

See next week's issue for DARE graduation coverage.

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 22

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FEB 03 2006
FEBRUARY 3, 2006



2005 Cappy Award winners, past and present (from left) Tulio Capparelli, Charles Decker, Ed Niemczyk, Lois Severini (accepted award for husband Salvatore,) and Philip Aiello, Sr.

Aiello, Severini, Cappy Award Winners

Philip Aiello, Sr. and Salvatore Severini, two men who volunteered countless hours of their lives to the youth of South Plainfield, were honored last Saturday when the South Plainfield Recreation Department and the South Plainfield Police Athletic League honored them as the 2005 Cappy Award recipients.

The ceremonies took place at the Senior Center, with many relatives and friends of the recipients attending the dinner and ceremonies. Because Sal Severini passed away in Decem-

ber of 2004, Sal's wife, Lois, tearfully accepted the plaque in his name. Recreation Commission President William Cochrane was the master of ceremonies, Interim Recreation Director Kevin Hughes welcomed the guests and Recreation Commission Vice President Calvin Gross gave the invocation. Some of the other speakers included PAL President, Officer, Chris Colucci, Councilman Ray Petronko, William DeNitzio, Garret Cassio, Thomas McCreesh and Tulio Capparelli.

The Cappy Award winners are chosen annually by a special committee made up of members of the Police Athletic League and the Recreation Commission and awarded to

(Continued on page 6)

Diegnan Selected to Serve As Assembly Majority Parliamentarian

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr. has been named Assembly Majority Parliamentarian for the 2006-2007 legislative session.

Diegnan (D-South Plainfield) was chosen for the coveted caucus advisory position because of his command of legislative procedures, his knowledge of the law and his experience as an effective debater during Assembly floor sessions, according to Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.

"Patrick's natural ability to boil down complex issues to their essential arguments will be an invaluable asset in his new leadership role," said Roberts (D-Camden). "That, coupled with his extensive legal background, will ensure that our caucus meetings, committee hearings and voting sessions all run as smoothly as possible."

As Parliamentarian for the Assembly Democratic Majority, Diegnan will be the caucus' point person on using and interpreting legislative and parliamentary rules among caucus

members. He replaces Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo (D-Essex) who ascended to the position of Speaker Pro Tempore for the new legislative session.

"It is an honor to work with my fellow legislators in such an important leadership capacity," said Diegnan. "We will be tackling some very contentious issues in this new two-year session, and it will be crucial for us to maintain decorum, discipline and order in our proceedings."

During the new legislative session, Diegnan will also serve as Chairman of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and sit on the Education Committee and Regulated Professions and Independent Authorities

(Continued on page 10)



Patrick Diegnan, Jr.

SPHS Honors Sgt. McDonald with Plaque

By Patricia Abbott

A ceremony was held in the history hallway at South Plainfield High School on Dec. 21 to present a plaque commemorating the May 2004 visit to South Plainfield of retired police sergeant, Nick McDonald. McDonald was one of the officers responsible for the capture of President John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, on Nov. 22, 1963. On hand for the event were Principal Dr. Ken May, former Police Chief Robert Merkle, former Deputy Chief Tulio 'Cappy' Capparelli and Anthony Cotoia, a former school administrator, teacher and coach.

Capparelli was instrumental in bringing McDonald to South Plainfield. Their decades-long friendship was the result of countless telephone calls and letters, even though they had



L-R Dr. Ken May, former police chief Robert Merkle, Tulio 'Cappy' Capparelli and Anthony Cotoia. Pictured at right is the plaque installed at SPHS.

never met in person prior to the visit. His visit to SPHS came about when Capparelli spoke to then SPHS Principal Anthony Massaro and Assistant Principal Dr. Ken May, relating his friendship with McDonald. He told them of his early correspondence with McDonald regarding the purchase of a packet of information about the assassination.

Massaro and May jumped at the opportunity to have McDonald visit the school and speak to the students. The effort was coordinated by Massaro, May and then chief, Robert Merkle. Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan was also contacted for input, as well as history teacher Tony Barca and graphic arts teacher Rich D'Urso, who helped coordinate film clips shown prior to McDonald's speech.

McDonald and his wife, Rose 'Daisy,' arrived from Hot Springs, Arkansas on Sunday, May 2, 2004. Sgt.

McDonald spoke twice on two consecutive days at the high school. On May 4 he spoke to an assembly of history students and on the evening of May 5 he presented his story to members of the community.

During the visit, Chief Merkle planned numerous activities for the McDonalds, including a trip to the New Jersey State Police Museum in Trenton, Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the United Nations. Merkle's brother Steven, a former police chief and history buff, had also been corresponding with McDonald for 10 years. He was among those who escorted the McDonalds on their trips. May said,

(Continued on page 7)

CAUTION: Update on Road Construction Hamilton Blvd. is Closed to Truck Traffic

All truck traffic has been banned from Hamilton Blvd. and is being rerouted around the construction area between Durham and New Market avenues. Local traffic will be allowed on Hamilton Blvd., but sections will be reduced to one lane.

This phase of construction is the installation of storm sewers, which entails tearing up large sections of the road. No date has been set for completion.

Truck traffic is being detoured around the construction, following a detour route which begins at St. Nicholas Ave. to South Clinton Ave. to New Market Ave., to Hamilton Blvd. left onto Spicer Ave. to Belmont. This traffic pattern will be in effect both day and night until further notice. Trucks going south will follow the detour in the opposite direction.

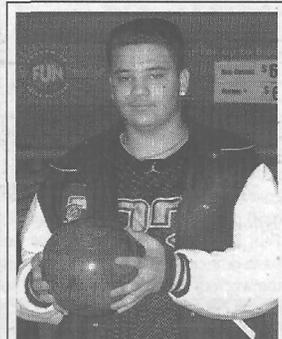
The first few days of the detour have seen confusion and delays, especially in the area of New Market and Spicer avenues. The intersection

of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd., scheduled for widening and the installation of new lights, is not yet completed. However, a temporary right turn lane has been made to allow trucks to make a right turn onto Hamilton Blvd. Police are stationed at several of the detour intersections to help keep traffic moving.

Due to the lane closures on Hamilton Blvd., Belmont Ave. is also 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.) are encouraged to utilize exit 5 (Rt. 529, Stelton Rd.).

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

An update on the construction will be made at the Business Association meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16 at Sherban's starting at 9 a.m. All are invited to attend. There will be a question and answer period.



Congrats to SPHS freshman, Chris Esposito, who bowled a perfect 300 game in his weekend league. The feat earned him a spot in St. Louis's Bowling Hall of Fame. Chris, who also bowls for SPHS, has been honing his skill since the age of seven.

Photo by Christopher Abbott

RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT PROPERTY TAX BILLS ARE DUE ON FEB. 1 WITH A 10-DAY GRACE PERIOD. TAX OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8-5.

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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

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

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
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
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
Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

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 at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

Parishioners Take Journey for Life to D.C.

Sunday, Jan. 22 marked the 33rd anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and to commemorate and show their objection to that decision, parishioners from Sacred Heart Church participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on Monday, Jan. 23.

The day began before sunrise with a mass for life and a safe journey to the Nation's Capital. The Mass was celebrated by Pastor Fr. John Paul Alvarado of Sacred Heart Church. The theme of this year's march was, "*Roe v. Wade* is not the American way."

After mass a group of parishioners, along with their pastor and friends, boarded a bus for the trip to D.C. Meanwhile, hundreds of other buses were also traveling from various states throughout our great nation, all praying the rosary that the sanctity of life will one day be the way of the land.

The group gathered at the National Mall to hear Congressional representatives voice their support for the pro-life movement and the need for efforts to continue until there are abortions no more.

The opening prayer was led by a representative from Missouri and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Anderson, the Supreme Knight of the

Knights of Columbus. They heard from speakers Cris Smith and Scott Garrett from New Jersey, as well as from speakers from Kansas, Ohio, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

Cris Smith spoke about the need to take the human rights struggle to the next level and that the new generation of enlightened public policy makers is in great demand. They heard from President Bush via telephone from Manhattan, Kansas. He said, "Every human life has value that the self-evident truths of the Declaration of Independence apply to everyone, not just those considered healthy, wanted or convenient. These principles call us to defend the sick, the dying, persons with disabilities, birth defects, all who are weak and vulnerable, especially unborn children." He further explained that by changing laws we can change our culture. He also said that this is a cause that appeals to the conscience of our citizens and is rooted in America's deepest principle and history tells us that with such a cause and we will prevail.

