

# South Plainfield Observer

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JANUARY 20, 2006

## Judge Throws Out OPRA Suit GOP Plans to Appeal Court Decision

According to a statement released last Friday by Mayor Dan Gallagher, Judge Vincent LeBlon has dismissed the lawsuit filed by Robert Jones and the Republican Organization because they failed to appear for depositions on Dec. 22.

Jones's suit sought to make public the settlement of the Pinto lawsuit against the borough.

"It is more than a coincidence that the case was

dismissed a month after Election Day. It was always politically motivated. I think it is particularly ironic that the Republicans failed to show up at the depositions since they claimed they wanted an open discussion of the Pinto matter," stated Gallagher.

"I am pleased to report that the attorney representing the borough's insurance carrier convinced the court to allow us to release the details of the case. I have directed the borough clerk to obtain a copy of the settlement documents from the attorney and make them available to the public."

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— Mayor Dan Gallagher —

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Former Councilwoman Darlene Pinto filed suit in 2003 accusing the borough of sexual discrimination, claiming she was not hired for the position of deputy tax collector because she was a single mother. Both parties reached a settlement last June and each side signed a confidentiality agreement.

Jones went to court after his initial request asking for the release of information on the agreement was rejected.

In October he filed suit under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). On Nov. 14 Middlesex County Superior Court Judge Yolanda

Ciccone ordered the defendants to release a copy of the settlement agreement only. In the same ruling, Judge Ciccone denied Jones's request for access to several depositions, as well as attorney fees.

Shortly after the judge's Nov. 14 ruling, attorneys for both the GOP and the borough filed motions to reconsider the decision.

According to the GOP attorney, David Alberts of Izso & Otto, LLC in Piscataway, there was an error regarding the hearing dates. Alberts alleges in his motion to vacate the

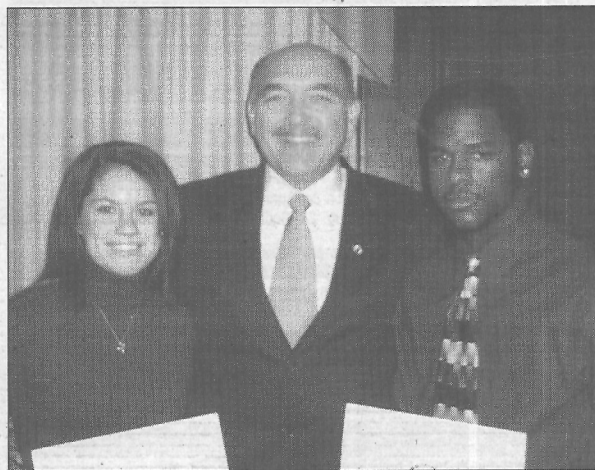
order of dismissal filed in court, which he filed on Friday, that he was told by Ciccone's law clerk that all of the pending motions by both parties would be heard on Jan. 6. Alberts says that the date was posted on the Middlesex County website court calendar. He claims he had no knowledge of the Dec. 22 court date for depositions by a different judge until he received a fax on Jan. 3 from attorney Joseph Buttafuoco of South Plainfield, who represents the borough in this case. The fax included Judge LeBlon's order to dismiss the GOP's case. Alberts said in his opinion he doesn't believe depositions are needed in a public records case.

Buttafuoco refused to discuss the case when asked for comment.

Although Jones is pleased with the borough wanting to release the settlement documents, he is still pursuing the release of depositions in the case. He now has a court date of Feb. 3 to explain to the judge why he did not appear on Dec. 22 for depositions. If he succeeds, he intends to ask the court to reconsider releasing the depositions of former Councilmen Ed Kubala and Jim Vokral.

"I am happy to hear that the borough

(Continued on page 10)



SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May with seniors Heather Thompson and Michael Glover.

## Rotary Club Names SPHS Seniors Students of the Month

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield High School students Heather Thompson and Michael Glover were among those recently honored as Edison Rotary's December "Students of the Month." Honorees and their advisors attended a breakfast held at the Victorian Manor in Edison. Each student presented a speech and received a certificate.

Senior Heather Thompson is a member of the Student Council, Peer Leadership and National Honor Society, as well as serving as vice president of her class. She is involved in academic classes and is in the Co-operative Education Work program. Her volunteer efforts began at age 10 when she would visit nursing homes to read and sing to the residents. With her church youth group she helps to provide a brighter Christmas

for needy children and families. She is a very active member of Peer Leadership and has been involved in Tiger 24, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, Penny Wars for Special Olympics, dinner dances for South Plainfield's Senior Citizens and much more. She and her family help cook and deliver hot Christmas dinners to the elderly and disabled. They also put together bags of food and presents for needy families and deliver them on Christmas Day. Heather loves to spend time helping others and giving back to the community. Heather's future goals include attending college in New Jersey. She plans to study Spanish and hopes to pursue a career in Spanish translation.

Senior Michael Glover holds a student officer position in the Peer Leadership group. He has served as

(Continued on page 10)



South Plainfield High School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Roger Vroom.

## Jazz Ensemble Sets Competition Schedule

The South Plainfield High School Music Department has recently been able to formalize the Jazz Ensemble winter competition schedule. The director of the ensemble is Roger Vroom, certified music instructor at South Plainfield High School.

Vroom is an alumni of South Plainfield High School, graduating in 1999. He participated in a student run jazz ensemble during his years at the College of New Jersey and is credited with revitalizing the jazz program at his previous school.

The ensemble will perform a diverse repertoire of music in the jazz style of swing, funk and rock, utilizing the talents of the student musicians. The program will showcase the individual abilities of select students through solo passages. The competition program is rated by judges evaluating the abilities of individual performers, as well as the entire ensemble during the performance. Judges of the scheduled competitions are highly qualified musicians that work as educators and/or artists. The Jazz Ensemble will also

participate in the New Jersey International Association of Jazz Educators State preliminary competition.

Students performing in the program are scheduled into a morning class at SPHS called AM Jazz. Students in the class are eligible to perform in the competitions. The 2006 Jazz Ensemble competition schedule includes: South Brunswick, J.P. Stevens, NJ-IAJE State Prelims, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Montgomery and Dunellen.

## Update on CAUTION: Borough Construction

### Hamilton Blvd. to be Closed to Truck Traffic

On or about Jan. 24, Hamilton Blvd. (Middlesex County Route 603) will be under construction for an extended period. As

part of the construction, Hamilton Blvd. will be reduced to ONE lane in the area between Durham and New Market avenues.

All truck traffic will be detoured around the construction, following a detour route that travels along Hamilton Blvd to South Clinton Ave. to New Market Ave. Hamilton Blvd. will be closed to all but local traffic in the construction areas.

Furthermore, due to the lane closures on Hamilton Blvd., Bel-

mont Ave. will be closed to all but local traffic. All motorists are encouraged to follow the posted detour route. Motorists exiting Rt. 287 northbound at exit 4 (Durham Ave., South Plainfield) are encouraged to utilize exit 5 (Rt. 529, Stelton Rd.).

Motorists should seek alternate routes of travel to avoid the anticipated long traffic delays within the borough.

For a map of the detour, turn to page 10.

For a larger map, visit the borough's website at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com).



To subscribe, call 908-668-0010.

## 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
February 7	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
February 21	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
March 7	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
March 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 (NJS 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council-Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

### planning board

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

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

Jan. 24, Feb. 14, Feb. 28 March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23, June 13, June 27, July 18\*, Aug. 15\*, Aug. 29\*, Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

### zoning board of adjustment

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

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

Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, March 9, March 23, April 13, April 27, May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 30\* and Dec. 14.

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Com. of the Whole, Tuesdays 7 p.m.-Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Meeting Tuesdays 8 p.m.-Feb. 21, March 21 and April 4.

### taxpayers advisory group

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

### site plans sub-committee

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

Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19th

### recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 23\*, June 13, July and Aug. No scheduled meetings, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### traffic safety advisory commission

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

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

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

Jan. 23, Feb. and March 20.

## Camp Hoover Open House Late March

For over 50 summers, Camp Lou Henry Hoover, the summer resident camp of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, has been providing great times, great experiences and great memories. Come see firsthand what camp is all about on March 26 at their open house.

