

St. Stephen's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
celebrates 50 years.

See story below.

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South Plainfield Observer

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FEBRUARY 17, 2006

St. Stephen's Celebrates 50 Years

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. If you drive by the church on Park Ave., you will see the banner "50 Years of Blessings."

On March 12 the church will hold a special service at 3:30 p.m. to commemorate the first Lutheran service held in South Plainfield back in March of 1956.

Church History

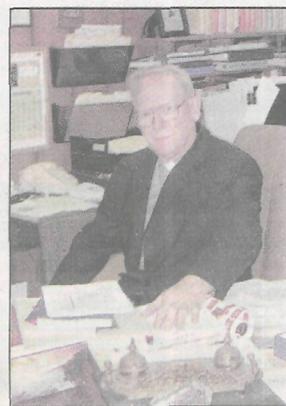
It all began on June 15, 1955 when the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church sent a young, newly ordained minister to South Plainfield to survey the borough for prospective members. The mission developer was the Reverend Robert H. Loucks.

After well over a thousand visitations, and with the help of the New Jersey Synod, St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Dunellen, St. Peter's in

North Plainfield, St. Paul's in Edison and the South Plainfield Board of Education, the first church service was held on Sept. 25, 1955 in Grant School. Just six months later in March, 1956, the congregation was officially organized with 103 charter members. Among those members are some folks who are still living here and are still active in our church: Ted and Anna Keller, Fred and Emily Meisnest, Elsie Ohl and Gail and Betty Warren.

After three ballots, the name of the church had been determined to be St. Stephen's. In June of that same year, Pastor Robert Loucks was installed as the first pastor of the young St. Stephen's.

Other long term residents of South Plainfield and parishioners of St. Stephen's include Bob and Jean Collins, Walter and Joan Heer and George and Esther Shoremount, Lou



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Pastor Richard J. Kiesling

and Pat Hasbrouck and Ellie Doherty, among others.

The site committee recommended
(Continued on page 9)



The Hartmann Family, Tracy, William, Meghan, 14 and Willy, 12, recipients of the Knights of Columbus Family of the Quarter Awards and Joe Scudato (center), Grand Knight of Council #6203.

Knights Award Family, Quarter Awards

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 has announced the Knight and Family of the Quarter Awards. The Knights presented the awards at a communion breakfast held on Jan. 29 to honor these members and their families.

Steve Belanger was named Knight of the Quarter and the Hartmann Family (Bill, Tracy, Meghan and

Willy) were named Family of the Quarter.

Steve Belanger won the council's Knight of the Quarter award for his tireless work within the council and for his work with youth, family and church activities in our community. Steve has been chairman and assists with fundraisers the council runs every year, including Breakfast with

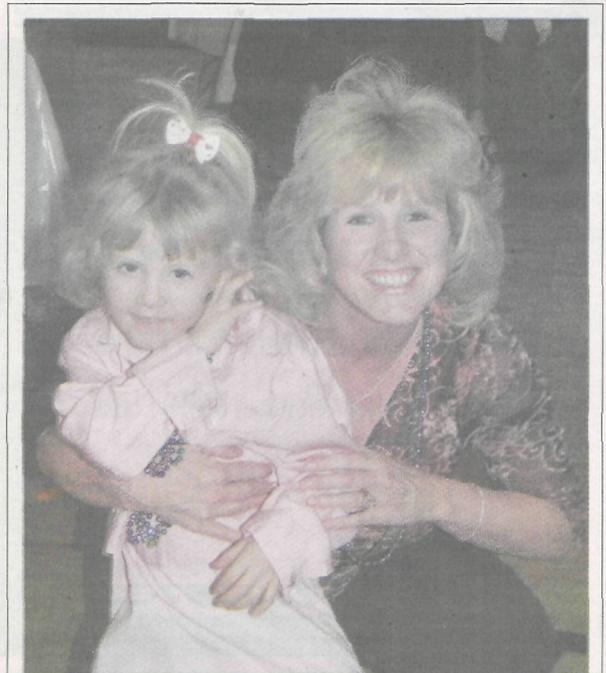
Santa, Roses for Life sale and the Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest. Steve also participates in all of the other fundraisers the council runs. Whenever there is a need for help, Steve answers the call. He has been on the council's first-degree team since its inception. Steve is also a member of the council's 4th Degree Color Corps and has attended many color corps callouts. Steve is on the Right to Life Committee and helps in all Right to Life activities for the council.

The Hartmann Family has worked tirelessly within the council, youth, family and church activities. Their accomplishments include: Bill, a 4th Degree Knight, serves as the council's treasurer. Both Bill and Tracy are Eucharistic Ministers at Sacred Heart Church. Tracy is also the director of the CCD program at Sacred Heart Church, as well as the director of

(Continued on page 9)



Sacred Heart School Principal Sister Nadine, along with school staff, earn a standing ovation at a surprise performance at their variety show, the culmination of Catholic Schools Week. For story & photos, see page 8.



Laurie Grabinsky and daughter McKayla attend Kennedy School's Winter Wonderland dance. For stories and photos see page 12.

Internet Safety Program Announced

In response to phone calls from concerned parents regarding the popular website, MySpace.com, the Observer, in conjunction with the South Plainfield Police Department, Board of Education, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and Sacred Heart School will sponsor an Internet safety seminar on March 8, 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. The seminar will highlight the pitfalls of the website as well as offer information on protecting the safety of kids

who use the Internet.

MySpace.com is a socializing website, where participants create a profile of themselves and communicate with others who are also registered.

When first researching the site, the Observer discovered that it is not necessary to have a password to access the site; anyone can log on and view personal information that has been posted, see photos, find out where kids go to school, the sports they participate in and much more. Also, kids

are not just talking to other kids, but to adults as well. There are more than 500 South Plainfield students using this site. Some post innocent pictures and information, but others reveal too much personal information and say outlandish things about themselves.

Even though this popular site has age restrictions, kids can and do lie about their ages. It is possible that some of the comments they post about themselves are exaggerated, or

(Continued on page 9)



■ Sewer bills have been mailed to all residents.
■ Payment is due March 1 with a 10-day grace period.

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 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. 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 Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.

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

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.-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. 19.

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

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

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.



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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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Dear Editor,

A little over a month ago Rob Bengivenga and I were sworn in as members of the Borough Council. We are grateful for the chance to serve the people of South Plainfield and we believe that as council members we have a duty to report back on what we are doing on your behalf. That is the purpose of this letter.

During our campaign, Rob and I promised to make open government a priority, and we pledged to put meaningful pay-to-play reform at the top of our agenda. Pay-to-play (i.e., giving no-bid contracts to campaign contributors) hurts South Plainfield because it raises ethical concerns, limits competition and raises the costs our town pays for goods and services. Scores of towns across the state have ended this practice and we believe South Plainfield should too.

To that end, Rob and I have proposed an ordinance banning pay-to-play. The ordinance is modeled after one created by the Citizens' Campaign, a nonpartisan group that's trying to reform government across New Jersey. It was written by a blue-ribbon panel of attorneys that included a retired justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and it gets right to the heart of the problem. We hope our colleagues on the council will join us in enacting this ordinance, as it would be a huge step in the right direction.

Rob and I also promised to work toward making South Plainfield more affordable. One way is to make sure we are taking advantage of grant opportunities not just at the state level, but also at the federal level. That's why we are pleased to announce we will be meeting this week with Congressman Mike Ferguson in Washington. As part of our meeting, we will be discussing with Congressman Ferguson possible grant opportunities for South Plainfield. Several other topics are also on the agenda and we'll be eager to report back on them shortly!

Pursuing grant opportunities and enacting pay-to-play reform are just two of the things on our plate since January 1. Also, since communication is a vital part of open government, we plan to use letters like this (and other means) to keep you informed about what we're doing on your behalf. But communication is a two-way street. Please don't hesitate to stop us on the street or call/e-mail us with your concerns and ideas.

**VERY TRULY YOURS,
COUNCILMAN MATTHEW ANESH**

To the Editor,

The Family Skate Day, held on Feb. 6 at the Roosevelt Skating Rink, Menlo Park, was very enjoyable for all those in attendance, despite the

wind and cold. There were approximately 60 children in attendance and they should, once again, be proud of the way they represented Grant Elementary School and themselves. Beth Bors, hope you are doing better and we all send our well wishes.

The 2007 Grant Stokes Pasta Dinner fundraiser is fast approaching. Five tickets have been sent home with each fifth grade student to sell for the fundraiser. The date is Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The 2007 Stokes committee is seeking support from each fifth grade student and their families, after all, this benefits your trip cost. Thank you to all those fifth grade Stokes' Committee persons who came to the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7 to discuss the pasta dinner and various other fundraising ideas. If anyone else is interested on having your name placed on the 2007 Stokes Committee, please contact me.

Debra Krawiec, chairperson for the 2006 Grant School Yearbook is currently in need of any pictures of the Grant School kids at various events. Please leave any type of photo in the main office in the PTO box.

Project Graduation is currently underway requesting donations from vendors in our town for the Project Graduation Auction/Raffle in March 2006. Project Graduation is an all-night, safe, drug and alcohol free celebration held for graduating seniors of South Plainfield High School on one of the most important nights of their lives, their high school graduation. This also protects the community knowing that our graduates are safe and not on the roads. This cannot be done without the support of

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. Please limit letters to no more than 200 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.

our local businesses.

Congratulations to the Heroes and Cool Kids Program at the South Plainfield High School Peer to Peer Program that uses student athletes as mentors and role models, along with current and former professional and Olympic athletes as trainers. The goal of Heroes and Cool Kids is to promote positive student behavior and create a supportive, caring and disciplined school climate. This presentation was given to the sixth grade students at Grant School. Once again, our town needs to know all the wonderful programs that our high school students are involved in and commend Mrs. Martko, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Boettger, Ms. Vandermark for your excellent program. The sixth grade students enjoyed the presentation and look forward to the next program.

