

FEB 24 2006

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 25

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 24, 2006

Tigers Retain State Championship

It has been a long road for the South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team this year. They defeated tough teams from Kittatiny, Brick Memorial and Bergen Catholic before losing to High Point several weeks ago in a controversial match that saw the Tigers lose their number one state ranking. After a disappointing loss in the final dual meet of the season against long-time rival Delaware Valley, the Tigers had to regroup heading into the North Jersey 2 group sectional tournament. The big question was whether the Tigers could do it. Well, they regrouped and did it in a huge way. Over the course of their four state tournament matches this past week, South Plainfield put forth their toughest performances this season, culminating in sweet revenge against High Point and their second straight Group III State Championship.

The road to the title began with the North Jersey Section 2 tournament. The Tigers, who had led the power point rankings all season, were shocked to find out that they ended up seeded third after the last day of cutoffs, having to defend their North Jersey 2 title on the road by traveling to Warren Hills for the semi-finals, then to Voorhees for the finals. Both teams were clearly over matched against a rejuvenated Tiger team. They defeated Warren Hills 48-18 on Tuesday night and, two days later, routing past rival Voorhees 60-4 for their sixth sectional title in the last 10 years.

The state group championships were once again held at the modern Ritacco Center at Toms River North High School. In a long day of wrestling that saw New Jersey's best teams battle for State Group titles, the Tigers opened up in the Group III semifinals against Ocean Township.



The 2006 Group III State Champions, the South Plainfield High Wrestling Team.

Last year, South Plainfield defeated Ocean 34-32 in a thrilling championship match that came down to gutsy performances by the Tigers final four wrestlers. With this year's match between the two powerhouses starting at 215 lbs, the Tigers bumped up Kevin Crilley from

189 to face Ben Nadell. The move paid off early when Crilley pinned Nadell at 1:41 giving South Plainfield a 6-0 lead and the early momentum. Preston Johnston then wrestled at heavyweight, defeating Ted Knopka 14-7 to increase the early lead to nine. Patrick Hunter then added four more team points at 103, when he defeated Mike Beredesco by a major 10-2 decision. Robert Gentile then lost by a major 12-0 decision to Zach Coulas

at 112, putting Ocean on the scoreboard. South Plainfield got those points back and then some when Billy Ashnault pinned J.P. Palandro at 4:37 in the 119 pound match to put the Tigers ahead 19-4. In a move that was meant to steal a win, Ocean elected to send out Danny Lopes at 125. Lopes moved down from his normal spot at 130 pounds, where he is ranked third in the state, to face off against three-time state place-winner Jimmy Conroy. Lopes scored quickly, taking Conroy down within the first ten seconds and locking him in a cradle. Conroy countered the move and escaped, increasing his pressure on Lopes throughout the match to secure an exciting 4-3 victory. Ocean's gamble backfired and the Tigers increased their lead to 22-4.

In the 130 pound bout, South Plainfield junior Bryan Hunt stood

toe-to-toe with Nick Menditto of Ocean, who placed fourth at 112 in last year's state tournament. Hunt held tough, dropping a close 4-1 decision. At 135, Mike Jakubik faced another state place winner in Ocean's Andrew Van Dyk. Like Hunt, Jakubik

(Continued on page 9)

Parents Want Say in Pop Warner Move

Pop Warner parents upset over a decision made by the Pop Warner Eagles leadership to leave the Pop Warner League and join the Suburban Youth Football League are demanding an explanation of why they were not included in the decision.

When word of the decision was discovered, parents of both cheerleaders and football players began calling each other and league officials to get more information and they were not at all satisfied with the answers they received. The rumors and calls escalated to the point that the South Plainfield Recreation Commission asked for an explanation as well.

While the Recreation Commission is not directly involved with Pop Warner, the organization's field is on Borough owned property and they have received grants for lighting and other improvements.

According to Pop Warner President Daren Gorman, the decision to move was approved by the Pop Warner Board and done within the by-laws. He added that there was no time to inform the membership, because Suburban wanted an immediate decision.

Some parents do not agree with Gorman, claiming the by-laws state that a membership vote should have been taken on the move. After much discussion, Recreation Commission President Bill Cochrane agreed that the vote taken by the board without the membership's approval was not a legal vote, thus the decision to move is null and void.

Gorman said the decision to move was made with the intention of increasing the numbers of players, which has been declining the past few years. The Suburban League does not have the same weight restrictions as Pop Warner, and the move will ensure that more boys would play. Those against the move say that boys and girls participating under fourth grade will no longer travel with the team, but instead play each other locally. They feel this takes away from competitiveness. And with no weight restrictions, larger boys will be competing against smaller ones, which could be another problem. Cheerleaders also feel that asking girls to wait until fourth grade to cheer competitively will make it hard to recruit and maintain their numbers.

With so many questions and objections raised, a meeting was scheduled by Pop Warner for next Tuesday evening. That meeting, originally intended to be a meet and greet night, will now be an informational meeting. Both leagues will be represented, an explanation of the benefits derived from each league will be presented to the membership and all of their questions will be addressed. Whether a membership vote will be taken that night or at a later date was not decided.

All Pop Warner parents of both boys and girls are urged to attend this meeting to be fully informed and involved in the decision making. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at Roosevelt School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Revenge is Sweet

By Bob Hunter

Parents Urged to Attend Internet Safety Program

The Observer will be hosting an Internet Safety Program, on Wednesday, March 8 at the Senior Center beginning at 7 p.m. The popular website MySpace.com will be one of the topics discussed during this program.

MySpace.com is a website used by teens as well as people of all ages. Youths of all ages registered on this site provide information about themselves and talk to other kids on the website. The problem is that some children are giving too much information and they don't always know who they are talking to. This is just one of the reasons that Internet safety education for both parents

and children is important.

The Observer was able to access the MySpace site without a password and view some of the personal information of more than 500 people from South Plainfield. This brings up the question of how many others can, and do, go on the site.

The Internet safety program is geared toward the parents, not students, so please leave your children at home if at all possible. However, we will not stop a parent if they really want to bring their kids, but their attendance is discouraged.

Representatives from the Middlesex Out-Reach and Education unit

(M.O.R.E) will be presenting the Internet safety program. There will also be a representative from the South Plainfield Police Department. Both the South Plainfield Board of Education and Sacred Heart School have also endorsed the program.

After the program, there will be time for questions from the audience. Brochures and printed information relating to Internet safety will also be available for attendees.

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center on Maple Ave.

If you have any questions, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The South Plainfield Business Association received an update on the Hamilton Blvd. construction during last week's meeting.

Councilman Charlie Butrico reported that both the water and gas companies have finished their work. Right now Verizon is working, and new sewer lines are being installed. Most work is occurring between Belmont and St. Nicholas avenues. When that area is completed, work will move north of Belmont Ave. to New Market Ave.

Detour signs are up and motorists are asked to follow the signs. Trucks are still prohibited along Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. and summonses are being issued for violators.