As the march proceeded from the Mall and down Constitution Ave., participants in the march ranged from babies being carried or pushed in carriages

to senior citizens in wheelchairs. The most recognizable difference this year was the number of young people present representing their various faiths, youth groups and high school and colleges from around the country.

As the march proceeded to the Capital and the Supreme Court, the marchers walked shoulder to shoulder and prayed, sang or walked in silence, hoping that the need for this march would be no more. The media reported that the event drew 100,000, but those present were aware of the fact that the attendance surely exceeded that number.

A contingent from Sacred Heart met with newly appointed Senator Mendez's legislative assistant, while others proceeded to the Rayburn Building to meet with congressional representatives from New Jersey.

As they boarded the buses for their trip home, two things were certain: one was that the caravan of buses will continue to make this annual journey to D.C. until life is protected in all stages and that we must pray and educate so that the unborn will see the wonders of the world.

—Submitted by Gene Baker

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

This past Saturday, a party was held honoring our town's Jr. Midget Football players and cheerleaders on their State Championship seasons.

This party was a great event for the boys and girls and I would like to thank the following on their very generous contributions: The South Plainfield Elks, Flanagan's, Hometown Heros and Brian Cargill (DJ).

You truly represent what community support for our local youth is all about.

SINCERELY, AL LISZEWSKI,
HEAD FOOTBALL COMMISSIONER

To the Editor,

After reading the article submitted by Walter Pasacrita-chairman of the Seniors Forum in the Jan. 27 issue of the *Observer*, we felt we had to reply.

We have known Walt for almost 40 years and have always found him to be a polite, soft-spoken gentleman.

We got to know him through Cub Scouts and the Summer Drama Workshop. He was always there to help.

In later years, he spent many hours with a group headed by the late Sue Mischka, visiting area senior centers to get ideas for the proposed senior center in South Plainfield.

South Plainfield seniors are losing a knowledgeable, dedicated person who has given so much of his time and talent to help others.

We hope the Senior Men's Forum will flourish in their new location. It is really sad that they no longer feel welcome at the senior center because some consider them "too political" and because they are opposed to the Tingley proposal.

After speaking with many people in town, it's safe to say they are not alone in their opposition of the Tingley proposal.

SINCERELY,
BILL AND MARGIE PRICE

To the Editor:

The Grant School PTO will hold their meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the library. The 2007 Stoke committee will meet on Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the library to discuss the Feb. 22 pasta dinner. Notices for the pasta dinner went home with students the week of Jan. 30. Notices will also be posted at the Senior Center. The 2007 Stokes class need to raise approximately \$30,000 to obtain a no-out of pocket trip.

The fifth grade DARE graduation took place on Monday, Jan. 30 at Grant School. Congratulations to the

DARE police officers, LaMonda and Franchak, the essay and poster winners, the Board of Education, Dr. Rosado, Principal Whalen, Asst. Principal Richkus and the PTO for sponsoring this extremely important program and for the children themselves for opening their impressionable minds to learn how to say no to drugs and violence.

The 2006 swimming GMCs will take place Saturday, Feb. 4 at Princeton University. Thanks to Dr. Rosado, the Board of Education and Athletic Director Michael Buggey for allowing our high school students to participate in the GMCs. These students swim competitively for the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks in the summer months and swim during the winter months under the direction of the same coach, Laurie Post.

Best wishes and congratulations to all those students who will be participating and to Renee Finan who will be attending along with the students.

I would like to commend Senator Barbara Buono and Senator Paul Sarlo for sponsoring Bill S-2630 which will give the police tools to track internet criminals. This bill will enable law enforcement officers to have at their disposal details in identifying and usage

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.

information to press a case against those using the internet to perpetrate fraud or worse.

When the dismissal bell rings at Grant School at 2:10 p.m., the streets become filled with children going home. A man in a light blue/green pickup truck tried to race past me twice as I stopped at the intersection of Wickford and Libourel Rd. to allow 10 children and the mailman to cross the road. It is a good thing that you were unable to squeeze past because you would have injured them all!

DEBBIE BOYLE,
GRANT SCHOOL PTO BOARD
SPHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER TRUSTEE



Enter by filling out an entry form at either location!

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VALENTINE'S Day

Win Dinner for Two complete with a Dozen Long-Stemmed Roses & a Box of Chocolates

Deadline for entries is 2/9/06
Drawing to take place 2/10/06.

No purchase necessary

Winner will be notified by phone & can receive prize on Valentine's Day or following Saturday.

Dinner will include:

- Antipasto tray of mozzarella, provolone, genoa and hard salami, pepperoni, olives, tomatoes & peppers
- Spinach Stuffed Chicken in a light gravy with a side of spinach quiche • Berry Tarts

Winner will also receive:

A Dozen Long Stemmed Roses Beautifully Arranged and a Box of Chocolates

All Delivered to Our Lucky Winner!!!!



The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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Web page:
www.spobserver.com
(under construction)

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.



Pictured are the past Grand Knights of Council #6203 at a breakfast held in their honor.

Knights of Columbus Honor Past Grand Knights

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 conducted a Communion Breakfast at the Knights Hall on Jan. 29. More than 30 council members, their families and the 4th Degree Color Corps headed by Tony Moskal attended mass at Sacred Heart Church. After the mass, members of the Knights went back to their hall for a breakfast to honor the council's past Grand Knights.

To honor the past Grand Knights, the council presented each past Grand Knight with a miniature past Grand Knight jewel as a gift and gave out

certificates of appreciation for their dedication to the Knights of Columbus. Over 85 members and families attended the breakfast at the hall, which was prepared by Bob Walker and his team in the kitchen.

The list of the South Plainfield Past Grand Knights honored are: Bernard J. Conlon 1970-1971, Eugene E. Baker 1971-1972, Frank Pulicaro 1972-1973 (deceased), Gerald C. Mingin 1973-1974, William H. Sheedy 1974-1975, Rev. Lawrence Cashiole (deceased) 1975-1976, Richard D. Miscovic 1976-1977, Henry P. Wozni-

acki 1977-1978, James Bowbliss (deceased) 1978-1979, Joe Geremia 1979-1980, George S. Mihalik (deceased) 1980-1981, Robert Hunter 1981-1982, Donald J. Bayman 1982-1984, Frank Dellisanti (deceased) 1984-1985, Louis DeFillippo 1985-1986, Robert Branagan 1986-1987, Robert O'Keefe 1987-1988, Kenneth Gregory 1988-1989, James Thomas (deceased) 1989-1991, Gregory P. Lewis 1991-1992, Leonard Kleczkowski 1992-1993, James J. Boyle Jr. (deceased), 1993-1995, John Weakley 1995-1996 and 2000-2002, Albert J. Musmanno 1996-1997, Harry H. Sandin Jr. 1997-1998, Paul Grzenda 1998-2000 and Pat M. Bonaventura 2002-2004.

The breakfast was emceed by current Grand Knight Joseph A. Scudato.

Free Tax Return Help Available

Taxpayers can receive free help in filing their federal and state returns as part of a program at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave.

Volunteers will be available to aid taxpayers in preparing their returns and/or in review returns done by the taxpayer. This service is sponsored by TCE (Tax Consulting for the Elderly), the IRS and AARP. Volunteers will be available at the senior center on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 to 12 from Feb. 16 to April 14.

Participants should bring all of their income to report (that is 1099s, W-2s bank statements and any other income) and any record of expenses if they think that they could be used for deductions. They should also bring a copy of their last year's return if it is

available. Information can be obtained by calling the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047.

Mark Your Calendar Special Meeting Announced

Housing & Community Development Block Grant Meeting

A public hearing for the 2006 Housing and Community Development Block Grant has been scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006 at 7:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave.

The purpose of this hearing is to introduce projects being considered for inclusion in the 2006 Housing and Community Development Block Grant application. Public input on this project as well as input on any other projects will be entertained by the governing body at this time.

Further questions may be addressed to Councilman Raymond Petronko, Council's representative to the Housing and Community Development Agency or Vincent Buttiglieri, Administrator / Municipal Clerk at (908) 226-7606 or e-mail at vbuttiglieri@southplainfieldnj.com.

SCHOOL BOARD *Briefs*

Davis Retitled, Negotiator Hired, Salaries Adjusted

By Libby Barsky

Before the Board of Education voted to appoint Anthony Massaro as the interim superintendent of schools at \$500 a day at their Jan. 17 meeting, Jeff Seider stated his opposition to filling the position in mid-year. "The position has been vacant for four months and we should not select anyone until the budget is created for the new year, and at that time hire someone full time and not as an interim," explained Seider.