**SINCERELY,
DEBBIE BOYLE, GRANT SCHOOL
PTO BOARD, SPHS ATHLETIC
BOOSTER CLUB TRUSTEE**

Low Vision Support Group Feb. 21

The Low Vision Support Group meets Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 10:30-12 p.m. This group is for anyone with low vision. The group will bring together people to exchange helpful information and learn practical solutions while meeting, talking and giving emotional support.

The topic: "Change is Inevitable-Survival is Optional." Join us for a

discussion on handling changes in our lives.

The group will be held at the JFVS office, 515 Plainfield Ave., Ste. 201, in Edison. Transportation may be arranged if needed and insurance may be accepted in lieu of fee.

Please call to join or with any questions (732) 777-1940. RSVP is essential.



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To our friends in South Plainfield

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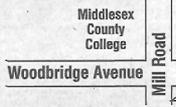
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All About Pets....

By Anthony Loomis, DVM



Dental disease is the most common disease diagnosed in dogs and cats. Unchecked dental disease can lead to serious health problems such as heart, kidney, or liver disease. Many of these problems can be avoided by routine professional dental care by your veterinarian and good preventative care at home.

One of the first signs of dental disease is bad breath. Another common sign is a yellowish-brown coating on teeth, called plaque and needs to be removed before it progresses to more serious dental disease. Other signs include loss of appetite, difficulty eating, pain, red or swollen gums and loose or missing teeth.

When these signs occur, a dental procedure is necessary. This procedure is more involved in pets because we cannot tell them to keep their mouth open, rinse, and spit as our dentist instructs us. Therefore, pets require anesthesia and careful monitoring before, during and after the procedure to ensure safety. On the other hand, the instruments and techniques used

are quite similar to the ones used on people.

Preventative care is the best medicine to ensure your pet's teeth remain healthy. Daily brushing is ideal to prevent dental disease, but make sure you use veterinary toothpaste, as human toothpaste can prove toxic if swallowed. However, if brushing is not possible there are a variety of other products and specially formulated diets. The Academy of Veterinary Dentistry recommends Hill's Science Diet TD as the food of choice. Make sure you have your pet's teeth examined by your veterinarian at all routine examinations to ensure they have a bright smile too!

Anthony Loomis, DVM grew up in Scotch Plains and attended St. Joseph's High School. He majored in Animal Health at the University of Georgia and attended Oklahoma State University for veterinary school. His special interest is exotic animal medicine and surgery. He recently moved to South Plainfield and married his wife, Michelle and is presently working at Plainfield Animal Hospital.



Webelos and Bear Scouts of Pack 207 Franklin School would like to thank the Plainfield Curling Club, located on McKinley St., for hosting a lesson for the scouts. By experiencing curling first hand they will have a better understanding of the sport while watching the Winter Olympics. A special thanks to Rachel Henderson for organizing this event.

Make College Count Program At SPHS

South Plainfield High School has announced that it has scheduled the highly rated "Making College & Career Count" in-school presentation program for its senior class. The one-hour presentation will be delivered free to students and parents at 9 a.m. on March 8.

The presentation is designed to help students begin to think about their next steps upon graduation and what they need to accomplish throughout the upcoming years in order to maximize their opportunities for future success. The program also addresses important issues such as time management, choosing career paths, gaining experience through internships and meaningful work experience and study skills.

"Graduation from high school is a key transition period in a student's life," said Making It Count Vice President, J.R. Cifani. "Our goal is to provide and reinforce the positive messages counselors and teachers are giving to their students during this crucial time and help students understand that anyone can be successful if they choose to be."

The Making College & Career Count program will be presented to more than 650,000 high school seniors nationwide during the 2006 spring semester.

Monster's Making It Count also provides free presentations for freshmen and juniors and has reached over 13 million students since 1999. Guidance counselors on average rated the value of the ideas presented a 9.4 on a 10-point scale.

Key content and supporting materials for the Making College & Career Count presentation can be found online at <http://www.makingitcount.com>. The website offers a wide variety of tools and resources for current and future high school students.

FROM THE OFFICE ON AGING

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

The South Plainfield Office on Aging is currently compiling a list of vendors who would be interested in being included in a new senior citizen resource directory. We are looking for individuals and businesses that perform the following jobs - lawn care, snow removal, plumbing, electrical, painting, general home repairs (handyman), elder law, estate planning and accounting. We are especially interested in finding resources for snow removal. We would like to hear from local youth who shovel sidewalks as well as people who operate snow plows for larger jobs. If you can supply a price sheet along with your contact information, it would be appreciated.

The resource directory is expected to be published in the spring and will be distributed to every household in South Plainfield. The resource directory will provide information on all senior citizen topics and services such as home maintenance, home safety, housing, health services, professional services, care management, community services, government agencies, Medicare and Medicaid, veteran services, in home care services, etc.

Anyone interested in being listed

in our resource directory for any senior citizen service should contact the South Plainfield Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047.

We are also looking for families and/or individuals who would be interested in joining our volunteer group. The volunteer group will assist the Office on Aging with our Community outreach efforts including our Telephone Reassurance program, our Friendly Visitor program, and our Shopping for the Homebound program.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call the senior center at (908) 754-1047.

Abe Lincoln Visits Kennedy School

By Jane Dornick

A 20th century version of Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to Kennedy Elementary School last month through a Mobile Ed production entitled, "The Living Abe Lincoln."

Theater actor Peter Lewis appeared in front of the Kennedy students looking and dressing as we know Abe Lincoln best.

The 45-minute presentation chronicled Lincoln's life, from his humble origins in the backwoods of Kentucky through his trying years in the White House. A slide show presentation included artists' renderings of his home as a youth as well as pictures of slaves that Lincoln helped to liberate. The performance was educational and often humorous and moving.



Peter Lewis portrays Abe Lincoln.

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Around Town

Kennedy Movie Night

February 17

Kennedy Elementary School is having a movie night featuring Chitty Chitty Bang Bang starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 in the school gym. Admission is \$1 per person with popcorn, candy and drinks provided. All are welcome.

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 the 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.

SPHS PTA Meeting

February 21 (Date Change)

The SPHS PTA meeting has been changed from Feb. 16 to Feb. 21. It will be held in the SPHS teacher's cafeteria instead of the Info center at 7 p.m. Anyone with solicitation sheets should bring them to the meeting along with any donations you have received. If unable to attend the meeting, give your sheets and donations to any executive board member or drop them off at the high school main office. This is the last meeting we will have before the auction.

Grant Spaghetti Dinner

February 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.

GOP Meeting

February 22

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. All residents are invited to attend and bring their concerns and com-

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

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

What's happening in FEBRUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Medicare Fraud Program • February 23, 1pm Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Charlie's Aunt" March 23 • 10am departure				BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available 17
20 Center Closed President's Day	21 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	22 Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm	23 Shop Pathmark 9am Tax Preparation 9-12 Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm Medicare Fraud Prog 1pm	24 BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available Tax Preparation 9am to noon
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

ments for an open discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

Knights to Sponsor Italian Dinner

February 24

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will sponsor 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. Come out, have a delicious meal and support this worthy cause.

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

Soccer Club to Hold Basket Bingo

February 25

The South Plainfield Soccer Club is hosting a Basket Bingo on Feb. 25 at Sacred Heart School. Doors open at 6 p.m. Features handmade baskets made in Dresden, Ohio.

For tickets contact Deb Krawiec (908-757-9432) or Millie Hunt (908-561-0349).

Historical Society Breakfast Rescheduled

February 26

The South Plainfield Historical Society has rescheduled the All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast at the Elk's Club for Sunday, Feb. 26 from 8:30 a.m.

to 11:30 a.m. The delicious menu includes pancakes, eggs, toast, French Toast (plain and raisin), bacon, sausage, coffee, tea and juice. Adults: \$6; children ages 5-12, \$5; kids under four, free. Proceeds will benefit the Historical Society's High School College Scholarship Fund. The Elk's Club is located at 1254 New Market Ave.

Wine Tasting

February 27

The South Plainfield and Edison Rotary Club will present their annual Wine Tasting event on Monday, Feb. 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel & Towers on Rt. 27 and Talmadge Rd. Contribution \$25. Wine tasting, also imported and micro-brewed beers. Hors d'oeures and dessert will be served.

Tickets are available locally at Oak Tree Buy-Rite on Oak Tree Rd.

Trips to Atlantic City

March 1 and 16

The Senior Center is running two trips to Atlantic City: Wednesday, March 1 to Taj Mahal and Thursday, March 16 to the Claridge. The cost is \$18. The bus departs the Senior Center at 9 a.m. and returns around 7 p.m. For reservations, please stop in at the Senior Center to sign up.

Spaghetti Dinner at St. Stephen's

March 5

St. Stephens Lutheran Church on Park Ave. will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. A free-will offering will be received. Suggested donation

is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, (includes beverage and dessert). No reservations needed.

For more information, call (908)757-4474.

Out of Town

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.

Edison Symphony Season Finale

February 19

The Edison Symphony Orchestra Season Finale "The Romeros; The Royal Family of the Guitar" will take place on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. at the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave. in New Brunswick. Also performing at this concert is Broadway singer sen-

sation Andrea, performing selections from *Evita*, *Les Miserables*, *The Theme from Light in the Piazza*, among many others.

Tickets are \$50, \$40, \$35 and \$30 per person. Call (732) 246-7469 or visit: 222.statetheatrenj.org.

Depression and Bipolar Support Group

February 22

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (Morristown Area) will feature a video and discussion on "Moods and Music" on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or (800) 367-6274.

Gospel Concert at Stelton AME Church

February 25

The North Stelton A.M.E. Church Scholarship Committee will host a gospel concert featuring Gospel Recording Artist, Provenance and the Singing Pastors on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. North Stelton Church is located on Craig Ave. in Piscataway. Donation is \$20 or \$15 for senior and children.

For ticket information, call Debra Williams at (732) 985-1419, Monica Cooke at (732) 819-0814, Sandra Terrell at (732) 985-6230 or the church office at (732) 287-5184.

Girl Scouts Theater Party Rescheduled

February 26

Due to inclement weather, the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc.'s theater party will now be held on Sunday, Feb. 26. Be sure to support Girl Scouting and all it does by purchasing tickets to see the smash Broadway hit "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Cranford Dramatic Club at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford.