On a positive note: mild winter conditions have allowed reconstruction to proceed without delay.

The light at St. Nicholas Ave. and Ryan St. will be installed shortly and should help with traffic at that intersection.

For a map of detours, log on to the borough's website at southplainfieldnj.com.

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
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 (NUSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planningboard

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

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

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.

zoningboardofadjustment

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

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

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.

boardofeducationmeetings

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.—March 21 and April 4.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

siteplan-sub-committee

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

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.

recreationcommission

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.

environmentalcommission

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.

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

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

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.



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

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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

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

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ROXANNE CORTESE JANE DORNICK WILLIAM TUTHILL Advertising Sales

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 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.



February 10, on the eve of a record breaking snowfall, families came out to enjoy the fun and festivities of S.E.P.A.'s (Special Education Parents Association) annual Winter Festival. Along with all the carnival games, children enjoyed a snowflake hunt, cookie decorating, prize tables and two wonderful clowns. Not only did the South Plainfield Elks Lodge 2298 sponsor the event, they were also on hand treating the families to cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn. Teenagers from Sacred Heart Church CCD volunteered to man the games and activity tables with enthusiasm, getting right in on the fun. Beverages were generously donated by Bett-Away, and every child went home with a gift from the "Books to Keep" program. A very special thanks to all those who helped to make the evening a success.

Monday is Deadline For Filing School Board Candidacy

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 18.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 125 Jackson Ave., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes the nominating petition and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider board of education membership. Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

On February 18 the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield held a very successful silent auction to raise funds for the youth group. We would like to take this opportunity to offer a very special thank you to Flanagan's Restaurant, Sportworld, Hometown Heros, Haisches Bakery and Dunkin Donuts.

We would like to acknowledge the following businesses who also contributed items that were auctioned Munchies, Edith's Hair Salon, Our Town Deli, Oak Tree Farms, Vail Hardware, International House of Pancakes (North Pfd), White Star Diner, Ciccio's Pizza, Jesus Book & Gift Store, and The Chippery (Fanwood).

Thank you, to the many families who also donated items, we appreciate your continued support.

FIRST BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP (BYF)

To the Editor,

Come on South Plainfield, it is not too late to join the party! We need boys' lacrosse in the high school and also a girls and boys lacrosse program in the youth recreation. While many traditional youth sports programs are witnessing a reduction in participation, lacrosse is BOOMING across the country. This past spring, we went to the Men's NCAA National Championship held at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia (home of the Philadelphia Eagles football team); where over 45,000 sun-drenched fans witnessed Johns Hopkins win over Duke.

Data compiled annually by the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) proves it. Boys' lacrosse is the second most rapidly growing sport in percentage terms for school sponsorship and in growth in student participation. In both cases, there is not a close third. Among the top 15 girl's sports, lacrosse is the most rapidly growing sport in terms of both school sponsorship and percentage of growth participation.

For those of you that have never witnessed a lacrosse game, it is fast, furious and fun. When you think about it, what could be more fun than a bunch of kids running around on

an open field chasing each other around with sticks? It is also the oldest sport in North America. American and Canadian Indians were playing the sport prior to the arrival of Columbus.

In New Jersey the sport is exploding. The NJ Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse has become the largest chapter in the nation with membership in excess of 9,800 enthusiasts. A remarkable feat, considering that the NJ chapter ranked 15th three years ago with only 1,400 members.

The NJ Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse (www.njlacrosse.org) sponsors a "New Start Program" for beginning youth and high school programs for both boys and girls. Since 1999, the NJ Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse has assisted over 60 new programs around the state by offering a "New Start Package" of two goals, two nets and balls. All it takes is one or two parents to contact the N.J. Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse.

Sportswriter Grantland Rice wrote this about lacrosse:

"Once in a while they argue about the fastest game—hockey or basketball; then about the roughest game—box-

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.

ing, football or water polo. But when it comes to the top combination, the answer is lacrosse, the all-star combination of speed and body contact. It requires more elements of skill than any game I know."

This grandmother and grandfather would like nothing more than to come to South Plainfield and cheer on these up and coming lacrosse champions.

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Volunteers Needed For Clean-up

There's snow on the ground, but the birds have started singing. Start thinking about spring, by putting Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week on your calendar!

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor their annual borough-wide clean-up on the last week of April. The main clean-up event will be on Saturday morning, April 22. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall parking lot at 2480 Plainfield Ave. to collect equipment and clean-up assignments.

Volunteers will target roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots.

All volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall at noon for a free pizza pickup picnic, complete with environmentally friendly door prizes. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to just come to Borough Hall that morning on their own.

Cleanup week volunteers usually pick up tons of garbage during this annual event.

Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621, or e-mail her at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com for more information.



The Middlesex County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit performed a drug sweep of SPHS last week.

No Drugs Found in Surprise Lock Down at High School

South Plainfield High School was locked down for two hours on Feb. 15 when at 8:30 a.m., members of the South Plainfield Police, along with the New Jersey State Police Canine Unit, Middlesex County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit and the Somerset County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit, conducted a surprise drug detection operation in and around the school.

Prior to the beginning of the operation, school officials locked down the building, a procedure which is rehearsed by school officials as a means

of dealing with emergency situations. The Canine Units checked for illegal drugs and evidence of materials and items associated with firearms. The dogs walked past student lockers, common areas of the school and all vehicles parked in the high school parking lot.

After the conclusion of the two hour search, no illegal contraband was detected.

According to Dr. Robert Rosado, this was not the first nor the last time this type of drill has or will take place.

18th Annual Project Graduation Auction/Raffle in Need of Donations and Gifts

By Sharon Miller, Co-President SPHS PTA

South Plainfield High School PTA will be hosting the 18th annual Project Graduation for the 2006 graduating class. The cost for this event is quite substantial. We hold one fundraiser, our annual auction/raffle to be held on Saturday, March 11, from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.). All profits will go towards Project Graduation. Tickets are currently being sold. The price per ticket is \$10 and includes 10 raffle tickets.

This important event can not be a success without the help and support

of SPHS families, South Plainfield community organizations and our local businesses. Although we have received many generous donations, we are still in need of much more if we are to make Project Graduation happen for the Class of 2006. Please support this worthwhile cause by making a donation of either gift items or money.

Donations can be sent to South Plainfield High School, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, Attn: SPHS PTA. Please make checks payable to SPHS PTA-Project Graduation.

Gift items must be received by March 4 in order to be used for our

auction. We are also in need of additional volunteers to help the day of the auction with either set-up, ticket sales or clean up.

If you are a SPHS family and have already pledged your support of a donation through our recent telethon, please insure we receive your donations no later than March 4.

To arrange for items to be picked up directly from your home or business, to purchase auction tickets, or to be an auction volunteer, please contact the high school's main office, Pat Anderson, Ellen Melanson or Sharon Miller. The Class of 2006 and the SPHS PTA sincerely appreciate your support!