"We seem to have a pattern where no one retires. What's the point of having a pension plan if no one retires?" asked former board member Frank Mikorski, speaking against the appointment during the public address session.

With board members Terry Alexa, Patrick Kelly and Sue Peck absent, there were six members of the board present to vote. Voting for the interim position were Steve Bohn, Carol Byrne, Tim Morgan, Pio Pennisi and Dan Smith. Jeff Seider voted against the appointment.

Donna Tolley is the new business administrator/board secretary as of Jan. 1. The title of interim business administrator, which Robert Davis

held, has been changed to budget consultant. He will be retained until June 30. "He will help formulate the 2006-07 school budget," said Carol Byrne.

Contract talks with the South Plainfield Education Association Board will begin Feb. 27. Five board members, Steve Bohn, Carol Byrne, Tim Morgan, Pio Pennisi and Jeff Seider approved the appointment of Dr. Kenneth D. King as negotiation consultant. Dan Smith abstained. Alexa, Kelly and Peck were absent.

"Dr. King presents the advanced negotiations workshops for school boards and has been doing them since it started back in the 1960's," said Byrne. "He will be the spokesman for the board," she added. For his services, King will receive \$125 per hour for negotiation meetings and \$75 per hour for research, travel and proposal development, with the total amount capped at \$10,000 up to mediation.

The board also approved the increase in Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado's salary to \$167,000 retroactive to Jan. 1, 2006 and adjusted the salary of Kennedy School Principal Fred Oberkehr a salary of \$104,643 retroactive to July 1, 2005 for the 2005-2006 school year.

Curves to Participate in Eighth Annual Food Drive

Curves of South Plainfield will be participating in the Curves Food Drive to benefit local food banks.

Last year, the Curves Food Drive collected 10.6 million pounds of food for local communities all over the world. That's almost three million more pounds than the year before!

To celebrate the generosity of the community, Curves is waiving its normal service fee for any new member who brings in a bag of non-perishable groceries and joins between Feb. 27 and March 11. Last year more than 251,000 new members joined Curves during the food drive.

Others wishing to donate may drop off non-perishable food items at Curves Monday through Saturday

during business hours through the month of March.

"The Curves Food Drive promotion is always exciting," said Elissa and Jerri, co-owners of the South Plainfield club. "We have a chance to help so many people at a time when the food banks are lowest, while we assist more women in reaching their fitness and weight loss goals. It's a win-win situation for everyone, and we're very proud to participate."

With nearly 10,000 locations worldwide, Curves is the largest fitness and the fastest growing franchise company in history. More than four million women belong to the Curves community. Curves is located at 27 South Plainfield Ave.

Come Join Our Family



Contemporary Worship Sunday - 9:00 AM
Sunday School and Traditional Worship 10:30 AM
Praise Service - Thursday Evening 7:00 PM
Day and Evening Bible Studies

*Caring Spiritual Support and Fellowship
Inspiring Music*



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South Plainfield, NJ

Wesley Church provides a Message of Hope and a place for people of all ages to come to understand and know God

Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Thompson, Pastor
Church Office 908-757-2838 / Residence 908-756-1044
E-mail: WUMCSP@juno.com

50 Volunteers Needed to participate in a 21-day Fitness Study!

Volunteer Requirements

- Women Only - ages 25-65
- Agree to exercise 30 minutes, 3 times a week for 3 weeks
- \$20 fully refundable deposit upon completion of study
- Do not need to be a member
- Not currently exercising
- Must register for study by February 11, 2006
- Volunteers will have full club privileges during the study

Please Call Today to Volunteer!

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Around Town

Columbiettes To Hold 'Soup Night'

February 4

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold a 'Soup Night' on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. Menu will consist of chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup and chili, as well as crackers, bread, dessert and beverage. Take out will also be available.

Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, \$3 for children ages six to 12 and \$15 for a family of six. Children under six are free.

Music Boosters Meeting

February 8 (Change in Date)

The SPHS Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Please note the change in date! The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the chorus room. All chorus, band and orchestra parents are welcome to attend. Membership is \$5 per family, but not required to come to our meetings. Please join us!

AARP Defensive Driving Course

February 11 and 18

The AARP Defensive Drivers Course on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 8 and 9 has been filled.

The course will also be given at Muhlenberg Hospital on Saturday, Feb. 11 and 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 and open to all legally licensed drivers. Must attend both sessions.

Earn a three-year discount on auto insurance and points off your license. Call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

SDW Live Auction and Talent Show

February 11

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

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/

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
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What's happening in FEBRUARY

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 * * *				BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available
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	6 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	7 Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm AARP Driving Class 9am	8 Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	9 BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

couple. For tickets or information, please call (908) 561-5255.

VFW Breakfast

Moved to February 12

VFW Post #6763, located on Front St. will hold their breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 12 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 Meeting

February 16

AARP Chapter 4144 will hold their meeting at the Senior Center on Thursday, Feb. 16. Senator Barbara Buono is sponsoring a vision program with Dr. Bruce Kastner as a guest speaker. For information call (908) 769-6553.

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/sphistoricalsoc> or e-mail sphistoricalsoc@cs.com.

American Legion Pancake Breakfast

February 19

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 located on Oak Tree Ave. will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost for adults is \$5, children \$3 and under six are free.

All profits go to our South Plainfield Scholarship Fund.

SPHS Athletic Booster Club Meeting

February 21 (Date Change)

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. instead of the second Tuesday of February.

Grant School Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Grant Elementary School will hold a 2007 Stokes Trip fundraising spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria. Cost is \$6 for adults; children and seniors \$4. Menu includes salad, pasta, meatballs, garlic bread, dessert and a beverage. Stay for dinner, or take it to go. For more information contact Debbie Boyle at (908) 791-9439.

Knights Sponsoring Italian Dinner

February 24

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an Italian dinner on Friday, Feb. 24 in the Knights of Columbus Hall located on Hamilton Blvd. from 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12. Dinner includes, pasta, sausage and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert with coffee/tea. Proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus local charities fund. Please come out, have a delicious meal and support this worthy cause.

For more details please contact Bill Buttrico at (908) 561-8128.

Out of Town

Nite of DooWop

February 4

Dunellen Legion Post 119 and high school class of 2008 are sponsoring "A Nite of Doo-Wop 2006," featuring Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge and The Duprees on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. at Raritan Valley Community College's Edward Nash Theatre, in Branchburg.

For tickets, call (732) 968-0885, ext. 104, or (732) 968-5381.

Caring for Elderly Support Group

February 6

A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Church on Lamberts Mill Rd. in Westfield. Information and sharing sessions.

For information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 233-8757. The next meeting is on Monday, Feb. 6.

MOMS Club of Edison Meeting

February 9

The MOMS Club of Edison, which serves Edison, Metuchen, South Plainfield, Piscataway and Highland Park, is looking for new members and will be holding its monthly meeting

on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m. at The Heritage in Clara Barton at 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. Guest speaker is from the Arthritis Foundation talking about juvenile arthritis. We will also be having a pot luck lunch for Valentine's Day. Come meet our members and see what we're all about.

The MOMS Club is a national support group for mothers who stay at home with their children. The group offers a wide range of activities including playgroups, a monthly moms night out, kids in the kitchen, movie time, special programs for mothers and children and get-togethers for the whole family.

For information come to our meeting or check out <http://www.moms-club.org> or call Kristin at (908) 755-9114 for more information.

Charlie Brown's Comedy Connection

February 10

Charlie Brown's Steakhouse in Highland Park, will host the Comedy Connection on Friday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Cost for dinner and show is \$30 per person (tax and gratuity additional). Full cash bar available.

For reservations, call (732) 545-1778. Must be 21 years of age.

Girl Scouts To Hold Night At The Theater

February 12

The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council invite the public to a Day at the Theater on Sunday, Feb. 12 to see "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Cranford Dramatic Club.

Doors open at 2 p.m. for a gift basket silent auction and the curtain will rise at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person with all proceeds benefiting the programs and services GSWRC.

For further information or to purchase tickets, contact Vicki O'Donnell at (908) 232-3236 ext. 1221 or vodonnell@gswrc.com.