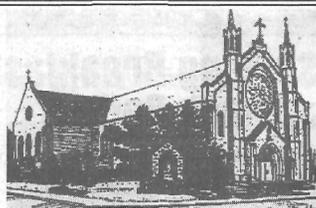
Doors open at 2 p.m. for a gift basket silent auction and the curtain will rise at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person with all proceeds benefiting the GSWRC programs.

For further information, contact Vicki O'Donnell at the council service center at (908) 232-3236 ext. 1221 or vodonnell@gswrc.com.

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



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

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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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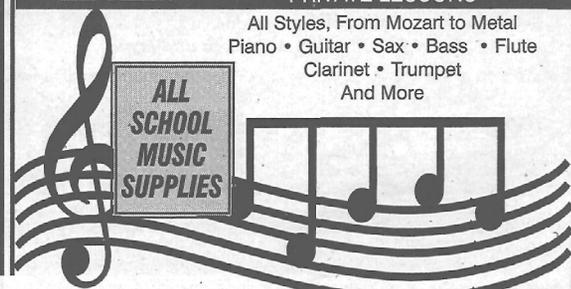
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Scotch Plains Music Recital Will Feature Teacher and South Plainfield Student

The Scotch Plains Music Center, located on Park Ave. in Scotch Plains, will hold a recital on Wednesday, Feb. 22 featuring one of their teachers, Marlenes Luvin and South Plainfield student, Steven Jude Tietjen.

Luvin, who teaches at the center, was born in Cuba in 1982. She began studying piano at the age of seven in a talented and gifted school. At age 14 Marlenes was accepted to the Esteban Salas Conservatory in Cuba. In 1991 she was awarded second prize for the Amadeo Roldan piano competition, followed by the first prize for the same competition in 1994. She was sponsored by Kean University to receive classes in Spain on two different occasions, where she was taught by the prestigious master performers Guillermo Gonzalez, current chairman of the piano department at the Madrid Conservatory and Catalin Bucataru, current chairman of the string department in San Sebastian Conservatory. She performed a chamber music recital with the former in 2005 including works of Brahms, Jules Massenet and Falla. She has recently graduated with a Bachelor's in Music Performance and has been named to "Who's Who Among College Students."

Steven Jude Tietjen is a young lyric baritone from South Plainfield. He has been aggressively studying voice for the past three years, most recently with Thomas Smargiassi III and Linda Smargiassi of Union. His repertoire includes the staple Italian art songs, selections by R. Vaughan-Williams, and his favorite lieder by Schubert and R. Strauss. Steven has studied piano

in addition to his vocal studies with Mare Ellen Natic, of Scotch Plains Music Center, for over ten years and considers himself to be an "occasionally accomplished" pianist. This year Steven has been especially busy preparing for college auditions. He will be auditioning in February and March to enter the voice programs at the prestigious conservatories of Carnegie

Mellon University, SUNY-Purchase and the Manhattan School of Music. When not singing, playing, or doing homework, Steve works at Starbucks in Westfield and loves every minute of it!

Scotch Plains Music Center has been in business for more than 36 years. For information or directions, call (908) 322-7542.



The women parishioners at Pilgrim Covenant Church held a Rip 'n Roll party-Bandages for the Congo recently. For over 65 years, the women have faithfully folded bandages. Even while war raged within the Congo, the Covenant have compassionately cared for the needy people there. However, their is still a need for the bandages! Congo Medical Ministries still desperately needs a steady supply of strip bandages. By ripping used sheets and rolling them into bandages, it provides an incredible resource to the hospitals and dispensaries in northwest Congo. Their funds are then freed for medicines and other materials. The simple act of ripping and rolling bandages strengthens medical work in the region. The Rip 'n Roll party was held at the home of Joanne Bloomwell. Pictured are some of the group (l to r) Jane Edwards, Joanne Bloomwell, Lyn Carlton, Barbara Wassen and Olinda Young.

Very Special Kitties are in Need of Forever Homes

Lounging about, as if there were not a care in the world, are ten very special kitties whose beginnings in life were anything but peaceful. All were destined for starvation, disease or a host of common tragedies that frequently bestow animals, which are abruptly dumped and left to wander the streets. Ten young kitties were destined for this fate in one particular New Jersey neighborhood. That is, until a kind hearted human looked down and offered a helping hand.

This fall, a local resident found herself simultaneously nursing babies birthed from three different mother feral cats. This unexpected siege of needy pregnant felines, accompanied by their male counterparts, forced an extensive effort to capture, spay and medically examine those who had a chance at being socialized. "Maxed to capacity, I am reaching out for others to come forth and help by adopting these beautiful beings of love and light," states Viva D., the resident who found herself besieged. "With the explosion of Katrina animals flooding New Jersey, awareness of our very own neighborhood stray and feral issues has been overshadowed and many local shelters are now maxed beyond belief. In each town there are always a few residents, who help wandering strays out of a heartfelt desire to do so. Unfortunately, most are then forced to privately finance vet visits, neutering, do interim caretaking and place costly ads to place these rescues, when shelters close their doors.

More people need to open their hearts and really examine why we can so easily ignore these beautiful beings that come to us for help. This includes being willing to do more in terms of offering active supportive rescue ser-

vice to those who find their way into our yards, desperately seeking human affection or assistance. If residents don't want to take chances with contracting diseases, one simple call to a rescue service for a stray can not only save an animal, it can prevent disease from spreading throughout the neighborhood. More importantly, it abruptly halts the further production of more diseased strays. There are many programs out there that address these issues, including TNR; a program that traps, vaccinates, neuters and returns unsociable feral cats to wooded areas, thus allowing them their divine right to live, while addressing human concerns regarding the stray population.

The adoption process for these ten cats is like most shelters in that there is an application/fee and home inspection process. All kitties have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated and dewormed, fed hi-grade cat food and use eco-friendly corn litter. All potential owners will be required to fill out an application, pay a recoupment fee for vet services and sheltered care and must allow home inspection to ensure that the Starkitties will be placed in stable, permanent and safe homes. There is a guaranteed return policy, should any adopted Starkitty not work out in their new home. Please note that several of the Starkitties have requested that they be adopted in pairs, however, they understand that this may not always be possible and will willingly go solo to "the very right" person.

If you feel destined to live with one or more of these felines, please call (908) 334-3171 or (toll free) 888-842-1112 or visit our website www.starkitties.com for further information about these felines.

Applications Accepted for Irish Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 2006 Irish Way. The Irish Way is a five week high school summer study abroad program that has been educating students since 1976. Students are introduced to Ireland's history and traditions through structured classes and are able to witness Ireland's beauty by touring the southeastern and western regions of Ireland. Dates for this summer's program are June 28-July 27.

The Irish Way is a unique cultural experience for teenagers. It is a nationally recognized summer study abroad program that has educated over 3,500 American high school students since 1976. Every summer the Irish Way sends approximately 100 students to experience the "summer of a lifetime."

If you would like more information on the Irish Way, please call (973) 605-1991 or visit www.iaci-usa.org.

Rutgers Recreation Donates \$6,350 to Food Bank

Rutgers University Recreation Department donated \$6,350 in Shop Rite Gift Cards to the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (M.C.E.O.O.D.S.), which supplies 60 food pantries throughout the County.

Funds were collected by faculty, staff and students who organized and took part in the Third Annual Big Chill 5K Run/Walk held in December.

"We are so incredibly thankful to all those who organized the Big Chill event and those who participated in it," said Middlesex County Freeholder Blanquita B. Valenti, liaison to M.C.E.O.O.D.S. "Their hard work and

generosity will help feed a lot of people in our county."

M.C.E.O.O.D.S., the county's centralized food bank, collected and distributed more than 100 tons of food and personal items in 2005.

"The demand for food is on the rise," Valenti said. "It is events like the Rutgers Big Chill, our Spring Schools Food Drive, our Monroe Harvest Food Drive and the generosity of the many organizations, corporations and individuals that help us meet our residents' needs. We could not do it without them."

Donations are always accepted. Among the most needed items now are canned and nonperishable items

such as fruits, meats, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, canned tuna, brown rice and snacks such as crackers and cookies. Also needed are personal products and baby items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers and wipes.

M.C.E.O.O.D.S. also accepts grocery store gift certificates, if anyone is interested in making a monetary contribution.

Corporations, groups or individuals interested in holding a good drive or other collection event may call Jennifer Apostol, M.C.E.O.O.D.S. coordinator, at (732) 729-0880 or (609) 409-5033.

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Battle of the Teams Ends With Excitement

By Libby Barsky

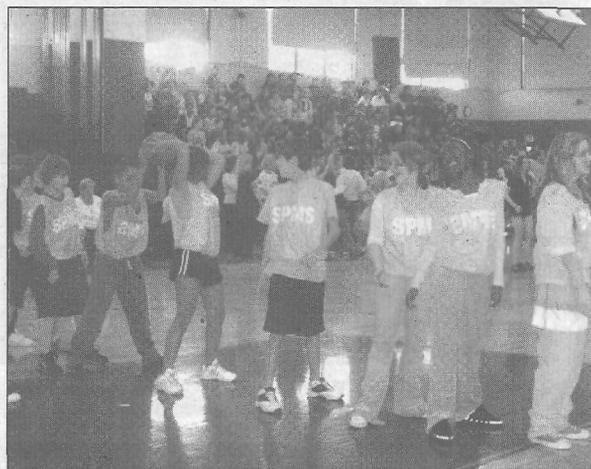
The Battle of the Teams was the culminating event of Spirit Week at the South Plainfield Middle School, which took place Monday, Jan. 30 through Friday, Feb. 3.

On Monday, Middle School students began by wearing green and white clothing. Team jerseys were worn the next day, a tie was worn (even girls) on Wednesday. On Thursday, students wore a hat after purchasing a \$.25 sticker that showed that person had permission to wear the hat. On Friday, every student endorsed the team of their choice by wearing the team's color school spirit. When the competition began, the students yelling reverberated off the walls of the gym and only stopped when the scores were announced before school was dismissed.