IRS Warnings on Tax Return Preparer Fraud

Return preparer fraud generally involves the preparation and filing of false income tax returns by preparers who claim inflated personal or business expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions on returns prepared for their clients. Preparers may also manipulate income figures to obtain tax cred-

its, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, fraudulently.

In some situations, the client (taxpayer) may not have knowledge of the false expenses, deductions, exemptions and/or credits shown on their tax returns. However, when the IRS detects the false return, the taxpayer — not the return preparer — must

pay the additional taxes and interest and may be subject to penalties.

While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, the IRS urges taxpayers to be very careful when choosing a tax preparer. Taxpayers should be as careful as they would be in choosing a doctor or a lawyer. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares a tax return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

Hints when choosing a preparer:

- Be careful with tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund.
- Use a reputable tax professional who signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.
- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return months, or even years, after the return has been filed.
- Review your return before you sign it and ask questions on entries you don't understand.
- Never sign a blank tax form.

Tax evasion is a risky crime, a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

For more information on how to report suspected tax fraud and abusive tax preparers, call 1 (800) 829-0433.

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School Budget Presentations Announced

A presentation by Superintendent of School Robert Rosado of the 2007 School Board Budget, which voters will ask to approve on April 18, will be held on the dates listed below. The public is asked to try to attend one of these meetings to better understand what they will be voting for or against. School Board Business Administrator Donna Tolley or Budget Consultant Bob Davis, will accompany Dr. Rosado. The following groups will be addressed:

- *Music Boosters* on Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- *Riley School* on Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m.
- *Future Stars Parent Group/Special Education Parent Group* on Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Roosevelt Administration Building Gymnasium.
- *Knights of Columbus* on Tuesday, March 7 at 8 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall.
- *Kennedy School* on Wednesday, March 8 at 7 p.m.
- *Athletic Boosters* on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.
- *High School* on Thursday, March 16 at 7 p.m. in the media center.
- *Middle School* on Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m.
- *Franklin School* on Tuesday, April 3 at 7 p.m.
- *Grant School* on Wednesday, April 5 at 7 p.m.
- *Roosevelt School* on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.
- *Senior Group* on Thursday, April 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.

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Around Town

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, 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.

Rotary 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'oeuvres and dessert will be served.

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

So. Plfd. (Pop Warner) Football Meeting

February 28

The South Plainfield Football Club (Pop Warner) is asking all members and residents interested in the football/cheerleading program to at-

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

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What's happening in FEBRUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance 6 to 10pm * * * Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - "Charlie's Aunt" March 23 • 10am departure				BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available 24
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am 27	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am 28	Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm Atlantic City Trip 9am 1	Shop Pathmark 9am Tax Preparation 9-12 Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm 2	BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available Tax Preparation 9am to noon 3
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

tend a special meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

On hand will be both Suburban Youth Football League and Pop Warner Mountain Valley Conference representatives to answer any questions or concerns members may have. The club strongly feels football parents should attend. Please call the field house for further information.

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.

Suburban Woman's Club Meeting

March 2

The March 2 meeting of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club is what we all need to get ready for spring.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Perry Wolk-Weiss and his subject is "Finding the Fountain of Youth." He will not give the directions to Florida to search for Ponce DeLeon, but rather assist with practical information gleaned from his education and practice at the Wellness Center in Bound Brook.

Join us at the American Legion Post on 243 Oak Tree Ave. in South Plainfield. For refreshments and coffee provided by our hostesses Mary Ann Innitto and June Flannery.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. See you there!

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.

VFW Country Breakfast

March 5

VFW Post #6763 will hold a Country Breakfast on Sunday, March 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. Donation is \$5 for adults and children 12 years and under \$3. Proceeds benefit VA Hospital at Lyons. The public is invited.

For additional information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and noon on weekends.

SPHS PTA Auction/Raffle

March 11

South Plainfield High School PTA will sponsor an Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 11 to support the Class of 2006. Admission tickets are now on sale and nearly sold out. Prizes this year include: laptop computer, plasma TV, Xbox 360, Broadway Theater tickets, Yankee tickets, gas grill, variety of gift certificates, theme baskets and much more. Admission is \$10. Call for your tickets now. Call Ellen Melanson at 756-3731 or Pat Anderson at 756-6512. Limited quantity of tickets left. There will be no tickets on sale at the door.

— Out of Town —

Gospel Concert at Stelton A.M.E. 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. 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@gswr.com.

Raise Our Voices Concert for Israel

February 26

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County will present its fourth annual Raise Our Voices Concert for Israel at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple, in New Brunswick on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m.

Admission is \$25 and tickets can be purchased online at www.jewish-middlesex.org. For more information call (732) 432-7711 ext.

Adoption Support Group CHATS

February 27

Adoption Support CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield. Sharing meetings as well as a welcome celebration for a new adoptee; light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 for information.

Support Group for Russian Speaking

February 27

The Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County will begin a new group for individuals who seek support in their efforts to adapt to a new lifestyle and overcome obstacles such as language barriers and acculturation issues.

Discussions will support education, cultural and vocational success. Sessions are held every fourth Monday of the month at 4 p.m. The next session is Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. at 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201 in Edison.

If interested, please call Tatiana Larina at (732) 777-1940.

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Peppermint Puppeteers Caroll Saks and Lois Mettler with student volunteer Valerie Cecchetti.

Puppets Teach Kennedy School Kids About Recycling

By Jane Dornick

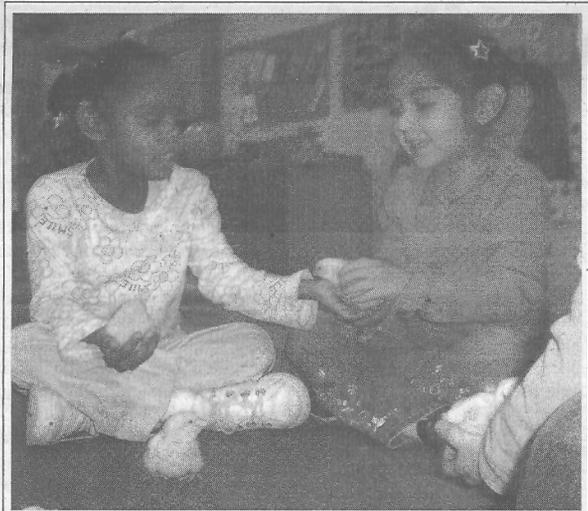
The Peppermint Puppeteers recently performed their widely acclaimed environmental play "Happy Earth Day, Zapman!" at J. F. Kennedy Elementary School. The presentation highlighted recycling, litter abatement, storm drain protection and source reduction and was funded by the PTSO and the South Plainfield Clean Communities program. It featured an exciting story line, a cast of lovable, zany puppets, actors, upbeat music, special black light effects and lots of audience participation.

