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Meet the BOE Candidates

Roosevelt School PTSO is sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates Night" on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. in (the new) Roosevelt School Gymnasium. Come out and meet the candidates for the upcoming school board elections on April 18.

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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 29

50 CENTS

MARCH 24, 2006

GALLAGHER WILL NOT RUN AGAIN

Mayor Dan Gallagher announced at Tuesday evening's Council meeting that he will not seek re-election this November. Gallagher addressed the council and the audience with the following statement:



Mayor Dan Gallagher

"Before we adjourn, I'd like the council's indulgence to make some personal comments to the people of South Plainfield.

As most of you know, I took my first oath of office as a member of the Borough Council on

Jan. 1, 1983. I was elected Mayor in 1987 and have served in that office for 16 years. Apart from the love of my wife and children, serving as your mayor is the greatest honor of my life.

I am proud of what we together have been able to accomplish. I will not attempt to list all that has been done. Suffice it to say that we have made

South Plainfield the model of a fiscally prudent, progressive and responsive government.

As you know, this November the residents of our great borough will once again choose the person who they want to lead them as mayor for the next four years. After much reflection and consultation with my family, I have decided not to seek re-election. Although there are always new challenges to face and my love of this borough is as great today as it was 23 years ago, I want to take some time to enjoy my grandchildren and relax.

In all humility I believe that I have left this borough better off than when I was first elected, and I am confident that my successor will serve our residents well.

I am not retiring to the country. I intend to continue to serve when I can be of assistance. To paraphrase George Washington's comments upon leaving the Presidency, "I am about to assume the highest position that any individual can seek to achieve in a democracy... that of citizen."

Thank you all for your support and many kindnesses over the years."

"Apart from the love of my wife and children, serving as your mayor is the greatest honor of my life."

— Mayor Dan Gallagher, speaking about his decision not to seek re-election.



Dr. Kenneth May, SPSHS principal, Kevin Hajdu, Jimmy Conroy, Rocco Severini, Amanda Alemzohu and Taylor Mandel at "Penny Wars." See story on page 21.



Sweet Georgia Brown will perform at "An Evening of Blues, Jazz and Spirituals" on March 25.

Cultural Arts Presents Sweet Georgia Brown

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission invites one and all to an evening of blues, jazz and spirituals with the renowned blues vocalist, Sweet Georgia Brown, "Last of the Red Hot Mamas." We want to celebrate the African-American culture of New Orleans which is the source of much of the culture for which America has become world-famous.

An Evening of Blues, Jazz and Spirituals will take place on Saturday, March 25 at Wesley Methodist Church Hall, on Plainfield Ave. from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

As the debate continues over the rebuilding of the old New Orleans and the return of its previous inhabitants, we want to honor those who perished in the disaster and memorialize the artists and music that have made the old New Orleans one of the great centers of American culture. Sweet Georgia Brown was born in South Carolina, but grew up and was trained in New York City. She began her career singing pop and jazz tunes, but discovered she preferred to sing blues songs and proceeded to build a successful career as a blues vocalist.

She has starred in several Broadway musicals and has toured throughout Europe and the USA, entertaining audiences with her high energy performances of jazz, R&B, blues and gospel tunes. She has performed with Dizzy Gillespie and George Benson. For the role she has played in the entertainment industry, Georgia recently received the 2004 Jazz Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Stars are Shining at Kennedy School

By Jane Dornick

Kennedy School held a kick off assembly for their new Kennedy Rising Stars program on March 2. Students are chosen on the basis of academic improvement, promoting a positive role model, attainment of an individual goal or an act of kindness. For their efforts students receive a star with their name on it that will be placed on a bulletin board at the main entrance of the school. Children can earn more than one star. At the end of a marking period each rising star will receive a certificate and a small prize, such as a movie pass or food coupon. The prizes are being provided by the

South Plainfield Education Foundation and the Kennedy School PTSO. At the end of each marking period the school will hold a rally to announce the winners and encourage more students to rise to the occasion and shine like a star.

Receiving a star were Kyle Bythell, Lawren O'Neal, Leann DeCillis, Matthew Dolan, Melissa Gallant, Phillip Malavarca, Corinne Quadrel, Emma Regan, Hunter Higgins,

Jamie Donato, Max Rohrer, Nicholas Spadavecchia, Katherine Dolinski, Dominika Kapolka, Hunter Czarnik, Kelly O'Brien, Matt Szeman, Rebecca George, Ania Januszko, Brandon Ozbalik, Brittany Pappa, Harsh Patel, Maggie Quintanilla, Mike Polizzano, Monica Spooner, Nora Bruno, Sabrina Hemming, Shenne Dugtong, Taylor Donato, Vincent Mulhearn, Kristen Brady, Steven Colicchio, Anwar Faida, Kelly Ortiz, Mark Etwaroo and Troy Harzula.

Hall of Fame Seeks Nominees

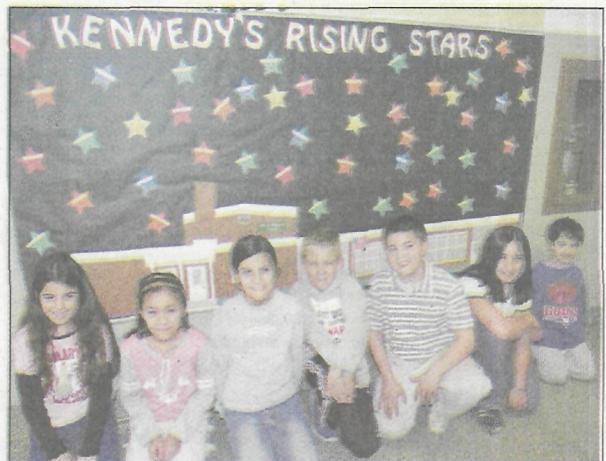
The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee is again holding their search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated from South Plainfield High School at least 15 years prior to nomination, and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution

to the world/community. Those candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual Academic Awards Program on June 6. The nominees will also have their photographs and biographies displayed on a "wall of fame" at the high school.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form should call Dr. Kenneth May at (908) 754-4620, Ext. 248 or 249.

Application deadline is April 7, 2006.



The latest additions to the new Kennedy Rising Stars program (left to right)—Juliana Reo, Vi Dong, Michelle Keane, Tucker Merkle, Scott Quiroga, Annie Pezzola and Joe Reo. Joe Reo received a star for attaining a personal goal and the other students received a star for academic improvement. The names of all of Kennedy School's Rising Stars can also be found on the school's website: kennedyelementary.com.

To subscribe, call 908-668-0010.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
April 4	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
April 17	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m. (Monday)

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

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

zoning board of adjustment

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

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

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 28.

Regular Meeting Tuesdays 8 p.m. 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 plan sub-committee

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

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

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

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.

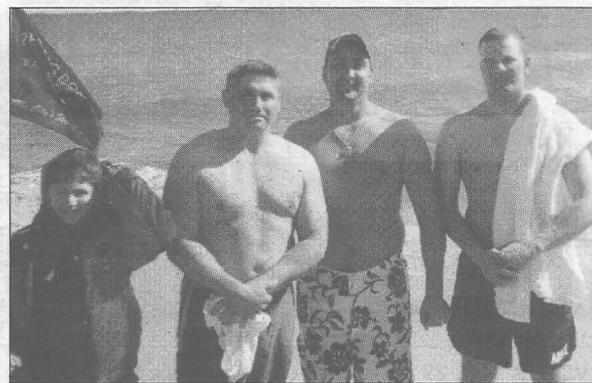
Local Cops Take the Icy Plunge

On Sunday, Feb. 26, members of the South Plainfield Police Department jumped into the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean for a great cause. It was the 13th Annual Polar Bear Plunge held at Jenkinson's in Point Pleasant.

The South Plainfield P.B.A. donated \$500 to the plunge, which benefits New Jersey Special Olympics. The Polar Bear Plunge is the single largest one-day fundraiser held in the state all year. This year, over \$600,000 was raised.

Over 3,000 people, many of them police, fire and EMS members from all over the state, took the "plunge" into the 39 degree water. The air temperature was a mild 33 degrees. An additional 5,000 people were on the beach and boardwalk to support the plungers.

"Big Joe Henry" from New Jersey 101.5 was broadcasting live from the Plunge and helped to M.C. the event. Food and hot and cold beverages were available before, during and after the



Getting ready to take the plunge for charity are Sgt. Raymond Jazikoff, Det. Wendel Born and Officers Lloyd McNelly and Pete Papa (not pictured).

Plunge, which took place at 12 noon.

"It's a great day and it's for a great cause," said Officer Brian Iarrapino. "I have been attending the Plunge for the past four years and I'm proud to be a part of a fundraiser for such a

great organization."

Sgt. Raymond Jazikoff, Detective Wendel Born, Officers Lloyd McNelly and Pete Papa, also represented the South Plainfield Police Department/P.B.A. Local 100.

Local Youth to Help Rebuild New Orleans

Stephanie, a student from South Plainfield studying at Pace University's Downtown campus, is participating in an effort to help with the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans.

She can be reached by phone at (908) 230-8091 or via email at steph-aniatackach@yahoo.com.

Stephanie is part of a larger group of more than 50 students from both Pace's campuses in downtown New York City and in Pleasantville, New York, north of the city, that has descended on New Orleans to assist in the gutting and cleaning of homes, organized by ACORN—the acronym for Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now.

ACORN is a non-profit organization that works in more than 75 cities across the United States to improve housing conditions for the economically disadvantaged, increase community safety, secure living wages for all workers and improve the quality of local schools.

The Pace students are in New Orleans from March 18-25. They are part of an outpouring of thousands of

college students from across the country working with the New Orleans chapter of ACORN this spring to help the lower income residents of New Orleans gut, clean and ultimately rebuild their homes. ACORN cleans and guts the homes entirely free of charge. More than 1,600 students will assist ACORN in the month of March alone.

The Pace students arrived in New Orleans on March 18 and will depart the March 25. They will be housed at the FEMA compound set up in Algiers, a neighborhood across the river from downtown New Orleans. The Salvation Army and The American Red Cross will provide hot meals for the volunteers at the site of the homes the students are working on day to day. The group formed after another Pace group organized by the student government reached its' capacity of 20 students.

The students are led by Dr. Christopher Malone, assistant Professor of Political Science at Pace University. A native of New Orleans, this will be Dr. Malone's third trip to New Orleans. He plans on having the Pace

students meet with their counterparts at local universities, including Dillard University and Xavier.

New Nature Center In Need of Donations

With spring cleaning fast approaching, it's a good time to consider donating your unwanted goods. Friends of the Woods, a volunteer environmental nature group right here in town is looking for new or gently used items to help furnish the new nature center in Highland Avenue Woods Nature Reserve. This reserve is available to the public and is used by 'Friends of the Woods' to conduct Walks 'n Talks programs for school children, civic groups and the general public. The new Nature Center will allow us to provide more extensive instruction.

If you have an item or have any questions, call either Dot Miele at (908) 754-3073 or Lisa Rosco at (908) 561-8280. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

South Plainfield Observer

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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 sposserver@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: sposserver@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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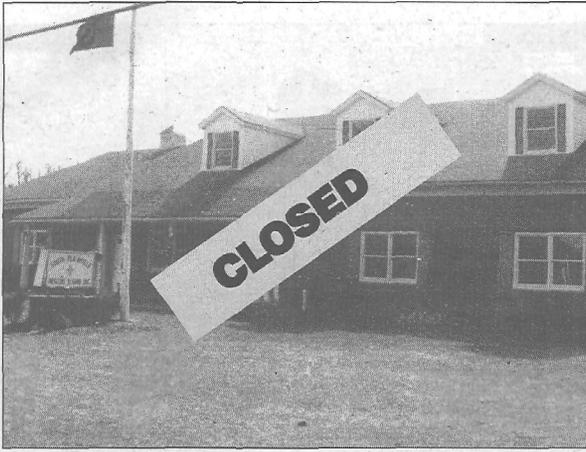
Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club

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- When: Palm Sunday, April 19, 2006
- Where: South Plainfield High School Cafeteria
- Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
- Ticket Price: \$6.00

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member.

For information, please call (908) 753-3850.



Unless the squad can find more volunteers, this sign may have to be placed in front of the rescue squad.

Residents Adopt Tompkins Ave. Open Space

Brian Zielinski, a borough resident, has signed an Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the coming year. His family has agreed to adopt the nine acres of woods and fields that lie between Tompkins Avenue and Franklin School. This land was acquired by Middlesex County from the Metuchen Diocese, in order to preserve it as open space. Home to diverse wildlife and many majestic oaks, maples and beech trees, the land has been left to its own devices. Like most vacant land in this area, it is subject to littering and illegal dumping.

Zielinski used to participate in litter cleanups around Franklin School with the Scouts. When he read an item in the local newspaper about the Adopt-A-Spot program, he contacted the CBA to see if there was an area in the vicinity that needed caretaking. CBA President Joe Diegnan was glad to find such a good match.

The Zielinski family is planning to do quarterly cleanups. They will be concentrating on the frontages along Tompkins and Clinton Avenues, but will get into the interior as time allows.