"It was quite a noise level there. The kids were really into it. The kids spirit was really there," said master of ceremonies Jim Makowski, adding "The younger teachers said it was the first time they had experienced anything like that!" The spirit level was raised a notch with music provided by teacher John Limyansky using DJ equipment. According to Makowski, "It's far more effective that the music was added as an afterthought to the Battle of the Teams. In 1994, the music came from a boom box and microphone propped next to it."

Six teams were drawn up with approximately 80 to 90 students for each of three teams for each grade. The names (and colors) of the seventh grade teams were Avalance (white), Cyclone (red) and Monsoon (gray). The eighth grade teams were named Lightning (yellow), Thunder (black) and Tsunami (blue). All teams competed in the same six events, with the three teams in each grade level competing against each other trying to win the most points. The winners were: seventh grade, Monsoon 57, Cyclone 47 and Avalanche 22 and eighth grade, Thunder 57, Tsunami 37 and Lightning 26.

In the Over and Under event, students lined up in a row passed a basketball. The ball went from overhead



Middle School students teamed up to compete against each other at Battle of the Teams.

to between their legs to the next person. The next event had the student racing around a cone while balancing a tennis ball on a racquet. The hula hoop circle consisted of passing a hula hoop in a circle, while holding hands two times without letting go of their hands. Foul shooting was for three minutes to see how many free throws were scored by team members. The Baton/hoop relay consisted of teams in line with the first person going out 40 feet with a baton, putting down the baton in the center of the hula hoop, then bringing back the hula hoop to the line where everyone in line went through the hula hoop and another person brought the hula hoop back baton back to the next person.

Each student volunteered for the event that he or she was interested in. With 80 to 90 students signed up, team also had a teacher who was served as team coach.

During the previous two weeks before the competition, the gym teachers practiced these events with the students as a part of the class. On Thursday, an after school practice for six events took place for a half-hour. The after school practice was an opportunity for those competing in an event to work only on their event with others who would also be competing in the same event.

Those students that didn't participate on a team spent time making banners for the teams.

The students on the two winning teams, seventh grade Monsoon and eighth grade Thunder, received slushies from the PTA.

Assistant Principal Kelly Panuzzo and PTA President Debra Bishop organized the Battle of the Teams and with the teachers and six PTA members worked out the events which were featured.

Teacher Bill Mosca helped the program run smoothly by making sure each team coach had the same amount of students for each event and then sending the results of each team's effort immediately to Master of Ceremonies Jim Makowski.

"In 1994 the event initially was a fundraiser and presented at night, but four years ago we started having it during the day," said Makowski adding, "It was remarkable to see the spirit of this Battle of the Teams. I think that this has been the most spirited one we've had. It was great! The students were supporting each other and cheering each other. All of the students were able to participate."

"I'm looking forward to next year," said Principal Steve Novak after seeing so many happy kids.

A Look at What's Coming Up at Edison Valley Playhouse in February

Samantha Hahn and Ian Moore star in Jason Robert Brown's musical "The Last Five Years," portraying an actress and a writer who tell the story of their relationship from the first meeting through the marriage—and back again. Directed by William Biach and Anthony J. Cantalupo, with musical direction by Andrew Macirowski, this contemporary musical should not be missed.

"The Last Five Years" opens on Feb. 17 and will be presented Friday and Saturday nights until March 11. Show time is 8 p.m.. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$18 for students and seniors.

For reservations, call (908) 755-4654 or send an email to LSYReservations@evplayhouse.com or visit www.evplayhouse.com.

Look for a preview on Edison's TV22.

Tony Adase returns to Edison Valley Playhouse to direct this classic show by Dale Wasserman, based on the book by Ken Kesey. Show dates will be weekends from May 5 to 27. Auditions will be held on Feb. 20 and 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the playhouse.

Auditioners should prepare a two minute dramatic monologue, and there will also be readings from the



and enjoy our shows in the audience, but there is more behind the scenes that you can be a part of.

Volunteers are needed for help on show nights for house and lobby duties, during rehearsal periods for set construction and painting, lighting design and hanging, properties search and collection, and technical help during the run of the show backstage and in the lighting booth.

There are also opportunities to help promote our programs through the community, and help us develop our audience and the community we serve. If interested, talk to a staff member at any show or leave an email to info@evplayhouse.com

script. Needed are 12 men and three women. Check out our website: www.evplayhouse.com for more information about the cast requirements.

Be a part of the exciting season taking shape at Edison Valley Playhouse! Everyone of course is welcome to

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 reports and/or in reviewing reports done by the taxpayer. This service is sponsored by TCE (Tax Consulting for the Elderly), the IRS and the 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 their income reports (that is 1099s, W-2S bank statements and any other income) and any records of expenses if they think that they would be itemizing their deductions. They should bring a copy of their last year's report if it is available.

For more information, call the senior center at (908) 754-1047.

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Manipulation of Tingley Rubber Site—An Accommodation For “Celebrations” Developer

We call upon the residents of South Plainfield to carefully note Local Ordinance 1685 which created a new zone thereby combining the 16 acres of the original Tingley Rubber site with 11 acres of “uninhabitable” wetlands. This action was the first step in an accommodation to the “Celebrations” builder changing the zoning of that area from Industrial to Residential. Directly after, the Mayor, in conjunction with the Planning Board, on Feb 5, 2005, took it upon themselves to enact an amendment and revision to Chapter 714 of the Land Use Code. This action enabled a Senior Citizen/Active Adult Zone to be established within South Plainfield as one lot of 27 acres. Thus, this amendment provided for the “legal” identity of 18 units per acre. However, the initial site of 16 acres of habitable land on the original site would have been exceeded for the 484 units projected. If you do the math, 18 units times 16 acres would be only 288 units, far from the 484 units proposed by the developer which he obviously banked on. (27 acres times 18 units

FROM THE
Senior Men's FORUM

By **Walter J. Pasacrita, Chairman**

would produce the 484 units snugly computed).

Residents of South Plainfield should also carefully note that the level of density is extreme if this project is allowed to be built and would result in 968 tenants on 16 acres inclusive of the proposed 11 four story buildings, far greater than other towns nearby that are complaining and/or rejecting development of far less density. We recognize hazards from a fire and accessibil-

ity standpoint. We do not applaud the mayor and planning board for making the changes in the zoning and ordinance mentioned above in favor of the developer. Therefore, we urge the Planning Board to carefully review all the possible consequences prior to giving the green light to construction start-up. We suggest this procedure in view of the self-serving process that it is and certainly for the good and welfare of the townspeople. There are many other objections involving the buildings and locations, (several even pointed out by Planning Board members) that the Forum has made reference to publicly and will con-

tinue to do so.

As stated, we believe the governing body and planning board have been extremely generous towards this applicant in allowing him density and coverage normally unheard of in projects of this nature. It is now important that they require the developer to acknowledge the problems he is creating and accept responsibility for resolving them.

Editors Note: Walter Pasacrita is chairman of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum periodically submits columns on their views and opinions.

Log on to the
Borough of South Plainfield's official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

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Juniro Girl Scouts recently attended a weekend at Camp Lou Henry Hoover.

Junior Weekend A Success At Camp Hoover

Junior Girl Scouts from the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council spent a weekend at Camp Lou Henry Hoover in mid-December earning the Outdoor Fun and Prints and Graphics patches as part of Junior Weekend. The adults and girls, representing seven communities, arrived early on Saturday morning and stayed through Sunday to enjoy the weekend and activities. Older Girl Scouts from several communities provided the leadership for the programs. The Junior Girl Scouts used potatoes to cut out designs and then print them on paper as part of the Prints and Graphics patch. They also used stencils and stamps to decorate wooden plaques in a unique way. Using contact paper the girls made their own design to silk screen onto a t-shirt.

Slip knots, square knots and half hitches were on the agenda when it came time for working on the Outdoor Fun Patch. Each girl practiced tying knots with their own piece of string. Their next activity was to learn about fire building and to get started the girls were taught about the different types of wood and ways to build a fire.

Then they used M & M's, red licorice, and pretzel sticks to build candy fires. With the basics underway, small groups built their fires outside and kept them burning for at least two minutes. Free time was spent sledding and playing in the snow. The weekend was capped off with a campfire, songs and smores in the dining hall.

Once again this summer, Camp Hoover, the summer resident camp of Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc., will offer girls entering grades 2-12, great times, great experiences and great memories. Camp sessions commence on July 9 with the final week of camp taking place Aug. 13-19.

For those looking to learn more about the 340-acre site nestled in the woods of Sussex County, be sure to attend Camp Hoover open house on March 26 at camp from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information about Girl Scouting or Camp Hoover, please contact the Council Service Center at (908) 232-3236 ext. 1213 or visit us online at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.



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Saturday, February 25, 2006 7:00PM
Doors Open 6:00PM

Donation: \$20.00
Entities bearer to first regular game sheet and one "Specials" game sheet set. No one under 18 years of age is admitted.

Make checks payable to S.P.S.A.

For Tickets Call
Deb Krawiec 908-757-9432
or Millie Hunt 908-561-0349



Variety Show Tops Catholic School Week

After a full week of open houses, a DARE graduation and many other special events, the students at Sacred Heart School concluded Catholic School's Week with a spectacular variety show on Friday, Feb. 3.

Students in fourth through eighth grade took part in the show. Students performed to music ranging from the 1960's to 2006, lip sinking as well as dancing to the tunes. They spent

hours of rehearsing to make the evening a success. The kids cheered and applauded their peers as they performed.

Not to be undone by the students performances, and much to their surprise, Sacred Heart teachers, led by school



principal, Sister Nadine, did a few numbers of the own and earned a standing ovation.

Catholic Schools Week was a very successful one for Sacred Heart School and the performance was the perfect finale.

Opportunity is knocking. Will you be ready?

Expand your customer base, increase sales, just get your message out!

On March 24, we're mailing the *Observer* to more than 9,000 homes in South Plainfield.