Written and performed by the Peppermint Puppeteers, Caroll Saks and Lois Mettler, the show is endorsed by the NJDEP and educators and gov-

ernment officials throughout the state. The Puppeteers strive to make learning a fun experience and judging from the audience response, everyone had a great time and learned something valuable in the process.

Established in 1977, the Peppermint Puppeteers travel to hundreds of schools each year. Additional shows in their extensive repertoire include assembly programs on such topics as health, drug awareness, conflict resolution, self-esteem and cultural diversity. They also offer fantasy themes for holidays and special events.

For more information on their shows call (201) 573-0800 or check their website at www.peppermint-puppeteers.com.



Theresa Hardy (left) and Isabella Mosquera (right) affectionately hold baby chicks recently hatched at Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center. This is an annual event at the school.

Riley Students Get a Lesson in Good Nutrition

By Jane Dornick

Riley Elementary School students recently had the pleasure of seeing a performance by FoodPlay productions, an Emmy Award winning live theater show that combined fantastic feats of juggling, captivating music, magic and audience participation with motivating health messages to help children take charge of growing up healthy and fit.

Founded in 1982 by Barbara Storper, MS, RD, a leader in the field of children's nutrition, FoodPlay Productions has spread its message of good health to over two million school children across the country.

The program is a science based program with proven results that dramatically improving the nutrition and health knowledge, attitudes and behavior of children of all ages. FoodPlay for elementary schools hopes to counter the increasingly poor eating and exercise habits of the nation's youth. Addressing the major nutrition, fitness, and self-esteem concerns affecting today's school children, the performance provides kids with the practical tools they need to improve their eating and exercise habits—all in a spirit of fun and celebration!

Follow-up nutrition activity kits were provided as fun-filled supplementary materials for students, parents and teachers.

For more information on FoodPlay call (800) FoodPlay to find out more!

Randolph Will Donate Historical Books to Library

The book, *Looking Back at South Plainfield* will be presented to the library by four generations of the Randolph family, including the author himself, Larry Randolph. The presentation ceremony will take place at the South Plainfield Library on Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

This book is a series of articles written by Larry Randolph between 1986 and 1990. They chronicle a small, but tantalizing, part of the rich history of the villages of New Brooklyn and Samptown, rural communities of historic Piscataway Township, and forerunners of South Plainfield.

The public is invited to attend.

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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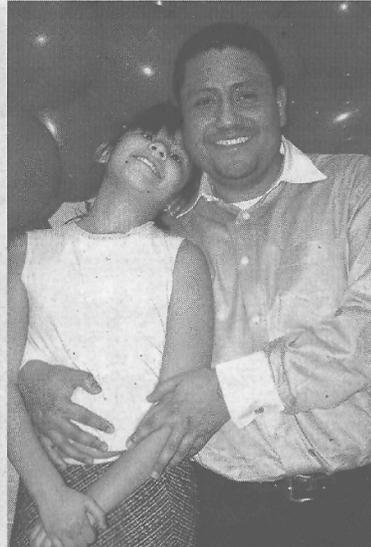
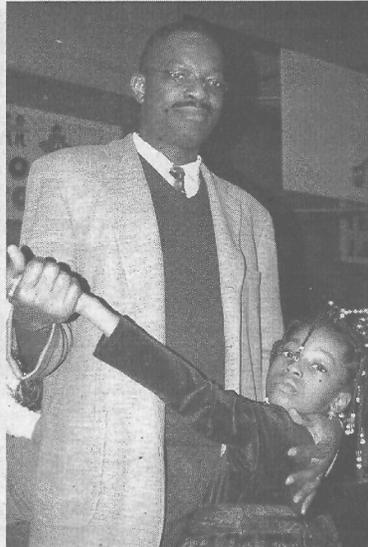
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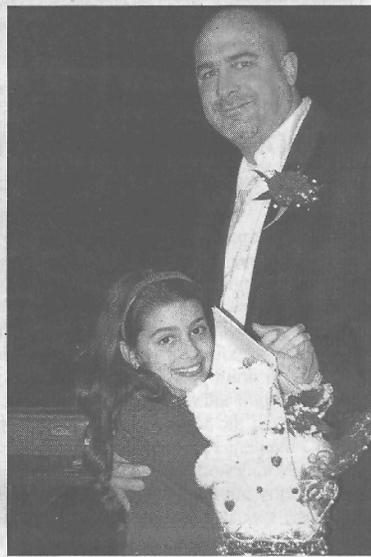
Riley School Girls Share Sweetheart Of an Evening with their Dads

By Patricia Abbott

The Riley School Sweetheart Dance on Feb. 17 brought over 150 dads and daughters together to celebrate Valentine's Day. The young ladies attire ranged from casual to pint-sized prom wear. Upon their arrival, the young ladies ditched their shoes and dads and hit the dance floor. The gym became a whirlwind of music and motion. The slow songs brought on those special "Kodak moments" with daddy and daughters on the dance floor.

The evening included a deejay, Polaroid photos of the girls and their 'dates' and a table full of goodies, including veggies, chips and a wide array of Valentine confections. There was a 50/50 drawing and gift baskets. Every child had her name entered for a chance to win a prize. The annual dance was sponsored by the PTSO.

At evening's end the dads put shoes back on small feet and took their weary, but happy best girls home. It was a sweetheart of an evening that produced the kind of memories that last a lifetime.



Curves to Participate in Annual Food Drive

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

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

To celebrate the generosity of the community, Curves is waiving its normal service fee for any new member who brings in a bag of non-perish-

able groceries and joins between Feb. 27 and March 11. Last year more than 251,000 new members joined Curves during the food drive.

Others wishing to donate may drop off non-perishable food items at Curves Monday through Saturday during business hours through the month of March.

"The Curves Food Drive promotion is always exciting," said Elissa and Jerri, co-owners of the South Plain-

field club. "We have a chance to help so many people at a time when the food banks are lowest, while we assist more women in reaching their fitness and weight loss goals. It's a win-win situation for everyone, and we're very proud to participate."

With nearly 10,000 locations worldwide, Curves is the largest fitness and the fastest growing franchise company in history. Curves is located at 27 South Plainfield Ave.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello again! It's time for more news from the South Plainfield Library. We've got several programs to tell you about, so let's get right to it:

Dayel Giammarino of "Creative Memories" will be leading a series of scrapbooking programs here at the library. The programs will be held on Monday, Feb. 27; Monday, March 13 and Monday, April 24. Each class starts at 7 p.m. Participants should bring three photos; all other materials will be provided. The programs are being presented free of charge. Space is limited, so you must sign up in advance. Next week, we'll stick with our usual schedule of children's programs. Our Storytime programs, for children ages three and over, will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Our "Time for 2's & 3's" program, for children age two and three, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and Thursday evening at 6:30. And our "Books-N-Babies" program, for children up to age three, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour; no pre-registration is required. Please check with Miss Linda for more details.