Camp Hoover's Open House will be held at the 340-acre camps in Middletown from 1 to 4 p.m. Parents and children will be able to tour the facilities, see the sleeping arrangements, waterfront, dining hall, visit the camp trading post and meet staff and the director. Camp Hoover is open to girls entering grades two through 12 in the fall of 2006. The open house is free of charge to those interested and no reservations are required.

The camp has six sessions beginning the week of July 9 and ending the week of Aug. 13.

More information about the camp can be accessed at [www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts](http://www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts). To have further information sent to you, contact Coleen Hay at (908) 232-3236 ext. 12 or [campregistrar@gsnrc.com](mailto:campregistrar@gsnrc.com).



Dr. Scott Linick of Plainfield Animal Hospital presents donated food to Rawhide Rescue President Ingela Levett, Annett Klimazewski, a foster mom and board member Laura Paxson.

## Animal Hospital's Food Drive A Big Success

Plainfield Animal Hospital, located on Park Ave., collected more than 800 pounds of pet food this holiday season and distributed the food to Rawhide Rescue, a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing and fostering unwanted pets.

"The spirit of the holiday season and

generosity was truly overwhelming," stated Dr. Scott Linick, owner of the animal hospital. "We would like to thank everyone who donated food, for making life a little better for our less fortunate stray and unwanted furry friends," he added.

## IN YOUR OPINION

### To the Editor,

The Grant School PTO held their meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 10. Family Skate Day will be held on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 31 at Roosevelt Ice Skating Park in Edison, close to Menlo Park Mall. The tickets are \$9 per person which includes ice skate rental, admission, snack and refreshment. The time will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Again, the \$25 activity fee helps to offset the cost of all the cultural arts programs, which benefits all the students at Grant Elementary, the fifth grade D.A.R.E. picnic and the sixth

grade end of the year picnic. The activity form can be picked up in the Grant hallway or downloaded from the Grant School website. The "Curves" 2007 Stokes Fundraiser will be arriving shortly and also, please watch for information concerning the Grant Stokes 2007 Pasta Dinner fundraiser which will take place in February. We need help and student participation. Principal Leo Whalen discussed the N.J. ASK testing which will take place in early April.

The South Plainfield High School Peer to Peer Leadership Program directed by Mrs. Martko, Mr. Baker, Ms. Vandermark, Mr. Hajduk, Ms. Zurka and Mr. Encinas, is admired and commended for all the numerous activities that you and the students perform for our town, families in need and disaster areas in other states. The students of Peer to Peer are still raving about the Peer retreat trip they took in the fall which united the students, among various exchanges of ideas and suggestions and helping each other deal with the challenges of everyday life. The Peer penny war will take place in February, "Have A Heart" which will be donated to Special Olympics. The "Tiger 24" will also be forthcoming. The senior citizens enjoyed their December, 2005 luncheon hosted by Peer to Peer and a townwide notice will be arriving from Peer to Peer Leadership "Connections" which will in-

### 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](mailto: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.

form the residents about adopting a senior citizen, who lives alone. Peer to Peer adopted families "in need" for the winter holidays, which brought great joy to all involved. Everyone involved in Peer to Peer Leadership needs to be commended for their outstanding contribution to those in our town and far away and for the unselfish giving from your hearts!

Thank you to Tammy Zurka, Mr. Hajduk, and Mr. Encinas, Mrs. Martko, Ms. Vandermark for taking part in the Nov. 21-22 Peer Leadership Retreat.

Sincerely,

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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](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some more news from the South Plainfield Library.

Don't forget about the special program on Monday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. It's "Conquer Clutter & Chaos for Good," featuring author/TV host Jamie Novak. She'll give tips on how to better organize your home and prepare for the rest of the New Year. No pre-registration is required for this program. Copies of her book will be available for sale.

We'll be following our usual schedule of children's programs next week. For those of you who were distracted last time, here's the schedule: Our "Storytime" programs for children ages 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 "Books-N-Babies," for children up to age three, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. You don't need to register for these programs. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Here's a note for patrons who make use of our Notary service: Due to staff limitations, we will not be offering Notary services on Sunday. We hope this doesn't cause any inconvenience. Notary services will still be offered during the rest of the week, during those times when our Notary Public (your humble correspondent) is on duty. While it isn't necessary to make an appointment, we suggest you call ahead to check on Notary availability.

The latest group for the Audio-book Circuit is now available. Titles in this group include *Impossible* by Danielle Steel, *Without Mercy* by Jack Higgins, 4<sup>th</sup> of July by James

Patterson, *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens and, on CD, *Point Blank* by Catherine Coulter. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. Meanwhile, this month's Video Circuit group will be available until Thursday. Get 'em while they're gottable.

A reminder: as a courtesy for our patrons, we sometimes allow people to use the phone at the Circulation Desk free of charge. Be advised, however, that this is meant to help people who must make brief, important, emergency calls. It is not meant for trivial calls, and certainly not for toll calls. We ask that you refrain from abusing this courtesy. We'd rather not have to start charging people for phone use, but, Library expenses being what they are... get the picture?

Not too long ago, a patron had a question: what does it mean when an item is listed as "In Processing" in our computer? The explanation is very simple: When we receive items for our collection, they aren't ready to circulate immediately. We need to catalog them, cover them, code them, secure them and otherwise prepare them. That is what we mean by "processing." Depending on available personnel, this usually takes a few days. If an item has a number of reserves pending, or is deemed to be a potentially popular item, it gets moved to the head of the line. Also, A/V items, due to their special nature, may take a bit longer to prepare. In any case, "in processing" means that we have the item and that it's on the way to our shelves and, we hope, you. If you have any questions about a pending selection, don't hesitate to ask.

That's about all for now. See you next Friday for more.

## South Plainfield Eagles-Must See TV

Watch Comcast Channel 74 to see our very own South Plainfield Eagles play! Comcast will broadcast the Garden State games on Channel 74 on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.

Following the game, Comcast will broadcast the Junior Midget performance at Sovereign Bank Arena and the Junior Pee Wee performance at the MVC competition in Bridgewater! Total air time is approximately 50 minutes.

## Holocaust Photographic Exhibit at SPHS

An open house for "Surviving the Plan: A Photographic Exhibit" by Gerry Casciano will be held on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School Information Center.

The event is sponsored by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the South Plainfield Public School District and South Plainfield High School.

Photographer Gerry Casciano's portraits of 16 Holocaust survivors and photographs of Holocaust sites in Europe will be exhibited. A program including Dr. Paul Winkler, director of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education, Casciano, and several of the survivors will be held with other guests and students in the high school's two Genocide Studies classes.

This is a free program, but since space is limited anyone who is interested should call the high school main office at (908) 754-4620 ext. 360 to make a reservation or for further information.

## 13-Year-Old Youth Swims For "Open Your Heart"

Paige Taylor Kopman became a Bat Mitzvah on Oct. 22, 2005, at Temple Beth El in Bridgewater.

Part of becoming a Bat or Bar Mitzvah is to perform a mitzvah, a good deed. This challenge may be difficult for some 13-years-olds, but for Paige it was an easy choice. It would be a swim-a-thon and all monies would be donated to Open Your Heart To Children Battling Cancer.

Paige has been a member of the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, located in Bridgewater, swim team for four years. Paige has raised over \$900 through pledges per laps and straight donations. She swam 100 laps.

Paige also donated over 14 inches of her hair to Locks Of Love. This caring young lady is an eighth grader attending Bridgewater-Raritan Middle school who also enjoys lacrosse and skiing.

Imagine what this teenager can do as she matures based on what she has accomplished at 13.

Century 21 Morretti will sponsor a Casino Night fundraiser for the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. at Sacred Heart School on Saturday, March 25. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and



As a tradition, Bear and Webelos Cub Scouts decorate the trees at Highland Ave. Nature Preserve for the fourth year. They covered bread and bags with peanut butter and bird seed and hung them on branches along with fruit, vegetables and cereal. They spent the afternoon hiking the woods and finding their location with a compass. We would like to thank Oak Tree Farms for the donation of bread used to feed the animals.

## Adult School Winter Brochure Has Been Mailed

The South Plainfield Adult School's winter brochure has been delivered to area residents.

If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive a brochure please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620 ext. 213. Registration for classes and trips is open to everyone - you do not have to be a resident of South Plainfield.

