call (732) 516-0911 for an appointment.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

TEN! NINE! EIGHT! SEV... Oh, yeah, that was last week. Anyway, a belated welcome to 2006 from South Plainfield Library! Here's the latest Library news:

There's still time to register for the next "Practical Crafting" program, scheduled for Monday. There will be two sessions, at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. Instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making "canned bracelets", using polymer clay. Space is limited for this program, so you must pre-register. There's also a materials fee of \$2, payable upon registration. Please stop by the Circulation Desk for more details, or to sign up.

With Miss Linda back from vacation three and over will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children ages two and three, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday evening at 6:30. And our "Books-N-Babies" program, for children under age three, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. You don't need to pre-register for these programs. For more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Linda.

Two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. The Friends of the Library will meet here at 11:30 a.m.; both members and non-members are welcome to attend. Then, at 7:30 p.m., the Library Board of Trustees will have their regular meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn more about the Library's present and future plans, including the proposed new Library.

We've got another special program coming up this month: author and professional organizer Jaime Novak will speak at the Library on Monday,

Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. In this return appearance, she'll talk about how to clear away clutter in your home and get organized for the new year, as well as answer questions from the audience. No pre-registration is required for this program. Copies of her book will be available for purchase (clutter not included).

A couple of Circuit notes: First, we're between groups on the Audio-book Circuit. New titles will be available later this month. Meanwhile, the January group of Circuit videos and DVDs is now available. Titles this month include the MST3K version of *The Beginning of the End*, *Terminator 3*, *Runaway Jury*, *Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie*, *Shrek 2* and *Million Dollar Baby*.

Speaking of videos, we've just added a whole bunch of new DVDs to our permanent collection. Titles in our adult section include the 2005 version of *War of the Worlds*, new season sets of *CSI* (Season 5) and *SI: Miami* (Season 3), *The Fantastic Four*, *The Dukes of Hazzard* and replacement copies of *Star Wars* episodes One (*Phantom Menace*), five (*Empire*) and six (*Jedi*). New juvenile titles include a 3-D version of *Barbie and the Magic of Pegasus*, *Clone Wars*, Vol. 2, a third *Looney Tunes* collection, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and a new copy of *The Wizard of Oz*. (We've also added an extras-packed special edition of the *Wizard of Oz* in the Adult section.) These titles are now in circulation, or will be available shortly.

Finally, you may have heard of the impending rise in postage rates to 39 cents for first class mail. Rest assured that we'll be stocking the new stamps as soon as we can. We hope that avoiding long lines at the post office will offset the higher cost (well, maybe a little, anyway).

That's about all for now. See you next Friday for more news. I guess we should put away those party hats now, right?

Performing Arts Workshop at NJPAC

Utilizing the performing arts to stimulate learning of subjects as diverse as math, science, language arts and social studies is the focus of the next Professional Development Workshops for Educators. The workshops are conducted by the Arts Education Department of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC). The next full-day session is Jan. 19.

Open to all educators, including classroom teachers, curriculum supervisors and teaching artists, the six work-

shop sessions are designed to provide activities and lesson plans that connect to traditional classroom subjects such as social studies, language arts, cultural diversity and storytelling.

On-line registration and other information about the NJPAC Professional Development Workshops for Educators may be obtained by visiting their website at www.njpac.org.

For professional development opportunities at NJPAC, call (973) 297-5836.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for the services of bond counsel for the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer, Attorneys for the year 2006.
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Bond Counsel.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$40.25 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT:

WHEREAS in conformance with public laws of the State of New Jersey, 1996, c.95, sect. 14, THOMAS LANZA, an attorney at law of the State of New Jersey, is hereby appointed MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR for the year 2006 under the supervision of the Attorney General or the County Prosecutor who may represent the State, County or Municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Central Municipal Court or any other Municipal Court;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Thomas Lanza, Esq.,
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefit coverage will not be provided as part of the compensation package for the position of Municipal Prosecutor.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that in the absence of Thomas Lanza, another attorney from the firm of Thatcher & Lanza may act as Municipal Prosecutor.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$45.50 January 6, 2006