Our informal Knitting Club will be held on Thursday evening at 7:30. Participants of all ages and skill levels are welcome; no pre-registration necessary. To find out more, you can ask Miss Linda again. And look for more knitting news below.

We'll be hosting the historical program, "Abigail Adams: Remember the Ladies" on Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theater will appear as Abigail Adams, basing her performance on Mrs. Adams' own correspondences.

The program will be presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required. It's being sponsored by the South Plainfield Historical Society, and is being offered through the Horizons Speaker Bureau of the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Our next Practical Crafting program will be held on Monday, March 6. There will be two sessions: 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making Origami gift boxes, using paper folding techniques. Participants are asked to bring a ruler, a pencil and a glue stick. Space is limited for this program, so you must register in advance. There's a \$1 materials fee, payable upon registration.

We'll be sponsoring a Knit-Along program for three consecutive weeks in March. It'll be held on three consecutive Mondays on March 13, 20 and 27. Each session starts at 10:30 a.m. Ronda Wisniewski will lead this program where participants will learn the basic skills needed to knit a scarf. There's no charge for the program, but you must register in advance. Please call us for more details.

Finally, a non-program reminder: Unless you actually work at the library, please do not park in the spaces marked as being for library staff, even on Court Day. When an unauthorized driver parks there, not only does it rob a staff member of a small but important perk of the job, it's a violation of the law. Make no mistake; we'll call this in and have you ticketed, if that's what it takes.

That's about all for now. Get further details by calling us at (908) 754-7885, or by checking our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. See you next Friday, weather permitting.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Stanislaos Celebrate 60th Anniversary



Sam Stanislaos, formerly of 112 Hillside Ave., and Angelina Rose Pompilio of Plainfield were married on Feb. 2, 1946. The couple resided in South Plainfield for a number of years before moving to North Plainfield. Mr. and Mrs. Stanislaos currently live in a retirement community in Lakewood.

Andrea Lacerda Earns Top Realtor Awards

Andrea Lacerda has earned membership into the elite New Jersey Association of Realtors Distinguished Sales Club. Membership is granted to a realtor who has earned the NJAR Circle of Excellence Sales Award or NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club Award for a period of not less than 10 years.

Since becoming a realtor and joining Century 21 Moretti Realty in 1995, Lacerda has consistently earned NJAR and Century 21 sales and listing awards. This past year, 2005, is the fourth year she has qualified for the NJAR Gold Level award. She also earned recognition from Century 21 on the Double Centurion level.

Realizing the value customers receive from a team approach, in 1998 she partnered with her husband Jesse Lacerda to form the Lacerda Team. "The Lacerda Team's approach has always been to put our clients needs first. As a result our team has received



Andrea Lacerda

repeated client business year after year," stated Lacerda.

Giving back to the community is a vital part of Lacerda's philosophy. She is currently vice president of the Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., founded by a group of realtors from Century 21 Moretti Realty. The Foundation has raised over a quarter of a million dollars since its inception in 2000.

A former banker, Lacerda lives in South Plainfield with her husband Jesse, also a trustee of Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation Inc. and a realtor with Century 21 Moretti Realty.

Silhanek Named to Fairleigh Dickinson Dean's List

Jennifer L. Silhanek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Silhanek has been named to the Academic Dean's List for the Fall Semester, 2005 at Fairleigh Dickinson University Becton College of Arts and Sciences,

Madison Campus in Madison. The university requirement for Academic Dean's List status is to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher. Jennifer is majoring in psychology and is pursuing a career in occupational therapy.

TSANJ Accepting Scholarship Applications Through April 26

The Board of Directors of Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey (TSANJ) has announced that they are accepting applications for the 2006 TSANJ Scholarship Award.

The scholarship award will be presented to a resident of New Jersey who is a public or private high school senior, who has been diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, and will attend college or trade school in the fall.

The scholarship recognizes a student with TS who has a proven record of accomplishment and achievement despite the disorder. The recipient will be selected based on academic record, recommendations and a written essay or audio or videotape demonstrating the individual's talents.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship should call the TSANJ office at (908) 575-7350 or visit the website at www.tsanj.org. Applications are due by April 26, 2006.

The 2006 Scholarship has been funded through the generosity of TSANJ supporters. The award is presented annually. Individuals interested in supporting the scholarship should forward the contribution to Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc., 50 Division Street, Suite 205, Somerville, NJ 08876. Checks should note that the contribution is to be made to the scholarship fund.

Tourette Syndrome (TS) is an inherited neurological disorder that is manifested in involuntary physical and vocal tics. Symptoms generally appear before an individual is 18 years old. TS affects people of all ethnic groups with males affected three to four times more frequently than females. It is estimated that 200,000 Americans have full blown TS and that as many as one in 200 show a partial expression of the disorder. There is no cure.

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Monday Afternoon Club Hosts Woman's Club

The mid-year council meeting of the Sixth District of the Federated Woman's Club of New Jersey was hosted by the Monday Afternoon Club at the Crescent Avenue Church last month.

Mary Ann Iannitto, of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club presided at the meeting. Mary Ann Iannitto is the vice president of South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club and the NJSEWC Sixth District vice president.

Carol Hannon, past president NJSEWC was a special guest. The speakers were Roxanne Douglas, State Arts/Performing Chairman; Judie Gargano, vice president of the NJSEWC and Sarah Miller, State Special Project chairman. They presented an engrossing and interesting afternoon.

Also present were Program Assistance Chairman, Jane Pullaro. Marie Teleposky, district assistance chairman called upon program club chairman to share program information with the rest of the members.

Representing South Plainfield's club were Frieda Walker, June Flannery and Beverly Montwid.

Metuchen Diocese to Host "Life in Spirit" Seminar

The Diocese of Metuchen Charismatic Renewal Steering Committee will be sponsoring a "Life in the Spirit Seminar" on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (on both days), at St. John Neumann Center, 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway.

Father Bill Halbing and Father Tom Ganley will concelebrate the Liturgy Mass on Sunday, March 12 at 3 p.m. in the Chapel.

Guest speakers will include Father Robert Santa Barbara, Msgr. Ray Cole, Father Ed Abano, Doris Bren-



Lisa Olim (left), winner of the Valentine's Day Contest sponsored by Corner Deli and Mohn's Flowers, smiles as Debbie Perry of Corner Deli delivers a Valentine's dinner and a dozen roses from Mohn's Flowers.

'Abigail Adams' Will Visit South Plainfield Library

On Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m., the South Plainfield Historical Society will present a special program at the South Plainfield Library located on Plainfield Ave.