The CBA is seeking more adopters. There are many other spots in the borough that would benefit from regular maintenance. Joe Diegnan believes that if enough people commit to keeping short stretches of road clean, these efforts will add up to a better quality of life in South Plainfield.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.



Future Stars from Dot Ewing's Rainbow Room celebrated St. Patrick's Day by making hats and searching the halls for an elusive pot of gold.

South Plainfield Rescue Squad Looking for New Members

Imagine this sight: the doors of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad closing! Well, it could happen if the squad does not get any more volunteers. The current membership is working with a bare minimum of members.

Yes, it is true that there is a paid service, Rural Metro, providing the town with service during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday. However, volunteers cover the rest of the town for a total of 216 hours a week. When you think about it, that is a lot of time covered by volunteers.

The rescue squad membership is doing what they can with the members they have, but it's coming to a point that the squad is looking into the possibility of dropping the volunteer status and going with a paid squad at the taxpayers expense.

The squad has had its hardships in trying to get new members and there is no one knocking on the door. So the squad is asking everyone to please volunteer. Please consider joining the rescue squad so they can drop the paid services during the day and go back to a 24 hour a day base of volunteers.

Please feel free to call (908) 754-2343 and leave a message on the answering machine, or stop by any night after 7 p.m. And yes, we pay for your training and uniforms.

The squad would like to thank all who support them with donations and a special thanks to the mayor and council for their support in this matter.

Enjoy this issue of the Observer? Don't miss another!

To subscribe, call (908) 668-0010.

Cindy Michaels Jewelers Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Cindy Michaels Jewelers owner Ed Colucci always wanted to open his own business and after 20 years his store remains a staple in the South Plainfield community.

Born and raised in South Plainfield, Colucci worked for various jewelry stores after graduating college in 1971. In 1986, the opportunity arose and he opened up his own business on Front St. Two years ago he moved to a new location at 2325 Plainfield Ave. Ed still resides in South Plainfield with his wife, Kathy, and 14 year-old daughter, Natalie.

Colucci is a certified gemologist who specializes in identifying and evaluating gemstones for appraisal. He also repairs gold jewelry and replaces gemstones. The store offers a wide selection of 14kt gold necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings. They also take special orders. Also on display are a wide

selection of Seiko and Citizen watches.

A 20th anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a special inventory of jewelry with discounts up to 50 percent off retail prices. There will also be a drawing for a circle of love diamond pendant.

For more information call (908) 769-4264.

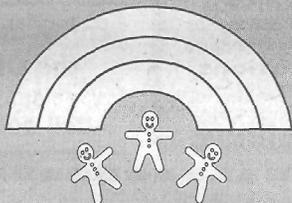
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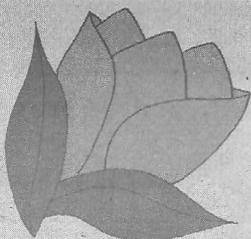
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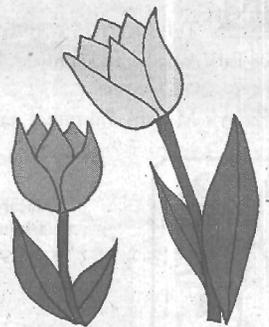


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In Search of Local History

By Dorothy Miele, Pres. South Plainfield Historical Society

"One of the remarkable things that can be noted about our town's history," writes Larry Randolph in *Looking Back at South Plainfield*, "is the stability of the population in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although the population increased at a steady rate, certain families seemed to always be present and well represented."

Among those are the Dunham, Manning, Runyon, Pyatt, Blackford, Laing, Martin, Vail, Clawson, Corriel, Lupardus, Molleson and Fitz-Randolph families, all of whom contributed significantly to the growth and development of the area.

"Descendants of all these families can still be found living in the area," notes Larry, "proof that the contributions of these early families to our town's development has not diminished with time."

Continuing that long tradition, Larry has tirelessly researched local history and has left a legacy of his own. He is a direct descendant of Edward Fitz-Randolph who settled in Massachusetts around 1630. Edward's wife, Elizabeth, and several of their children eventually moved to Piscataway in 1669. Members of this family established the first Baptist church in the area. Larry's ancestors were businessmen and landowners and took an active part in the Revolutionary War. Local folklore tells of Barzilla Randolph's brave act of defiance—picking up a rifle and shooting it at a

British military unit from his roof top as they marched along Maple Avenue. Contemporary Randolph ancestors are more accustomed to picking up a pen and inking the family genealogy, or as in Larry's case, a primer in local history.

From 1986 to 1990, Larry penned a column for *The Reporter* called "Looking Back at South Plainfield," a series of snapshots of South Plainfield's past. Forty-three of those articles were published by the South Plainfield Historical Society in 2005, with funding in part provided by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission/Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State. Richard Veit of the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University was retained as editor. Dr. Veit, a Life Member of the South Plainfield Historical Society, calls the collection "an important resource for individuals interested in local history. These historical vignettes are not the dry, dusty stuff of some history book, but rather lively recollections told in an engaging narrative style." From Native American campsites to the wars and the coming of the railroad and industry, the articles show that "South Plainfield has a rich heritage to be proud of."

Library patrons now have the opportunity to read "Looking Back at South Plainfield" by checking out a copy at the South Plainfield Free Public Library. Four generations of Randolph ancestors gathered on Febru-



Four generations representing Randolph ancestors and the South Plainfield Historical Society present the South Plainfield Free Public Library with four copies of *Looking Back at South Plainfield* and two volumes of oral histories. (Left to right): Rich Hamilton, Historical Society corresponding secretary; Library Director Sundra Randolph (no relation); Rich's mom, Irene Hamilton; author Larry Randolph, Rich's son, Joe Hamilton and Joe's son, Wyatt.

ary 27 to present Library Director, Sundra Randolph (no relation), with several copies of the book and two Historical Society publications of oral histories.

Gathered together for the presentation were the author himself, Larry Randolph, Irene Hamilton (nee Myers), her son Richard Sumner Hamilton (corresponding secretary for the Historical Society), Rich's son Joe, and Joe's son Wyatt. Irene's mother, Florence Randolph, graces the cover of the book. The photograph, taken around 1911, shows a young

girl clutching a small dog and standing in a cornfield on the family farm in South Plainfield. The time period is significant, for farming has nearly died out in the northeastern section of Piscataway Township. Soon Spicer Manufacturing, Harris Steel and other industries would move into town, creating hundreds of jobs and establishing a large blue collar workforce. In 1926, South Plainfield would split from the rural township and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Excerpts from *Looking Back at South Plainfield* and other interest-

ing information on local history are on our website: <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety>.

In a few weeks, the History Center will open at the South Plainfield Historical Society headquarters at Roosevelt School Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue. Days and hours of operation will be posted on our website, in the *Observer*, or by e-mailing sphistoricalsoc@cs.com.

Historical Society Breakfast

Even though the snow storm of Feb. 12 caused our breakfast to be cancelled, we were able to reschedule it for Feb. 26. Thanks to all of you who came and supported the South Plainfield Historical Society's High School Scholarship fundraiser. To the South Plainfield Elks Lodge 2298, thank you so much for the use of the lodge and for all your assistance in the shopping, setting up, cooking, and cleaning up.

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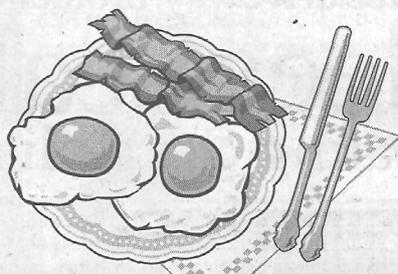
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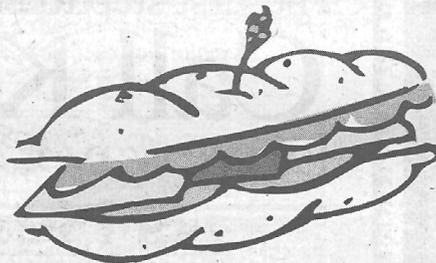
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Sell Out Crowd Attends Franklin Auction

Story/Photos by Patricia Abbott

The 10th Annual Franklin School Auction was a sold-out evening of fun and chance. Party-ready potential winners lined the sidewalk outside the high school gym hallway eagerly awaiting opening. When the doors opened the crowd moved quickly inside and staked out their seats.

The experienced auction-goers arrived with a wide array of goodies to see them through the night. Selections ranged from fast food, soda and chips to delectable gourmet platters.

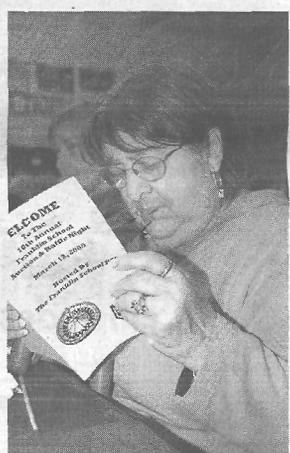
Most purchased more tickets, taking the circuitous route around the room. While some deposited tickets on their first tour of the goods available, others made several trips before

deciding where to best drop their tickets. There were many tough decisions to make.

The event offered over 220 prizes with something for everyone. Big ticket items included: a Dell Computer, Busch Garden get-a-way, 42-inch Phillips Plasma TV and a \$3,000 travel gift certificate from 1st Class Travel.

This year's theme was "Casino Night." Each table contained a mock playing card on a dowel which the players used when their winning tickets were announced. Each guest also received a cup holding a lottery ticket.

Members of the South Plainfield High School Student Leadership Club assisted with collecting and delivering the prizes.



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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Olympic Dreams Come True In Ohio

On Friday, Feb. 17, Henderson's La Gymnastique Levels 5-9 headed to Ohio for the weekend to attend the famous Buckeye Classic Gymnastics Competition. That Friday night, the Henderson's and the coaches held a private banquet dinner for the team and their families.

When the girls arrived at the dinner, much to their surprise, they were joined for the evening by Miles Avery. Miles Avery was the 2004 Olympic Coach of the boy's gymnastics. Miles was the personal coach to Blaire Wilson, Raj Bhavsar, Morgan Hamm and his twin brother Paul Hamm who was the Olympic gold medalist.

The girls were so surprised and excited; they had a lot of questions for Miles. Miles spent the night answering everyone's questions, signing autographs and taking pictures with the gymnasts. Before the night ended, Miles spoke to the team and shared some helpful hints with encouraging words.

Being motivated and encouraged by words from Miles Avery, the girls



La Gymnastique girls competitive gymnastics team pictured with Miles Avery.

were excited and prepared to compete that weekend at the Buckeye. After listening to what Miles had to say, they were not only hopeful but truly believed dreams can come true.

To make sure the girls always remembered the special night, Miles gave the team memorabilia to display in the gym at Henderson's. It

was definitely a memorable night, and a weekend in Ohio the girls will never forget.



Robert Richkus and Kelly Panuzzo.

Panuzzo, Richkus Announce Engagement

MaryAnn and Ralph Panuzzo of Morganville announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Panuzzo, to Robert Richkus, son of Peter and Betty Richkus of South Plainfield.

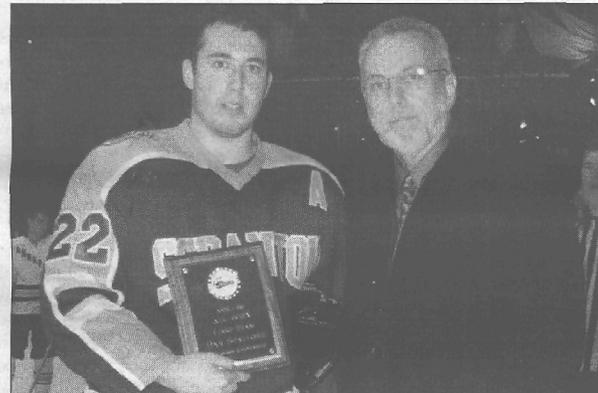
Kelly attended the Monmouth College/University where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She is currently the assistant principal at the South Plainfield Middle

School.

Robert, a life-long South Plainfield resident, received his Bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University and his Master's degree from Kean University. He is now the assistant principal of Grant Elementary School in South Plainfield.

The couple will begin their new life together at a November wedding.

Dan Stallone Named to Dean's List and League Honors at University of Scranton



Dan Stallone was awarded First Team All League honors.

Dan Stallone, a finance major at the University of Scranton, achieved Dean's List honors (3.6 GPA) while taking 18 credits during the Fall '05 semester of his Junior year. Dean's List honors are awarded to students who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or greater while taking a minimum of 12 credits in a single semester.

Additionally, Dan, who is a three year varsity player for the Scranton Ice Hockey team, was awarded First Team All League honors for his play during the 2005-2006 Eastern Collegiate Hockey Association (ECHA) season. Dan completed the season with 10 goals and 16 assists, second among defenseman and 10th overall

in league scoring. Dan, an assistant captain, helped lead the Scranton Royals, an NCAA Division III team, to a playoff berth in the league. This First Team All League honor was a first for the University of Scranton Ice Hockey program and landed Dan a starting role in the league's All-Star game on Feb. 25, held at Dahlgren Hall on the campus of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Congratulations to Dan for both his academic and athletic accomplishments.