Among the new classes being offered are "You're On The Air" a one evening course exploring the opportunities in Voice-Overs. The members of the Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Raritan Valley will introduce you to polishing stones, identifying minerals and creating a

beautiful Cabochon. Computer classes are offered on Wednesday evenings for beginners and the more experienced who would like to learn how to use Microsoft Word. The Red Cross will be teaching CPR and First Aid for Adults on Jan. 24, 25, and 31.

Following are some of the planned trips; prices include bus and admission if applicable.

*Philadelphia Flower Show* on Sunday, March 5-bus leaves at 7 a.m.-price \$50

*Manhattan Sampler Tour* on Sunday, April 2-bus leaves at 8:30 a.m.-price \$44

*Lunch at Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY and Tour of Locust Grove* (the estate of Samuel B. Morse) on Saturday, May 13-bus leaves at 9 a.m.-price \$95

*Spamalot-Broadway Musical* on Wednesday, April 26-bus leaves at 5:30 p.m.-price \$135

Additional information on these and upcoming Yankees and Mets baseball games may be obtained by calling the Adult School at (908) 754-4620 ext. 213.

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# Around Town

## VFW Plans Italian Night

January 20

VFW Post #6763 will hold an Italian 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; no pre-registration is required. Snow date is Monday, Jan. 30.

For information, call (908) 754-7885.

## Blessed Virgin Church to Hold Pirogue Sale

January 26

There will be a sale of pirogue on Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church, 400 Delmore Ave. (corner of Belmont and Delmore).

The pirogue are \$4 per dozen. They are handmade and freshly cooked to order by parish Sisterhood and Brotherhood members. Choice of potato with cheese or sauerkraut.

Please order by no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, for pick-up on Thursday, Jan. 26. To order, or for information, call (908) 561-6366 and leave your name, phone number and order. For information or questions call Dorothy at (908) 756-7223.

## Cappy 2005 Awards

January 28

Philip Aiello and the late Salvatore Severini, Sr. will be honored as the 2005

## South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Valentine's Day Dinner Dance with the Art Smith Orchestra - February 11, 6-10 pm				
***				
Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Charlie's Aunt" March 23 • 10am departure				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available	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	BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available
23	24	25	26	27

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

Cappy Award winners on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Senior Center starting at 7 p.m. Cost of \$15 includes entertainment. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

## VFW Breakfast

February 4

VFW Post #6763, located on Front St. will hold a breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Proceeds benefit the VA hospital at Lyons. The public is invited. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

## AARP Defensive Driving Course

February 8-9

The AARP Defensive Drivers Course will be offered Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Cost is \$10, open to all legally licensed drivers.

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

These courses involve discussion only. No driving test is given. You can earn a three-year discount on your auto insurance policy. You may re-

move two points off your license. Payment due at registration. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764 to register.

## SDW Live Auction & Talent Show

February 11

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop will be holding a live auction and talent show on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Edison Valley Playhouse located on Oak Tree Rd. in Edison.

Preview is 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by the auction at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15/person and \$25/couple. For tickets or information, please call (908) 561-5255.

## Historical Society Valentine's Breakfast

February 12

The South Plainfield Historical Society is hosting a Valentine's Sweetheart Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 12 to benefit its annual high school scholarship award. The breakfast will be held at the South Plainfield Elk's Club at 1254 New Market Ave. from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$6 for adults; \$5 for children five-14; children four and under are free.

For information on Historical Society events, log on to: <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalociety> or e-mail [sphistoricalsoc@cs.com](mailto:sphistoricalsoc@cs.com).

## Athletic Booster Club Meeting Date Change

February 21

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. instead of the second Tuesday of February.

## Music Boosters Dinner/Show

March 24

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will be hosting a fundraiser in the form of a Dinner/Show at the high school. The tentative date is Friday, March 24.

The dinner will be served by the staff of Carabba's Restaurant. Entertainment, possibly a comedy act, is still to be determined. All money raised goes to scholarships for graduating music department seniors in June. Watch the *Observer* for more details to follow.

## What's happening in JANUARY

fee/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](mailto:AngelButterfly37@aol.com) or call (732) 764-9073.

## Depression and Bipolar Support Group

January 25

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA Morristown Area) will feature Harish K. Malhotra, MD at its meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Also peer group support sessions led by experienced facilitators are held every Tuesday evening of the month.

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

## Starlight singles

January 26

The Starlight Singles will hold a professional happy hour on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at TGIF Restaurant in Bridgewater.

RSVP to [StarlightSocials@aol.com](mailto:StarlightSocials@aol.com) or call (732) 764-9073.

## NJPA Celebrates Chinese New Year

January 28-29

NJPAC will celebrate the Chinese New Year with a dazzling program of traditional and contemporary music and dance, when choreographer Nai-Ni Chen brings her acclaimed Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Jan. 28 and Sunday, Jan. 29, both at 2 p.m., in the Victoria Theater. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$10 for children (under 14), and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO-NJPAC (1-888-466-5722), at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark, or the NJPAC web site at [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

## Woman's Club Monthly Meeting

February 1

The Metuchen-Edison woman's club will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 1 at St. Luke's Church on Oak Ave. in Metuchen. The program will include a Feng Shui lecture presented by Franca Guilianni. New members welcome. Guests are invited. The club is an organization of women volunteers who work together to provide service in the community and raise funds to purchase essential items for local charities. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information, Call Diana at (732) 548-0925.

## HIV Health Service Meeting

February 1

Join us for monthly meetings of the HIV Health Services Planning Council of the Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon-Eligible Metropolitan Area! Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month, usually from 2-4 p.m. at the Middlesex County Board of Social Services Building located in New Brunswick. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact Planning Council Staff at 732-445-0512 ext. 107 or check out the website at [www.mshema.org](http://www.mshema.org).

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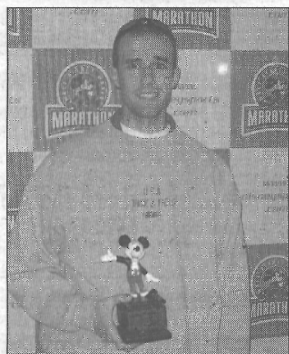
# Milestones

### Loenser Runs in Walt Disney Marathon

Michael Loenser ran the Walt Disney Marathon on Jan. 8 in 2 hours 47 minutes. He finished 21st overall out of 14,000 runners on a chilly 33 degree morning in Orlando, Fla.

Mike also finished first place in his age group of 18-24 years old and was recognized at the awards ceremony later that evening. He is a graduate of South Plainfield High School class of 2000 and East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, where he ran both cross country and track.

Congratulations Mike on an outstanding performance at a "magical" place!



Michael Loenser

## DeWitt Scott Giles Joins Montgomery Twp. PD

DeWitt Scott Giles, a resident of South Plainfield, has been hired by the Montgomery Township Police Department.

Giles, who graduated from the Somerset Police Academy last September, is the son of Joyce and DeWitt Giles, and the grandson of Rose and the late Joe Falcone, all of South Plainfield. He graduated from JP Stevens High School in Edison and received a degree in criminal justice from Middlesex County College.

Becoming a police officer was a natural choice for DeWitt, since he already has eight family members who either have served or are presently serving in the law enforcement field.

Family members who have served in law enforcement are: his dad, DeWitt (Edison PD); four uncles, Chief Angelo Falcone (Middlesex Sheriff's Department), Gerard Falcone, (Sgt. Duncellen PD), Anthony, (Sgt. North Brunswick PD), Joe Falcone (retired-Sr. Probation Officer); two cousins, Joseph Fal-



Holding the bible and watching DeWitt Scott Giles take the oath are his brother-in-law Mark, dad DeWitt, girlfriend Arlene Delasmatas, Lt. Wayne Miller, mom Joyce and sister Caryanne.

cone, Jr. (North Brunswick PD), Joseph Celentano (Sheriff's Department) and his brother-in-law, Mark

Besser (Sgt. Hillsborough PD).

With his family and friends at his side, DeWitt was sworn in on Jan. 5.

### Jayne Wickham Joins National Association of Fleet Administrators

Jayne Wickham, certified meetings planner (CMP), has joined the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) as director of meetings. With headquarters in Iselin, NAFA serves 34 designated chapters and over 3,000 members across the U.S. and Canada who oversee private and public fleet vehicle management programs.

Wickham is responsible for designing, planning and coordinating conferences, board meetings and other NAFA affiliated events throughout the U.S. and Canada, including NAFA's annual Fleet Management Institute and Law Enforcement Group Conference.