Kim Hanley, of the American Historical Theatre, will be presenting, "Abigail Adams, Remember the Ladies." The program is free of charge and offered through the Horizons Speaker Bureau of the NJ Council for the Humanities, a state partner of

the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Ms. Hanley uses the written words of Abigail and John Adams as the framework for her recounting of Abigail's extraordinary life. Although John and Abigail Adams spent most of the years during the War for American Independence apart, their prolific letter writing kept this remarkable couple in constant communication. From her interest in her husband's work with Congress, to the day to day matters of life on the family farm in Braintree, Abigail's letters stand as a testimony to the power of womanhood in the 18th century. Although she claimed her role in life to be that of wife and mother, the occupations of farmer, real estate broker, accountant and merchant could be attributed to Mrs. John Adams. Her advocacy of American Independence included strong arguments for equality for all Americans. In admonishing her husband to "...remember the ladies..." she clearly voiced the need for women's education and the abolition of slavery.

For further information, see the Historical Society's web site Geocities.com/sphistoricalociety or contact the Library at (908) 754-7885.

Celebrations-Planning Not All There!

The South Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 28 concerning the construction by Edgewood Properties of 484 dwelling units on 27 acres, formerly property owned by Tingley Rubber Company. All concerned residents should attend.

As a result of joint efforts by the Governing Body and the Planning Board, Ordinance 1685 was proposed and adopted. Since 10 acres are 'wetlands,' only 17 acres were available for the proposed housing site, creating a density of almost 29 units per acre. Thus the builder has been granted considerable privileges since the proposal was first brought forth nearly two years ago. Since then Planning Board hearings have answered some questions, avoided others and heard new ones.

Some of the objections we have recognized include the following:

- The project would contain 968 bedrooms. If all occupants are licensed drivers, there will be hundreds of additional cars.

- The applicant's experts claim that approximately 1,000 parking spaces would be required. Whereas the experts claim approximately 80 cars would be leaving for work around 8 a.m., we believe that number would be well into the hundreds and that the number of parking spaces to accommodate these autos would be wholly insufficient to fill the projected needs. Equally inadequate is space for expansion should there be a need for additional parking.

- The writers of the ordinance, for some reason, saw it necessary to require that garbage should be collected in areas with solid fences and gates. Although the ordinance clearly specifies that this "shall" be done, the developer chooses to have garbage collected indoors. This may have some good points, but he must first get a variance to deviate from this requirement. It was explained by a representative of the applicant that a proper turning area would be inadequate for large trucks. Collection on-site would be made by smaller vehicles capable of operating on the size restricted roads. With garbage collection and parking being included on first floor, would fire proof protection be required in garage overhead? The main reason changing the garbage collection locations is probably because outside it would take up too much space and decrease the area needed for parking spaces.

- To gain square footage for building, width of roads have been cut drastically. By their own admission, interior roads are not sufficiently wide enough for a full sized garbage truck to operate on the site. If the garbage truck cannot operate on these roads, how can they expect to get moving vans and delivery trucks and other service vehicles on to this site? Can these interior roads provide sufficient access to the number of vehicles responding to an emergency

situation? Will there be enough room for a school bus?

- Who removes snow at this development? As mentioned, large trucks

FROM THE Senior Men's FORUM

By Anthony Mondoro
Editors Note: Anthony Mondoro is a member of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum will periodically submit columns on their views and opinions. If you would like to know more about the group, call (908) 754-7410.

would operate with difficulty due to narrow roads and roadside parking. The biggest problem would, where do you push the snow to as there is no unused space anywhere on the site.

- The ordinance allows that 10% of units shall be reserved for affordable housing. This would mean 48 units with 96 bedrooms will be designated for affordable housing. This has not been discussed

at the public hearings. There should be some explanation given to answer if children of school age would be allowed in these units. While on the school issue, another question arises. Would the borough be required to provide education privileges for children who are only temporary residents?

- Roads in this area are in poor condition—most are of a temporary nature. McKinley St., West and South avenues to the railroad are the worst and will not hold up under heavy load. The developer should be required to improve these roads.

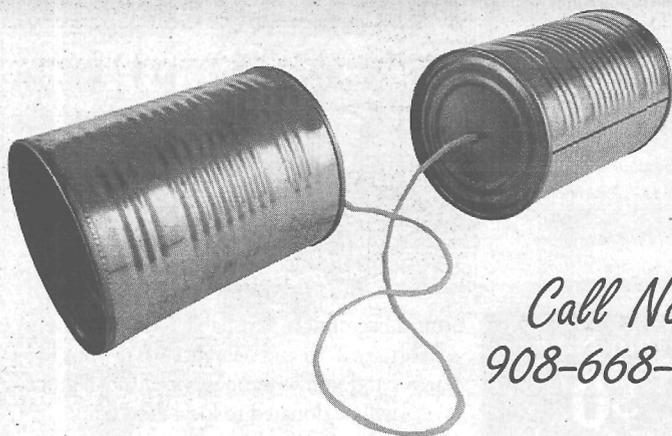
- The crossing at South Ave. is not heavily used at present and is now unguarded. When the project is built there will be considerable more traffic. The applicant knows that to get the necessary approval for a guarded crossing will require a long, costly and involved process. They are creating the problem, they should solve it. South Ave. has two sets of rails. In this area, when two trains meet, one train pulls into the siding and stops while the other passes. The crossing therefore is blocked for a period of time. Possibly a warning signal should be placed at Durham and McKinley to advise drivers to take an alternate route.

- Mayor Gallagher has stated an additional truck with a capacity to fight a fire in a four-story building would be needed. The cost of new equipment, a building to house it and a parcel of land, well located would require quite a large investment. With our volunteer fire department needing more help, it may not be long before we need a paid fire department.

- Ordinance allows the developer to build four story buildings, but the basic problem facing this project is the fact that they just cannot fit 484 units with all the other necessary requirements, sensibly, onto 17 acres of buildable land.

Again as we previously mentioned, the Governing Body and the Planning Board have been very generous to this applicant, allowing him density and coverage normally unheard of in a project of this type. It is now important that they require him to acknowledge the problems he is creating and assume responsibility to resolve them.

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Sports

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Baseball try-outs for Small Fry Leagues are scheduled for March 4 at the PAL. Try-out notification cards listing try-out times will be sent out this week. The SPJBC will be hosting a coaches clinic on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. The coaches clinic will be put on by Bill Lehman from Strike Zone. Small Fry children, parents and coaches are encouraged to attend. The next SPJBC Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. course will be held on March 23 at the clubhouse. Please call

the SPJBC at 908-754-2090 to register.

The SPJBC is looking for volunteers for the 2006 season. In particular, the SPJBC needs Snack Stand captains. Anyone interested in being a Snack Stand Captain is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail the club at www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com.

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



Parks Department Seeks Players for Annual Tourney

The Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking players for its annual Board of Chosen Freeholders Basketball Tournament which starts March 6.

This year's tournament will be held at the Middlesex County Vocational School, 221 Sutton Ln. in Piscataway. This single elimination tournament will consist of four divisions; the Youth Division 1 (boys and girls age 12 and under); Youth Division 2 (boys and girls age 13 to 14); Youth Division 3 (boys and girls age 15 to 17) and Adult Men's Division (18 and up).