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Around Town

Lenten Fish Dinners At Sacred Heart

Fridays, thru April 7

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church, will hold their famous Lenten fish dinners on March 24, 31 and April 7 in the Sacred Heart cafeteria from 5 to 7 p.m.

Menu features filet of fish (fried, broiled, Parmesan), a pasta dish (cheese ravioli, manicotti, linguini) 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 available. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children. Pay at the door.

'Open Your Heart' Casino Night

March 25

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. will be holding a Casino Night on Saturday, March 25 at Sacred Heart School. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., play begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and includes wine, beer, soda and playing chips. For information, call (908) 755-5300, ext. 302.

Almost Famous Players Coffeehouse

March 25

South Plainfield's Almost Famous Players will hold their second AFP Coffeehouse on Saturday, March 25 at the Senior center, 7 to 10:30 p.m. The show will feature a variety of acts.

Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$3 for senior citizens. Tickets purchased at the door are \$6. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments will be sold.

For more information call (908) 346-2290 or email almstfamousplayers@aol.com. Seating is limited.

Celebration of New Orleans Culture

March 25

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission invites you to a Celebration of the Culture of New Orleans

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Tax Preparation Every Thursday and Friday 9 am to noon * * * Overnight trip to Baltimore w/Dinner Theatre April 29 and 30				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available	Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 29 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm	Shop Patrimark 9am Tax Preparation 9-12 Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	BINGO 10-2pm Lunch Available Tax Preparation 9am to noon
27	28	29	30	31

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

with an evening of Blues, Jazz and Gospel, featuring renowned Blues vocalist, Sweet Georgia Brown, on Saturday, March 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church Hall, located on Plainfield Ave. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

For information, call (908) 226-5335.

Celtic Musical Program at Library

March 26

A "Celtic Music Journey" will be presented at the library on Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m.

New Jersey musician Heather Mulvey will perform. Everyone is invited to attend and audience participation is encouraged. This program is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

For information, call (908) 754-7885 or logon to: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us, or visit Mulvey's website at www.heathermulvey.com.

GOP Meeting

March 29

The regular monthly meeting of the

South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, March 29, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. All registered Republicans are invited to attend for the screening of candidates for the upcoming election.

Music Boosters Dinner/Dance

April 1

As April 1 draws near, there are only a few tickets left for the SPSHS Music Boosters Dinner/Dance. The event will be held at the Polish National Home on New Market Ave., who is supplying the hall for the evening. Carrabba's Italian Grille of Green Brook is supplying food. Music is being supplied by the John Roesch Orchestra, an 18-piece band. There will be door prizes and a cash bar available. Money raised goes toward the scholarship fund. Cost is \$25 per ticket. We want to have a sell-out crowd, so please purchase your tick-

ets now. You purchase can them by calling John Roesch at (908) 753-0688; Bill Seesselberg at (908) 756-0539; or Diane Kuhn at (908) 754-8294.

VFW Breakfast

April 2

VFW Memorial Post No. 6763, located at 155 Front Street, will be hosting a breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information call (908) 668-9751.

Juniorettes to Hold Fashion Show

April 7

The South Plainfield Juniorettes will sponsor a fashion show to raise money for the Fistula Foundation. Fistula is an obstetric complication from poor conditions and treatment during labor, most common in countries such as Ethiopia.

The fashion show will take place on Friday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the South Plainfield High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Clothes are provided by Tops N' Things, on Inman Avenue in Colonia and hair styles will be provided by All

About U in Metuchen.

There will be a silent auction along with various door prizes and lots of desserts and beverages. All are welcome.

For tickets, call (908) 405-1300 or (908) 753-7253.

Antique Appraiser Returns to Library

April 9

Certified antique appraiser Alan G. Snyder will appear at the library on Sunday, April 9 at 2 p.m.

Snyder will provide antique appraisals for attendees. As Snyder will be leaving the area, this will constitute his farewell appearance, so everyone is encouraged to attend. Participants are limited to two items per person; appraisals will be given on a first come, first served basis. The program is being presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit their website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

VFW Dinner

April 21

VFW Memorial Post No. 6763, located at 155 Front Street, will be hosting a dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information call (908) 668-9751.

Comedy Show at Polish Home

May 20

The Polish National Home will present a comedy show on Saturday, May 20 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.. You are welcome to bring your own food. Cost is \$30 per person. Call Lisa at (908) 668-9442

Out of Town

Family Arts Festival

March 25

The Family Arts Festival will be held on March 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Arline and Henry Schwartzman Courtyard, Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick. It is

(Continued on next page)

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Around Town

(Continued on next page)

open to children ages three to 12 and the special adults in their lives.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For information and registration visit us at www.iahcnj.org or call (732) 220-1600.

Greek Independence Day Concert

March 25

A tribute to ecclesiastical and classical music dedicated to freedom and democracy and in celebration of Greek Independence Day will be held on Saturday, March 25 at 7 p.m. at the Nicholas Music Center on the Douglass Campus

For information or to reserve tickets please contact the office of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey at (908) 686-0003. Tickets are: \$250, \$150, \$50 and \$30 (students). Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Metropolis Building and Cultural Center Fund.

Willow Grove Kids Concert

March 26

The Outreach Team at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites you and your children to explore the world of music on Sunday, March 26.

Come and watch them become excitedly enchanted as they listen to a musical concert created especially for them! Classical music will be the key to unlocking the imagination of youngsters. The Storytelling Through Music Concert will run from 3-4:30 p.m. in the churches Alexander Hall. The concert has been designed for children eight and older. For more information, call (908) 232-5678.

CHATS Meeting

March 27

Adoption Support CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will be meeting on Monday, March 27 at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church on Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

For more information call Alyce at (732) 227-0607.

Depression and Bipolar Support Group

March 29

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will meet on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship on Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. Featured speaker is Dr. Michael Zornitzer, M.D.

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

Starlight Singles

March 31

Starlight Single Professionals 30/40s will host a happy hour for singles on Friday, March 31 from 5 to 6 p.m.

at the Sushi Lounge on Schulyer Pl. in Morristown.

For information, call or (732) 764-9073

Middlesex Co. 4-H Clothing Drive

April 5

The Middlesex Co. 4-H Teen Council will be hosting a clothing drive on Monday and Wednesday, April 3 and 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the 4-H Center, on the corner of Cranbury and Fern roads in East Brunswick.

Participants should bring used clothing, shoes, handbags, and linens packed in sturdy plastic trash bags.

Proceeds from the clothing drive will be used to benefit the Middlesex County 4-H's annual Project GIFT event, a holiday shopping day for families with limited resources.

For more information, please contact the Middlesex County 4-H of

at (732) 398-5261.

4-H offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 12 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Easter Egg Hunt at Alliance Bible Easter Egg Hunt

April 8

A community Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on April 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the church lawn. Admission is free.

This is the sixth year that Alliance Bible Church has hosted an Easter Egg Hunt. Last year, over 200 children participated.

This year will feature a showing of Veggie Tales "The Easter Carol", along with a visit by the Easter Bunny and a

live petting zoo, complete with baby chicks, ducks, and lambs.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Road in Warren. For additional information or directions, contact the church office at (908) 903-1940.

Starlight Singles

April 7

A happy hour for singles 30/40 will be held on Friday, April 7 at the Westin Hotel, The Copeland Restaurant on Whippany Rd. in Morristown.

Free finger foods, live music and entertainment.

RSVP required to (732) 764-9073.

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Call Andrea Lacerda to view this home 908-578-1166.



South Plainfield—Beautiful brand new Colonial in great location. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, living room, formal dining room with tray ceiling, spacious eat-in kitchen with center island, granite tops, creative tile backsplash, lots of maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances. French doors from dining room leading to morning room with skylights. Bright and airy family room off kitchen with generous windows overlooking private backyard. Master bedroom with walk-in closet and cathedral ceilings. Master bath with jacuzzi and dressing counter with granite top. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout first floor. Close to schools, major highways and shopping centers. Must see this beauty before it's too late. Offered at \$564,900.

Call Andrea Lacerda to view this home 908-578-1166



South Plainfield—Absolute. Mint Condition—completely updated spacious Split Level home, 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. The first floor includes an open floor plan, hardwood floors, ceramic tile entry, recessed lighting and a bay window. The newer kitchen features ceramic tile countertops and backsplash which is open to the formal dining and living room areas. The three bedrooms all have hardwood floors and both bathrooms are updated. The spacious family room opens to a covered patio leading into the fully fenced yard. There is a one car side entry garage that opens to a triple wide newly paved driveway with paved landscaping and walkways and a storage shed. Full basement, newer furnace and central air and all appliances included too! Offered at \$389,900. Call Andrea Lacerda to view this home 908-578-1166



Dunellen—Custom-built brick front Colonial Cape Cod featuring spacious floor plan, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, newer kitchen with stainless appliances and commercial 6 burner stove, formal dining room, living room with wood-burning fireplace with built-ins, partially finished basement with heat, summer kitchen and 1/2 bath, Andersen windows, new furnace and 2 car attached garage. Fabulous location, close to Green Brook border.

Offered at \$429,900

Call Andrea Lacerda to view this home 908-578-1166



Piscataway—Ready for Your Growing Family! This center hall colonial is ideally situated on a cul de sac street in a newer development. A commuter's dream with instant access to Route 287. This home was originally the model home and has many custom features. The living room, dining room and family room have brand new hardwood floors. The dining room features a tray ceiling, chair rail and crown moldings. There is a raised hearth fireplace complete with custom mantel. The large eat in kitchen features a bay window, center island and ceramic tile floors. There is a separate laundry area and 1/2 bath off the kitchen. The second level has 4 bedrooms. The master bedroom has a tray ceiling, 2 walk in closets and a master bath with whirlpool tub. There is a full basement, 2 car attached garage, central vacuum system, sprinkler system, a new deck and patio. Offered at \$559,900. Call Andrea Lacerda to view this home • 908 578-1166.



North Edison—Rare find! Prime location, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths. Partial brick front—custom built home with spacious layout, large eat in kitchen, bay windows in living rooms and kitchen, formal dining room, finished basement with bar, workshop and outside entrance, attached garage w/ opener, brand new roof, central air, cedar closets, beautiful fenced in yard with pond and two sheds. Clean well maintained home in move in condition. Close to Clark border, convenient access to GS Parkway and Metropark train station. Offered at \$539,900.

Call Andrea Lacerda to view this home 908-578-1166.

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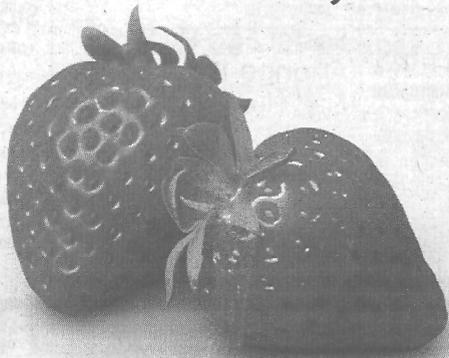
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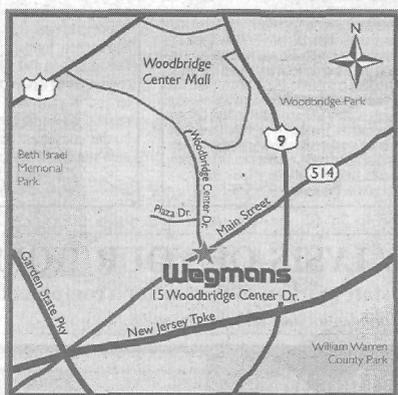


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Pictured are the employees at Quiznos Sub Shop which opened recently in the Durham Plaza Shopping Center on Durham Ave.

Business Association Plans Golf Outing in May

The South Plainfield Business Association is sponsoring their 9th Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, May 2 at the Cranbury Golf 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 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. The shotgun start will

begin at 9 a.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 p.m. 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.

Casino Night Tickets Available

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. will be hosting its first Casino Night to be held the evening of March 25 at Sacred Heart School.

Casino Night is a fun filled evening of games, music and prizes. Participants play blackjack, craps, roulette, the big wheel and poker while matching their game skills against local professional dealers from Tumbling Dice Entertainment.

With a ticket purchase you receive \$25 in playing chips to be used for gaming. At the end of the evening your chips will be redeemed for tickets to be placed in the chance raffle. You can purchase additional chips for extra chances to win prizes. You do not have to be an experienced gambler; in fact, the dealers will help you learn how to play the various games.

Guests may also enjoy the music and atmosphere as entertainment is being provided by Last Call, an acous-

tic electric classic rock band. Wine, beer and beverages are being provided. Guests should bring their favorite finger food or appetizers and their friends.

Fabulous community support from local businesses and individuals has enabled the foundation to offer an outstanding array of prizes for the chance raffle, including tickets to major sporting events, a selection of dining experiences and electronics such as a flat screen TV, etc.

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. is committed to raising funds to support pediatric cancer research and to improve the quality of life of pediatric cancer patients and their families. Dedicated volunteers support the Foundation enabling 100% of the net proceeds to be donated.

For further event details or tickets contact Andrea Lacerda c/o Century 21 Moretti Realty (908) 755-5300 x 302 or email LacerdaA@MorettiRealty.com.