Mid-Winter Scottish and Irish Music Festival

February 17, 18 and 19

The 14th Annual Greater Philadelphia Mid-Winter Scottish & Irish Music Festival and Fair will be held Feb. 17-19 at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, Pa. Cost is \$20, children are free. Advance discount tickets available.

For information, call (610) 825-7268.

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SATURDAY
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AUCTION
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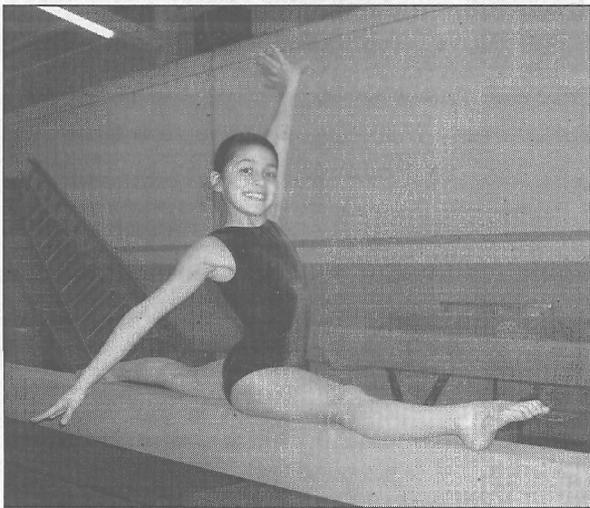
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Milestones



Gianna Marcovecchio finished first in the state on balance beam in the eight year old category.

Marcovecchio Named State Balance Beam Champ

Gianna Marcovecchio of Henderson's Gymnastics Academy in Edison, finished first in the state on balance beam for the level 4 eight year olds, with a score of 9.375.

The meet was held on Jan. 15 in Washington Township.

She also came in second on bars with a 9.45 and second in the all-

around with a total score of 37.325. Her other scores on vault and floor exercise were a 9.3 and a 9.2 respectively.

Gianna works out 10 hours a week at Henderson's Gymnastics where she has been competing for the last two years. She is a third grade student at John E. Riley Elementary School.

Zielinski Named to Wagner College Dean's List

Wagner College, on New York's Staten Island, has announced that Jenna Zielinski of South Plainfield has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2005 semester. This distinction is awarded to students who have earned a semester grade point average of 3.5 or better.

"We are always proud of the efforts and achievement of our students," said Dr. Richard Guarasci, President of Wagner College. "The Dean's List students bring a particular pride to the campus."

Congratulations, Jenna!

Wagner College, founded in 1883 on Staten Island overlooking historic New York Harbor, is a residential liberal arts college enrolling 1750 undergraduate and 400 graduate students from all over the United States

and a dozen nations around the world. Wagner's nationally recognized curricular program- The Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts- links college coursework with genuine field experience throughout each student's academic career and across the entire curriculum.

Toth Named to Dean's List at Ramapo College

Congratulations to Adam Toth for earning Deans List status for the Fall 2005 semester at Ramapo College of New Jersey. Deans list is based on the completion of a minimum of 12 graded credits with no incomplete grades for that semester, and the attainment of a semester grade point average of at least 3.5. Adam has also officially been nominated by the associate athletic director of Ramapo, to receive the Collegiate All-American Scholar Award.

Aronowitz Named To Dean's List at Ramapo College

Danielle Aronowitz has been named to the Dean's List at Ramapo College for the Fall 2005 semester. This honor is based on achieving certain grades as a matriculated student.

Dean's List is based on the completion of a minimum of 12 credits, with no incomplete grades for that semester, and the attainment of a semester grade point average of at least 3.5, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.

Danielle is a 2004 graduate of South Plainfield High School and is the daughter of Phyllis and Eric Aronowitz.

Share Your Good News...
Send us your Milestones!
Email: spobserver@comcast.com
Fax: 908-668-8819

Junior Journalist

Corner



Jared Agee, Roosevelt School Fourth Grader, Named This Week's "Junior Journalist"



Jared Agee, Roosevelt School fourth grade student, with school principal, Charles Ford.

Jared Agee, fourth grader at Roosevelt School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. His poem, "Letter to a Big Mac," has earned him dinner for his 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.

Letter to a Big Mac

By Jared Agee

Big Mac... How do you feel getting burned?
Covering you with toppings
Pickles, lettuce and special sauce,
Squirting ketchup on your face,
Buns covering you like peanut butter covers jelly.
How do you feel stuck in a box, dark and warm?
Oh No, a customer!
Run, run, run like the wind.
Oh no, He bit your head off...
Just to let you know,
You taste delicious.



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149 South Plainfield Ave.
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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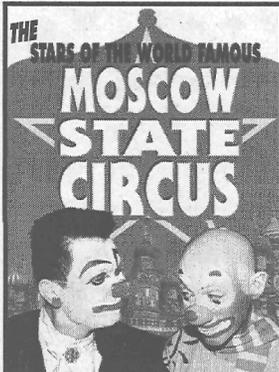
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Philip Aiello, Sal Severini, Receive Cappy Award



Lois Severini, along with son, Sal, Jr., accepts the Cappy Award for her husband, Sal, who was honored posthumously.



Tom McCreesh, Recreation Commission member.

(Continued from page 1)

a person who is dedicated to his family, his community and the youth of South Plainfield. Cappy Award winners are honored with their plaque being placed on the Wall of Honor in the PAL Building. Previous recipients include, Ed Niemczyk and Charles Decker.

Speaker after speaker told of the reasons why Aiello and Severini were chosen for the Cappy Award. But all made the same point—both gave self-ishly of themselves for the betterment of others. Tulio Capparelli, for whom the award is named, spoke about how proud he is to live in South Plainfield, and of the great number of volun-

teers it takes to successfully run all of the sport programs in our town. It began years ago when residents built the PAL building, to today's volunteers and coaches that each and every week fill the PAL, the baseball, softball, football and soccer fields, and work with our youth. He asked if the borough would again put up the signs which at one time could be seen upon entering South Plainfield which said, "Welcome to South Plainfield—Our Children are Our Greatest Asset."

Philip Aiello, "Mr. Baseball," a title given to him by those who are or have been involved with baseball at all levels for the past 25 years, coached hundreds of kids, but also affected thou-



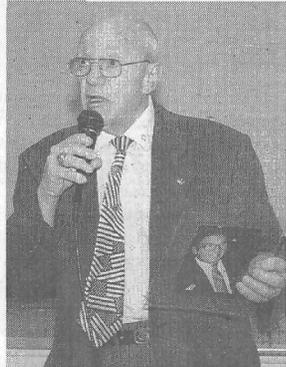
Councilman Ray Petronko with Rose Severini.

sand more because of his numerous roles both at the Jr. Baseball Complex and the SPSHS varsity baseball field.

Philip held numerous administrative positions, including chairman of buildings and grounds for over 10 years at the Jr. Baseball Complex. He personally installed the first sprinkler system at the complex. He was the first person to be elected commissioner for three terms and was honored by the Little League when they named the main building after him in September, 1991. He was also inducted into the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame in June, 2001.

Over the past 10 years, he volunteered as one of the announcers for many SPSHS games and constantly changed the music played between innings. He is also always there to offer encouragement and support to all players.

Phil's sons, Patrick and Phil, Jr. spoke



Tulio Capparelli holds a photo of recipient Sal Severini.

of their dad at the ceremony. Each talked about Phil's love of South Plainfield and his dedication to the youth of the town and how proud they were of their dad. "The American dream to my dad was that every generation should build upon the next and then we will all be better men."

Salvatore 'Buba' Severini was a dedicated husband, father and grandfather to the members of his family. He was also the adopted father to thousand of children who participated in many of the recreational programs in South Plainfield. For over 30 years he volunteered his services to help the youth of South Plainfield learn to be better baseball



Tulio Capparelli, for whom the award is named, with Rose Severini and Philip Aiello, Sr.

and football players.

Sal's love of sports began back when he played semi-pro football in Europe, winning a 1950 European championship. When he moved to South Plainfield, he immediately volunteered to help out with our local Pop Warner football organization, spending over 30 years in coaching. He was also a volunteer for six years in the South Plainfield Booster Club.

Sal also dedicated countless hours in other South Plainfield organizations. He was president of the South Plainfield Italian American Progressive League, was a VFW member for 42 years, a blood donor at St. Vincent's

Hospital in New York and served as president of the South Plainfield Sunday Night League for many years.

Sal loved being a part of the South Plainfield community and had a great desire to help the youth of South Plainfield. He demonstrated true leadership and outstanding community service to our town.