Registration is a \$50 per team entry fee. Checks can be made payable to: Treasurer, Middlesex County and mailed to Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Dept., PO Box 661, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, Attn: Erin Carroll.

For further information, please contact Erin Carroll at (732) 745-4222 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Junior Baseball Accepting Scholarship Applications

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for our college scholarships. Applications may be picked up at the guidance department at SPHS or by contacting the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduat-

ing high school student this June, be a South Plainfield resident, and must have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years.

Please note that the filing deadline is April 1. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Wrestling

By Bob Hunter

Tigers Retain State Championship

(Continued from page 1)

stood strong against a heavily favored opponent in a 5-0 loss that was much closer than the scoreboard indicated. Despite dropping those two bouts, South Plainfield denied Ocean the bonus points they knew they needed in those two bouts and essentially keep the momentum in the Tigers favor.

Nick Dorey got the Tigers rolling again at 140, when he scored a big fall against Maverick Nunes-Vais at 3:53. Eddie McCray essentially shut the door for the Tigers against Ocean's Chris Bannon at 145. McCray built an early lead before scoring the fall at 3:37, giving South Plainfield a 34-10 lead. Sam Martin then lost an (8-7) decision to Joe Falco 8-7 at 152, at which point the match was won. The Tigers then forfeited the next three weights to win the match 34-31.

But the suspense was not over as High Point was beating Central Re-

gional 32-30 in the last bout of the match. As South Plainfield watched from the side of the mat, the Central wrestler was winning by three as the seconds ticked down. But the High Point wrestler escaped, then got a takedown to tie the score as time ran out.

All of the Tiger wrestlers started to cheer on the High Point wrestler when he won in the fourth overtime period. That win set up the highly anticipated rematch with High Point, who had knocked South Plainfield out of the number one spot earlier in the season.

With revenge on their minds, the Tigers came out roaring with the match starting at heavyweight. Billy Daly started things off for South Plainfield, losing to Kyle Jorritsma by a 3-0 decision. Patrick Hunter then got the Tigers going at 103, when he secured a major decision victory over Tyler Forbeck by a score of 12-1, giv-

ing them a lead they never gave up. Robert Gentile was in a battle with John Scalise at 112, but came up short dropping a 1-0 decision. Billy Ashnault came out on fire at 119, taking down Shane Bossma and putting him straight to his back several times before scoring the technical fall 17-0 at 5:37. Jimmy Conroy, who beat Gavin Tarsa 3-1 in their first meeting at 125, took it right to him and scored a 12-2 major decision to increase the Tiger lead to 13-3. Bryan Hunt also redeemed his earlier loss to Greg Case by winning an exciting 5-1 decision. The paybacks kept coming as Mike Jakubik got his revenge, winning a wild 10-9 decision over Greg Martin at 135, who had pinned Jakubik in their first encounter.

This gave the Tigers a 16 point lead. Nick Dorey then came through with another big win at 140 when he took a 3-0 decision over Connor Perdisatt, which increased the lead to 19. High Point tried to kill the Tiger momentum by forfeiting to Eddie McCray at 145. The move did not work because Sam Martin pinned Steve D'Amato at 4:45 in the 152 bout, getting revenge for his loss in the first match they wrestled. Mark Wagner and Jon Conroy both dropped close 8-7 and 5-0 matches respectively at 160 and 171. The Tigers forfeited to Alex Dalrymple at 189 and Preston Johnson lost a close 2-0 decision to end the match.

The final outcome was a 34-21 victory for South Plainfield and a second consecutive New Jersey Group III State Championship.

This was South Plainfield's fourth State Group title in seven seasons since winning the Group II title in 2000.

Congratulations and good luck to all Tiger wrestlers and coaches as they try to win their 22nd consecutive District 12 title at home as the road to the Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall begins this weekend.

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Business Association Plans May Golf Outing

The South Plainfield Business Association is sponsoring their 9th Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, May 2 at the Cranbury Gold Club in West Windsor.

Entry fee includes the 18-hole event, use of locker room, green fees and cart; continental breakfast; complimentary beverage cart, hot dog and chips "at the turn," open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a BBQ luncheon. Casual attire. No metal spikes may be worn on the greens.

Prizes will be awarded for hole-in-one prize, the longest drive, closest to the pin (two holes), low gross, low net and the most honest golfer.

The day starts with registration and a continental breakfast from 8 until 8:45 a.m. The shotgun start will be-

gin at 9 p.m. and the open bar begins at 2 p.m. The BBQ luncheon starts at 2:30 p.m. and the day comes to a close with the 3:30 award ceremony.

The entry fees are as follows: Corporate-Eagle (includes foursome/flag/tee) \$1,000, Birdie (includes twosome/tee) \$500; individual golfer \$125 and BBQ luncheon only is \$50.

Corporate underwriter cost is: breakfast sponsor \$250, beverage cart sponsor \$250, flag first and 18th green \$175, flag second-17th green \$125 and tee sign \$100.

RSVP by April 22. For more information or to donate a door prize, call Bob Longo at (908) 753-7004 or Ed Koznowicz at (908) 754-8900.

policereport

• On Feb. 14 Irlando Monterroso, 24, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, brake light out, having fraudulent documents and an outstanding warrant.

• Lucas Brothers Paving reported the theft of three traffic signs and a plastic breakaway barricade from the intersection of Hamilton Blvd. and St. Nicholas Ave.

• On Feb. 17 Dashon Rashid Graves, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no registration in possession and an outstanding warrant.

• Richard Marquis Fowlkes, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

• Paul L. Russell, 41, of Pennington was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and improper display of plates.

• On Feb. 19 Julio A. Jimenez, 30, of Perth Amboy was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, no insurance and failure to exhibit a valid registration.

• John McGarry, 62, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to keep right, open

or unseal alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle and reckless driving.

• On Feb. 20 an employee of AC Dental on Stelton Rd. reported that their rear window had been damaged.

• On Feb. 21 a Bellew Pl. resident reported that a window on the side of their home had been broken.

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Andean Music and Dance With Andina Roots

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey will present a performance of Andean Music and Dance with Andina Roots at McGinnis School in State St. in Perth Amboy on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m.

Andina Roots, of Plainfield has presented the culture and the spirituality of the indigenous and mestizo cultures of the Andes region since 1992. Using traditional instruments, some of pre-Columbian origin, regional folk dress, and lively dance, the musicians and dancers in the troupe cul-

ivate their heritage and share the true soul of the native peoples of South America with the American public.

Andean Music and Dance is offered free of charge, however registration is required. To attend, contact Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission (732) 745-4489. Persons with hearing disabilities may call (732) 745-3888 (TTY users only), or 711, the New Jersey Relay System.

McGinnis School is an accessible site; an assistive listening system is available and will be in use during the program.