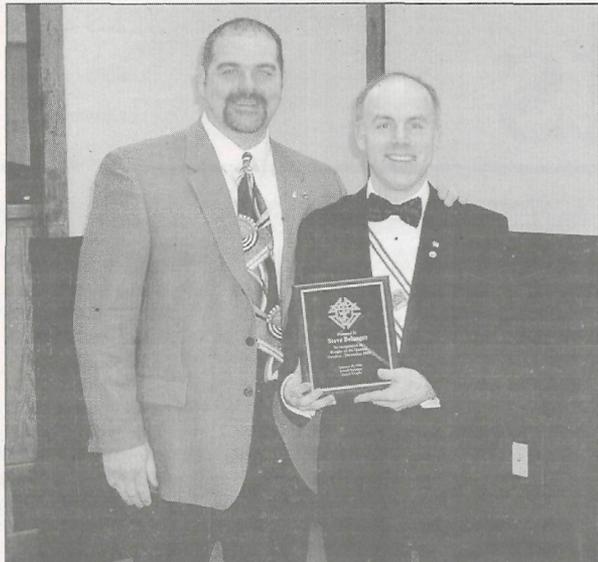
It's your opportunity to reach every household in South Plainfield.

Call 908-668-0010 to reserve your space.

Deadline to reserve space is March 14



Don't miss this opportunity— it only comes three times a year!



Grand Knight Joe Scrudato presents Steve Belanger with the Knight of the Quarter Award.

Knights Family, Quarter Awards

(Continued from page 1)
 the director of the CCD program at Sacred Heart Church, as well as the director of the altar servers. Bill, Tracy and their children always participate in council events. It seems whenever there is a family event happening at the council, the Hartmanns are there supporting it, in the true spirit of the Knights of Columbus.

Every year at the council's annual Christmas party for the Keystone School, Willy volunteers as Santa's helper, passing out the gifts and serving food to the residents. When the council runs the Drive for Mental Retardation, Bill and Willy count the money collected during the drive. Willy Hartmann is a member of the

council's Boy Scout troop and every year he and his father help the troop's clean up the outside of the hall, a major undertaking.

Internet Safety Program Announced

(Continued from page 1)
 least we hope so, there is no way of verifying the information.

The site MySpace.com is not the problem, it's the way kids communicate with each other today. There is a lot of peer pressure for kids to be listed on the site.

We called Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosado, Sacred Heart School Principal Sr. Nadine and South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro and asked for their support of an informational seminar for parents. They all agreed.

Laura Callahan from the Middlesex Out-Reach and Education unit (M.O.R.E.) has agreed to come to South Plainfield and speak about Internet security, especially MySpace. M.O.R.E. is a unit of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, which reaches out to the citizenry of our county. It is their belief that through education and cooperation between county residents and law enforcement, a reduction in crime and violence can be achieved. M.O.R.E., in conjunction with the local police departments, operates under the premise that community and law enforcement is a necessary partnership. Chief Ferraro has also agreed to have a police officer who specializes in computers be on hand to answer parents' questions.

Every parent of a teenager should plan to attend this program. There are plenty of dangers your teenagers never think about when surfing the net, and especially posting on the site. MySpace can be used safely and shouldn't be banned, but parents need to know the dangers their children may face and help them make the right decisions when using the Internet.

The program will be held on Wednesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. See you there!

St. Stephen's Celebrates 50 Years

(Continued from page 1)
 property on Park Ave. belonging to J.P. Stevens, Jr., who was generous and provided a contribution representing 25% of the price agreed upon for the land. The property, approximately four acres with 371' frontage on Park Ave., was purchased on Sept. 9, 1956 for \$12,000 with the stipulation that it not be used for any other purpose for 20 years.

Dedication of the church site was held in October, 1957.

After a few bumps in the road during the following year, ground breaking for the first unit was held on Nov. 22, 1959. Construction began soon after, and the cornerstone was laid on March 13, 1960. The building was completed that November.

St. Stephen's continued its ministry at the new location with the usual growing pains, striving faithfully year after year. Then in October, 1962, Pastor Loucks accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran in Tipton, PA. The congregation extended an official call to Rev. Charles R. Mingle on July 21, 1963 to fill the vacant pastorate.

Rev. Charles Mingle accepted the

call and became the second pastor of St. Stephens. He was installed as pastor on Oct. 6, 1963.

On Dec. 13, 1964, the congregation approved a capital funds campaign for construction of a second unit on the church building.

Ground breaking for the second unit was held on June 12, 1966, and construction began soon after. The cornerstone was laid on February 12, 1967. The first service in the new church was held on March 12, 1967.

In December, 1989, Pastor Mingle retired. Then, in May, 1990, the congregation calls Pastor Peter Hoyer as the third Pastor of St. Stephen's. He was installed in September, 1990.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 1995, Rev. Richard J. Kiesling was installed as the fourth pastor of St. Stephen's.

The 40th Anniversary of St. Stephen's was celebrated on Nov. 17, 1996 at Café Piancone. Speakers included Pastor Kiesling, Reverend Mingle and Pastor Loucks.

January, 2006 began St. Stephen's 50th year. If you drive by our building, you can see our banner "50 years of blessings."

Several special events are planned this year, including a special service on March 12 at 3:30 p.m., commemorating the first Lutheran service held in South Plainfield. They will hold a 50th Anniversary Dinner on April 30 at the Willows in Green Brook. All of the prior Pastors will be attending, along with past and present congregants.

This is also the year Pastor, Richard Kiesling will begin his retirement.

Counseling for Individuals, Families, Couples

The Jewish Family and Vocational Services is offering a counseling service for individuals, families and couples. There will be groups offered for children and adolescents with behavioral, emotional or social difficulties. Workshops and groups also offered for

adults suffering from depression, anxiety, grief or dealing with separation and divorce. Private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and sliding fee arrangement. Call for an appointment, Jewish Family and Vocational Service, (732) 777-1940.

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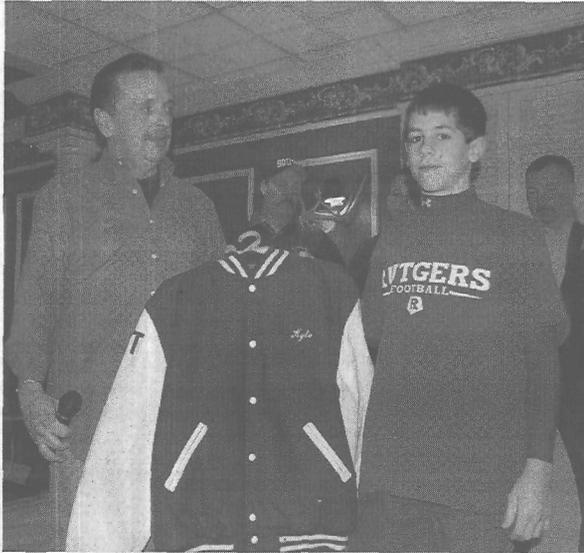
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Sports

Football Eagles and Junior Midget Cheerleaders Celebrate Outstanding Year



Members of the Jr. Midget Football Eagles and Jr. Midget Cheerleaders enjoyed a party to celebrate their accomplishments this year. Above, a member of the Football Eagles displays one of the jackets presented to each of the players. Below, some of the cheerleaders pose for a photo.



By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Jr. Midget Football team and Jr. Midget cheerleaders, who recently concluded an incredible winning season, held a celebration recently to recognize the boys and girls for their accomplishments.

The boys won the title of 2005 Garden State Champs on Nov. 27. They played at Rutgers Stadium against the Marlboro Mustangs. The final score of the game was 37 to 14. A party held at the Elks offered the youth a chance to relax off the field and have fun.

Each and every one of the champions received awards for their efforts. Among the gifts were varsity style jackets, personalized duffel bags, Rutgers t-shirts, DVDs of game at Rutgers, a two-DVD set of the entire season and trophies. Moms Debbie Malecki and Kathy Molinaro spearheaded a major fund drive to raise money for jackets.

More than 80 people attended, including 29 cheerleaders, 23 football players and eight football coaches as well as five board members. Head Football Commissioner, Al Liszewski said, "The Jr. Midget football team had a very successful season, capped by a very exciting State Championship Game at Rutgers Stadium. There they defeated the Marlboro Mustangs for the championship. I would like to congratulate all the boys and the coaches for a great year and wish them all the best for future success."

The party, which was held for both football players and cheerleaders, who also won a state championship of their own. The event was made possible by the generous contributions by the South Plainfield Elks, Flanagan's, Hometown Heros, and Brian Cargill (DJ). All the youth received awards and gifts and had a great time. It was truly well deserved.

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Baseball try-outs for Small Fry are scheduled for March 4 at the PAL. Try-out notification cards listing try-out times will be sent out next week.

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will be hosting a coach's clinic at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14. The clinic will be hosted by Bill Lehman. All managers and coaches are asked to attend. The clinic is open to parents and children. Parents of Small Fry aged children are strongly encouraged to attend this informative clinic.

The SPJBC will host a Coaches Clinic on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Volunteers at the club are always

needed.

In particular, the SPJBC needs snack stand captains. Anyone interested is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail the baseball club at www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com. Also, feel free to visit the SPJBC website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.

The SPJBC will provide its second Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification course on Thursday, March 23. All individuals that are interested in assisting or coaching must have first taken or received a Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification. Please call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 to register.

SPHS Bowling

By RALPH FECH

Tigers Sharp in CJ All-Groups Sectional

The Boys Bowling Team almost had a qualifying spot for the NISIAA All-Groups final within reach, but could not muster enough of a consistent scoring pace, as the entire 47-team field struggled with the lane pattern put out by Carolier Lanes for the event.

The Tigers were in contention throughout the tournament, keeping pace by firing games of 858-893-866 for a 2,716 series. Senior Captain Vin Genova took scoring honors, posting games of 176-197-206 for a solid 579 set. Closely following were a trio of sophomores, Jeff Pryor (202-542), Chris Esposito (207-535) and Ryan Pauls (211-517).

GMC rival Woodbridge won the event followed by St. Joseph, Manalapan and Freehold Twp, as just four teams earned a spot from the 47-team field.

The young Tigers posed a hard earned solid 14th place and are looking ahead to next year.



Senior Angelique Rualo bowls games of 171-176-185, for a solid 538 effort and a team sixth place finish in the very competitive Central Jersey Winter Classic.