Wickham comes to NAFA with 16 years meeting planning experience and was most recently director of meetings for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America in Trenton. "The first few months of my employment at NAFA have flown by and I feel challenged with each passing day," says Wickham. "Both the members and staff have demonstrated a level of commitment that is truly inspiring. I am looking forward to contributing to the continued success of NAFA's conferences and working with a great team."

In 2004 Wickham received the Points of Light Award given by the New Jersey Society of Association

Executives in recognition of outstanding charitable work in the community. She earned the highly regarded Certified Meeting Professional designation in 1996. Wickham lives in South Plainfield.

The National Association of Fleet Administrators, Inc. (NAFA) is a not-for-profit, individual membership professional society serving the needs of Members who manage fleets of automobiles, SUVs, trucks, vans and a wide range of specialized mobile equipment for organizations in the United States and Canada. Established in 1957 NAFA provides its members a full range of products and services, including statistical research, monthly and annual publications, regional chapter meetings, government representation, annual conferences and trade shows and educational seminars.

## Recreation Department 2005 Summary

During the Jan. 3 council meeting, Councilman Ray Petronko read a summary of those who participated in Recreation programs during 2005. We thought our readers would like to see just how many participants there were in the many programs during the last year.

**Youth Sports Participants**—There were 410 children enrolled in T-Ball, Teener Ball and Ponytail Softball; 324 in soccer; 577 in youth basketball and 90 in wrestling.

**Summer Recreation**—There were 453 children who participated in the Summer Parks Program, 46 K-1 graders in Safety Town, 597 pool members and there were nine different one week camps totalling 843 registrations.

**Weight Room**—There are 719 members of the weight room.

**Sponsored Special Events**—Special events sponsored by Recreation include: the Easter egg hunt, opening day of fishing, Labor Day activities at the PAL, Santa pictures and caroling in the park.

**Trips**—During the past year Recreation sponsored trips to Italy, Niagara Falls, Disney on Ice, Christmas Show at Radio City and various Broadway plays.

**Improvements**—The PAL has made improvements last year in the weight room, adding six new cable TV ready treadmills in fitness center and three new weight training machines.

**Putnam Park**—Improvements included a new comfort station with bathrooms, two new tennis courts, the handball and basketball courts were resurfaced, 10 new fitness stations and fencing was installed.

**Parks**—New climbing recreational apparatus was installed in six parks. Concession stands and restrooms are being built at the Pop Warner and traveling soccer fields. New garage doors were installed at the PAL and pool, a new deck has been built at the Pony-

tail Complex (Pitt St. Park), new classrooms were built at the Highland Woods Preserve and a digital security system was installed at the PAL.

**Looking Ahead to 2006**—Plans for 2006 call for two new locker room areas in the PAL off the multi purpose room, improvements to the diving boards and snack stand area at the pool and more new fitness equipment.

## Red Cross Offers CPR Courses

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

Adult CPR, Child CPR, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 8:30 to 6 p.m. at the Red Cross office at 332 West Front St. in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Red Cross office at 16 Jefferson Ave. in Elizabeth.

Please call (908) 756-6414 ext. 10 to register or for more information.

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### Delta Corporate Services Announces Three Promotions

Delta Corporate Services has announced the promotions of Steve Isenburg, Debbie Martin and Liz Vagell within the Corporate Business Services organization.

Debbie Martin, a South Plainfield resident has been promoted to group director, government solutions group. She will be responsible for the business development and delivery of Delta's government solutions. She will ensure that government contracts are renewed and that Delta is compliant with government regulations. In addition, she will be responsible for expanding business with other government agencies.

Steve Isenburg, a Bernardsville resident has been promoted to group director, professional staffing and general consulting. Liz Vagell, a Watchung resident has been promoted to group director, strategic business solutions.

Delta Corporate Services is a business and technology consulting organization servicing the federal government and fortune-level companies throughout the United States. Delta offers a unique array of services and expertise to help organizations with business problems through the use of technology.

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Engine City students display the scholarship they were awarded last week.

## Engine City Students Awarded Scholarships

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

Some of the scholarships were awarded by companies who intend to hire the students upon their graduation. The monetary scholarships will help cover their tuition fees while attending the school.

Engine City awarded Jon Jeglinski of South Plainfield High School a 1/2-paid scholarship. He also received a \$2,000 scholarship from Foley Caterpillar of Piscataway.

Joshua Oberly of Warren Hill High School received a 1/2-paid scholarship and a \$2,000 scholarship from Foley Caterpillar.

Foley Caterpillar also awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Gerald Froatz of Wayne Hills High School.

William Siedenzahl of Belleville High School was named the Larry Berlin Memorial Scholarship winner and received a 1/2-paid scholarship.

Ravinder Singh of Carteret High School was awarded the \$2,000 Atlantic Detroit Scholarship.

Binder Equipment awarded Timothy Thompson of Brick High School a \$2,000 scholarship.

Giles & Ransome Caterpillar awarded Kevin Calore of Shawnee High School, Max Strand of Allen-

town High School and Robert Lukowski of Lacey Township High School scholarships of \$1,500.

Old Dominion, Boston Mass. awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to Zachary Cloutman from Beverly, Mass. High School.

Ryder Transportation Scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to Shaheem Smith from Weequahic High School and Michael Hatcher from Somerset County Vo-Tech.

The Edward W. Pawluk, Sr. Memorial Scholarship, offered by the NJ Equipment Managers Council of America scholarships of \$1,000 and \$500 are still available.

## County OEM Earns Highest Ranking in State Evaluation

For the sixth year in a row, the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management received the highest possible score on its annual evaluation from the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.

"Middlesex County OEM continues to demonstrate that it is regarded as one of the premier programs in the State of New Jersey," the evaluation read. "The County's staff is extremely proactive, self-motivated and dedicated to the programs."

"I am extremely honored to be working with a group of individuals who, through hard work and professionalism, show their dedication to protecting the residents of Middlesex County," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chairman of the county's Department of Law and Public Safety. "As a County, we have worked diligently to ensure that our emergency responders have the most up-to-date equipment and training to protect our citizens, and this stellar evaluation recognizes our commitment."

The state evaluates the performance of the county office and its personnel in responding to emergencies and fulfilling goals set by the state during the evaluation year, which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

The report praised the county OEM's response to the south county municipalities that were severely flooded during a July 17, 2005 storm.

"The Middlesex County staff should be commended for their immediate, professional and efficient response to all major incidents in their county," the evaluation read. "This professional

attitude was never more evident than during the southern county floods that impacted several municipalities. During that incident Middlesex County OEM immediately activated the County Emergency Operations Center and was able to provide valuable resources to assist with the incident."

"The State Police, through their comments, recognize the incredible talent and dedication of the men and women who respond to all types of emergencies in the County," Rafano said.

"In this post 9-1-1 climate it is crucial that we be prepared to handle any and all situations—both natural and man-made—so that our residents feel secure in their homes. I commend the Emergency Management employees and volunteers who make their neighbors' safety paramount," he said.

## SUBURBAN WOMAN'S CLUB Notes

A belated HAPPY NEW YEAR with my apologies for not keeping up with the news of the South Plainfield Suburban Women's Club. The January meeting was most informative and enjoyable. We feel sure that all who attended profited in many ways.

They say that if you give a man a fish you feed him for a day—but if you teach him how to fish you feed him for a lifetime. This is that philosophy of the Heifer International. The organizational has six hundred projects in 51 countries. Through donations and instructions they are helping to feed nations by supplying the needed materials (such as heifers and farming knowledge) "to feed a man for life."

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at the American Legion Post on Oak Tree Ave. at 2 p.m., Laura Berzofsky of Westfield, New Jersey will come to explain to us the goals and programs of this worthy organization and how we might be able to assist them through education or donations.

Anyone is welcome to come to hear this speaker and to socialize with the members of the South Plainfield Suburban Women's Club.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning, Publicity Chairman

## Be Informed.

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**Junior Journalist winner Holly McDede**  
**accepts dinner from Charlie and**  
**Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros.**  
**She is joined here by parents Keith and Barbara.**

## Adopt Oreo... A Hurricane Katrina Survivor

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor cat and kitten adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 22 from noon until 4 p.m. at the PETSMART store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Rt. 28 and Rt. 287.