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Julio A. Calderon, Jessica A. Cangas, Ashley L. Capparelli, Ashley R. Cardinale, Kurt P. Carlson, Henry A. Carrillo, Jessica L. Catalini, Suneet Chandler, Steven Chen, Jared T. Christopher, Alex E. Cihanowicz, Allison R. Clawans, Sean P. Coffey, Janee A. Coleman, Ian V. Collins, Jonathan E. Conroy, Christina M. Cornelius, Audrey L. Cupo, and Gina M. Curcio.

Michael A. Dandola, Ann Thao Dang, Jeannine L. DeAndrea, Rebecca A. Deffler, Michael J. Dezman, Stephanie D. DiCindio, Steven Diaz, Ralph E. Dimayuga, Jennifer R. Disch, Justin A. Ditmars, Quynhhu T. Doan, Jahleel K. Drewery, Courtney A. Easterday, Nathaniel W. Elasen, Christopher Fierro, Tina Foscolo, Sara K. Frazzano, Lindsay B. Fredericks, Kelliann Friday, and Christopher D. Fulton.

Bryan Galviz, Allen G. Garcia, Jaime L. Giannakis, Ken D. Gould, Joseph M. Grenier, Jessica L. Handwerker, Richard A. Harzula, Alba J. Hernandez, Cindy J. Hernandez, Joseph Hernandez, Caitlin J. Herriot, Robert G. Hoffman, Matthew M. Hoppe, Antoinette L. Hudak, and Chelsea W. Hunt.

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Colleen Mackenzie, Jeremiah O. Magpile, Rajindra Maniapan, Alyssa M. McCreesh, Clayton P. McDaniel, Ian S. McGregor, Adea E. McKnight, Joseph M. Mennuti, Stephanie F. Millicia, Tramane J. Miller, Cornelius C. Mootoo, Michael P. Muglia, Jessica A. Murtagh, Lyndsey A. Murtagh, and Brittany N. Musolino.

Joanna N. Nastarowicz, Gregory N. Natt, Victoria K. Nguyen, Alex T. Nieradka, Patrick R. Nofy, Kirsten M. Nuber, Akil C. Nurse, Brittany E. Okosko, Timothy R. Oppelt, Emily R. Orlandini, Michael B. Pachytel, Kaitlyn Pangborn, Eric M. Pantaleon, Dominic R. Papa, Eric A. Pascale, Dharti C. Patel, Krishna P. Patel, Parth P. Patel, Priya J. Patel, Satyam B. Patel, Allyson Paterek, Kathryn Paterek, Nicholas A. Pauls, Leroy Peoples, Latchmce Phagoo, Mark R. Plitz, Sandra A. Pleeter, Annie Polanco, Douglas A. Porzio, Matthew J. Praul, and Brian F. Pullen.

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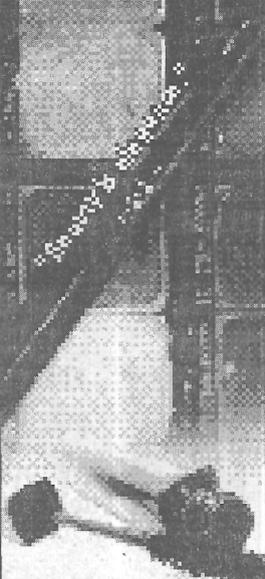
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IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

The Mormile family would like to thank the staff at South Plainfield Funeral Home, especially Frank Rainear, who went above and beyond our expectations. They guided us through our most difficult time with care, compassion and the willingness to meet our every need.

**SINCERELY,
LOUIS, MARIA AND MICHELLE**

To the Editor:

I am a voluntary councilor for the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). I know that many seniors are confused about the information they are receiving in regards to the new Part D, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. They feel overwhelmed with all the information they are receiving about the different plans available. I want them to know there is help available to them. Everyone is talking about all the options available, but not where or how they can get the needed help. The plans advertised on television only tells you about the plan they are selling and not about what plan fits your needs.

I want seniors to know that the

help they need is only a telephone call away. They should call their nearest Office on Aging or senior center for information on how to contact a SHIP councilor. There are many SHIP councilors located through out each county in New Jersey. They also can help with other Medicare related problems. I have enrolled over one hundred seniors in prescription plans with several living outside of South Plainfield and counseled many more about the drug plans.

After May 15, 2006, open enrollment for Medicare Prescription Drug Plans will be held only once a year. Open enrollment will be held during November and December of each year with coverage starting the following January. Time is running out for seniors to enroll in a Medicare Prescription drug plan this year, less than two months are left. If you are not enrolled, the premium penalty will be one percent per month. For the year 2006 you will be penalized seven percent and can only enroll during the open enrollment period.

It's important to talk to a SHIP councilor about your options. Don't wait till the last minute. Act immediately.
JOSEPH ZEKAS, SHIP COUNCILOR

To the Editor:

It is no great surprise that there is such keen interest in this year's Board of Education proposed 2006-2007 budget. A 20+ point tax increase, continued staff reductions and a long overdue capital improvements appropriation are but some of the problems that will surely affect the outcome of the vote on April 18.

My name is John Markham and I am a candidate for the election to the Board of Education. There are no simple solutions to complex problems, but the board must reexamine the line item appropriations and try to reduce overall expenditures. This is necessary to establish voter confidence in our educational system.

I served on the Board of Education for nine years, from 1979-1988. I am once again willing to invest the many hours necessary to meet the responsibilities of board members.

On April 18, please vote line 2.

**THANK YOU.
JOHN S. MARKHAM**

South Plainfield Residents:

My name is Donna Rann and I am 42 years old and reside on Cotton Street in South Plainfield.

I am the chief executive, Product Development for Parimatex Bedding in Dayton, New Jersey.

I am the parent of two students who have gone through the Borough's elementary schools and currently in South Plainfield High School.

I am on the producing board for the South Plainfield Summer Drama

Workshop. Each summer, I am involved with the planning, building and painting of the sets for their summer productions.

Most of my volunteer work is related to the fine arts and the development of the fine arts programs in our schools and communities. I was involved in the reopening of the Edison Valley Playhouse. I currently volunteer there to paint scenery and sew costumes. I also volunteer to help with the high school productions.

For years I have watched the fine arts programs struggle through budget cuts, paperwork and just plain disorganization. There are many organizations out there that support schools like ours who are struggling with budget problems. We all know it is a nationwide problem that the first things to go in the schools are the fine arts programs. Well this is wrong. Many graduates continue on in fields where their start has come from a fine arts class in high school. One of the best-paid and most available jobs right now is musical therapy.

I feel we have lost focus in our schools. We are not focusing on what the children require for their future in a changing world. When budget cuts are necessary, we run to the fine arts area or other electives and start eliminating staff and programs. Well, instead of eliminating this part of the curriculum, find other options to have these areas supported. A long time ago in South Plainfield there was a fine arts director just like there is an athletic director. When that person passed away, the position went unfilled because of budget needs and

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.

eventually eliminated. An easy quick cut. With that great decision went the knowledge and focus of a person who knew where grants, financing and donations to fine arts programs can come from, as well as a central administrator to coordinate all the needs of the fine arts programs and staff in the district. We need to find leadership in our fine arts program that offers opportunities to our children, as well as continue to support the leadership of all the other programs in the district.

We must start thinking of what we have to offer in the schools for the children in South Plainfield. If we do not do something soon we will surely lose families in South Plainfield to other towns where school programs are thriving.

If elected to the Board of Education, my prime goal is to "Put the Children First." A quality education provided by an inspired staff with the support needed to help the students learn and develop independent thinking is what serves the students best. We must start ensuring that as graduates of the South Plainfield school system, our children have achieved the confidence gained by understanding the knowledge that is available, and required, to succeed in today's changing environments.

DONNA RANN

To the Editor:

The Historical Society's 2006 Keepsake Calendar sale is officially over. The Historical Society would once again like to thank the following businesses and people for supporting this calendar: Miele Art Studio, McCriskin's Home For Funerals, Sportworld, Oak Tree Farms, South Plainfield Funeral Parlor, Park Avenue Barber Shop, Nicastro's Garage, John Cecchetti Insurance, Twin City Pharmacy, The Observer, Physical Therapy Center of South Plainfield, Tony's Pizza, Ladies Workout Express, The Razor's Edge, M&V Tobacco, Cornerstone Architectural Group, Buy-Rite Auto Parts, Curves, Paul's Stationary, Suzanne Lyte of Lyte & Associates, Fyre Technology, Custom Creations, Rich's Pharmacy, LLG Architect, Century 21 Apex Properties, CMF Business Supplies, Inc., My Way Carpet, Ciccio's Pizza, The Pizza Stop, Sensations Salon, Sherban's Diner, Alexandria's Shoes, Cindy Michaels Jewelers, Hometown Heros, The Bagel Pantry, Giakas Cleaners, Anthony J. Coroia and Dr. Allen Levine, DMD, PA Family Dentistry. Without their support, this calendar would not have

(Continued on next page)

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from previous page)
 been possible. A very big thank you to Maha and George of Oak Tree Farms for once again handling the distribution of the calendar to the public. We really appreciated your help. Finally, thanks to all of you who purchased one.

For information about the Historical Society or to check for upcoming events, go to www.geocities.com/sphistoricalociety. To reach the Historical Society, e-mail us at sphistoricalc@cs.com or PO Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Once again, thank you for your support.
2006 CALENDAR COMMITTEE

To the Editor:

My name is Ernie "Jim" Giannakis and I am running for the South Plainfield Board of Education on April 18.

I have been operating my own business for almost 22 years, and it is my belief the school board should be run like a business. Profit and loss, loss being an increase in our taxes and profit being our children's education. When money is tight, you need to trim fat, but at no time should our children's education be compromised.

There are many debates over our school sports being cut. I would like to be a part of these decisions, but I would need to know all the information, pros and cons, to be able to make an informed decision. I assure you, if elected, I will weigh all the facts and research what is necessary before making any decisions.

On April 18 vote line 4.

**THANK YOU,
 ERNIE "JIM" GIANNAKIS**

Dear Voters:

As the election draws closer for Board of Ed members, I would like to endorse Donna Rann for one of the positions. In the years that I've worked with her on various projects, she's proven time after time that she is there for the sake of the children and the organization. Donna is not only thorough in the work involved, but also a pleasure to work with. I know that she would be an asset to the board, and would only want the best for all involved. Please get out to vote and show your support!

**JOHN ROESCH
 PRESIDENT, MUSIC BOOSTERS**

To Abra Hodge, Cheer Commissioner, South Plainfield Eagles

I would like to take a moment to thank you for all your years of continued service to the South Plainfield Eagles. You have come through the ranks starting as a team mom then moving up to coach and then assistant commissioner and currently commissioner.

Now that the organization is at a turning point you have taken a lot of heat and criticism for doing your job and that is to represent all the members of the South Plainfield Eagles. A few people waving around their names and wallets did not sway you. It is refreshing to see a person look out for the whole organization they represent and not just a self appointed few.

Regardless of how the vote turns out you have given the members of the South Plainfield Eagles the opportunity to make a decision and for that I commend you.

In closing, I just wanted to let you

know that your efforts are appreciated and that I respect and admire your commitment to the South Plainfield Eagles.

**YOUR LOVING HUSBAND
 GEORGE HOGAN**

To the Editor:

On April 18, you will have the opportunity to vote in the South Plainfield School Board election. It is at this time you will have that opportunity to speak through your vote in the election; on the budget and three individuals you feel will best represent you, the taxpayer and the children of this district.

This district is once again faced with the many budgetary challenges such as: skyrocketing increases in energy, transportation, salaries and benefits; reductions in state/federal aid and additional state/federal mandates with no additional funding source to cover mandates; and reduction in staffing levels.

Again, for this district the challenges are many and the decisions are difficult. It is for this reason I ask the voters to join me in electing John Markham, Donna Rann and Ernie "Jim" Giannakis. These three individuals have both the personal and professional experience and background to deal with the challenges and decisions our district faces.

On April 18, vote lines 2, 3 and 4 to represent you, the taxpayer, and the children of this district.

**JEFF SEIDER
 MEMBER BOE**

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the recent pictures in the paper from Read Across America

Day. My son Sean McConville's class participated in the program and I think it's a wonderful way to remind children of the importance of reading.

Seeing the pictures also reminded me to thank Councilman Matt Anesh for reading to my son's class at Riley School. I understand that he spent not just one, but two mornings reading to the children, going to the Future Stars classes on Wednesday and to my child's school on Thursday. I give him a lot of credit for taking the time to do this.

Councilman Rob Bengivenga also deserves credit for reading to the children. I saw his picture in the paper reading to the kids and was happy to find out that he supported the program too.

Again, thank you Matt and Rob. I appreciate the concern you're showing for our kids and their education.

GINA MCCONVILLE

Dear Editor,

I would like to address this letter to William Tuthill (WWII Marine) regarding his letter from the March 10 edition of the *Observer*.

I can see from his letter that he is like most Americans who were against the now defeated attempt by Dubai Ports World to purchase and Operate P&O Ports. Like most Americans, you have picked up on the rhetoric put forth by members of our government as well as the media.