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Grant Students Enjoy Jo-Ann's Dance Program

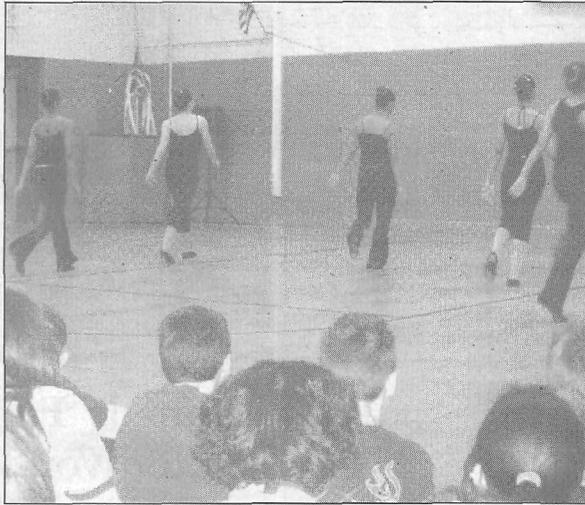
By Libby Barsky

Grant School students had the opportunity to view the different dance techniques of ballet, jazz, modern dance and hip hop as performed by members of the dance company of Jo-Ann's Dance Studio-The Performing Arts Center of South Plainfield.

The program was sponsored by the Grant School PTO Cultural Arts Committee and selected by teacher Nancy Donahue and parent Linda Wilson. Wilson attended the two-hour dress rehearsal the night before. "They had to get the music, mark the floor and rehearse the timing of the costume changes," said Wilson.

"Ballet is a way of telling a story with movement," said Tara Catalina, artistic director of Jo-Ann's Dance Studio. She asked the students to watch carefully so they could tell her what the ballet was about after it was performed. A small boy (third grader Alex Catalina) in a robe carrying a wand came on with the dancers and performed with them. When Tara Catalina asked what the ballet was about, many hands went up and one student answered, "Harry Potter," the boy wizard in the books of J.K.Rowling.

The dance group quickly changed



Students at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio-The Performing Arts Center of South Plainfield perform various dances for Grant School students.

to black leotards and performed a jazz dance and changed again into delicate ballet costume to demonstrate modern dance technique, where dancers don't wear shoes and dance in their bare feet. The audience began clapping to the music when the dancers introduced hip hop style.

The last dance was made up of elements of all four of the previous dance techniques. Catalina asked the audience to watch carefully to see if they could isolate the different techniques used in the dance and had students raise their hands if they had identified 4, 3, 2 or 1 of the dance

styles that had been shown before. The last part of the program was interactive.

Dance teacher Marlowe Davis asked for volunteers to learn a combination for a hip hop step. Nearly half the audience (all fifth graders), got up and went to the front of the room. Davis demonstrated the step then counted out the progression and had the students learning the new dance step while the audience clapped to the music. "I find the students here very energetic. I was glad to see so many boys join in," said Davis who danced in Alvin Alley's troupe and teaches at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio.

Cherilyn Biggins, who also teaches at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio was a student there 15 years ago and in the dance company. "Dancing has become my career," said Biggins, who went on to Mason Gross School Arts at Rutgers University, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and is teaching dance to elementary and high school students in Franklin Township.

Fish Dinners Return to Sacred Heart

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church will sponsor their infamous Lenten Fish Dinners on March 3, 10, 17, 24 31 and April 7. Dinners will be served in the school cafeteria, on South Plainfield Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu will feature fillet of fish (fried, broiled, Parmesan) or pizza; fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert.

Take out orders are also available.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door.

Stations of the Cross will be held in Sacred Heart Church beginning at 7 p.m.

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Obituaries

Hugh "Mickey" V. McAteer, 82

Hugh "Mickey" V. McAteer died on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates in Edison.

Born in East Orange, he has resided in South Plainfield for over 50 years.

Mr. McAteer served an enlistment in the United States Army during WWII. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield where he was a member of the Holy Name Society and called Bingo for 25 years. Mickey was also a member of VFW Memorial Post #6763 and a former member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus.

Mr. McAteer was a supervisor with J. Wiss & Sons in Newark for 46 years.

Surviving are his loving wife of 57 years, Ann (Beisley) McAteer; three sons, Thomas McAteer and his wife Lucille of Jacksonville, Fla., Joseph McAteer of South Plainfield and John McAteer and his wife Isabel of Buffton, SC.; two daughters, Ann Marie Rimondi and her husband Paul of South Plainfield, Barbara Turkus and her husband Thomas of Fords; fifteen grandchildren; three great grandchildren; two sisters, Eillen Sharkey of Calif. and Alice McAteer of Mine Hill and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Nancy M. (Dessino) Mastroguiseppe, 72

Nancy M. (Dessino) Mastroguiseppe died on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice in Edison.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Mrs. Mastroguiseppe lived in Martinsville prior to moving to Colorado where she resided for nearly 30 years before moving back to Martinsville in 1998.

She is pre-deceased by her husband John; four sisters, Philomena Snedeker, Mary DiPaola, Louise Previte and Angie Lumina, and two brothers, Stephen and Anthony Dessino.

Surviving is her brother, Dominic Dessino of Kenilworth.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Nancy's name to the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice, 1 Roosevelt Dr., Edison, NJ 08837.

player, who had been challenged by some of the world's best known chess players. He had a great love and appreciation for the fine arts, such as classical music. An accomplished pianist, Joe also enjoyed museums, galleries and concerts.

Humble by nature, Joe had a drive for education. He graduated from City College and went onto earn his Ph.D. from NYU and an honorary Doctorate degree in Mathematics from Rice University. Throughout his career Joe published nearly 45 papers.

Mr. Paul leaves behind his wife of two years, Elizabeth C. (McHenry); two daughters, Maryann Paul of El Paso, Texas and Jennifer Paul of Princeton and two sisters, Mary Reggio and Faith Paul, both of New York.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in his name may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Rt. 1, No. Brunswick, NJ 08902 or to the American Lung Association of NJ, 333B Rt. 46 W, Suite 205, Fairfield, NJ 07004.

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Junior Journalist

WINNER



Junior Journalist winner Mike Eosso accepts dinner from Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros. He is joined by Mom Lorraine Keenan, brother Dominic and grandparents Bill and Kathy Keenan. Congratulations!

Joseph S. Paul, 65

Joseph S. Paul died Monday, Feb. 13 at JFK Hospital in Edison.

Born in New York City, he moved to Texas where he taught quantum mechanics at the graduate level at the University of Texas. He was employed as a software engineer with Lucent Technologies, retiring in 2000. Prior to that he was employed with Watson Research Labs, IBM and AT&T.

Mr. Paul was a ranking chess



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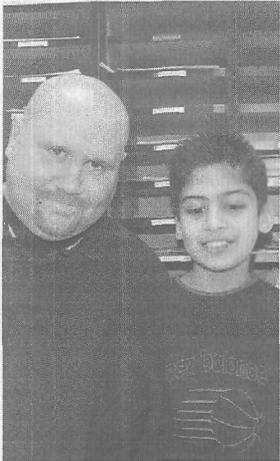
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Junior Journalist Corner



Sarmad Rizvi, Roosevelt student is This Week's "Junior Journalist"



Sarmad Rizvi, Roosevelt School third grade, with teacher, Michael Bertram.

Sarmad Rizvi, third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. His poem, "Winter," 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.

WINTER

By Sarmad Rizvi

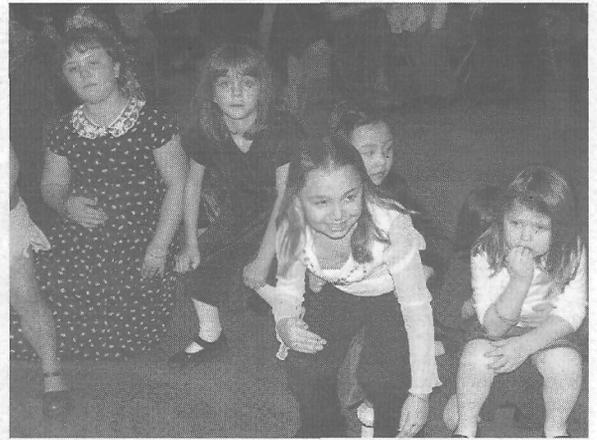
It is finally here,
my favorite time of year

SPLISH,
SPLASH,
SPLAT!!!

Everybody is snowball fighting.
KABOOM!!!!!!

Someone hit me right in the face.

This means... WAR!!!!!!



Kennedy Families Frolic at Winter Wonderland Dance

By Jane Dornick

In spite of the recently warm temperatures, Kennedy Elementary School held a Winter Wonderland Dance on Friday, Feb. 3 with nearly 280 people attending the event.

DJ DeJaVu kept the children and parents on the move entertaining them with music, dancing, contests and prizes from the minute they walked in. Youngsters pulled their parents out on the dance floor to participate in the YMCA and Chicken dances. Children and adults paired up for a game of agility, speed and listening skills called Coke and Pepsi as well as the Limbo. The winners received small prizes for their efforts.

There was plenty of pizza and sandwiches provided by Alfonso's Restaurant and Carmen's Trattoria. The

PTSO baked yummy desserts and provided drinks. Mohn's Florist made festive balloon arrangements for the occasion and family portraits were taken by P.M. Studios of Edison.



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Military service voters may also apply for a military service ballot by sending a federal postcard application form to the undersigned.

On the application for a military service ballot, military service voters may request that a military service ballot be sent for all subsequent elections held during this calendar year.

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Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

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The Sacred Heart Junior Varsity Cheerleaders are ready for the competition season.

Sacred Heart JV Cheerleaders Fire It Up!

The Junior Varsity Cheerleaders of Sacred Heart School are ready to begin a fun filled and challenging competition season. The fourth and fifth grade teammates have been putting in countless hours of practices and they're ready to shine!

With four competitions ahead of them, the girls are looking forward to a winning season. They will also be

performing an exhibition cheer/dance at Sacred Heart's Annual Cheerleading Tournament on Saturday, March 18.