Among the many cats for adoption will be Oreo, a very large and super affectionate black and white tuxedo short-hair male cat. Oreo is great with other cats, and also likes dogs. He has a lot to be thankful for as he survived Hurricane Katrina and was rescued when the apartment in which he lived was declared uninhabitable. His ordeal certainly didn't dampen his spirit as he craves attention and has a very mellow disposition, a laid back gentle giant. He is neutered, current with vaccinations and tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

To adopt or for information, call (908) 964-9667 ext. 306 for dogs and 307 for cats. Other pets for adoption can be seen on the internet at [www.pfa.petfinder.com](http://www.pfa.petfinder.com).

## Sacred Heart School OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, January 29 - 10:15-11:30AM**

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# Junior Journalist Corner



## Andrea Muglia, Sacred Heart Sixth Grader, Named This Week's "Junior Journalist"



Sacred Heart School Principal Sister Nadine Boyle and this week's winner, Andrea Muglia.

Andrea Muglia, Sacred Heart School sixth grader, is this week's winner in

the Junior Journalist Program. Her personal narrative, "Two Close," has earned her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

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

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

## Patrick Diegnan Named Chairman of Assembly Higher Education Committee

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. has been appointed chairman of the Assembly Higher Education Committee for the 2006-2007 legislative session.

Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts Jr. said that the selection of Diegnan (D-Middlesex) to head the newly-formed committee was rooted in the Assemblyman's strong record on education issues, his prior service on the Assembly Education Committee, and his commitment to helping children.

"Patrick Diegnan is widely recognized as a leader dedicated to improving education in New Jersey at all levels," said Roberts (D-Camden). "We must find new and innovative ways to ensure that our best and brightest students not only go on to college,

but that more of them do so in New Jersey. Under Patrick's guidance, the Higher Education Committee is sure to play a pivotal role in strengthening our colleges and universities and working with the Corzine administration to promote growth and a new-age economy of quality, secure jobs for New Jersey residents."

The Assembly Higher Education Committee will be responsible for addressing issues that relate directly to the state's 31 public colleges and universities - including 19 county and community colleges. The committee will assist in directing policy relating to tuition aid and scholarship programs, such as the popular NJ STARS and the newly-enacted NJ STARS II, and ensuring the success of inter-institutional agreements entered into by schools.

"New Jersey can no longer sit quietly and let our most-promising students leave the state to pursue their degrees," said Diegnan. "Our colleges and universities comprise one of the best statewide systems of higher edu-

cation anywhere in the country. Whether a county college needs the ability to grow to meet the needs of a rapidly increasing student body, a four-year school looks to expand its research capabilities, or a student yearns for the ability to afford a college education, this committee needs to be at the forefront to advocate for positive change and taxpayer accountability."

During the legislative process committees review bills, make desired or needed changes, take testimony from parties affected by the legislation, and seek ways to make improvements before passing measures on to another committee or to the full Assembly for a floor vote.

Diegnan had previously served on the Assembly Education Committee, and was named the panel's vice chairman during the last legislative session.

Diegnan, a resident of South Plainfield, is a former instructor at Middlesex County College. He currently is serving in his third term in the Assembly.

## Two Close

By Andrea Muglia

"Three through five girls 1600 meter runners to the Staging area, three through five girls 1600 meter." A high pitched male voice announced through a mega phone. My heart was racing. The race had been postponed twice because of rain, and now I understood why I was happy when I found that out.

As I approached the starting area, I noticed that I was the only girl in my age group. "Great! Now I can just jog the whole race and I'll win," I thought to myself. Then I noticed another girl. "Hello," I said timidly. "What grade are you in?"

"I'm in fourth. What grade are you in?" she asked.

"Third," I replied. That scared me. Then I thought to myself trying the lift my spirits "Its ok. She's only one year older than I. That's not a big deal."

The race was about to begin, and they were putting us in order from fastest to slowest. That's when they realized that there were only two girls. They decided to have all third through fifth graders run together, but not against each other. "Wow, now this helps!" I thought sarcastically. Not only did I have to beat the other boys in my class to avoid embarrassment, but I also had to worry about running with my brother. If he beat me, I would never hear the end of it!

When they asked the girls what her fastest time was she answered, "Seven minutes twenty-two seconds."

"Yes!" I thought to myself. My fastest time was seven minutes. The pressure began to withdraw.

Bang! With the sound of that starter's pistol, we were off. I could already hear the sound of my brother's feet running past me. The first lap wasn't that bad, but the thought that I would have to run around that track again three more times was horrifying.

As we approached the second lap I could hear the girl's feet behind me and her heavy breathing. I took a slight glance to the side to look at her shadow to see where she was. She was about five feet back. My heart was pounding.

The third lap was much of the same. Heavy breathing, feet running on the track, and an occasional deep breath from one of the runners was all I could hear.

As I completed my third lap, I could hear them ringing the bell. The boys in my class were far behind me while

my brother was far ahead of me. Halfway through the fourth lap, my mouth started to get dry from all the heavy breathing. I could hear my coach cheering me on as he saw the girl inching up towards me. "Push it. Push it!" he yelled. "You have to turn it on now!"

I had about one hundred fifty meters to go as I saw my brother cross the finish line. I tried to keep focus even though I was looking over there to see if he had won.

At the last hundred meter stretch, I ran past my team's set up area. I could hear them cheering for me, and I looked over quickly and smiled. That's when I saw the girl trying to pass me. We were even. I was exhausted, but I wanted this more than anything. I ran and ran as fast as I could with all of the energy I had left in me, and I didn't bother looking back because I knew that would slow me down. As I was approaching the finish line I decided that I would take a huge step into it. At the last few feet, I could see her right next to me. That's when I took my leap of faith. And I'm glad I did. My time 1.7 seconds faster than hers.

I took a few seconds to catch my breath, and my dad came over with a water bottle. I walked off the track with my heart racing. I was exhausted.

As I regained my strength, I ran back to where our team was set up. I asked my mom, "Mom, what was Alf's time?"

"I don't know, honey. They didn't announce it yet," she replied.

"These are the results of the third through fifth mile boys" said that same high pitched male voice that had announced the beginning of the race. "...and in first place, with a time of five minutes and fifty-five seconds, a new record, Alfonse Mooglia, from Sacred Heart School." Everyone from our school was cheering, and laughing.

Then about ten minutes later, the same man announced, "These are the results of the third through fifth grade girls. In second place, with a time of six minutes and fifty seconds, from Saint John Vianney, Tori Witkowski."

"Yes! Now I know I won!" I thought to myself.

"...and in first place, with a time of six minutes forty-eight seconds, from Sacred Heart School, Andrea Mooglia." Again, everyone from our school laughed and cheered. I ran over to my mom and gave her a big hug, gripping her oversized Sacred Heart gym shirt as tightly as I could. I was relieved, but I knew that wouldn't last. I would soon have to run the 800 meter.

## BoroughNotes

- The council approved a maintenance agreement with Class Software Solutions to provide service for the PAL computer system for the next year at a cost not to exceed \$3,347.
- Police records clerk, Bridget Nelson will resign effective Feb. 7.

- The Borough will purchase the property on Park Ave. adjacent to Putnam Park through a \$25,000 Middlesex County Open Space Recreation Grant Agreement.
- Joseph Abbruzzese was appointed Acting Fire Official effective Jan. 1.



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Junior Journalist winner Nicole Sottiriou accepts dinner from Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros. She is joined here by parents, Maria and Nick, and brothers Joe, John and Jake.