Many Americans were under the impression that DP World would be operating U.S. seaports. Well, they were not. If this deal went through, they would have been managing terminals and labor at a few facilities,

not the entire port system as many media outlets suggested. Take the situation in NJ if the sale would have gone through. PNCT is a terminal that is situated on land that is on a long term lease from the Port Authority of NY/NJ. The terminal is operated by P&O Ports. Nearly all their staff, both management and organized union labor (International Longshoreman Association) are American citizens. If the sale would have gone through, Union Labor would have still been there as well as much of the management. With any sale, you would expect some changes in Management, maybe a representative or two from the home office, but not many.

One of the main issues at hand is security. The statement you made of "Why should we give these Arabs the right to come and go as they please and control what may be moved in or out?" is wrong. No leeway, just plain wrong. Each terminal/facility/port in the US is governed by strict Maritime Security Rules enforced by the US Coast Guard. The USCG inspects and validates the security practices of facilities such as PNCT often to ensure all is in order. If not, corrective action is needed to be taken immediately, or the establishment is shut down. In regards to cargo coming and going into/out of the terminal/facility/port, this movement is governed by the rules and regulation enforced by US Customs and Border Protection. There are many codes, acts and programs that have acronyms that ensure cargo entering the US is safe. While nothing is 100% sure, all involved are working together to make it as safe as possible.

You further made a statement re-
 (Continued on page 16)

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Midco Renews Metuchen Road Adoption

Joseph Vitulli, general manager of Midco Residential Services, has signed a new contract with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association. Midco is renewing its adoption of the roadside that lies between the transfer station on Harmich Road and the intersection of Belmont Ave. and Metuchen Rd.

Midco first joined the Adopt-A-Spot program in 2002, to address the problem of cardboard and other materials occasionally dropping onto the roadway from their trucks. The debris adds to the litter that accumulates from other vehicles and industry along this heavily traveled route. A crew goes out regularly to pick up any litter from the roadside. In addition, Midco has contracted with a street sweeper to clean the roadway twice a month, and a landscaping service to control weeds along the road during the growing season.

Midco disposes of all the litter they collect, and they have volunteered to accept the litter collected by any other Adopt-A-Spot participant free of charge.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado accepts a check for \$5,000 on behalf of the South Plainfield Schools from Rob Claxon, senior vice president of marketing for Big Lots, during their grand opening ceremonies.

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From the Desk of Debbie Boyle...

It is my belief that every parent/guardian of our children strive to obtain the best in education, arts, music and sports for each and every child in South Plainfield. The children are the future leaders and educators forging their way to progress. It is disheartening to read that the council cannot work together with the board to produce a common goal. Everyone needs to bond together to support each other in the fight to achieve the ultimate in education for our children. It is definitely all about the kids. There is no room for negativity in this process.

held on March 18. You all worked so diligently to create a wonderful night and a sell-out crowd.

The Almost Famous Players Coffeehouse will be held at the Senior Center on Saturday, March 25 from 7 to 10 pm, which will feature a variety of performances by the children of South Plainfield.

Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc. will holding a Casino Night, which will take place on March 25 at the Sacred Heart School at 7 p.m.

Please plan to attend the BOE budget presentations that are currently underway. Superintendent Dr. Rosado has been giving the budget presentations at various locations around town and allows for a question and answer session. If you have any questions on the budget please do not hesitate to attend any of the presentations.

Please come out and meet the BOE candidates on March 30 at 6:30 pm at the new Roosevelt School gym, sponsored by the Roosevelt School PTSO, Stephanie Walsh, president. Listen to their point of view on the BOE.

Congratulations to the High School Lady Tigers Bowling team on an outstanding season and receiving the White Division Sportsmanship Award.

Congratulations to the All-District Music and Art Festival. Your performances were outstanding, along with the High School Winter Guard team performance.

Coin Program Coming to Library

The program "A Penny Saved is History Learned" will be presented at South Plainfield Free Public Library on Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Watchung Hills Coin Club of Warren, the program will feature Gregory S. Heim, a life member of the Club and of the American Numismatic Association. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he'll review the different designs of the American one-cent piece from the late 18th century to the present. He'll also answer questions from the audience. There will also be a special coin-themed display at the Library throughout the month of April. Both the program and the display are being presented in conjunction with National Coin Week.

If you'd like more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit the Library's website at www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us.

You can also contact the Watchung Hills Coin Club by calling (732) 469-0446.

Thank you to the young man who was in the process of picking up his sister from CCD on March 8 and helped us dig Mrs. Graves care out of the pile of snow in the parking lot at Sacred Heart Church.

Erik White, we all wish you a speedy recovery, you are so brave to be so tough and fight so hard – you go Erik. It is wonderful to hear that the Peer to Peer group will be visiting you shortly.

The Yankee Candle 2007 Stokes fundraiser will be ending the week of March 20.

Thank you to Debby DiDolce for chairing this fundraiser. If anyone can volunteer to help package the candles for delivery when they come in, please call Debby at (908) 561-2320 or Eileen Brady. There have been two new proposals for the 2007 Stokes Fundraisers, a Wall Ball tournament and a family scavenger hunt. Hopefully they will come to fruition.

Congratulations to the Franklin PTA Auction/Raffle Night that was

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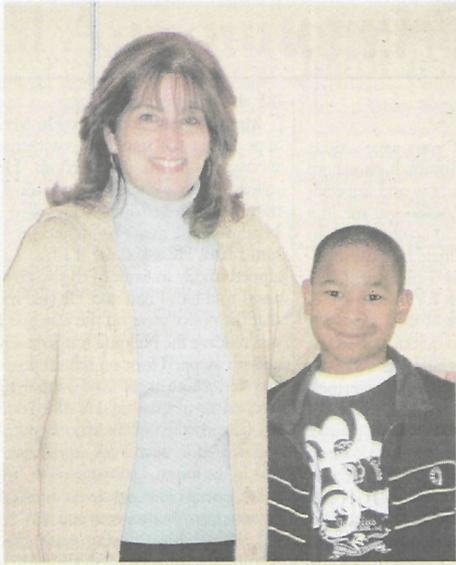
Beginning Dec. 31, skipping around the Western Hemisphere flashing just an official picture ID will be a thing of the past. A new U.S. State Department rule will require Americans to carry their passports when they are traveling—not just to Asia or Europe or the like, but by sea or air to/from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda. The initiative will extend to land travel Dec. 31, 2007.

U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, are exempt. Until the change, the areas in question are Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico.

Canada—Proof of citizenship is required, including a government-issued birth certificate or certificate of citizenship, as well as supporting documents like a passport or photo ID.

Caribbean—The following islands require only an original or official birth certificate and a valid driver's license or official picture ID: Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Montserrat, St., St. Maarten/St. Martin, the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Granada, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, and St. Eustatius. Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, Guyana, Suriname, Haiti, Guadeloupe and St. Barth's do require a passport. For other islands, contact the Caribbean Tourism Organization at (212) 635-9530, www.doitcaribbean.com or the tourism office of a specific island.

Mexico—Though many routinely cross into Tijuana with just a driver's license, the official word from the Mexican consulate is that Americans need a passport to enter the country, whether by land, sea or air.



Photos By Christopher Abbott

Pictured above left is Roosevelt teacher, Annemarie Stoeckel, and Math-A-Thon winner, Dante Barden-Lowery. Far right is from Franklin School winners (left to right) are Sam Campbell, Andrew Bisgaard, Mrs. Donnelly and Samantha Tercek.

Roosevelt, Franklin Math-A-Thons Benefit St. Jude's

By Patricia Abbott

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a favorite charity with South Plainfield students. Franklin School and Roosevelt School recently concluded a Math-A-Thon to benefit the hospital. Roosevelt school raised a total of \$8061.40. They announced their grand prize winner on Tuesday, March 14. Fourth grade student Donte Barden-Lowery collected \$476. He chose a digital camera as his grand prize.

Roosevelt students, faculty and event coordinator Annemarie Stoeckel were all thrilled with the success of the Math-A-Thon. Stoeckel said, "Considering this is the first year that we participated in the Math-a-Thon, I

wasn't sure what to expect. However, I was so pleased to hear parents tell me that their children were coming home explaining how important it was for them to help the children at St. Jude's. They did a great job, and I look forward to participating in the Math-A-Thon again next year."

Principal Charles Ford said, "When I began working in South Plainfield, I was amazed by the amount of generosity that the kids displayed raising money for charitable causes at South Plainfield High School. Then I came to Roosevelt Elementary School and I am amazed again. The kids raised so much money for a good cause participating in the Math-A-Thon and then raised more money for Pennies for Patients. These kids are great kids and everyday they seem to amaze me with another form of open heartedness. With the way our society is today, I am extremely fortunate to have a school full of children willing to make sacrifices to help others is nothing short of amazing. I commend all students at Roosevelt Elementary School for raising money for two great causes."

Franklin School participated in their first Math-A-Thon in 1996 with coordinator Barbara Aszuk, followed by MaryAnn Stavina. Current coordinator is Janet Donnelly. Over the last ten years they have raised more than \$41,450. This years they raised over \$7,000. The top three winners are Andrew Bisgaard, Samantha Tercek and Sam Campbell.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas and is based

in Memphis, Tennessee. The funds raised help St. Jude's in their fight against cancer, AIDS, sickle cell anemia and other catastrophic childhood diseases. Families are not charged for treatments not covered by insurance and families with no insurance are not asked to pay. The Math-A-Thon is sponsored by Six Flags Theme Parks who provide free passes to every student who raised \$35 or more. For more information on St. Jude visit www.stjude.org

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Holding Item Drive

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will conduct a drive in March and April. Items needed are cat food (dry and wet), dog food (dry and wet), cat litter, rolls of paper towel, old blankets and towels (clean), bleach, dish and laundry detergents, guinea pig bedding and rabbit food. They will benefit the Plainfield Animal Area Humane Society.

Drop off locations are: Donna's Hometown Deli at 1018 Amboy Ave. in Edison; Dr. Rogan-Metuchen Veterinary Hospital at 69 Pearl St. in Metuchen; and South Plainfield Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. Helena and Diana, chairwomen for the spring event, may be reached at (908) 754-0313 or (732) 548-0925.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 13)
 garding "giving away our defenses." If you are considering the US Seaports as our defenses, again, wrong. These are commercial entities that are the conduit for goods to flow in/out of the US. These ports are where containers filled with cargo for Home Depot, Walmart, Sears, etc. are received. While a very small amount of military cargo is serviced through these places, the majority is handled in house at U.S. military bases or ports.

It would appear, from my perspective, that you are angry with how our President is handling things. So be it, that is your opinion and you have every right to it. But before you start providing your opinion to others, it might be wiser to make sure you have your facts straight. Obviously you don't when it comes to our seaports.

I am not writing this as a supporter of DP World, but as a person in the military reserves who also happens to be a maritime security professional. I have spent countless hours over the past few months explaining how the maritime industry works to friends and family. They usually walk away with more information than they bargained for, but always with an informed view.

**RESPECTFULLY,
 KEITH BOTH**

Editor:

When applications for National Honor Society were distributed, the instructions included gave a very clear guideline. They stated that "now is the time to brag about yourself." I do not know why some of the students found it so difficult to understand what bragging meant. It seems students did not understand what they had to include in the application. I have just found out that some students will be allowed to reapply.

When I spoke to administration, I was informed that there was an internal problem, where some of the stu-

dents could not comprehend what was required for acceptance in the National Honor Society. It has recently come to my attention that, throughout the course of the week prior to the applications' deadlines, announcements were made over the intercom saying help was available after school in the cafeteria for anyone applying to NHS that had questions about the application process. Advisors, along with the current leadership and members of the National Honor Society, were available for consultations.

I was informed that very few students took the liberty to show up for the extra help. The administration also told me that everyone did not receive all the information they needed in order to be accepted, perhaps because of the possibility that there was a problem at home or a late arrival at the meeting.

As far as I know, the same problems have been floating around in previous years, so what makes this year so special? If student A can understand what is needed, then why can't Student B (perhaps without identical teaching) comprehend the same? Are they not in the same school? Do they not hear the same announcements?

I do not wish to take away anyone's chances of making it into the National Honor Society, but I also do not want to take away the honor from those who did make it. Students who were rejected in prior years are wondering why they were not given a second chance at making NHS in the spring of their junior year and they would like to know why they were not given the same chance as the junior class of this year. They applied the exact same way, so why couldn't they take advantage of the excuse regarding the understanding of the criteria? I do not see how this is fair to them, just as I do not understand why it had to be this year that honor had to be taken out of the National Honor Society.

SINCERELY, MARYANN EDER

To the Editor,

Two and a half years ago, actions taken by then assistant high school principal Kenneth May and Superintendent Robert Rosado put me in a position where I had no choice but to sue the South Plainfield Board of Education. Before I filed this suit, I was seeking reparations for loss of wages and reimbursement of legal fees. Had the case been settled quickly that would have amounted to a little over a \$1,000.

As the Board of Education and their attorney, Marc Zitomer, have continued to drag this case out, the cost of my reparations has increased. I can only imagine how much this has already cost the taxpayers of South Plainfield. I have decided to share this story with the taxpayers of South Plainfield because I believe that my case is only one example of a board policy that is continuing to take tax dollars out of our classrooms.