Gina Severini spoke lovingly of her grandfather and how proud she and her family are to have shared him with the youth of South Plainfield. "To hear all these kind words about my grandfather is far from whatever he would have dreamed people would be saying about him," she said.



Recreation Commission liaison Councilman Ray Petronko, and Philip Aiello, Sr.

Junior Journalist

WINNER



Junior Journalist winner Tiffany Harvey happily receives dinner from Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros. Tiffany is pictured here with her mom, Viesta, and brother Gregory. Her dad, Gregory Sr., wasn't home at the time.





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(From the left) South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. Ken May with seniors Andrew Roibal, Bryan Milicia and Asst. Principal Athea Bowman-Williams. The two students received notification from the New Jersey Institute of Technology that they had each received four year scholarships. Roibal, whose GPA is 3.6 with combined SAT scores of 1,250, received a \$4,000 per year scholarship. Milicia received an \$8,500 per year scholarship and maintains a 3.9 GPA average with a combined SAT score of 1,330.

Sign Up for Valentine's Day Contest

Would you like to win a dinner for two, complete with a dozen long stem roses and a box of chocolates? All you have to do is fill out an entry form available at either the Corner Deli or Mohn's Flowers.

Corner Deli is located on Hamilton Blvd. across from the *Observer* office and Mohn's Flowers is located on Plainfield Ave. near Wachovia Bank.

The winning dinner will be delivered courtesy of the Corner Deli. It will include an appetizer, main course and delicious dessert.

The lucky winner will also receive a dozen long stem roses, beautifully arranged and a box of chocolates, courtesy of Mohn's Flowers, also delivered to their home.

The deadline for entries will be Feb. 9 and the drawing will take place on Feb. 10.

The winner will be notified by phone and can choose to receive their prize on Valentine's Day or that following Saturday.

No purchase is necessary. All you need to do is fill out the entry form.

Christopher Joins Springfield Police Department

Keith Christopher of South Plainfield has been hired by the Springfield Police Department.

Christopher, who entered the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Union County in August of 2005 as an alternate root candidate, graduated on Dec. 8. He was hired by Springfield while in the academy.

Keith is the son of Jim and Theresa Christopher, also of South Plainfield.

Keith's pursuit of becoming a police officer came after realizing he wanted to serve the public in some way.

After graduating from Middlesex County College, he entered the academy in pursuit of that dream.

With his family and friends at his side, Keith was sworn in on Dec. 13.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Happy New Year! It is the Chinese New Year of the Dog Jan. 30. If you would like to learn more about the Year of the Dog and Chinese New Year, come to the library and visit the children's room.

Feb. 2 was Ground Hog day. The library has books explaining what it means if the ground hog sees his shadow or not.

Coming Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. will be a "Financial and Home Buying Seminar" presented by Elise Counts. No registration is required. Please stop in.

Sunday, Feb. 5 is also Super Bowl Sunday. The library has party and cookbooks with ideas about what to serve if you are hosting a Super Bowl party. You can also come in to the library before the football game and read the sports magazines and newspapers so you know which team to cheer on to victory.

On Monday, Feb. 6, there will be two craft programs, at 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. The craft is an inspiration and bookmark. There is a \$1 registration fee to cover the cost of materials. Please register ahead of time so the instructor knows how many people to expect.

Many public libraries across the country are facing budgetary crisis. Some have had buildings closed, hours reduced, or materials budgets slashed. In this environment it becomes even more critical to libraries that their library materials are returned so that other patrons may utilize them. The viewpoint that a few books not re-

turned is a small problem is simply wrong, as millions of dollars worth of materials walk out of public libraries each year never to return. Most of these materials need to be replaced at the expense of the taxpayer. A patron borrowing arrangement with a library is very similar to any other type of credit arrangement. Usually there is a signed agreement that allows a patron to borrow the library's materials for a fixed period of time. It is certainly easy to take the perspective that not returning a few library books is no big deal. However, in the larger context for a library, a few books per patron add up very quickly to become an expensive problem. Absentmindedness has never been an excuse a credit card company has accepted for late payments, why should the library? Please make every effort to return your library materials on time or before. If you cannot return the items, please call the library when it is open, renew on Elvis 24/7, or renew on your own computer from home. We really don't like to impose fines and penalties when library materials are returned late, but sometimes that is the only way we can get the materials returned in a timely manner.

Children's story times for children three years old and over will be held at their regular times: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. On Thursday evenings there is a program for 2s and 3s at 6:30 p.m. On Fridays there is a Books & Babies program at 10:30 a.m. No registration is required.

Republicans to Hold Open Screening for Candidates

South Plainfield's Republican Organization will be holding an open screening for candidates interested in running on the party's ticket in the next general election. Up for election this year are two council members and mayor. The GOP is screening for candidates for all three positions.

"We want to once again open the screening process up to all Borough residents," said Republican Chairman Bob Jones. "We're eager to talk to people who want to bring good government back to South Plainfield, and an open screening allows us to pick from a wide assortment of talent—something

our town has no shortage of."

Those interested in interviewing should submit a letter of interest or resume by e-mail to bobj152@aol.com or by mail to SPGOP, P.O. Box 371, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The submission deadline is Feb. 20 and the screening process will take place over the following month. The process includes interviews with the party's screening committee and selection of candidates by the Republican district committee people from each of the town's 15 voting districts. For more information call Bob Jones at (908) 222-9435.

SPHS Honors Sgt. McDonald

(Continued from Page 1)

"The McDonalds commented on the hospitable and friendly nature of the SPHS students and community. They said that many times they would visit a community only to be placed on exhibit. They enjoyed the students and community members."

Sadly Maurice 'Nick' McDonald died in January of 2005 at age 76. According to his wife the cause of death was complications from diabetes. The Arkansas resident served in the Navy and was a Korean War veteran. After the military, McDonald served 25 years with the Dallas Police, retiring in 1980.

The plaque was proudly unveiled by Capparelli. Cotoia had the plaque made to commemorate the visit to SPHS. May said, "Mr. McDonald proved to be a 'regular' guy in the service of his country. His experiences

with capturing Oswald demonstrated how America is made strong by the extraordinary feats completed by ordinary people in the service to our country. The Commemorative Plaque is also a tribute to Mr. Capparelli, Chief Merkle and Anthony Cotoia, who continue to work with the school to improve and maintain the instructional environment. Their work adds to the legacy and tradition that has become South Plainfield High School."

Music Boosters To Host Dinner Dance Fundraiser

The South Plainfield High School Music Boosters will be hosting a fundraiser dinner dance on Saturday, April 1. The event is sponsored by the Polish National Home with a buffet dinner provided Carraba's Restaurant in Green Brook. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, including donations from Red Lobster. Dinner and dancing to a 20-piece big band orchestra will continue through the evening until 11 p.m. There will be door prizes and a cash bar. Tickets are advance sale only and cost \$25 per person.

For tickets, contact John Roesch (908) 753-0688, Bill Scesselberg (908) 756-0539 or Diane Kuhn (908) 754-8294.

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Sports

Galen Johnson Races at NCAA Championships

Galen Johnson, a sophomore at the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing competed in the NCAA Division 3 National Cross Country Championships held in Ohio recently.

Galen and his teammates earned the opportunity to compete at Nationals by winning the NCAA Atlantic Regional Championships held in Rochester, New York on Nov. 12. During the Regional Championships, TCNJ outpaced 31 other teams from New York and New Jersey to secure an automatic bid. Galen finished 34th out of 231 runners, earning a spot

on the NCAA Division 3 All Atlantic Region team.

The NCAA D3 Championships featured the top 24 teams in the country plus the 40 fastest individual runners from the eight regional championships. The meet was held on beautiful, but extremely hilly, Dornoch Golf Club in the Columbus, Ohio suburb of Westerville. TCNJ managed an extremely respectable 10th place finish in the men's race and Galen finished 178th out of 211 runners. During his stay in Columbus, Galen sampled the banquettes, socials and

numerous gifts that are part of a national athletic competition.

In addition to making Nationals, Galen finished 8th at the New Jersey Athletic Conference Championships, thus garnering All Conference honors, and was elected "Most Improved Runner" by his teammates and coaches. Galen capped his year, and pleased his mother, by achieving a solid 3.00 academic average.

Galen is a 2004 graduate of South Plainfield High School, where he was a protégé of Cross Country coaching legend, Mike Capazola.