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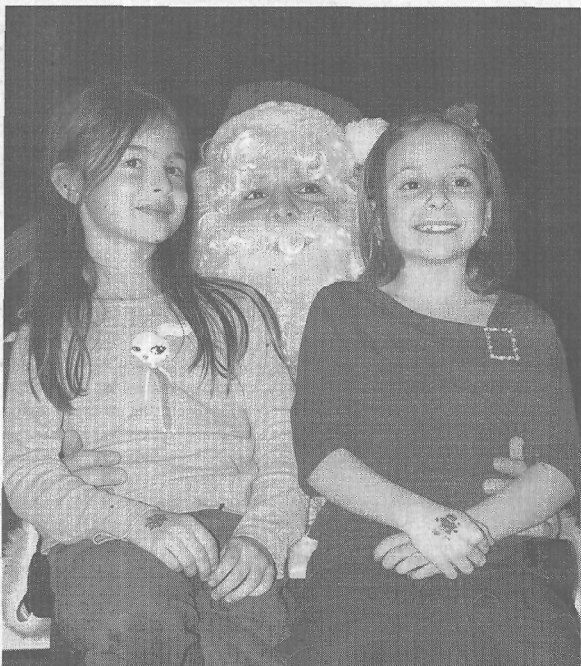
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## Riley Holds Spaghetti Dinner

By Patricia Abbott

Just prior to winter break, the Riley School community celebrated the holidays with a family style spaghetti dinner and all the trimmings. Youths slurped tasty sauce coated strands, parents wiped small mouths. The room was filled with laughter and anticipation of their guest of honor, Santa Claus. The man of the hour even brought the Mrs. to dance and play with the children. The remainder of the evening was a whirlwind of flashes as children had their picture taken with Santa and squeaked in last minute wishes. The successful evening came to a close with a chorus of goodbyes to Santa and Mrs. Claus.

## policereport

• On Jan. 9 April Rene Morris, 44, of Piscataway was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license, no registration and four outstanding warrants.

• Ciccio's Pizza on Maple Ave. reported that an attempt had been made to pry open the rear door which had been damaged.

• On Jan. 10 Andres DeJesus, 35, of Newark was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no registration, no insurance, fictitious plates and an outstanding warrant.

• On Jan. 11 Ronyce A. Porter, 21, of Sayerville was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting five bottles of nail polish, body spray and body mist worth \$29.

• Anup Anil Desai, 42, of Concord, NC was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, failure to observe a traffic signal and having an open container of alcohol in his vehicle.

• Tayvon S. Gaddy, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a weapon, speeding and driving without a license in possession.

• The owner of Stelton Cabinets reported the theft of \$4,915 worth of tools from his truck which was parked at Home Depot. The rear door locked had been broken open to gain entry.

• A Sampton Ave. resident reported the theft of four tires and rims from his driveway.

• A Bayville resident reported the theft of a cordless drill, a roto zip and sawzall worth \$380 from the back seat of his unlocked vehicle that was parked near the Dollar Tree on Hadley Rd.

• On Jan. 13 Jeffrey Riebe, 39, of Allentown was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to a breathalyzer, reckless driving, no insurance, failure to exhibit a registration, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Troy Ricardo Skeete, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for no insurance and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Garfield Ave. resident reported the theft of a 1994 Honda Accord from their driveway.

• Enrite gas station on Durham Ave. reported that a customer left without paying for \$45 worth of gas.

• High Tech Landscapes on New Brunswick Ave. reported the theft of an aluminum floor storage unit and gas powered air compressor from their storage trailer.

• On Jan. 14 Mukesh K. Shah, 47, of Franklin Park was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to maintain a lane.

• Christopher Jose Sanchez, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• An Elmwood Dr. W. resident reported that the driver's side mirror glass of his vehicle had been broken.

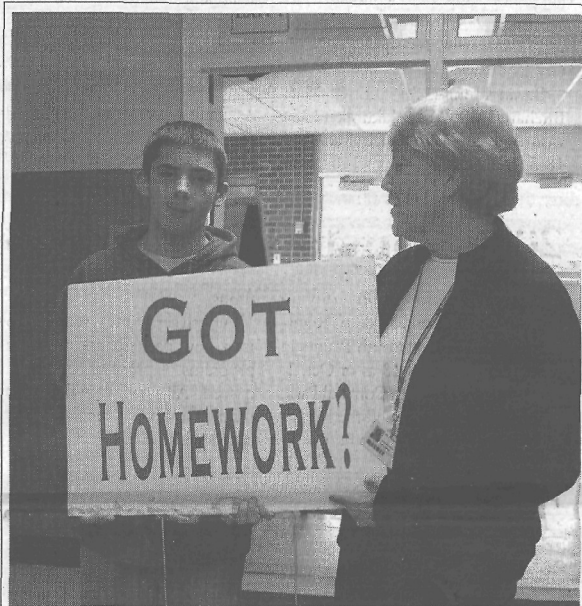
• A Fairmount Ave. resident reported the theft of her 1993 Jeep Cherokee that was left running in front of Dunkin Donuts on Park Ave.

• On Jan. 15 Phillip M. Masters was arrested at Home Depot for shoplifting framing nails and a regulator to an air compressor worth \$335.

## Garden State Baseball Tryouts

The Garden state Yankees are now holding tryouts to select ball players for tournament teams. Teams will play a very competitive schedule of games and tournaments. Teams do not interfere with school teams. Players ages 13 up to college/men are welcome.

For more information about winter tryouts and training call (732) 382-4610, email [johngsb1@aol.com](mailto:johngsb1@aol.com) or check their website at [www.gardenstatebaseball.com](http://www.gardenstatebaseball.com). The program will start Jan. 15 at the Woodbridge Recreation Center.

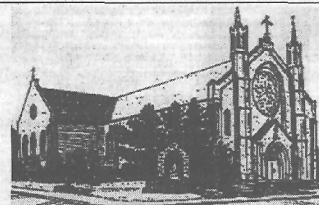


Pictured are Middle School eighth grade Math teacher Linda Schwebel asking student Darrec Fonti if he's "got homework." This is a reminder to students as well as parents to check and make sure that all homework is done. Signs like this one have been placed throughout the school as well as on school grounds.

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

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Total amount of this order: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sports

## Wrestling-SPHS

By Bob Hunter

### Number One Tigers Now 9-0

The Tigers have now extended their winning streak to 27 match's heading into the tougher part of their schedule. After a successful week with three wins over Woodbridge, Pope Paul VI and Hamilton West, the Tigers will host Colonia and Hackettstown and county rival Old Bridge.

The Tigers traveled to Woodbridge for the White division match and had little trouble with the Barons handing them a 61-13 loss.

Patrick Hunter (103) won by forfeit. Nick Pauls (112) pinned Matt D'Amico 2:32 and Billy Ashnault (125) won by decision over Gary Griffin 10-5.

Bryan Hunt (130) pinned Matt Buchan 5:50. Mike Jakubik (135) won by tech-fall over T.J. Ratajczak 18-3, 5:36. Nick Dorey (140) won

by tech-fall over Chris Hrapinski 15-0, 2:39.

Eddie McCray (145) pinned Nick Smith :15. Craig Batista (152) won a close decision over Sam Martin, 2-1. Mark Wagner (160) pinned Kyle Bialick 5:41. Jon Conroy (171) won by forfeit. Kevin Criley (189) pinned Mike Kreisel 3:37. Preston Johnson (215) won by forfeit. Chuck Pierson (275) won by major decision over Billy Daly 11-3.

On Saturday, the Tigers hit the road again and wrestled Hamilton West in the first match and won 66-2. Patrick Hunter (103) pinned Greg Recchia :52. Nicky Pauls (112) won by decision over Tim Cowell, 9-8. Billy Ashnault (119) pinned Adam Hefez :34. Jimmy Conroy (125) pinned Mike Applegate :25. Bryan Hunt

(130) pinned Joe Werner 2:25. Mike Jakubik (135) won by decision over Jeromey Friedman, 12-9. Nick Dorey (140) won by tech-fall over Jason Burch 15-0, 5:37. Eddie McCray (145) pinned Rich Liguori 2:31. Sam Martin (152) won by tech-fall over Matt Wolf 15-0, 3:59. Mark Wagner (160) also won by tech-fall over Demetri Aleyou 16-1, 4:05. Jon Conroy (171) won by decision over Rob Liguori 6-4. Kevin Criley (189) pinned Mike Riccitelli 2:28. Preston Johnson (215) won by disqualification Andy Koiquah. Mark Memone (275) won by decision over Bill Daly 2-1 (OT).

**Note:** Hamilton West deducted one team point for unsportsmanlike conduct at 215.

In the second match, the Tigers faced host team Pope Paul VI and won 65-10. Patrick Hunter (103) won by tech-fall over James Corbett 22-6, 4:12. Ryan Walsh (112) (PVI) won by major decision over Nicky Pauls 14-0. Billy Ashnault (119) pinned Jeff Bowley 4:50.