In the summer of 2003 I was employed by the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop to design and build the set for their production of *Crazy For You*. On July 11, I began construction work on the stage of the high school and needed to use the men's room. There were two boys standing just outside the door. Neither of them said anything to me. I went inside and found a young woman cleaning something up on the floor. I assumed she was one of the parents of the kids who were participating in the basketball camp which was going on in the gym. When she saw me she looked up and told me that she was cleaning, clearly implying with her tone of voice that I should go away. I told her that I really needed to use the men's room. She grudgingly said she would leave and then did leave. I used the facility and left. I noticed on the way out that this same woman was standing in the hallway with the two boys laughing and jok-

ing about something.

More than an hour later Dr. May appeared at the stage door with the woman from the men's room. He called me over and said there was something he needed to discuss. He asked if I had used the men's room and I told him I had. He asked me if I had unzipped my fly in front of this woman and I told him I had not. He told me that the police were on the way and I was to leave the building immediately and if I stepped foot on school property anywhere in town I would be arrested for trespassing. He added that if I have children in the school system and needed to attend any school function in the future, I would need to sign in at the main office and receive an escort because I was "a danger to children."

I had no idea how to react. The whole thing just seemed so absurd that I could not believe what was happening. The police arrived (five of them). The producer of Summer Drama, the recreation director and Dr. Rosado all arrived. Dr. May told the producer that I would not be allowed to work in the high school. I spoke with a policeman for a few minutes and told him what this woman was saying was not true. Clearly the police agreed with me because they made no attempt to detain me. I went home confused and humiliated. It was not until later in the day that the full impact of Dr. May's actions began to sink in. I received a call from one of the SDW producers to tell me that they had no choice but to fire me. They had a show to put on and could not wait for me to clear this thing up. I had been officially labeled "a danger to children" by an assistant principal of the high school and had my access to the public schools, which my two children attend, restricted. I had no choice but to hire an attorney.

My attorney sent a letter to Dr. Rosado requesting a meeting. We received a letter from the Board's attorney refusing to meet and stating that

the restrictions would remain in effect. At this point I filed a civil lawsuit.

Dr. Rosado never spoke to me and the Board never sought to hear my side of the story. I know that the Board held an executive session to discuss the matter. Dr. May spoke and told them his version of events, I wasn't invited to present my side.

An administrative trial took place in September. At the start of proceedings, Zitomer again offered to lift the restrictions if I would drop my lawsuit. If the Board and Dr. Rosado truly believed that I presented a threat to the safety of the children in this district, why would they make such an offer?

The original "complaint" by this woman is simply not credible. She told three distinctly different versions of the story—one to the police on the day of the incident, another to Dr. May on that same day and a third distinctly different version on the witness stand.

At the hearing's conclusion, Zitomer asked to file a brief instead of presenting a closing argument. As of this writing there is still no decision. When this process is over, I will be refiling my civil suit. My name has been smeared, my civil rights have been violated and I am out more than \$4,000 in lost wages and legal fees.

Meanwhile, Zitomer continues to drag this on as long as possible in the hope that I will give up. Why does the BOE continue to throw good money after bad in a fight that it cannot win?

I urge others who have been subjected to this kind of treatment to come forward. Our BOE, superintendent and our principals should be responsible people.

When this first happened I was willing to give Dr. Rosado the benefit of the doubt. He made a mistake and I tried to give him the opportunity to correct it. Instead he and the Board have chosen to use our tax dollars in an attempt to cover it up and bully me into keeping quiet and going away.

RANDALL MCCANN

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Grant School Announces Honor Roll Students

LEVEL 1: Ramsey Abdeljaber, Alyssa Adamson, Jasmine Aguinado, Alexis Alba, Charles Anyamene, Lanna Arki, Jared Aronowitz, Anthony Ashnault, Jennifer Barone, Kevin Belanger, Rina Bhalodi, Steven Bichler, Rachel Billich, Ashanti Bishop, Isaac Blanco, Patrick Boyle, Kyle Brady, Ryan Buckelew, Kristel Buschan, Samuel Butler, Casey Buttrico, Christopher Buttrico, and Danielle Buttrico.

Tyler Calderone, Nicole Cannalonga, Danielle Caputo, Alexis Cargill, Kayla Carigma, Andrew Catalina, Meghan Collins, Christina Conroy, John Cotone, Joshua Coupe, Nicole Daubert, Jesse Deffler, Miguel Delgado, Jake Dingier, Michael Dolan, Tara Dunn, Richard Duong, and Tatiana Duran.

Erica Fisher, Kristin Forbes, Matthew Frank, Nathanael Ganthier, Miranda Garcia, Navneet Goraya, Allison German, Briana Gratta, Nicholas Graves, Michael Grzenda, Ryan Guaraci, Andrea Guerrero, and Joshua Guirguis.

Troy Heilmann, Meghan Heim, Joshua Hendricks, Jasmin Hernandez, Zoya Hodge, Tyler Holoboski, Samantha Hunterton, Rohan Iyengar, Avani Jain, Hilela Jainarine, Krystian Januszko, Christina Kasmer, Rajath Kenath, Nicole Kopchak, David Landy, Stephen Lanza, Michelle Lesniak, Bianca Lobosco, Gina Louise, Kimberly Lozarito, and R. Lukacs.

Deirdre Macchia, Marah Angelica Magpile, Miguel Mallqui, Matthew Manning, Nicholas Marrone, Jesse Masters, Jade McDonnough, John McDonough, Maggie McLean, Shannon McMahan, N. Sackey-Mills, Julissa Munoz, Samantha Murtagh, Crystal Myles, Christina Naphor and Brian Nguyen.

Jamie Pagdonsolan, Dylan Painton, Ankoor Patel, Eduardo Perez, Stephen Petriello, Emily Pittenger, Nicholas Fleeter, Kathrine Podlovits, Jamie Quail, Allison Quintanilla, Alyssa Ragno, Kripa Rajan, Hiren Rana, Alison Ratti, Erin Remsing, Jonathan Reyes, Thomas Riccardi, Tania Rincon, Erika Ritchie, Hayley Robjohns and Brianna Ross.

Daniel Sanko, Niari Santiago,

Kimberly Santos Looor, Zachary Sbordone, Gerianne Scarpitto, Jacob Seider, Emily Sella, Brandon Shaw, Joshua Siepmann, Payal Sindha, Avinash Singh, Trevin Singh, Emily Skula, Emma Slotterback, Gabrielle Smith, Imani Smith, Angela Spadavecchia, Joseph Spinella, Corey Stasenko, and Katherine Stainings.

Jennifer Tercek, Christian Thomas, Jessica Thompson, Jennifer Tran, Jaime Valladares, Albert Vill, Caroline Vill, Kathleen Vincent, Steven Vincent, Vera Viran, Wahid Walli, Kimberly Walsh, Allison White, Zachary Wilson, Angelica Wojewodka, Joseph Zipp, Eduardo Zurita and David Zychlinski.

LEVEL 2: Sofia Abd Elhady, Joseph Affinito, James Agee, Alejandra Aguilar, Shaun Alers, Ashley Annetta, Juan Arrubia, Andrew Atkinson, Stephanie Avila, Isabella Behne, Luis Benitez, Nicole Benwell, Robert Benwell, Brendan Berry, Laura Biggs, Quinn Bolivar, Taylor Born, Nicholas Brinks, Arthur Brown, Stuart Buckelew, Harshil Budhan, Erika Bueno, Melissa Burke, Eric Burnham, and James Buttrico.

Marvin Callejas, Courtney Calvey, Hailey Carone, Jamie Caruso, Kenneth Cavanagh, Anthony Celentano, Roshni Chiluka, Kendali Christ, Samantha Christilles, Jena Cianfrocca, Tracey Cihanowicz, Jenna Clemente, Quinn Cochrane, Janine Colicchio, Michael Connolly, James Conrad, Shannah Conway, Brittany Coupe, Ken Crilley, Patricia Cruz, Tyler Cruz, and Shane Cusick.

Thomas Daly, Troy Davison, Megan Deba, Jennifer Delbeni, Michael Delgenio, Sabrina Delpiano, Am-

ilyn DiDario, Cinthya Diaz, John Didoice, Ashley Dispenziere, Dylan Dorey, Alex Dornick, Alexa Douras, Jesse Doyle, Caitlyn Driscoll, Christopher Duffy, and Jacqueline Dvorak.

Catherine Emery, Sal Esposito, Rebecca Eustice, Kevin Farrell, Antoni Franczak, Rayvon Garvin, Christine Geczy, James Gerber, Donna Gibson, Cassidy Gillis, Jamie Glavasich, Justin Glover, Jessica Grosse, Daisy Gonzalez, Angelica Grasso, Jy'neer Green, and Ashley Guarraci.

Taylor Hagy, Shontae Hanks, Christopher Harrell, Zara Harris, Alice Hernandez, Tyler Herriott, Alec Hing, Shannon Hogan, Nicholas Huber, Tyler Hunt, Sarah Hunterton, Austin Jenkin, Sarah Johnson, Nicole Jones, Qatianna Jones-Abel, Tanya Joshi, Kenneth Kaczka, Razeno Khan, Brianna Kizmann, Samuel Knight, Robert Kolvites, Joseph Krawiec, and Nicholas Kukuch.

Nicholas Lacasale, Jason Lai, Paula Lasota, Aimee Le, Viet (Victor) Le, Ashley Linick, Yin Geng Liu, Gina Longo, Brian Lopez, Guillermo Lopez, Jason Lowery, Alexander Lundy, Daniel Lyew, Victoria Maino, Frank Malecki III, Emely Mallqui, Johnny Mancheno, Ryan Marcoux, Christopher Markey, Shianne Martinez, Liam McDermott, Victoria McKay, Joseph Miller, Madison Miller, Stephen Monroe, Rebecca Moskal, and Amber Mullens.

Jesse Namotka, Vyvian Nguyen, Zachary Noll, Katherine O'Brien, James O'Connor, Christopher O'Keefe, Kyle O'Keefe, Timothy O'Leary, Keanu O'Neal, Michelle O'Sullivan, Kelly Outeiral, Marc Paez, Joseph Palazzo, Danielle Palitto, Yulia

Panella, Joseph Parillo, Brittany Parra, Melissa Pasternak, Aakash Patel, Devang Patel, Shivam Patel, Brandon Pauls, Jaclyn Pauls, Claude Payne, Ida Peery, Jeffrey Pellegrino, Joseph Pellegrino, Raymond Perez, Amit Persaud, Katherine Piekarski, Idalis Pineda, Melissa Plasse, and Iesha Popal.

Anthony Quadrel, Christal Ramagado, Bobbie-Jo Raposo, Emily Reineke, Ryan Riccardi, Karen Rivera, Maurice Roach, Ashley Rob Johns, Joshua Rochotte, Jacob Rotella, Daniel Sagahome, Andrew Sanchez, Adam Sanguiiano, Raymond Santos Jr., Peter Scala, Daniel Schuch, Rachel Scudato, KimberLee Serrano, Brandon Shea, Ramona Shivraj, Aston Sinclair, Cory Singer, Joseph Skwiat, Angelica Smith, Zachary Smithline,

Daniel Snogans, Casandra Soriano, John Sottiriou, Raven Sperr, Luke Sprenger, Nicole Stanczak, Samuel Steingart, Michelle Stocckel, Savannah Storm, Tyler Stranzbach, and Michael Szeman.

Olga Tarnawska, Russell Teller, Nicole Tetreault, Steven Timmerman, Amanda Tjong, Jade Tompkins, Anthony Torchia, Yensyn Toro, Johnny Tran, Jessica Treslar, Sarah Tufaro, Riana Tuwaidan, Sergio Ulacia, Michael Uribe, Samantha Uribe, Margaret Valentine, Alex Valladares, Michael Vega, Kelly Walsh, Matthew Ward, Kaitlin Whalen, Allyson White, Eric Willis, Brendan Wilson, Megan Yarnick, Richard Zekas, Michael Zelasko, Joseph Zipp, Daniel Zwatschka, Isabel Zychlinski.



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Frightened, cowering in a secret meeting place, His friends sat wondering what would become of them.
Frightened, wary, all over town His enemies were taking extreme precautions to insure that He couldn't do it.
No one really believed that He could.
But then came the rumors!
Some woman said she had actually seen Him alive!
Two of His friends claimed that He had talked to them on their way home.
None of His enemies ever saw Him, but the rumors kept flying around. Even some of their own men came with a very disturbing report, that had to be squelched with bribes and threats.
Then the mass meetings started!
Before large crowds, some of His known collaborators began insisting that He had done it! ...even when they met with skepticism and bias from the local authorities that quickly turned into vicious harassment.
All the best evidence, which could have proved beyond reasonable doubt that He had NOT done it, mysteriously disappeared!
In fact, as years went by, and books began to appear, marshalling compelling evidence that He had done it, it became more and more difficult to insist that He had not, without seeming foolish.
Many decided that He had, and accepted His authority in their lives.
The rightness of their decision has been abundantly confirmed to them, because...