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield for the year 2006, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Esq.
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Borough Attorney.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$40.25 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm for matters dealing with site assessments, site remediation and brownfields development and for all matters regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with PMK Group
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$40.25 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield requires the services of a licensed appraisal company for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. This Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Fleming White Appraisals.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$36.75 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT:

WHEREAS there exists a need for the services of a Registered Municipal Auditor to conduct an audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Andrew Hodulik of the firm Hodulik & Morrison, P.A.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by Law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$36.75 January 6, 2006

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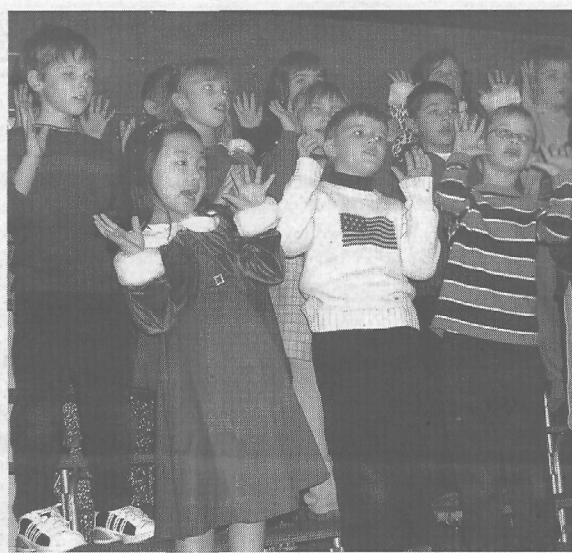
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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an insurance brokerage and consulting firm that will handle the implementation of the employee benefits as well as negotiation with the various benefit providers for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Model Consulting, Inc.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation package for this position.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.00 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm to act as Borough Engineer for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Borough is currently using CME Associates as the Borough Engineer since July 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with CME Associates.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$39.50 January 6, 2006

Obituaries

Jacqueline M. Angioletti

Jacqueline M. Angioletti died Friday, Dec. 23 at the Lake Mary Rehabilitation Center in Lake Mary, Fla. after a long illness.

Miss Angioletti was born in Monongahela, Pa. and resided in the Plainfield area from 1970 to 1985 before moving to Florida.

She taught English at South Plainfield High School, where she also was advisor to the school newspaper and coached tennis and girls' softball.

At the time of her death, Miss Angioletti was on the faculty of Seminole County College in Sanford, Fla.

"Jackie" is survived by her beloved "Tootsie" and her lifelong friends, Bill and Toni Niedemeyer.

A memorial service will take place in Lake Mary, Fla. in January.

gineering from Rutgers College of New Brunswick.

Catherine had been employed for nine years as a chemical engineer with Schutte & Koerting, a division of Ketema Corporation of, Bensalem, Pa. She had previously been employed by the Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township.

Catherine also loved to cook.

She is predeceased by her mother and father, Adele and Walter Cichinski.

Surviving are her sister and brother-in-law, Caroline and John Touzeau of South Plainfield and four brothers, Steven of Somerville, Matthew of North Plainfield, Stanley of Arlington and Walter and his wife Volena of Fort Smith, Ark.

Also surviving are a niece and nephews, Jacqueline Touzeau, Vincent, Nicholas, and Walter Cichinski.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Sophia Clemente.

Also surviving are his two grandchildren, Daniel and Lily Harlan.

Funeral services were held in the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Joseph E. Goglia, 89

Joseph E. Goglia, died on Sunday, Jan. 1 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born and raised in Millburn, he settled in South Plainfield 57 years ago.

A veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Goglia served during World War II in the 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion. He was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and four Overseas Bars for his actions.