Middle School Boys Basketball Team 10-1

The South Plainfield Boys Middle School Basketball team has started out the season with 10-1 record. Players on the team are: Rob Pasternak, Gagan Dhaliwal, Matt Cooper, Dontae Johnson, Malcolm Austin, Kishan Patel, Tyreek Watkins, Mark Benak, Matt Cesare, Iyanosa Ogbaveon, Charles Merryman, Jake Salerno, Gerry Squier, Ulysses Woodard, Bran-

don Downes, Tyler Driscoll, Troy Menair, Carlos Ruiz and Ryan Smith.

The boys practice daily at the middle school from 4:30 to 6:30. Coaches are Mr. Fonti and Mr. Bennett.

At all of the home games, there is a half-time t-shirt give-a-way. Come out and support the boy's basketball team.

The results of the boys' first eleven games are:

South Plainfield 59
Sacred Heart 22

South Plainfield 53
East Brunswick 52

South Plainfield 48
North Brunswick 32

South Plainfield 36
Sayreville 28

South Plainfield 55
Piscataway 44

South Plainfield 49
South Brunswick 24

South Plainfield 38
East Brunswick 21

South Plainfield 47
McGinnis 34

South Plainfield 58
Wardlaw 32

South Plainfield 51
North Brunswick 52

South Plainfield 70
Sayreville 33

Next home games are Monday, Feb. 6 vs. East Brunswick and Feb. 21 vs. No. Plainfield.

SPHS Bowling

BY RALPH FECH

Ladies Upset East Brunswick, Shutout South Amboy, New Brunswick

SPHS	788	770	801	2,359
New Brunswick	579	593	622	1,794

The Girls Bowling Team smashed New Brunswick in GMC Division action sweeping all three games in an easy fashion.

Sophomore Katie Yon took scoring honors with a 537 set on games of 152-187-198. Also bowling well for SPHS were Beverly Jamieson 189-163-160-512 and freshman Gina Curcio with games of 162 and 155.

SPHS	802	792	796	2,390
East Brunswick	701	874	762	2,337
So. Amboy	699	699	643	2,041

The Lady Tigers answered the bell in the first game and built up a 100 pin advantage which held up for the remainder of the tri-match. The Bears (20-5) did put up a fierce rally, but solid team play by the Tigers sealed the win and the South Amboy Squad was never in contention.

Scoring for SPHS were: Katie Yon 170-159-182-511, Angeliqne Rualo 170-495, Beverly Jamieson 172-493, Gina Curcio 153 and Lindsay Hunsicker 154.

Lady Tigers Ranked 17th State, Fall To #1 Carteret and #20 Old Bridge

SPHS	746	799	693	2,238
Old Bridge	883	843	814	2,540
Carteret	987	948	938	2,873

Undefeated Carteret and up-and-coming Old Bridge both coasted shutout victories over the Lady Tigers, who trailed right from the opening game. Leading the limited Tiger scoring were: Freshman Jackie Kukuch 189-482, Beverly Jamieson 182-480 and Katie Yon 177-474.

Girls Team Slip by JP Stevens, Drops a Thriller to JF Kennedy

SPHS	792	977	794	2,263
JP Stevens	692	781	770	2,243
JF Kennedy	688	816	808	2,312

Solid team play was again the ingredient for posting a 3-1 victory over a good JP Stevens squad. After building up a 100 pin advantage, the Tigers let both teams back in the match with a dismal second game. With JFK pounding the pins the Tigers let one get away from them in the see-saw battle. Beverly Jamieson led the green and white by firing games of 160-185 for a 488 set. Angeliqne Rualo added a 741 set, Katie Yon 191-452 and Jackie Kukuch a 193 game and 450 set. The Lady Tigers record improved to 11-15-2.

Boys Jolt Carteret, Fall to Old Bridge

SPHS	918	868	996	2,780
Carteret	963	818	929	2,710
Old Bridge	964	987	1,081	3,032

A big third game enabled the boys to pin a 3-1 defeat on the Ramblers of Carteret, but hot-shooting Old Bridge was not to be caught. Sophomore Chris Esposito took scoring honors with a 603 set by firing games of 179-198-226. Teammate Vin Genova closely followed with 183-245 and 583 set. Mike Dandola chipped in with 212-541 and Brett Morris with 196-190.

Tigers Hammer New Brunswick

SPHS	1,057	963	850	2,870
New Bruns.	797	853	753	2,403

The Boys Bowling Team sizzled from the start and crushed the Zebras who could not recover. Vin Genova led all scorers with 229-199-604. Rob Parillo added 231-193-585, Brett Morris 210-217-598 set, Chris Esposito 206-219-567 and Mike Dandola 181-183 as the Tigers were on cruise control.

Tigers Drill South Amboy, Fall to JPS, JFK and Mighty East Bruns.

SPHS	1,007	1,004	870	2,901
East Bruns.	1,061	991	1,018	3,070
So. Amboy	803	773	823	2,413

Giving East Brunswick all it could handle in the first two games, a let down in the finale gave the Bears the edge they needed to seal the win and present the upset of the back to back Central Jersey Winter Classic Champions. The South Amboy squad was never in the mix in the tri-match series. Freshman Mike Dandola paced the Tigers with games of 187-235-194-626 set, with teammate sophomore Ryan Pauls close behind on games of 217-242-613 set. Sophomore Chris Esposito added 205-200-559. Also chipping in were Vin Genova 196-182-559 and Rob Parillo 192-191-555.

SPHS	908	989	852	2,749
JPS	1028	1096	981	3,105
JFK	1009	857	1,017	2,883

JP Stevens proved too much for the Tigers while JF Kennedy rallied to pull out the win as the green and white faltered in the stretch. Vin Genova 231-207-626 was tops with Chris Esposito posting 196-213-579 set. Jeff Pryor 213, Ryan Pauls 199 and Rob Parillo 183 also chipped in.

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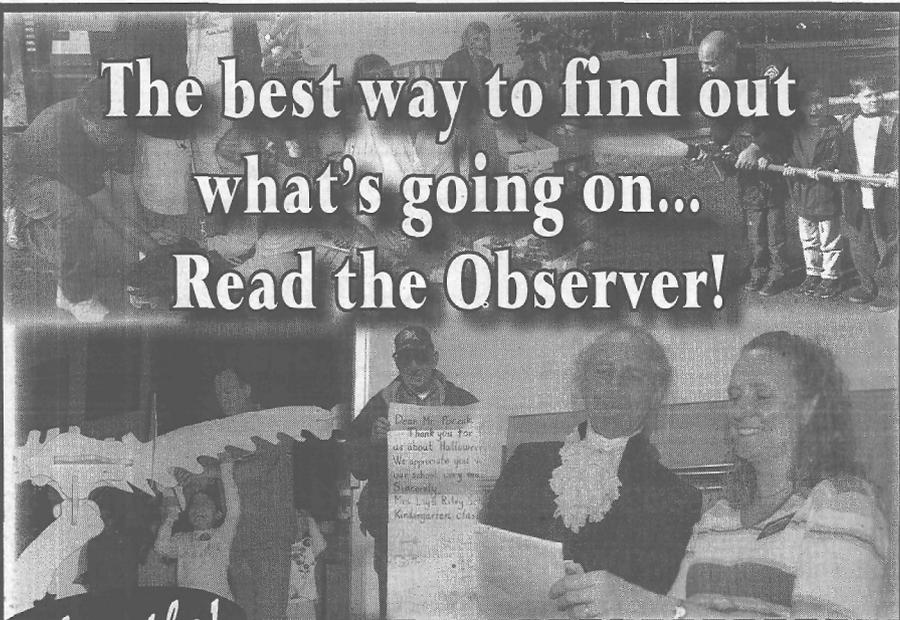
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Sports

SPHS Tiger Win Streak Ends At 34

By Bob Hunter

The High School Wrestling Team, ranked number one in New Jersey for most of the season, had their 34 match win streak and their number one ranking come to an end last Saturday when the top ranked Tigers fell to High Point 30-27.

In what was billed as the tri-meet of the year, the Tigers faced number five Bergen Catholic in the first match and came out fired up, taking it to the Crusaders from the opening whistle, with Billy Ashnault (119) defeating Joe Trause 6-3. Jimmy Conroy (125) followed with a major decision 15-3 over Chris Battaglia to give the Tigers a 7-0 lead. Bryan Hunt (130) kept things going with a 6-4 decision over Matt Spataro. Mike Jakubik (135) was in a take-down battle with Emanuel Ajagbe, but came up short 22-15.