JESUS TRULY DID ARISE BODILY FROM THE DEAD, AND OFFERS HIS LIFE AND POWER TO THOSE WHO WILL ACCEPT HIS AUTHORITY IN THEIR LIVES!

WILL YOU?

Sports

SOCCER



U-14 flight champions—(top row) Coach Licato, Shane Howard, Luis Valladares, Thomas McGuire, Tyler Barnick, Jimmy Bijlani, Devin Evans, Christian DiCarlo, Michale Carrion, Coach Barnick. Bottom row: Coach Valladares, Brian Palma, Andrew Kovalevich, Frank Licato, Justin DeOliveira, Logan Green, Chris Zwatschka, Coach Bijlani.

U-14 Team Ice is Hot!

This explains the mild winter! The U-14 Ice is hotter than hot, finishing the Fall 2005 season as flight champions!

Ice ended strong, winning eight out of 10 games and winning first place in their flight. Ice consisted of players who have only been together as a team since the Fall of 2004. The winning

combination of committed players, coaches and their families, have made this team a real success story!

We are all so proud of these young men and what they've accomplished on and off the soccer field. Come out this spring and support Team Ice and the entire South Plainfield Soccer Club.

Did you enjoy this issue of the Observer? Don't miss another! Subscribe! (908) 668-0010.

It's Ponytail Scholarship Time!

As you may or may not know, the Parent's Ponytail (softball) Association is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applicants are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield High School guidance office. To qualify for the scholarships the applicant must be a high school senior graduating this June and a current resident of South Plainfield. To qualify for one of the two recreation scholarships, applicants must have played for a minimum of four years in the South Plainfield Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League. To qualify for the Ponytail All-Star scholarship, applicants must have played South Plainfield Recreation softball for a minimum of three years. All-Star players may apply for both the recreation and All-Star scholarships; however, a player is eligible to receive only one scholarship. The application must be received no later than May 5. All completed applications can be mailed to SPPPA Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or returned to the H.S. guidance office in a sealed envelope labeled SPPPA Scholarship. Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded. Get your applications as soon as possible.

So. Plfd. Eagles to Hold Registration

Registration for Pop Warner football and cheerleading will be held on April 5, 6 and 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the field house on Kenneth Ave. Children between the ages of five and 14 as of July 31 are eligible to register. Visit our website at www.speagles.com for more information.



Kneeling L to R: Chris Esposito, Ryan Pauls, Vin Genova, Tim Moskal, Mike Dandola and Trevor Rastelli. Standing L to R: Coach Ralph Fech, Robert Parillo, Brett Morris, Joe DeNizio and Asst. Vol. Coach Lori Gerstl.

Bowling Season Highlights

- Shocked #3 State ranked Edison as the Tiger shot a big 1,166 (school record) game posting a 3-1 victory.
- Stunned #2 final State ranked Woodbridge by posting scores of 1068-1052 and settling for a 2-2 tie.
- Lost a heartbreaker to Red Division Champions Old Bridge in the first round of the GMC team playoffs by score of 2-1.
- Placed 14th in the Central Jersey All-Groups State Sectional in a field of 47 teams.
- Overall record (10-18-1).
- Won the White Division Sportsmanship Award.

INDIVIDUAL	AVG/ #GAMES	HIGH GAMES	HIGH SET
Senior Capt. Vin Genova (MVP)	194/73	276	682
Freshman Mike Dandola (Rookie of Year)	191/79	255	677
Sophomore Chris Esposito	176/78	248	624
Sophomore Ryan Pauls	173/69	250	632
Sophomore Jeff Pryor	172/59	224	614
Junior Robert Parillo	163/46	231	585
Senior Brett Morris	160/55	245	598
Freshman Tim Moskal	158/15	193	519
Senior Joe DeNizio	146/17	178	484
Junior Trevor Rastelli	137/10	159	452

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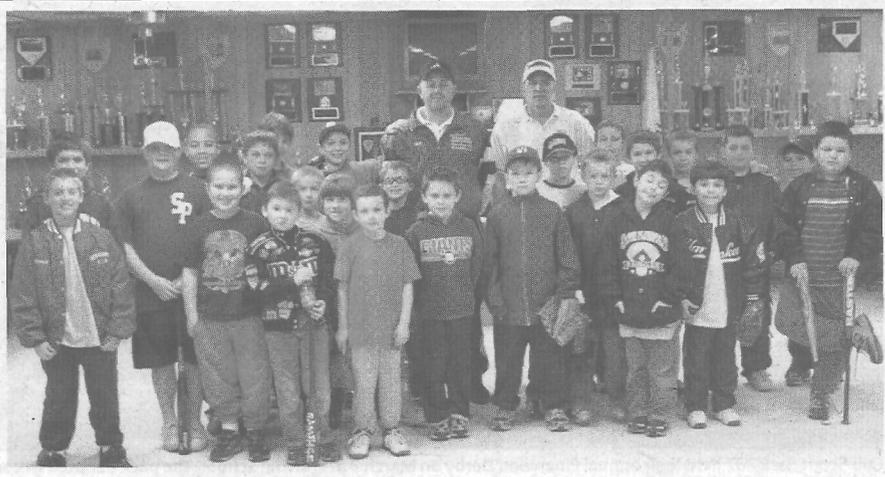
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Sports



Bill Lehman and Mickey Duval posing with SPJBC players at the Coaches Clinic this past week.

By Glenn Cullen



JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The SPJBC would like to thank Bill Lehman and Mickey Duval for putting on an excellent pitching and batting clinic this past week. Opening day is scheduled for April 8. The first canning event will actually take place the weekend before on March 31 and April 1. All managers

should notify parents regarding canning times. The next SPJBC monthly meeting is scheduled for April 3 at 7:30 p.m. All 10 year-old and 15 year-old parents are requested to do field duty this Saturday at 8 a.m. at the SPJBC complex. C League orientation is set for Saturday April 1 at 2 p.m.

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.leaguecleanup.com/spjbc.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

On behalf of the Parents Ponytail Association, we would like to thank all of the parents and children who showed up to help clean up the Pitt Street softball fields and snack stand on Saturday, March 18.

We would also like to thank Ray Jazikoff for arranging the additional field work help with the community service group. Our fields and snack stand are in great shape and awaiting a

great turnout for Opening Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 8. Let's all come out and show our support. Hope to see you there.

The next Parents Ponytail Association meeting is Tuesday, March 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the PAL Building. Remember, these meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of each month. We welcome all new faces and fresh ideas. You can make a difference!

Register Now for T-Ball/Teener

2006 T-Ball/ Teener Ball registration is open to South Plainfield residents, boys and girls, who were five as of Oct. 1. Teener Ball is available to boys as baseball, and girls as softball. Registration ends April 7. Register at the PAL, located on Maple Ave. A birth

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

Soccer Club Squirts Return

The South Plainfield Soccer Club and United Soccer Academy will again host the popular "Soccer Squirts" program this spring for age groups 3-5 and 5-7. Dates for the programs are

April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 and June 3. Cost is \$89. All sessions will be held at the Kenneth Ave. fields.

To enroll, please go to www.unitedsocceracademy.com.

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<p>BERINGER FOUNDER'S ESTATE Chardonnay 7.99 / 750 ml</p> <p><small>This wine is appealing for its supple and easygoing flavors and tasty sweet pear and spicy tropical fruit. – Rated by the Wine Spectator on June 15, 2004.</small></p>	<p>CLINE Zinfandel 7.99 / 750 ml</p> <p><small>This Zinfandel offers medium-weight blackberry, olive, leather and spicy-peppery aromatics, though on the palate, no one flavor comes into focus.</small></p>	<p>NOBILIO MARLBOROUGH Sauvignon Blanc 8.99 / 750 ml</p> <p><small>This wine's tart style is like a mouthful of lime juice, with just enough apple and pear flavors to round it out. It finish is savory and refreshing. – Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 35 white wine values from around the world.</small></p>	<p>KENDALL JACKSON Cabernet 12.99 / 750 ml</p> <p><small>This Cabernet is ripe and juicy, with fleshy plum, blackberry and wild berry fruit that's well-centered and supple in texture, with a touch of leather and mineral. – Rated by the Wine Spectator on December 15, 2004.</small></p>
<p>VENDANGE Cabernet, Merlot, Chard., White Zinf. 6.99 / 1.5 liter</p>	<p>ROBERT MONDAVI WOODBRIDGE White Zinfandel 7.99 / 1.5 liter</p>	<p>BERINGER FOUNDER'S Cabernet, Merlot 7.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>BLACK OPAL All Types 6.99 / 750 ml</p>
<p>BERINGER Pinot Grigio 9.99 / 1.5 liter</p>	<p>CLOS DU BOIS Chardonnay 9.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>COLUMBIA CREST GRAND ESTATES Cabernet, Merlot 9.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>LINDEMANS All Types 10.99 / 1.5 liter</p>
<p>J. LOHR Cabernet, Merlot, SEVEN OAKS Cab. 11.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>KENDALL JACKSON VINTNER'S RESERVE Merlot, Pinot Noir 12.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>CLOS DU BOIS Cabernet 13.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>BERINGER Sparkling White Zinfandel 7.99 / 750 ml</p>
<p>ARBOR VALLEY Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel 4.99 / 1.5 liter</p>	<p>ARBOR VALLEY Chablis, Rose, Burgundy 7.99 / 4 liter</p>	<p>LIVINGSTON CELLARS Cabernet, Merlot, Chard. 8.99 / 3 liter jug</p>	<p>PETER VELLA Burgundy, Chablis, White Grenache, Deep Red 10.99 / 9 liter box</p>
<p>FRANZIA Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinfandel 12.99 / 5 liter box</p>	VALUE WINES ***		
<p>MARTINI & ROSSI Sweet or Dry Vermouth 5.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>GORDON'S London Dry Gin 14.99 / 1.75 liter</p>	<p>KAHLUA Coffee Liqueur 15.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>COORS & COORS LIGHT LAGER or LIGHT 212 Packs 11.99 / 19-Pack</p>
<p>PHILADELPHIA Blended Whiskey 11.99 / 1.75L</p>	<p>LICOR 43 Cuarenta y Tres Cordial 18.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>CAPTAIN MORGAN Spiced Rum 23.99 / 1.75 liter</p>	<p>SAM ADAMS LAGER or LIGHT 212 Packs 22.99 / 12 oz. N.R. Bottles Case</p>
<p>MAJORSKA Vodka 80° 12.99 / 1.75L</p>	<p>HENNESSY VS Cognac 25.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>CHIVAS REGAL 12 Year Old Premium Scotch Whisky 26.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>FOSTER'S LAGER 2/12 Packs 19.99 / Case</p>
<p>RON RICO Silver or Gold Rum 14.99 / 1.75L</p>	<p>CUTTY SARK Scotch Whisky 26.99 / 1.75 liter</p>	<p>ABSOLUT Vodka 80° 31.99 / 1.75 liter</p>	<p>BECK'S & BECK'S PREMIER LIGHT 2/12 Packs 20.99 / Case</p>
<p>CLAN MACGREGOR Scotch Whisky 15.99 / 1.75L</p>	<p>KNOB CREEK 9 Year Old Single Batch Bourbon 26.99 / 750 ml</p>	<p>MILWAUKEE'S BEST REGULAR, LIGHT or ICE 12 oz. Cans 10.99 / 30-Pack</p>	<p>O'DOUL'S NON-ALCOHOLIC LAGER OR AMBER 12 oz. N.R. Bottles or Cans 12.99 / Case</p>

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Cub Scout Pack 207 held their annual Pinewood Derby on March 3 at Franklin School. The pack debuted a brand new, 42-foot, six-lane, aluminum track, electronic sensor timers, and state-of-the-art racing software, made possible by the fundraising efforts of John Bundy and his "unforgettable" magic show during the past two years. Forty-one scouts raced their handmade, wooden cars six times each and everyone had a great time. Cubmaster Thomas Berry would like to thank Bundy for his fundraising, Joe McGeehan for the dinner catering, the Henderson family for the trophies and the numerous parents who helped to make this night a great success.

"Parenting at the Speed of Life" Seminar

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Family Life will be sponsoring a "Parenting at the Speed of Life" seminar at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center on Metlars Lane in Piscataway, on Thursday, March 30, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The cost for the seminar is \$10 per person and \$15 per couple (includes refreshments).

This is especially for parents of preschool through adolescence children. For information, visit www.dio-metuchen.org/familylife or call (732) 562-1990 x1624.

This presentation focuses on affirming and nurturing the family's strengths. Parents will discover a framework for promoting healthy growth for the family. Learn three keys to healthy family development and five critical moments to connect and communicate each day.

The presenter, Tom Everson, MRE, brings 20+ years of practical experience working with young

people, parents, adult educators and families. He was director of the Center for Adolescent and Family Spirituality and director of Religious Education at Fr. Flanagan's Boys Town. He served as co-director of Christian Formation for the diocese of Kalamazoo, MI, as a youth minister in Houston, TX, as a high school teacher and coach, and as a campus minister in a university setting. Tom and his wife Wendy are the parents of four children and count their blessings in Omaha, Nebraska, where they live.