Employed as a lumber salesman, he worked for the former Loizieux of Plainfield and later for Somerville Lumber of Bridgewater before his retirement 25 years ago.

He was active with the South Plainfield senior citizens, the South Plainfield Chapter of AARP and a long time communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his wife, Annette (Recchia) Goglia who died in 1998; two sisters, Mack Dante and Billie Militano and his brother, Carmine Goglia.

Surviving are his daughter Joanne Reinhart and her husband, Kurt of Maine; a son, Richard and his wife Kate of Massachusetts; four grandchildren, Todd Reinhart and his wife Jenn, Joseph Reinhart and his wife Margo, Lauren Goglia and Christine Goglia; two nephews, Anthony Dante and Jeffrey Vontross and two nieces, Carole Ann Zbornik and Mary Louise Dante.

Also surviving is his great granddaughter, Anya Reinhart.

Funeral services were held in the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Louise Holmes, 74

Louise Holmes died on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Newark, she had resided in central New Jersey before settling in South Plainfield 15 years ago.

She enjoyed raising and breeding dogs.

She is predeceased by her brother, Leo Boucher.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda Patten of Somerset and Diana Krynski of South Plainfield; a brother, Raymond Boucher of Lake George and her two grandchildren, Melissa and Joey Krynski.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Frank G. Scarlatella, 67

Frank G. Scarlatella, 67, died on Sunday, Jan. 1 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Bisaccia, Italy, Mr. Scarlatella had come to the United States in 1959 and resided in Elizabeth before settling in North Plainfield in 1970.

The co-founder of King Dinettes of Greenbrook, he retired in 2000.

Mr. Scarlatella was an active bowler who participated in various leagues. He bowled at Strike N Spare Lanes in Greenbrook and at the former Greenbrook Lanes. A love for playing poker, Frank had a long running weekly card game with friends. He also enjoyed listening to the music of Frank Sinatra and spending time in his yard gardening.

Surviving are his wife, Donna (King) Scarlatella, his four children, Sandra Scarlatella and her husband, Kenneth Harlan, Lisa Scarlatella, Marc Scarlatella and Frank Scarlatella Jr. and his two sisters, Elia Tarsia and

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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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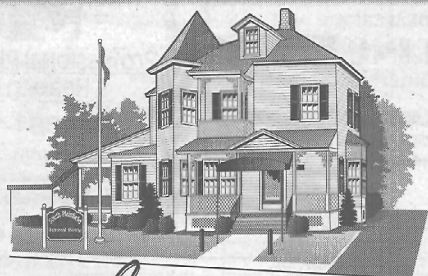
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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

son has a right to discriminate against another person. I can not and will not discuss the outcome with anyone because of the confidentiality agreement.

Again, I will repeat there is no reason for grandstanding; my attorney is Dan Fleming of Wong Fleming in Princeton, NJ. His number is (609) 951-9520.

I am trying to raise my children in a town that I believe in, but it is harder and harder each day. In my opinion, you elected officials are an embarrassment to the people who elected you and once believed in you. Leave me and my family alone!

A PROUD MOTHER AND FORMER COUNCILWOMAN, DARLENE PINTO

To the Editor;

Last week's letter by several Democratic elected officials is an example of their continued inability to recognize that they are accountable to the people they serve. The Democrats may want to spin the controversy over the Pinto suit as something dealing with their "personal" lives, but whether they vio-

lated the law has nothing to do with their personal lives. It has everything to do with their actions while in office. Here are some facts to think about.

- Mrs. Pinto said the council did not hire her because she was a single mother. If this is true, it violated the N.J. Law Against Discrimination. Whether the council members based their decision on illegal motives has nothing to do with their "personal" lives.

- Mrs. Pinto alleged the governing body met secretly to discuss whether to hire her. This would be illegal under the Sunshine Law. It also has nothing to do with the council member's "personal" lives.