Members of the team are: Megan Amirault, Rose Bach, Jenna Bengivenga, Christy Campbell, Juliana Degutis, Sabrina Inigo, Khyllah Jean, Iyanla Joyner, Mia Mathis, Marissa Tereri, Aryanna Torres, Captain Jackie Stenersen, Co-Captain Stephanie

Kearney and Co-Captain Janee Edwards. The team is under the direction of Head Coach Maralyn Wilkowsky; Junior Coaches Cassie Wilkowsky, Kacie Hanley and Kirsten Whitaker; Assistant Coaches Maria Stenersen and Gwen Thomas and Team Mom Felicia Thorpe.

Good luck to the JV Team!

Celebration of African American Heritage Soul Food, Storytelling and Song

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey will present a *Celebration of African American Heritage: Soul Food, Storytelling & Song*, on Saturday, Feb. 25 at East Jersey Olde Towne Village on River Rd. in Piscataway. This program is funded in part by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Beginning at 2 p.m., participants will explore the roots of soul food cooking with a lecture by New Brunswick filmmaker Marilyn Herod. Using clips from her documentary, *Planting the Seed*, Herod will detail the history and background of this historic cooking tradition. The lecture

will be followed by a tasting of a variety of traditional dishes including fried chicken, okra gumbo, benne crackers and sweet potato pudding, provided by Promise Jobs Culinary Training School.

Also at 2 p.m. Debbie Kirkland will present a children's craft and storytelling. Using African instruments, puppets and works in Swahili, Kirkland will bring traditional African and African American stories to life. She will continue the program with African mask making, where the children will create masks using raffia, yarn and cloth. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To register for *Celebration of Afri-*

can American Heritage, as space is limited, please call the Commission, (732) 744-4489. Persons with hearing disabilities may call, (732) 745-3888 (TTY users only), or 711, the New Jersey Relay System. East Jersey Olde Towne Village is a fully accessible site.

The Folklife Program for New Jersey was established by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission in 1990 to broaden the appreciation and availability of folk arts, folklore and folklife within Middlesex County; identify and preserve folk traditions expressed by the people of Central New Jersey and provide a forum for the presentation of New Jersey and regional folk artists.

Edison Arts Society Spring Season

The Edison Arts Society announced its pre-spring session of daytime adult art classes will be taught at the North Edison Branch library main meeting room on Grove Ave. in Edison.

They will offer a class in acrylics with artist/instructor Roy Steinberg. Classes meet on Wednesdays for a six-week session from 1-3 pm starting on Feb. 22 and ending on April 5. The cost for classes is \$125, with a 15% discount offered to EAS members and senior citizens. Students must supply one canvas and small set of acrylics. Learn painting with the variety of acrylics available. Produce various textures, from wash to impasto including: color theory (values, basic hues), use of brushes and palette knives, and picture making (composition).

Reservations are required for this course. Call EAS at (908) 753-ARTS to reserve space or email us at edison-arts@aol.com for a flier on these classes.

ELECCIÓN ESCOLAR AVISO PARA ELECTORES EN EL SERVICIO MILITAR, SUS PARIENTES Y AMIGOS

Si usted se encuentra en el servicio militar; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de alguien en el servicio; es paciente en un hospital para veteranos; es un civil adjunto a, ó sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, fuera del Estado de Nueva Jersey; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de un civil adjunto a, ó que sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. Si usted tiene estas características y desea votar, ó es un familiar ó amigo de alguien que las tenga y que usted crea que quiera votar, en la Elección Escolar en South Plainfield en Abril 18 de 2006. Escriba a la dirección de abajo para solicitar la papeleta del servicio militar, para votar en dicha elección. Si usted esta en el servicio incluya su nombre, edad, número de serie, dirección residencial y la dirección de su base ó donde se le pueda localizar. Si desea la papeleta para un pariente ó amigo, haga la petición bajo juramento, declarando que la persona es mayor de dieciocho años, su nombre, su número de serie si esta en el servicio militar, dirección residencial y dirección de su base ó de donde pueda ser localizado.

Electores del servicio militar pueden solicitar la papeleta de voto militar enviando una solicitud federal en forma de tarjeta postal a la Secretaria del Condado.

En la solicitud para la papeleta del servicio militar, electores del servicio militar pueden requerir que una papeleta del servicio militar les sea enviada pára las demás elecciones que se lleven acabo éste año.

(NOTA: EL ELECTOR MILITAR QUE DECLARE SU ESTACION MILITAR COMO DOMICILIO PARA VOTAR NO PUEDE USAR LA PAPELETA DE MILITAR AUSENTE A MENOS QUE ESTE REGISTRADO PARA VOTAR EN EL MUNICIPIO DONDE DICHA ESTACION ESTA LOCALIZADA.)

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: Febrero 17, 2006

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY COURT HOUSE
P.O. BOX 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903

\$145.00

1T. 2/17/06

NOTICE TO PERSONS DESIRING CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who wants to vote by absentee ballot in the School Election to be held on April 18, 2006, kindly complete the application form below and send the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a civilian absentee ballot be forwarded to you. Such request must state your home address, and the address to which said ballot should be sent, if different, and must be dated and signed with your signature. If any person has assisted you to complete the absentee ballot application, the name, address and signature of the assistor must be provided on the application. Also, you must sign and date the application for it to be valid and processed. No person who is a candidate in the election for which the voter requests an absentee ballot may provide assistance in the completion of the ballot or may serve as an authorized messenger. No civilian absentee ballot will be furnished or forwarded to any applicant unless request therefore is received, in our office, not less than 7 days prior to the election, and contains the foregoing information.

Voters who are permanently and totally disabled, and any other voters who wish to vote only by absentee ballot in a general election, and who state that on their request shall, after their initial request and without further action on their part, be forwarded an absentee ballot application by the county clerk for future elections in which they are eligible to vote and until the voter requests that he or she no longer be sent an application. Permanently and totally disabled voters also have the option of indicating on their absentee ballot applications that they would prefer to receive absentee ballots for each election that takes place during the remainder of this calendar year. Permanently and totally disabled voters who exercise this option will be furnished with absentee ballots for each election that takes place during the remainder of this calendar year, without further action on their part.

Application forms may be obtained by applying to the undersigned either in writing or by telephone, or the application form provided below may be completed and forwarded to the undersigned.

DATE: February 17, 2006

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 1110
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903
(732) 745-4463
TDD (732) 754-5533

A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT OR TO BE ASSISTED AT THE POLLS BY TWO ELECTION CLERKS, ONE FROM EACH PARTY, OR BY A PERSON CHOSEN BY THE VOTER OTHER THAN THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER, OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION. VOTING LOCATIONS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING WITH PROPER SIGNAGE MUST BE PROVIDED. DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED VOTERS CAN ACCESS THE FOLLOWING TDD NUMBER: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED IN LARGE TYPE MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AT EACH PERMANENT REGISTRATION FACILITY AND POLLING PLACE. VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: (732) 745-3471.

Marque aqui si usted quiere materiales electorales en Español.

CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

You must apply for an Absentee Ballot for each Election. I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the (Check One)

Primary General Municipal Special

Local School Regional School Voc. Tech. School

Other _____ To be held on _____ DATE

CHECK AND COMPLETE

I live in the City Town Township Borough

Village of _____

My legal residence address including Street Number and/or R.D. Number and Box Number, is as follows:

STREET ADDRESS _____

MUNICIPALITY _____ / ZIP CODE _____ / PHONE _____

Mail my ballot to the following address:

STREET ADDRESS _____

MUNICIPALITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

CHECK REASON FOR BALLOT

I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day because:

I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day.

(DATE OF DEPARTURE) _____

Of illness or temporary physical disability.

I am permanently and totally disabled. _____ state reason

I am permanently and totally disabled and wish to receive an absentee ballot for all elections to be held during the remainder of the calendar year.

Observance of a religious holiday on election day.

Resident attendance at a school, college or university on election day.

Of nature and hours of my employment on election day.

Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct.

➡ SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN REGISTRY BOOK

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME

• If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorized messenger. Messenger shall be a family member or a registered voter of this County.

• I designate _____ to be my authorized messenger (NAME OF MESSENGER)

(SIGNATURE OF VOTER)

• Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of County Clerk or County Clerk designee.

SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

VOTER NUMBER _____ PARTY _____ WARD _____ DISTRICT _____

Rev. 10/01

\$360.00

1T-2/17/06

AVISO PARA PERSONAS QUE DESEEN PAPELETAS DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Si usted es un volante del Estado calificado y registrado, que quiere votar con papeleta para voto en ausencia en la Elección Escolar que se llevará a cabo el 18 de abril de 2006, por favor complete el formulario a continuación y envíelo al abajo firmante o escríbale o diríjase en persona de inmediato al abajo firmante solicitándole que le sea enviada una papeleta para civil ausente.

Los votantes con incapacidades permanente y totales, y cualquier otro votante que desee votar solamente a través de papeleta para voto en ausencia en una Elección General y que así lo aclare en su petición, luego de su solicitud inicial y sin más proceder de su parte, se le enviará un formulario de papeleta para voto ausente a través del Secretario del Condado para futuras elecciones en las que tenga derecho a votar y hasta que el votante solicite que no se le envíe más el formulario.

Los formularios de solicitud deben obtenerse solicitándolos al abajo firmante por escrito o por teléfono o se debe completar y enviar al abajo firmante el formulario de solicitud que se encuentra a continuación.

FECHA: Febrero 17, 2006

ELAINE M. FLYNN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING P.O. Box 1110 NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08903 (732) 745-4463

UNA PERSONA INCAPACITADA TIENE EL DERECHO A VOTAR CON PAPELETA DE AUSENTE O A SER ASISTIDA EN LAS URNAS POR DOS OFICIALES DE ELECCIONES, UNO DE CADA PARTIDO, O POR UNA PERSONA ELEGIDA POR EL VOTANTE QUE NO SEA SU JEFE, O EL AGENTE DE ESE JEFE, U OFICIAL O AGENTE DE SU UNION. LUGARES DE VOTACION DEBEN SER ACCESIBLES Y DEBE SER PROVEIDO ESTACIONAMIENTO ACCESIBLE CON SEÑALES APROPIADAS. VOTANTES CON SORDERA O POCA AUDICION PUEDEN CONTACTAR EL SIGUIENTE NUMERO TDD: (732) 937-8364.