Jim Conroy (125) won by decision over Jackson Brady 3-0. Bryan Hunt (130) won by decision over Steve Scullin 3-0. Mike Jakubik (135) pinned Chris Sachson 1:19. Nick Vallone (140) won his first varsity match with a fall over Vince Blanchini 1:25. Nick Dorey (145) pinned Sean Laughlin 3:21. Eddie McCray (152) pinned Mike Story :29. Sam Martin (160) pinned Lou Klein :41. Mark Wagner (171) pinned Mark Laughlin 1:19. Paul Gillstrap (189) (PVI) pinned Jon Conroy 3:44. Preston Johnson (215) pinned Cameron Moore 5:27. Rocco Petriello (275) pinned Rashid Watson 4:35.

### Bill Protecting Baseball Teams From Frivolous Lawsuits Becomes Law

Legislation Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan Jr. sponsored to prevent frivolous lawsuits from being filed by fans who get struck by foul balls while attending baseball games was signed into law by Governor Codey.

Diegnan's law (A-4479/S-2930)—the "New Jersey Baseball Spectator Safety Act"—will curb potential lawsuit abuses in the wake of the recent state Supreme Court ruling that granted a NJ fan the right to sue for injuries caused by a foul ball during a 1999 minor league baseball game in Newark.

"There is no crying 'I'll sue you' in baseball," said Diegnan (D-Middlesex). "The legal standard had been so weighted toward a spectator that it was the baseball equivalent of allowing a batter to hit with a corked bat off of a tee. It was an open invitation to lawsuit abuse."

Diegnan's measure changes the Sept. 13 Supreme Court ruling in *Maisonave v. The Newark Bears Professional Baseball Club Inc.* Justices held that while the "limited duty rule," which restricts the tort liability of ballpark operators, applies in situations where an injury occurs in the stands, traditional negligence principles apply in all other areas of the stadium.

The ruling stemmed from Newark resident Louis Maisonave's claim that he sustained a facial fracture when he was struck by a ball while standing in front of a vending cart in the concession area of Riverside Stadium. The high court decided that Maisonave's lawsuit was legitimate since he had exited the seating area and was disengaged from the game.

Under Diegnan's law, which is based on a 1993 Colorado measure, the assumption of risk would be a defense in a lawsuit filed against a baseball park owner by a spectator unless:

- A stadium owner fails to make a reasonable and prudent effort to "design, alter and maintain" a stadium in a reasonably safe condition relative to the nature of baseball;

- A park owner intentionally injures a spectator;

- An owner fails to post and maintain spectator warning signs in the facility.

The measure requires owners of stadiums where professional baseball games are played to post conspicuously signs containing the following warning notice:

"Under New Jersey law, a spectator of professional baseball assumes the risk of any injury to person or property resulting from any of the inherent dangers and risks of such activity and may not recover from an owner of a baseball team or an owner of a stadium where professional baseball is played for injury resulting from the inherent dangers and risks of observing professional baseball, including but not limited to, being struck by a baseball or a baseball bat."

Diegnan said without explicit legal protections, owners of NJ's eight current professional baseball stadiums would have been forced to erect large nets or other partitions to further separate fans from the field of play.

"For decades, stadium public address announcers have congratulated fans who have been lucky enough to snag a foul ball," said Diegnan. "The threat of frivolous lawsuits could have required announcers to replace cries of 'give that fan a contract' with 'find that fan a lawyer.' Foul balls—and the thrill of catching one—are a part of baseball. Without granting ballpark owners this protection, an integral part of the fan experience would have become just a memory."

The law takes effect immediately.

### 2006 Ponytail Registration

Registration for 2006 Ponytail Softball will end on March 6. Registration is open to all South Plainfield resident girls, ages 8-13 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 re-

funds.

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.

### T-Ball/Teener Registration

The 2006 T-Ball/Teener Ball Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents, boys and girls. T-ball is available to children who were five as of Oct. 1. Teener Ball is available to boys as baseball, and girls as softball. Registration begins Feb. 14 and ends April 7. Register at the PAL, located on

Maple Avenue.

A birth certificate is required for new registrants. Everyone must show a proof of residency. The fee is \$35/person and the late fee is \$50/person. There will be no refunds. All coaches will be fingerprinted and must attend a safety and a coaches clinic.

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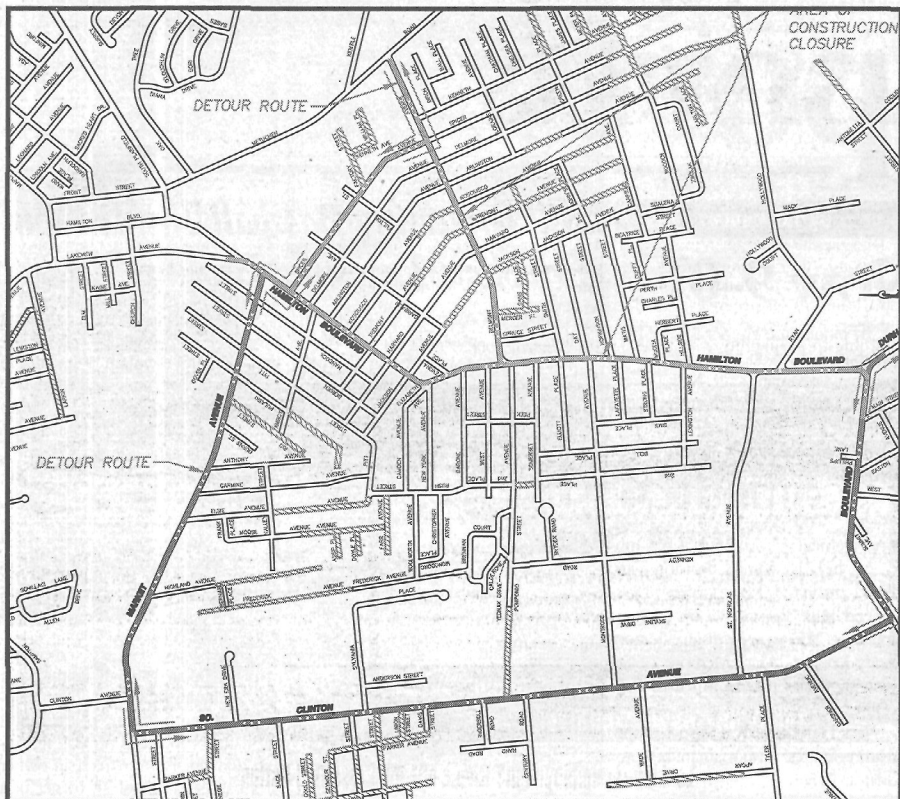
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A map of the Hamilton Blvd. detour slated to begin January 24 is available in a larger format at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com). For related story see page 1.



From left to right—Emily Abrego, Hannah Abrego and Dylan Thompson.

## Sweet Competition at Riley School

By Patricia Abbott

In late December, 65 Riley School parents teamed with their children in a contest to build the best gingerbread house. The fierce competition produced said number of edible abodes. The creative confections were displayed in the foyer, adding to the festive holiday decor.

The contest was judged by seven school district employees. The first place grand prize of a \$50 Toys R

Us gift certificate was awarded to Mrs. Weinberger and Lauren; second place went to Mrs. Abrego, Emily and Hannah, and third place to Mrs. Thompson and Dylan. They each received a \$25 dollar gift certificate.

Principal Al Czech said, "The parents and children of Riley School truly captured the spirit of the holiday. The parents enjoyed participating and we are hopeful that next year it will be even bigger and better."

## Students of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

a committee member for Tiger 24 and spent the entire 24 hours at the event. He was part of the Katrina relief efforts helping to create 400 school kits for Louisiana school children. Last summer he volunteered as a camp counselor at Fairview Lake Overnight Camp. He is also an athlete and has run track since his sophomore year. Last year he received a varsity letter for winter track and recently received an award from the state for his work combating bigotry and hate in Middlesex County. Michael is a loyal student who loves working

with people. He strongly admires the words of Fredrick Douglas; "without struggle there is no progress."

The students were required to submit an essay, "How volunteering has impacted me and what I will do in the future." The essays will be used to select the Rotary Student of the Year, which will be announced on May 22.

Students from Bishop Ahr High School, Edison High School, JP Stevens High School, St. Joseph High School, Wardlaw-Hartridge School and Middlesex Academy of Science were also recognized.

## Judge Throws Out Suit

(Continued from page 1)

is releasing the settlement documents, because the public has the right to know how it was settled. I hope they also consent to releasing the depositions," said Jones. He is seeking only the depositions of Kubala and Vokral saying, "They are two honest people who would have given honest answers," he explained.