- The mayor says no public funds were used for the settlement, but he ignores how our town is not insured by an insurance company. It is part of a self-insurance fund with other towns. Where does the self-insurance fund get its money? Answer: the taxpayers.

The Republicans merely seek answers to three questions. What was the settlement? Did the Democrats commit illegal discrimination? Did the

Democrats hold an illegal meeting?

The Democrats call the attempt to obtain this information a "charade." The real charade is their attempt to cast the inquiry as anything other than one to find the answers to valid questions. In fact, the *Star-Ledger* (12/15) is so interested in knowing the settlement terms, it has requested the agreement. What political motive does the *Star-Ledger* have?

Invoking the names of Mrs. Pinto's family is another Democratic charade. Again, the GOP only seeks answers to three questions. Thus, the Democrats' claim of having no other choice than to reveal "facts [that] may cause personal embarrassment to the Pinto family" is really a veiled threat. Why would they have to reveal personal information about anyone when their actions are in dispute?

The GOP's lawsuit seeks to vindicate important public rights. Knowledge about public affairs ensures an informed citizenry and minimizes the evils of a secluded process. Exposing these records to the light of public scrutiny may perhaps cause discom-

fort to some if they acted improperly. But our country is founded on the premise that society suffers far more if government is permitted to operate secretly.

American society is committed to the principle that democracy cannot function unless the people are permitted to know what their government is up to. Apparently the Democrats have forgotten this...or simply think they are above it.

RAY RUSNAK

To the Editor;

With all the stories in the press and on TV about the use of steroids, I would like to suggest that any one who has doubts about the long time effects go on the "net" and find the film clip by Ron Alzado.

Ron was one of the toughest-toughest football players ever. I am not sure if he played for the Bears or the Steelers. He was shown in many games staring right into the TV camera, in a way that would make the viewer uneasy. He was on steroids for

sometime and his body started to let him down and finally had to give up the game.

Just before he died he made a tape telling what a dumb thing it was for him to use these things. When a person sees what he looked like during his playing days and what he looked like just before he died, it should scare anyone away from steroids.

I am in favor of testing of ALL sports players, male and female. On the first failed test, you are out of the sport for one year and the second time and you are out for good. I would start at the high school level.

Coaches and team owners that 'permit' drugs on one level or another by looking the other way are using these players and they are not much different than the owners of racing dogs or horses. And when they are 'used-up' they are dumped.

I hope I have made myself clear on the point. If it keeps one young person clean and they get a chance at a record, I'll be happy.

WILLIAM (BILL) TUTHILL

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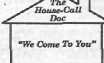
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policereport

• On Dec. 24 Donald J. Alexa, 33, of Edison was arrested for no license, failure to wear a seatbelt and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Fairlamb Ave. resident reported that the front license plate of their vehicle was missing.

• On Dec. 25 Sherban's Diner reported that a rear window had been opened, the cash register drawer was damaged and the office door had been broken in. Nothing was taken.

• A Franklin Ave. resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been smashed in. Nothing was taken.

• A Wood St. resident reported that their exterior Christmas light wires had been cut.

• A Somerset Ave. resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been smashed. Nothing was taken.

• On Dec. 26 Carlos Nuhn Canas-Vasquez, 23, of New Brunswick was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and having an open alcohol container in the vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Harvard Ave. resident reported that the tires on three of their vehicles had been flattened.

• A Diana Dr. resident reported that the tires on three of their vehicles had been flattened.

• On Dec. 27 A Ritter Ave. resident reported that an extension cord to their Christmas lights had been cut. A blow up Santa had also been cut.

• On Dec. 28 Sheila Bradley, 47, of Plainfield was arrested for no insurance and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Dec. 29 Joseph L. Baker, 44, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to produce a valid registration and four outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• Claudas S. El, 42, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Dec. 30 James Edward Sylvester, 49, of Plainfield was arrested

for driving on a suspended license, driving on an expired license and hindering apprehension at a motor vehicle stop.