SOLICITUD DE PAPELETA DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Usted debe solicitar una papeleta de ausente para cada elección. Por la presente solicito una papeleta de ausente para la elección (indique una)
[] Primaria [] General [] Municipal [] Especial
[] Local Escolar [] Regional Escolar [] Técnica Escolar

[] Otra _____, que se realizará el _____ FECHA
ESPECIFIQUE _____

REVISE Y COMPLETE

Vivo en [] la ciudad [] el pueblo [] el municipio [] el barrio
[] la aldea de
Mi residencia legal, incluyendo el número de la calle, el de la ruta o ambos y el apartado, es la siguiente:

DIRECCIÓN _____

MUNICIPIO _____ CÓDIGO POSTAL _____ TELÉFONO _____
Envíen mi papeleta a la siguiente dirección:

DIRECCIÓN DE LA CALLE _____

MUNICIPIO _____ ESTADO _____ CÓDIGO POSTAL _____

INDIQUE LA RAZÓN PARA LA PAPELETA

El día de la elección no podré votar en mi urna regular debido a que:
[] Espero encontrarme ausente del estado de Nueva Jersey el día de la elección _____

- (FECHA DE LA PARTIDA)
[] Una enfermedad o incapacidad física.
[] Sufro de invalidez permanente y total.

Expresé la razón _____

*[] Sufro de invalidez permanente y total y deseo recibir una papeleta de ausente para todas las elecciones que que se llevarán acabo durante _____ lo que resta del año.

- [] El día de la elección deberé observar un feriado religioso.
[] El día de la elección estaré asistiendo como residente a una escuela, escuela superior o universidad.
[] La naturaleza de mi trabajo y su horario, el día de la elección.
Bajo pena de ley, yo certifico que mis anteriores afirmaciones son veraces y correctas.

FIRME SU NOMBRE COMO APARECE EN EL LIBRO DE REGISTRO

ESCRIBA O IMPRIMA SU NOMBRE

Si el votante se encuentra enfermo o recluso, puede solicitar un voto de ausente por intermedio de un mensajero autorizado.

Nombre a _____ mi mensajero autorizado.
(NOMBRE DEL MENSAJERO)

(FIRMA DEL VOTANTE)

El mensajero autorizado debe firmar las solicitudes únicamente ante el Secretario del Condado o su delegado.

(FIRMA DEL MENSAJERO)

(DIRECCIÓN)

MUNICIPIO _____ CÓDIGO POSTAL _____

VOTER NUMBER _____ PARTY _____ WARD _____ DISTRICT _____



Tiger Cub Scouts from Franklin School visited the South Plainfield Observer to earn a bead. Pictured are: Danny O'Shaughnessy, Drew MacKenzie, Alec Paez, Jake Smith, Nikolas Peterson, Austin Fritze, Caleb Kuberiet and Sam Smith.

Place your classified early...deadline is Monday, 5 pm.

Business and

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Remembering Abigail Adams At Library

The program "Abigail Adams: Remember the Ladies" will be presented at the South Plainfield Library on Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m.

Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theater will appear in character as Abigail Adams, the wife of U.S. President John Adams. Using Mrs. Adams writings and correspondences as a framework, the program will recount the events of her life, along with her views on women, American independence, and racial equality.

This program, the latest in a series of historical programs, is free of charge. No pre-registration is required. The program is sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society, in cooperation with the Horizons Speaker Bureau of the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You may also visit the website for the South Plainfield Historical Society at <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety>.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

FULL SERVICE HAIR SALON IN So. Plainfield seeks manager. Salary commission, benefits. Two assistants also needed & F/T manicurist. Call Mike (908) 715-1694.

TEACHER ASSISTANT-F/T IN Piscataway. Early Childhood program. CDA or AA in ECE preferred but not required. \$9-\$11/hr. Good benefits. EOE (732) 445-4747.

HOME FURNISHINGS FOR SALE

MATTRESS-NEW PILLOW TOP SETS, new in plastic with mfg. warranty. Queen \$125 King \$185. (732) 259-6690.

BEDROOM SET-SLEIGH BED, TRIPLE dresser w/mirror, chest & nite stand. New in box, value \$2400, sell \$995, can deliver. (732) 259-6690.

BEDROOM SET-WOOD SLEIGH BED, dresser, mirror chest & nite stand. Retail \$3800, sacrifice \$1475 new in box. (732) 259-6690.

DINING ROOM-DOUBLE PEDESTAL 6 chairs & hutch/buffet still in box. Value \$3000 sell \$1450 can deliver. (732) 259-6690.

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CUSTOM 3 BDR RANCH BY OWNER-2 bath, EIK w/center island. Large LR. New CAC, hardwood floors, basement. Large deck, sun porch, attached 2-car garage. \$479,900. Call (908) 755-9018.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

NICE AREA IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD. In private home, 2 rooms & bath. No smoking. References. Call (908) 208-7517 or (908) 757-8639.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

EFFICIENCY 1 BDR APT. FOR rent in So. Plainfield. All inclusive. \$1000/mo. (908)755-7427. Ask for John or Peter.

2 BR, 1 BATH, LARGE LR/DINING area, central air, basement. \$975/mo. plus utilities & security. Ref. (908) 756-0947.

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NO UPFRONT FEES. GOOD OR BAD CREDIT ACCEPTED.

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FOUND.... CAT FOUND ON 2/12/06. Near Montrose Ave. Grey/White Male approx. 1yr old. Call (908) 226-0211.

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917 Worth Dr. South Plainfield

Asking \$360,000

RANCH - 1,000 SQ FT 80' X 120' FENCED YARD. Great neighborhood. Franklin School district. Living room, dining area, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, full bathroom. A/C, full basement & one car attached garage.

Call for appointment after 5:00 pm (908) 561-6828 (908) 561-1065



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Treat yourself at our three locations. Your satisfaction guaranteed.

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1645 Park Avenue, South Plainfield 791-9463
Sal's Spirit Shoppe
Cavit (1.5 liter)
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NEW 2005 GMC W4500 CREW CAB-\$38,900
ASK FOR TONY-FINANCING AVAILABLE

From the South Plainfield Library
Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

E-books are coming! As part of our ongoing program to make the South Plainfield Public Library available 24/7 we will very soon be featuring e-books. Unlike the traditional book an e-book is available online and can be read using a variety of technological tools (computers, i-pods, CD players) etc. and is available all the time.

The first e-book program that the library will participate in is OVERDRIVE. You will be able to access the listing of materials which includes both fiction and non-fiction titles (everything from 1984 by George Orwell to the *Ionian Mission* by Patrick O'Brian to *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt) through our catalog and you can download best selling titles 24/7 to your PC and PDA at home, in the office or from anywhere in the world. You need to remember, however, that the first time you check out materials on this site, you will need to download software. Instructions will be provided for you on the website. This is an easy to use system and continues to expand what library services you can access from anywhere 24/7 as long as you have a South Plainfield Public Library card.

Other services available 24/7 include our extensive database selection which includes both EbscoHost, Infotrac (newspapers), Legal Forms, and much, much more. You can also access our library catalog, renew items, request materials through interlibrary loan, place holds on books we own, etc. So there is so much you can do when the physical building is closed.

And when we are open we have Miss Linda doing children's programs

Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. for three year olds and up, Friday at 10:30 a.m. Books'n'Babies, Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for two year olds, and Miss Jamie doing another program on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. We have Dayel Giammarino presenting *Simple Scrapbooking Techniques* on Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. and Ronda Wisniewski presenting *Origami Box Gift Set* on Monday morning, March 6.

Please feel free to call the library at (908) 754-7885 should you have any questions about these programs or to register for them, or if you need directions, or want to renew materials, or for any matter. Hope to hear from you soon!

policereport

• Brian C. Magazine, 30, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to stop for a posted sign, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, having an open container of alcohol and refusal to take a breathalyzer test.

• Cassandra P. Smith, 21, of Brooklyn was arrested for driving on a suspended license and three outstanding warrants.

• On Feb. 8 Bobby S. Richardson, 25, of Piscataway was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.

• A Geary Dr. resident reported a rock was thrown through their picture window.

• An employee of Getty Gas on Park Ave. reported the theft of plastic bag containing a passport, clothing and \$100

in cash from a gas pump island.

• On Feb. 9 Benny P. Irizarry, 28, of Edison was arrested for failure to inspect, failure to exhibit an insurance card and two outstanding warrants.

• Ily Technology Inc. on Montrose Ave. reported that 26 pieces of CD/DVD duplicator cases worth \$2,000 were missing from the warehouse.

• On Feb. 10 a Kissam Ct. resident reported the theft of five CD's and \$5 in change from his unlocked vehicle.

• A Tompkins Ave. resident reported that a rock had been thrown through their window.

• A Frederick Ave. resident reported that three of their vehicles had shattered windows. Nothing was taken. A small crack was also located on the bottom front window of their home.

• A Harvard Ave. resident reported that two of their vehicles windows are shattered and windshield smashed in.

• On Feb. 11 Tysem K. Moore, 26, of Piscataway was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license, careless driving, no license in possession, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

• Michael J. Porchetta, 30, of Scotch Plains was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

• The Middle School reported that a window on the south side of the building between the main entrance and the cafeteria had been broken.

• On Feb. 12 a Staten Island resident reported the theft of his 1999 Lexus that was left running in front of Nuova Cucina on So. Clinton Ave.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Rogelio Coquia requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit an addition and deck. Proposed addition lacks 30' required front setback from Avon, 17.6' being proposed and 8' required side setback from Avon, 5.3' being proposed. Proposed deck lacks 30' required front setback from Avon, 19.6' being proposed. Proposed addition over existing lacks 30' required front setback from Avon, 14.6' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 343 West Crescent Parkway on Block 220, Lot 8 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 9, 2006 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 February 17, 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/S/V—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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Board of Adjustment

\$45.50 February 17, 2006



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