Nick Dorey (140) got the Tigers back on track when he pinned Sean Dunleavy at 2:45, as the Tiger fans went crazy in the stands. Eddie McCray (145) had the task of facing two time Region Two champion Matt Morgenstern and wasted little time in pinning him in :14 seconds as Tigers fans once again went wild in the stands. Sam Martin (152) lost a close 6-5 decision to Spencer Kent.

Mark Wagner (160) had to face freshmen standout Jonathan Becker and quickly scored a takedown. He had Becker in a hammerlock when the referee blew the whistle for a potentially dangerous situation and then awarded Becker one point. At that point nobody knew what was going on, but Becker, who was wrestling with two broken fingers, could not continue and ran off the mat. After the referee's and coaches met at the head table, Wagner was awarded the win by injury default. It seemed as though Wagner was in position to score the fall when all the confusion started.

Freshmen Jonathan Conroy (171), who has been a warrior for the team this year, once again hung in there even in defeat, losing by a decision 13-5. Kevin Crilley (189), one of the anchors of the upper weights,

dropped a close 4-2 decision to George Kocher. Billy Daly (215), who has wrestled heavyweight most of the year, had to face state ranked Larry Otsuka and was pinned after a great effort. Preston Johnston was bumped up to heavyweight and defeated Matt Bush 10-7. Bergen Catholic decided not to send out their 103 pound wrestler to face Patrick Hunter and got the forfeit. Nick Pauls (112) lost by decision 8-2 to end the match. Final Score was South Plainfield 37 and Bergen Catholic 22.

High Point was next and the Tigers seemed a little flat after the huge win over Bergen Catholic. Jimmy Conroy (125) got the Tigers going with 3-1 over Gavin Tarsa. Bryan Hunt (130) was in a battle with Greg Case with the score 1-1 when Hunt was hit with a controversial stall call and Case was awarded one point, which turned out to be the difference in the match.

Mike Jakubik (135) was leading in his match against Greg Martin, when Jakubik had a cradle and slipped off and pinned by Martin at 3:15. Nick Dorey (135) got the Tigers rolling again when he won by decision over Connor Predisatt 4-0. Eddie McCray (145) got the Tigers back into the match when he pinned Steve D'Amato at 2:15. Sam Martin (152) was tied with Lee Tisler 2-2. With Martin trying to escape, he got hit with three near fall points with 10 seconds left and lost 5-2.

Mark Wagner (160) then defeat Mark Kehoe by decision 5-3. Jonathan Conroy (171), was out matched by state ranked Alex Dalrymple and pinned. Kevin Crilley (189) rebounded and defeated Chris Smith 5-4. High Point bumped up Kasey Campbell from 189 to 215 to face Preston Johnston. Johnston who was ahead late in the third period 10-5, got reversed and turned to his back for two near fall points, making the score 10-9 with one second left. Campbell turned Johnston just as the buzzer sounded. Head official Frank Leitner awarded Campbell two more near fall points, which gave him the win 11-10. "Coach McCann questioned the official about getting a two count with one second left." But all efforts failed and Campbell was awarded the victory. "If we won that match, we were still in position to win," noted McCann.

Patrick Hunter (103) needed to

come up big and appeared to have Tyler Forbeck pinned, but he did not get the call from Leitner. Later in the match, Hunter had Forbeck again on his back and the crowd went wild calling for the pin, which did not happen. Hunter went on to win 15-5, but was hit with an unsportsman like conduct and a team point was deducted. Nick Pauls (112) was then pinned and High Point, knowing the match was in hand, forfeited to Billy Ashnault at (119).

Final score was High Point 30, South Plainfield 27.

Earlier in the week the Tigers defeated number 11 ranked Brick Memorial 40-22 and Monroe 62-9. The Tigers will regroup and focus on defending their GMC title when the County Tournament starts this Friday night at South Brunswick High School starting at 6 p.m.

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will hold their monthly club meeting on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. The division and team structures have been selected for the upcoming 2006 baseball season. There are currently nine teams in Small Fry C, nine teams in Small Fry B, five teams in Small Fry A, four teams in Pony B and six teams in Pony A.

Team managers and coaches have already been selected by the SPJBC Board. The SPJBC will be providing a Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification course on Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. All individuals interested in assisting or coaching must first take and receive a Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification.

Please call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 to register. The SPJBC will host another class on March 23.

* * *

Baseball try-outs for Small Fry are scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at the PAL. Try-out notification cards listing try-out times will be mailed shortly. Volunteers at the club are always needed. In particular, the SPJBC needs snack stand captains.

Anyone interested in being a snack stand captain is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail to: southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com.

Also, feel free to visit the SPJBC website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.



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policereport

• On Jan. 17 Christopher A. Biedenkapp, 30, of New Brunswick was arrested for no registration and an outstanding warrant.

• Jesus Roman, 25, of Edison was arrested for no registration, driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

• On Jan. 18 a Hamiltons Blvd. resident reported the theft of a glass patio table and two wrought iron chairs from their back yard.

• A DeSepio Ave. resident reported that while parked at Flanagan's on Plainfield Ave. their rear driver's side window has been smashed and a bag containing an oxygen canister had been removed.

• On Jan. 19 Nicole Lynn Brown, 32, of Freehold was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no registration and an outstanding warrant.

• Tiffany N. Bowen, 29, of Edison was arrested for no insurance, driving without a license in possession and an outstanding warrant.

• On Jan. 20 Joseph M. Pirka, 25, of Piscataway was arrested at Pathmark for shoplifting \$125 worth of aspirin.

• Melissa M. Eodice, 26, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• On Jan. 21 a Merchants Ave. resident reported that someone had turned over a wooden picnic table in their back yard.

• On Jan. 22 Keith Anderson, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• A Meadow Terr. resident reported that the quarter panel of their vehicle had been kicked and dented.

• A Maple Ave. resident reported the theft of two solar lights from their front walkway.

• On Jan. 23 Jeffery Stephen Mann, 30, of Metuchen was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to observe a signal and reckless driving.

• An employee of Stanley Florist on Stelton Rd. reported the theft of her purse on the counter behind the cash register.

• On Jan. 24 a Gaithersburg, Md. resident reported the theft of his wallet that was left next to exercise equipment at LA Fitness on Hadley Rd.

• On Jan. 25 Kimberly D. Nix-Johnson was arrested for no registration, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Monika K. Grabowska, 33, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Orlando, Moore, 45, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• Canada Dry on New Durham Rd. reported the theft of 210 wooden pallets worth \$1,260 from the side of the building.

• On Jan. 26 a Maple Ave. resident reported four solar walkway lights had been removed from the lawn and smashed in the roadway.

• On Jan. 27 Aaron Wise, 30, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension and two outstanding warrants.

• Roslyn E Dixon, 38, of Plainfield was arrested at Marshalls for shoplifting two ladies shirts worth \$28.

• A Ritter Ave. resident reported that the fence in the rear of their yard had been damaged.

• Mobile Storage Group on Roosevelt Ave. reported the theft of a DeWalt grinder from an unlocked warehouse and the bumper from a tractor trailer.

• M&V Tobacco Outlet on Park Ave. reported the theft of \$294 worth of lottery tickets by a customer.

• An Adeline Ave. resident reported that a section of their vinyl fence had been knocked down and lawn lights were pulled out of the ground.

• On Jan. 28 Kriston C. Pasley, 26, of Willingboro was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, failure to maintain a lane and no insurance.

• Christopher J. Frauenheim, 42, of Somerville was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• Jason Ryan Owen Barker, 22, of Charlotte, NC was arrested for speed-

ing and an outstanding warrant.

• On Jan. 29 Thomas J. Kaminski, 42, of Colonia was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

• On Jan. 30 Leroy R. Smith, 22, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an

outstanding warrant.

• Quick Chek on Sampton Ave. reported the theft of a bag of oatmeal cookies.

• Just Packaging on Oak Tree Ave. reported that holes had been punched in a bay door and a window was broken.

Diegnan Selected to Serve

(Continued from page 1)

Committee.

"Year after year, we watch our best and brightest students leave the state in droves for out of state colleges and universities without giving New Jersey schools a second thought," said Diegnan. "Yet, New Jersey's higher education system is one of the finest in the country and only continues to improve each year. We must do everything we can to reverse this negative mindset among college age students and put a stop to the state's brain drain once and for all."

The newly created 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.