• On Jan. 1 Stephone R. Whitehead, 26, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• Carlos O. Hernandez, 31, of Elizabeth and Luis Lopez, 35, of Plainfield were arrested at Quick Check on Durham Ave. for shoplifting 24 cans of Red Bull.

• James R. Lyles-Sterling, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle at a motor vehicle stop.

• An Elsie Ave. resident reported the theft of a wooden ornament shaped like a dog from their front lawn.

• On Jan. 2 Jennifer J. Scott, 28, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.

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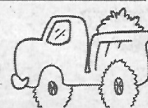
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Sports

REC Wrestling

Rec Wrestlers Beat Voorhees

Recreation wrestlers won their second match of the year with a 67-21 victory over league rivals Voorhees. Winning matches for the junior Tigers were Troy Davison (53) by a fall, Ryan Walsh (57) by a fall, Desmond Santos (63) 5-4 decision, Anthony Ashnault (67) by fall, Dillon Payton (70) by a fall, Troy Heilmann (73) by fall, Tyler Hunt (77) by a fall, Scott Whalen (80) by a fall, Corey Stasencko (85) by a fall, Mike Molinaro (95), Stephen Petricello (110) by major decision 11-2 and Alex Lundy heavyweight. Also wrestling were Jake Painton (50), Bobby Kolivics (60) and Nick Graves (90).

By Glen Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will hold its final registration for the 2006 season on Thursday, Jan. 12 from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13 from 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is \$115 and a \$75 refundable bond is required. Baseball try-outs are scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at the PAL. Notification cards will be sent out to all players that have registered for the 2006 season, listing the scheduled try-out times.

Wrestling SPHS

Tigers Crown 5 at Hunterdon Central Invitational

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling team had a very good showing at the very tough Hunterdon Central Invitational Holiday Wrestling Tournament. Eighteen teams from around the state came together for a great day of very competitive wrestling. This year the competition was tougher in every weight class and the Tigers had their work cut out for them. The Tigers sent six wrestlers to the finals and crowned five.

In the championship round, Patrick Hunter (103) claimed his second Hunterdon title with a major decision 11-3 over a much-improved Dave

DeCamp of Notre Dame. Hunter defeated DeCamp in last year's final by tech-fall. In the semi-finals Hunter defeated highly regarded Vinnie Dellefave of Toms River East 3-1. Jimmy Conroy (119) won his third Hunterdon title with a 6-4 decision over Tyler Molinas of Jefferson. In the semi-finals Conroy pinned Pat Strizski of Hunterdon Central.

Billy Ashnault (125) continued his winning ways by pinning Delran's Jake Swezey at 3:23 for his first Hunterdon title. Ashnault, who was dominant throughout the day is now 8-0 on the season. Eddie McCray (145) had to win his second title the hard way in OT. McCray, wrestling for the first time this season, had his hands full with Voris Tejada of Cherokee, a sixth place state finisher last year, with a 2-1 overtime victory for his second Hunterdon title. Sam Martin (152) who has looked real good this year came up short in his title quest dropping a 2-0 decision to Doug Gaul of Moorestown for second place.

Preston Johnson (215) got his first taste of tournament action and made the most out of it by winning the 215 pound title with a major decision victory 13-5 over Brian Perry of North Burlington for his first Hunterdon title and fifth overall champion. Johnson pinned in the semi-finals to reach the finals. Johnson who wrestled heavyweight last year looked very strong at 215 and will give the Tigers a real lift throughout the year. Mike Jakubik (135) came home with third place honors after pinning Shawn Sheets of Cherokee at 2:50.

Kevin Crilley (189) was fourth. Nick Pauls (112) was fifth.

JV wrestlers also crowned three champions with Nick Vallone (140), Jonathan Conroy (171) and Rocco Petricello heavyweight winning top honors.