Gallagher also stated that with the release of the settlement, he will be free to speak about the matter in public. "I am tired of people thinking that there was any wrongdoing by the

Democratic Party," he explained. He also said that he doesn't know the amount of the settlement and would like to have all of the depositions released.

Darlene Pinto's attorney, Dan Fleming of Wong & Fleming in Princeton, stated that Mrs. Pinto will comply with whatever the judge rules. However, he feels that disclosing the information contained in the confidential settlement violates her privacy rights, which was one of the points in her original suit against the Borough.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

January 13, 2006

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 12, 2006.

A. Case #79-05- John R. Bannon. Block 528; Lot 3; 1324 Yurgel Drive. The applicant's request for a use variance in order to redesign an existing attached garage into a 2<sup>nd</sup> dwelling unit so that the home can be utilized as a mother-daughter use was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #78-05- Tam H. Nguyen. Block 192; Lot 4.01; 1503 Mellon Street. The applicant's request for a lot width variance was hereby DENIED.

C. Case #91-03- St. Stephen the Protomartyr Church. Block 177; Lot 13; 609 Lane Avenue. The applicant's request for a 180 day extension of its previously granted conditional use variance and amended site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to all of the conditions in the Board's prior resolutions.

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

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January 20, 2006

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## Obituaries

### Elizabeth Drumgould, 79

Elizabeth Drumgould died on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Newark, Mrs. Drumgould moved to Piscataway in 1963 and has resided there ever since.

A member of the Senior Citizens group of Our Lady of Fatima RC Church in Piscataway, Mrs. Drumgould loved to travel and visit different places.

Elizabeth was among the proud thousands of women who participated in "Rosie The Riveter" workforce during World War II.

She is predeceased by her husband, William Sr., who died in 2004; a son, Patrick, who died in 1991 and by seven brothers and two sisters.

Surviving is her son, William J. and his wife Peggy of Piscataway; a daughter-in-law, Illeana Drumgould of Fla. and her grandson Patrick. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Esther Della Rosa, 84

Esther Della Rosa died Monday, Jan. 9 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in the Vailsburg section of Newark, Esther lived in Margate before moving to Piscataway 30 years ago.

Mrs. Della Rosa was employed with Prudential Insurance Company in Newark for more than 40 years, retiring over 25 years ago. She was a member of Our Lady of Fatima RC Church in Piscataway and the Piscataway Senior Citizens.

She is predeceased by her sister, Irene Conway.

Surviving are two sisters, Florence Keller and husband Paul of Southampton, NJ and Mary Pannullo of Mountainside. Also surviving are two nieces, Susan Keller and Lynda Matthews and four nephews, Wayne Pannullo, Dennis Pannullo, Jeffrey Shapiro, and Thomas Conway.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Anna P. Giunta, 88

Anna P. Giunta died on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison.

Born in South Plainfield, Ms. Giunta had resided in Plainfield for 15 years before settling in South Plainfield.

Employed as a school crossing

guard from 1988-1992 at Roosevelt School, she had previously been employed by the Burroughs Corp. in Warren for many years, Union Instrument of Plainfield for seven years and the former Cornell Dubilier of South Plainfield as a secretary for 15 years.

Ms. Giunta was a former communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

As a young lady, she enjoyed playing golf, tennis and the piano.

She is predeceased by four sisters, Santa Capparelli, Minnie Catanese, Josephine Casserino, Catherine La Rossa and Rose Spinelli and a brother, Rynic Giunta.

Surviving is her brother, Albert Giunta and his wife Eleanor of Edison, several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Haven Hospice, C/O JFK Medical Center, 65 James Street, Edison, NJ 08818.

### Florence (Flo) A. Garretson, 99

Florence (Flo) A. Garretson died on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Delaire Nursing Home in Linden.

Flo was born Aug. 7, 1906 in Harrison to William M. and Louisa (Quick) Garretson. As a child, she moved with her family to North Plainfield where she had spent most of her life before moving to Cranford in July, 2000. She was a 1925 graduate of North Plainfield High School which was the first graduating class of the high school. After high school, Flo graduated from the Drake School of Business in 1926.

She had worked for the Board of Education of Scotch Plains as a private secretary to the superintendent of schools for 50 years, retiring in 1975. After her retirement she worked part-time with her sister, Mae, at DesNoyers Appliances.

Flo was a former member of the YMCA Girl Reserves. She had enjoyed traveling for many years throughout the U.S. and Canada with her sister.

Surviving are her sister, Mac Garretson of Cranford and her dear friend Sally DelNegro of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Joseph M. Baron, 83

Joseph M. Baron of South Plainfield died Saturday, Jan. 14 at home.

He was born in Trenton and was a

resident of South Plainfield for the past 55 years where he raised his family and was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church.

He was a 1940 graduate of Plainfield High School before serving in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1946. Mr. Baron was awarded the American Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

He had been employed by American Cyanamid in Bound Brook as an engineering electrician before retiring in 1980.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Helen, who passed in 1981 and his brother, John Baron, predeceased him.

Joseph is survived by three daughters, Eileen of Beachwood, Susan of North Plainfield and Nancy of South Plainfield and a grandson Christopher of South Plainfield. He is also survived by six sisters, Mary Di Cavalcante and T. Rita Crowley, both of Plainfield, Ann Srager of North Plainfield, Patricia Lyons of Martinsville, Virginia Nicholas of Roanoke, Va., Beverly Mamola of Manville and a brother Jerome Baron of Winter Park, Fla.

He leaves a legacy to his family which includes a love of mysteries and humor to Eileen, an affinity for science fiction and gardening to Susan, a fondness for puzzles and a very green thumb to Nancy, and his musical ability to Christopher.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

To send your condolences, go to [www.southplainfieldfuneralhome.com](http://www.southplainfieldfuneralhome.com).

### Elizabeth J. (Zanowic) Becker

Elizabeth J. (Zanowic) Becker, died on Monday, Jan. 16, at Valley View Health Care Center in Frenchtown.

Born and raised in the Arbor section of Piscataway, Mrs. Becker lived throughout the Plainfield area prior to moving to Cherry Hill where she lived for 35 years, before settling in Annandale in 1999.

A 1938 graduate of Dunellen High School, Elizabeth worked as a medical secretary for the Lyons Veterans Hospital and later for the Summit Medical Group in Summit.

An avid golfer, Mrs. Becker was a member of the Riverton Country Club in Cinnaminson, where she played on the woman's traveling team and in 1964 was a contestant on the television show "Concentration."

She is pre-deceased by her husband, William L. Becker, who died in 1990; three sisters, Mary Meeker, Anna Miller and Francis Baldino and three brothers, Paul, John and William Zonowith.

Surviving is her daughter Carol Taylor of Clinton Twp.; three grandchildren, Beth Ann Degitz, Amy Sikanowicz, and David Sikanowicz. Also surviving is a great-grandchild, Lake Degitz.

Funeral Services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.



Sacred Heart School students celebrate Christmas by re-enacting the Nativity. They repeated the re-enactment at Christmas Eve mass for parishioners.

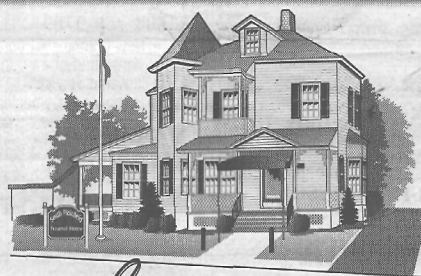


Sacred Heart School Principal Sister Nadine Boyle takes the lead in the Conga line during the school's Christmas Sock Hop.

## Hillside Cemetery

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## A Tribute to Our Friend Jackie Angioletti

will be held on  
Sunday, January 29, 2006  
at  
South Plainfield High School  
Information Center  
2:00 PM

Miss Angioletti, (Jackie) touched the lives of many people. Her untimely death has stunned and saddened all who knew her. We would like to gather together to share our memories and pay tribute to her contributions as a teacher, coach, and friend.

If you are planning to attend this memorial event, we encourage you to share your thoughts. Please respond to [golday@patmedia.net](mailto:golday@patmedia.net) if you wish to be included on the list of people who will speak. If you cannot attend and would like to send a message to be read, and we hope you will, send that also to [golday@patmedia.net](mailto:golday@patmedia.net).

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