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 1724

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

Ord. 1722 entitled: AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR AND ESTABLISHING SAID COMPENSATION FOR POSITION was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, February 24, 2006 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE 1724

AN ORDINANCE CREATING EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD AND ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR SAID POSITION

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. The rates of compensation for each employee of the Borough of South Plainfield shall be on an annual basis as follows except where indicated. Such rates of pay shall be effective on January 1st of the years shown.

POSITION	
ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR	40,500-50,500

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY - All ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE - This ordinance shall become effective and operative ten days after the publication thereof after final passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$76.00 February 24, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 1723

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

Ord. 1723 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING LEFT HAND TURNS FROM THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 528 LOT 47.08 presently White Castle) ONTO STELTON ROAD was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, February 24, 2006 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1723

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING LEFT HAND TURNS AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that no person shall be permitted to make a left hand turn at the following location listed:

A. Property known as Block 528, Lot 47.08 (White Castle) onto Stelton Road.

Penalty for violation of said ordinance shall be provided by New Jersey Statute.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication and adoption in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$43.70 February 24, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

February 15, 2006
Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on February 14, 2006.

A. The Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield authorizes THP, Inc. to conduct a comprehensive re-examination of the Borough's Master Plan and to prepare a report to the Board advising of their findings.

B. Case # 690—Anthony Frieri, Block 359; Lots 1 & 8; 1124 Belmont Avenue. The applicant's request for site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case # 05-07—Gem Estates, Inc. Block 81; Lot 19; 2518 Woodland Avenue. The applicant's request for minor sub division approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Knidre
Secretary/Planning Board

\$36.00 February 24, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 1721

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

Ord. 1721 entitled: AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE #1215 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NO LEFT TURN REGULATIONS ON MAPLE AVENUE" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$24.70 February 24, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE 1722

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

Ord. 1722 entitled: AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING CERTAIN STOP INTERSECTIONS AS STOP INTERSECTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR A STOP SIGN AT THESE INTERSECTIONS was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, Municipal Clerk

\$24.00 February 24, 2006



AIDA SANTOS
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

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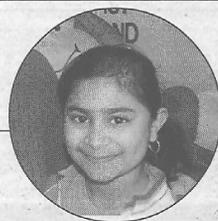
My Family's Life

By Amy Ramjatan

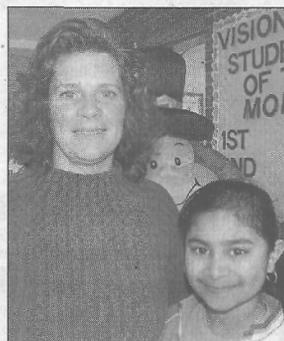
What is your family like? Are they respectful, caring, truthful, helpful or honest? My family is always like that. They take good care of me when I am sick, upset or lonely. My family appreciates me and I appreciate them too, because they are always there for me when I need them. The family that I live with is always quiet, not noisy, and they mind their own business. My family never says bad things about people because my family cares about people. They have a good heart for people and good minds because they want everyone to live a good life. Whenever someone needs help, they always help them. My family is always there for people.

They want everyone to be pleased with what they have because a lot of people don't cherish what they have in life. If I need something that is really important, they get it for me whenever I need it. Sometimes when someone says bad things to someone else and the person that says it laughs, it is not funny. My family cheers that person up so they don't feel like they're the only person like that. That is why I always keep my family in my heart and my family always comes first in my mind. That is why I love my family so much!

Junior Journalist Corner



Amy Ramjatan, Riley School Fourth Grader, Named This Week's "Junior Journalist"



Riley Elementary fourth grade student, Amy Ramjatan, with her teacher, Christine Dispenzere.

Amy Ramjatan, fourth grader at Riley School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. Her story, "My Family's Life," has earned her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

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

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

Hungry? Get out your pens, pencils or hit the keys. Send in your entries and you can have dinner delivered to your house next week. Enter the Junior Journalist contest through your teachers! You've got nothing to lose!

Obituaries

Kevin C. Hoffmann, 57

Kevin C. Hoffmann died suddenly on Monday, Feb. 20 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Yonkers, New York, he married and lived in Yonkers for a short time before settling to South Plainfield in 1980.

Working in sales for many years, he was most recently working as a sales and leasing consultant for Open Road Honda in Edison.

A wonderful father to three daughters, Kevin was a huge, life-long New York Jets and Mets fan with Jets season tickets.

His parents, Charles and Mary (McEnroe) Hoffmann, have both predeceased him.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie (Tomany) Hoffmann; three daughters, Christine and her husband, Danny Mazzeo, of Easton, Pa., Michelle and her husband, Robert Wronski of Rahway and Carolyn Hoffmann of South Plainfield; a sister, Susan Hoffmann-Kagan and her husband Edward of Tabernacle, NJ and three grandchildren, Daniel, Stephanie and Emily.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

A machinist, Joe had been employed by Manning & Louis Fabricating Co. of Union before his retirement in 1975. He had previously been employed by the former Mack Truck Co. of Plainfield.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

Mr. Krajewski was predeceased by his two brothers, Walter and Stanley.

Surviving are his wife Madeline (Sucheshi); a daughter, Irene Fabry of Mechanicsburg, Pa.; a son, Joseph M. Krajewski of South Plainfield and two grandchildren, Donna and Thomas.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

and his wife Mary of Bridgewater and Kenneth and his wife Brenda of South Plainfield and grandchildren, John Ribar and his wife Matia of Florida, Maria and her husband John Sevelle of Bridgewater and Keith and Kendall Ribar of South Plainfield. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren, Alex John and John Anthony.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's name can be made to the Scott Ribar Scholarship Fund, c/o South Plainfield High School Booster Club, 200 Lake Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Mary R. (Manko) Ribar, 91

Mary R. (Manko) Ribar died on Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank.

Born and raised in the Scranton area of Pennsylvania, Mary lived in Newark, West Keansburg, South Plainfield and Florida before settling in Middletown in 1986.

She worked for General Motors in Clark as an inspector for 25 years, retiring in 1971. Upon her retirement, Mrs. Ribar was a homemaker who loved spending time with her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren, and she also enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

Mary is predeceased by her husband, Rudolph, who died in 1986; grandson Scott Ribar and by all of her brothers and sisters.

Surviving are two sons, Rudolph Jr.

Jacqueline A. (Toffey) Loibl, 62

Jacqueline A. (Toffey) Loibl died on Thursday, Feb. 16 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune.

Mrs. Loibl spent most of her life in Rahway before moving to South Plainfield more than 40 years ago.

She was a sales executive for Sea-Land Services in Jersey City for many years before retiring over 10 years ago.

An outgoing person who had a bubbly personality, Jackie always had a positive attitude on every situation, enjoyed making people smile, and had a contagious laugh.

Mrs. Loibl will be sadly missed by her loving husband and dear friends.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Joseph A. Krajewski, 92

Joseph A. Krajewski died on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at Genesis Eldercare-The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Old Forge, Pa., Mr. Krajewski had resided there until 1941 when he settled in South Plainfield.

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