Register for 2006 Ponytail Softball

Registration for 2006 Ponytail Softball began Jan. 4 and ends on March 6. Registration is open to all South Plainfield resident girls, ages eight-13 as of Oct. 1. All games are played at Ponytail Park. The fee is \$35/person and the late fee is \$50/person.

There will be no refunds. A birth certificate is required to register new participants in recreation programs. A proof of residency is required. All coaches will be fingerprinted and must attend a safety and coaches instructional clinic.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE No. 1717
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1717 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CH. 67 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "LIQUOR LICENSES" was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 6, 2006 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1717
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Be it ordained by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, that:

the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield, specifically Chapter 67, entitled: "Alcoholic Beverages" be amended as follows:

Article 67-2. License Fees

License fees shall be amended as follows:

Plenary Retail Consumption License	\$2,500.00
Plenary Retail Distribution License	\$1,782.00
Club License	\$180.00

All other provisions of this chapter shall remain in effect.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication according to law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$52.50 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE No. 1716

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

Ordinance #1716 entitled: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$25,000.00 FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE STORM SEWER AND MANHOLES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 6, 2006 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1716
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING 25,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AS LISTED BELOW FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That there is hereby authorized pursuant to applicable statutes of the State of New Jersey, as a general improvement, the following improvements in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey:

Storm Sewer and Manhole Capital Improvements	\$25,000.00
TOTAL	\$25,000.00

Section 2. That the improvements described in Section 1 hereof shall be authorized as general capital improvements for the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and declared by this Mayor and Borough Council as follows:

- That the maximum estimated amount of money to be raised from all sources for the purposes stated in Section 1, hereof, is \$25,000.00.
- That the cost for said projects shall be financed from appropriations in the Capital Improvement Fund, of which said funds are available for said purposes.
- The estimated useful life of said improvements is hereby determined to be fifteen (15) years.

Section 4. That the total amount of the appropriation to be expended for architectural and inspection costs, legal costs, accounting, advertisement of ordinance and other expenses as provided in Section 48-2-20 of the Revised Statutes, is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$84.00 January 6, 2006

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE No. 1718

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

Ord. 1718 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR 2006 was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 6, 2006 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1718
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR 2006.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the following rates shall be established for use of the South Plainfield Community Pool for 2006:

Individual - Resident of South Plainfield age 12 or over (Applicants under 18 years of age must have parental consent):

Fees:	Resident on or before 4/17/06 \$140 plus 10 free passes
	Resident after 4/17/06 \$190 with no free passes
	Non-Resident on or before 4/17/06 \$240 plus 10 free passes
	Non-Resident after 4/17/06 \$240 plus no free passes

Family - A husband and wife and their children (if any) residing at the family home in South Plainfield. Children included under this membership are those born after September 1, 1987 or who are a full time college student (valid college ID required) or fully dependent (severe physical/mental disability)

Fees:	Resident on or before 4/17/06 \$250 plus 10 free passes
	Resident after 4/17/06 \$300 with no free passes
	Non-Resident on or before 4/17/06 \$470 plus 10 free passes
	Non-Resident after 4/17/06 \$470 with no free passes

Senior Citizen - 62 years of age or older who reside in South Plainfield

Fees:	Resident on or before 4/17/06 \$50 plus 10 free passes
	Resident after 4/17/06 \$70 with no free passes
	Non-Resident on or before 4/17/06 \$100 plus 10 free passes
	Non-Resident after 4/17/06 \$100 with no free passes

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Ordinance shall become effective immediately after final adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$82.25 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an attorney to represent the Borough of South Plainfield in matters dealing with redevelopment, especially those matters dealing with municipal improvement authorities for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

- The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Craig J. Coughlin, Esq.
- This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
- Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation package for this position.
- A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$43.75 January 6, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining a professional planner to review land use and land development, preparation of master plan, housing element and fair share plan and to represent the Borough before the Council on Affordable Housing for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

- The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with THP, Inc.
- This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
- A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$40.25 January 6, 2006