The Education Committee will be responsible for addressing issues that relate directly to the state's 616 public school districts, including charter schools. The Regulated Professions and Independent Authorities committee will be responsible for legislation regarding the education, licensing and practices of specialized professionals and procedures governing their respective industries.

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 lawyer and former instructor at Middlesex County College. He currently is serving his third term in the Assembly.

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Advice for Choosing a Tax Return Preparer

Taxpayers who pay someone to do their taxes should choose a preparer wisely. If you choose to use a paid tax preparer, it is important that you find a qualified tax professional. Taxpayers are ultimately responsible for everything on their return even when it's prepared by someone else. While most tax return preparers are professional and honest, taxpayers can use the following tips to choose a preparer who will offer the best service for their tax preparation needs.

- **Ask about service fees.** Avoid preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers, or those who guarantee results or base fees on a percentage of the amount of the refund.
- **Plan Ahead.** Choose a preparer you will be able to contact after the return is filed and one that will be responsive to your needs.
- **Get References.** Ask questions and get references from clients who have used the tax professional before.

Were they satisfied with the service received?

- **Research.** Check to see if the preparer has any questionable history with the Better Business Bureau, the state's board of accountancy for CPAs or the state's bar association for attorneys. Find out if the preparer belongs to a professional organization that requires its members to pursue continuing education and also holds them accountable to a code of ethics.

- **Determine if the preparer's credentials meet your needs.** Are they an Enrolled Agent, Certified Public Accountant or Tax Attorney? Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in all matters including audits, collection actions and appeals. Other return preparers may represent taxpayers only in audits regarding a return they signed as a preparer.

Report suspected tax fraud and abusive tax preparers to the IRS by calling (800) 829-0433.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on February 10, 2006 at 10 a.m. at 2460 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Dept. through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

The motor vehicles may be examined at; contact traffic safety.

South Plainfield Police Dept.
Officer Karl W. Schuetz
Traffic Safety Officer

Year	Make	Vin #	Status	Desc	Min Bid
1990	Toyota	4T1V22E6LUJ010830	Resale	Camry	\$1500
1997	Saturn	1G8Z1H127VZ154573	Junk	—	\$1000
1996	Toyota	JT2AE82E2G3308504	Resale	Corolla	\$1000
1993	Geo	6Y1SK6367PZ041114	Resale	Prism	\$1200
1991	Toyota	2T1AE949MJC113941	Resale	Corolla	\$1300

\$49.00 February 3, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

January 27, 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 26, 2006.

A. Resolution for Adoption of 2006 Meeting Dates. Please be advised that the dates have been provided to the Observer newspaper and are subject to change or cancellation upon proper notice. All meetings shall commence at 8 p.m.

B. Case #44-05/SV—Guy Moretti, Block 6; Lot 198; 225 Maple Avenue. The applicant's request for a third residential apartment, together with maintaining the existing non-conforming front yard setback of the existing building, together with preliminary site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case #81-05/V—Vrundavan, LLC. The applicant's request for a use variance to operate a restaurant and banquet facility was hereby DENIED.

D. Case #82-05—Juan Marrero, Block 201; Lot 14.01; 162 Ten Eyck Street. The applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance in order to maintain a 16 ft. wide by 24 ft. deep deck with a 17 ft. rear yard setback was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

E. Case #83-05—Joseph C. Czech, Block 222; Lot 50; 3313 Evergreen Lane. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance from Woodland Avenue to permit the erection of an 8 foot by 12 foot shed with an approximate height of 8 feet and maintaining a minimum 7 foot front yard setback variance from Woodland Avenue was hereby GRANTED.

\$45.50 February 3, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

January 25, 2006

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on January 24, 2006.

A. Case # 04-04—Northeast Developers, Block 282; Lots 50 & 52; 487 & 501 Sampson Avenue. The applicant's request for final major subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

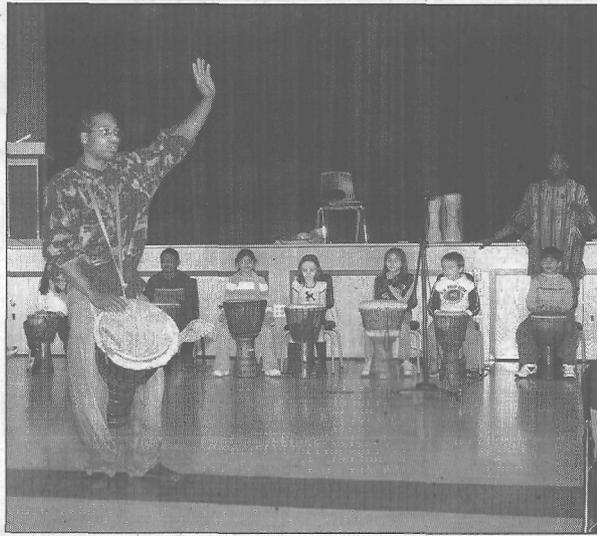
B. Case #895/S—Arch Chemicals, Inc. Block 468; Lot 2; 70 Tyler Place. The applicant's request for preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Beth Khidre
Planning Board Secretary

\$26.25 February 3, 2006

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Folklorist, educator and musician Kala Jojo entertains and educates at Roosevelt School.

Roosevelt School Enjoys African Musical Journey

Roosevelt School students and teachers were treated to a program by folklorist, educator and musician, Kala Jojo. The program was sponsored by Darius Griffin of Port Africa, located in Hadley Center. The program included a musical journey of drums, bells and instruments from Africa.

Before the musical program ended, Jojo had the students and entire staff at Roosevelt School participating in his program. Students had spent the days preceding his show making drums from coffee cans, as well as other containers of all shapes. Everyone was invited to play along with Jojo during the program and the cafeteria was booming with music.

Kala has delighted audiences throughout the U.S. He has an enviable approval rating among younger and older fans alike. He has inspired and delighted audiences throughout the United States, including the National Association of Black Storytell-

ers Festival and Conference, the National Storytelling Festival at Jonesborough, Tennessee, The Kennedy Center, The Philadelphia Academy of Music, The Philadelphia Kimmel Center, The Ritz Theater and Lavilla Museum and the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival.

Incorporating rhythms on an array of African instruments, Kala enralls audiences of all ages with folklore, poetry, songs and historical narratives. Weaving song, ditties and chants born of world African cultures into stories of healing, cultural restoration, empowerment as well as side-splitting humor.

Kala has appeared on various radio and television programs. His audiences span from pre-schoolers to elders. Kala embraces the ears, minds and hearts of hundreds of thousands each and every year. "Words spoken from the mind are quickly forgotten, words spoken from the heart last forever."

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Obituaries

Gisela Trindell, 79

Gisela Trindell died on Tuesday, Jan. 24 in Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital in Browns Mills.

Born in Linz, Austria, she came to the United States in 1947 settling in Summit. Gisela and her husband Vincent have resided in South Plainfield for the past 55 years.

Gisela was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield.

She was a homemaker, a loving wife and mother and her husband and family meant everything to her.

Surviving is her husband of 59 years, Vincent H. Trindell; two daughters, Gisela T. Matthews (Tony) and Katherine Kalba (John) both of Florida; a sister, Ernestine Busta and a brother, Alfred Recknagl, both of Linz, Austria. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews in Austria.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital, P.O. Box 820, Browns Mills, NJ 08015.

Richard Lee Sheldon, 57

Richard Lee Sheldon died at his home in Key West, Fla. on Thursday, Jan. 19.

Richard was born on Dec. 2, 1948, the second son in the large family of Margaret and Wayne Sheldon. He spent his childhood in South Plainfield.

He attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and was in the second graduating class from St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen in 1966. He enrolled in the first class at Middlesex Community College, Piscataway and established the school newspaper, which is still in existence today.

Richard's interest in the arts and design took him to New York, where he and his partner Ellie Weintraub established Sheldrake Design, Inc.

In the late 1990's he moved to Key West and continued renovating and refurbishing fine homes with his business partners Jack Wetzler and Blas Mesa.

He was a patron of the arts and artists in Key West and a generous contributor to many local charities. He was the first president of the board of directors for the Art and Historical Society of Key West and also loved designing exhibits for the Key West Custom's House.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Wayne; a brother, Raymond and his life partner, Marc Somberg. His talent, wit and generosity will be missed by his many friends.

He is survived by his mother, Margaret; four brothers, Ron, Roger, Roy and Randy; a sister, Mary Margaret and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was held in Key West. Many friends and family members gathered to celebrate his life at his home following the services.



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