Fitness Director Speaks at Monday Afternoon Club

Sheri Cognetti, fitness director of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, spoke to the Monday Afternoon Club on March 6 about adult fitness. She talked about the importance of cardiovascular fitness, strength training, flexibility and balance training, all modalities that benefit the participant by feeling better and helping to reduce the incidence of injuries.

She also explained the cardiovascular fitness strengthens the heart and lungs. It helps to get blood and oxygen to the body resulting in health

benefits of feeling better mentally and physically. Cardiovascular training should take place on most days of the week. Sheri talked about a pedometer program that she is doing at the YMCA. Wearing a pedometer during daily life will give an indication of how active you are and will encourage you to add more steps into your daily life becoming more active.

Strength training helps to strengthen muscles to help prevent injury and maintain an active lifestyle. Strength training will help with bone density. Sheri spoke about "Healthy Bones," a strength training program designed for people with osteoporosis. Participants had the opportunity to experience some of the exercises.

Sheri is the fitness director of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. She holds many certifications and trainings in various areas of fitness. She is currently a trainer for the YMCA of the USA.

People for Animals Needs Tricky Tray Prizes

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor a Tricky Tray event on Friday, April 28 at the Somerville Elks Club, in Bridgewater. People for Animals is in need of prizes for this event.

Prizes should be new items or collectibles in 'like new' condition. The value of donated prizes is tax deductible. Prizes can be dropped off at the People for Animals Spay/Neuter Clinic, 433 Hillside Ave. in Hillside, or contact us for other options.

The Tricky Tray doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the prize drawings starting at 8 p.m. Admission is a donation of \$5 per person (adults only) and includes one sheet of tickets for regular prize baskets. Food will be available for purchase and a 50/50 raffle will be held.

For more information, call People for Animals at (908) 964-6887.

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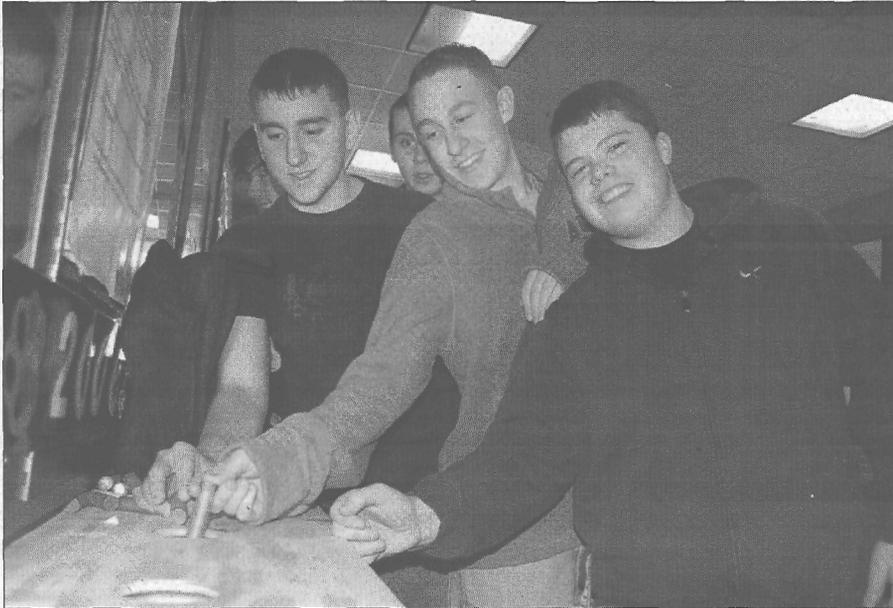
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(L to R): Michael George, Danny McCreesh, Gary Stark.

Penny Wars Competition Was Fierce

By Patricia Abbott

The recent South Plainfield High School Penny Wars presented a friendly but fierce battle, pitting classmate against classmate as well as against faculty and staff. The five factions—freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and faculty/staff—each sought to earn the most points and raise the most money for our town's special athletes.

The week-long competition had deceptively simple rules. Each group had a huge water bottle bearing their name. Every penny placed in their

container counted as a point. Placing other denominations such as nickels, dimes etc. in another teams jug reduced that teams points by that value. Points were tallied daily. Minutes before the end of the battle students raced to pour pennies into their bottle. They also deposited change and bills into the competitors bottles. Commerce Bank representatives assisted with the final calculations and the results of the wars were announced on Monday, Feb. 27.

The SPHS Freshmen Class of 2009 have proven beyond a doubt that they are a class to be reckoned with, com-

ing in first with -4,170 points. In second place were the juniors with -8,044, followed by the seniors with -8,890 points, the sophomores had -10,970 and last year's winners, the staff and faculty can in dead last with -47789 points.

Proceeds from the event, \$1,349.14, will benefit the real winners: the Special Athletes of South Plainfield. The event was organized by teacher Kevin Hajduk. Supporting the event were Mrs. Raimondo and Bowman-Williams and the Peer Leadership Group.

Local Families Needed For Exchange Students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is seeking local host families for boys and girls from a variety of countries around the world. These students are 15 to 18 years of age, and are coming to this area for the upcoming high school year or semester. These personable and academically select exchange students have good English, are bright, curious and anxious to learn about the USA by living as part of your family, attending high school and shar-

ing their own culture and language with you.

The exchange students arrive from their home country shortly before school begins and return at the end of the school year or semester. Each ASSE student is fully insured, brings his or her own personal spending money and expects to bear his or her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyles.

The students are well screened and

qualified by ASSE. Families may select the youngster of their choice from extensive student applications, family photos and biographical essays.

To become a host family or find out more about ASSE and its programs, call Sue Nelson at (732) 251-1517 or 1-800-677-2773. There are hundreds of students to choose from, so call—and begin the process of selecting your new son or daughter today!

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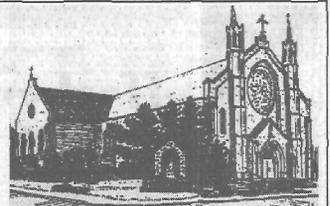
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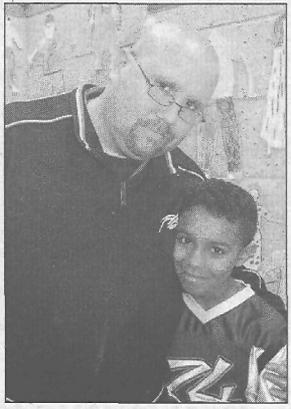
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Junior Journalist Corner



Roosevelt Third Grader Named "Junior Journalist"



Teacher Michael Bertram with Roosevelt third grader Kevin Buschan.

Kevin Buschan, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist Program. His poem, "Friendship," 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 info, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

Friendship

By Kevin Buschan

Friendship is one thing we have to depend on. Everyone needs it.

It doesn't matter if you're big or small, short or tall. We all need friendship.

Tourette Syndrome Assoc. Seeks Nominations

The Board of Directors of Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey is accepting applications for the 2006 TSANJ Educator of the Year Award and the 2006 Healthcare Professional of the Year Award.

The Educator of the Year Award is presented annually to a New Jersey public or private school educator who has made a significant contribution to the education and well-being of a student with Tourette Syndrome. The honor is given to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts on the part of an educator toward the betterment of a student's life and to advocate for students with Tourette Syndrome by furthering the awareness of TS in the teaching community. The nomination should be made by both the family of the student and school administration.

The Healthcare Professional of the Year is presented annually to a doctor,

nurse, psychologist, or other health-care professional in New Jersey who has made a significant difference in the life of a child with Tourette Syndrome.

Nominations for both awards should be submitted to Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, 50 Division Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 or by fax to (908) 575-8699. The nomination should include a statement of 500 words or less explaining why the individual should be nominated for the award.

The awards are funded through the generosity of TSANJ supporters. Individuals interested in supporting the scholarship should forward the contribution to Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc., 198 West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876. Checks should note that the contribution is to be made to the Educator of the Year 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 for TS.

The mission of TSANJ is to support the needs of families with TS, to advocate for individuals with TS, and to educate the public and professionals about TS. TSANJ has a membership of 2,500 families and medical professionals. The organization relies completely on its membership, corporations, government and foundations to fund its mission.



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Obituaries

Stanley P. Pauls, 80

Stanley P. Pauls died on Wednesday, March 22 at home in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Sunbury, Pa., Mr. Pauls lived in Piscataway prior to moving to South Plainfield in 1963.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Stanley served during WWII. He was stationed in France and Germany and was honorably discharged in 1946. Upon his discharge, he met Nancy (Wampole), whom he married five years later in 1951.

Mr. Pauls earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in electrical engineering from Bucknell University in 1950.

He worked for Merck Pharmaceutical in Rahway for 35 years, retiring in 1987, where he held the position of director of engineering.

A member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, Stanley was also a member of the South Plainfield VFW Post 6763, a member of the Sunbury American Legion Post 201 in Sunbury, Pa., and while his children were growing up, he coached baseball for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. In addition, Mr. Pauls was an avid gardener and fisherman.

He is predeceased by his granddaughter, Stephanie Pauls, who died in 1991 and his brother, Lawrence A., who died in 2005.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy (Wampole), five daughters, Judy and her husband Ed Blaha of Wall Twp., Kathy and Greg Augustine of Piscataway, Constance and her husband Joe Wilcox of Yardville, Jennifer and her husband Rich Bucey of North Carolina and Joann Pauls of South Plainfield; five sons, Steve and his wife Peggy of Old Bridge, Bob and his wife Diane, Jeff and his wife Nancy, Sam and Tony, all of South Plainfield. Also surviving are 20 grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at McCriskin Home For Funerals on Plainfield Ave.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, at 9 a.m. in McCriskin's, followed by a 10 a.m. mass at Sacred Heart Church. Interment will follow in Hillside Cemetery in Scotch Plains.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Stanley's memory to the VNA Hospice of Central New Jersey, 141 Bodman Dr., Red Bank, NJ 07701 or to Sacred Heart Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Charles J. Sakevich

Charles J. Sakevich of Valrico, Fla. died on Sunday, Jan. 1.

Born in Pennsylvania, he resided in South Plainfield for 43 years. He had been involved with little league and Pop Warner Football. He moved to Florida five years ago. Charles was also a member of Nativity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of 52

years, Helen; two sons, Kevin and his wife Nami and C.J. and his wife Linda; three grandchildren, Emi, John and Rachel; three sisters, Josephine, Frances and Alice.

Angel Michael Jones

Angel Michael Jones, this little precious angel, entered into God's loving arms on Wednesday, March 8.

He is survived by his loving parents and entire family who will treasure this little angel in their hearts for eternity.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Alvin Wild

Alvin Wild died on Thursday, March 16 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Plainfield, he lived in Scotch Plains before moving to South Plainfield in 1964.

He was a salesman for the H.H. Brown Shoe Company, New York City for 15 years, retiring in 1998.

During the Korean War he served in the army and belonged to American Legion Post 243 in South Plainfield.

A string bass and tuba player, he was a member of the New Jersey Jazz Society and very much involved in the South Plainfield High School Music Boosters where he was president for seven years. An enthusiast of jazz and Dixieland music, he traveled extensively in the U.S. to jazz concerts and festivals. He attended Middlesex County College, and took cooking classes to become a chef.

Mr. Wild was a member of the former Temple Beth El in Plainfield. When it merged with Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, he joined and attended services every Friday night.

Mr. Wild's sister, Selma Wild, predeceased him in 1993.

Surviving is his wife of 44 years, Ina E. Karetnick Wild, a son, Scott M. and his wife Priscilla of Oakland Calif., two daughters both from Piscataway, Jodi M. Neiper and her husband Carl and Cara M. Harms and her husband Rick; a brother, Jack of Palm Coast Fla. and a sister, Frances Brown of Westfield.

Funeral services were held at Higgins Home for Funerals in Plainfield.

Memorial donations to the American Diabetes Association, 200A Cortontail Lane, Somerset NJ 08873 would be appreciated.

Raymond J. Schmitt, 79

Raymond J. Schmitt died early Thursday morning, March 16 at the Keswick Multi-Care Center in Baltimore, Md.

Born and raised in Elizabeth, Ray has lived in South Plainfield since 1960.

A veteran of WWII, Mr. Schmitt served with the Navy for three years before being discharged in 1946.

Mr. Schmitt worked as a machinist

for Alloy Steel in Linden retiring in 1988. While employed at Alloy Steel, Ray was active with their bowling and softball teams. He also enjoyed gardening and trips to Atlantic City.

He is predeceased by his wife Alice, who died in 1985; a son Raymond, who died in 2001 and two brothers, Joseph and Frank.

Surviving are two daughters, Christine Schmitt and her longtime friend Peter Lees of Baltimore, Md. and Darcy Hunter and her husband William of Jericho, Vt.; two sisters, Rita Maranick of Toms River and Louise "Dee" Moran of Lincoln, Calif. and eight grandchildren. Also surviving are three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Elizabeth "Betty" Morella, 87

Elizabeth "Betty" Morella died Thursday, March 16 at the Highlands Nursing Rehab in Edison.

Born in Kelayres, Pa., she resided in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield over 50 years ago.

Mrs. Morella was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield.

She was preceded in death by her son, Philip C. Morella, who passed away in 1998 and a son-in-law, Anthony Grimaldi, who passed away in 1995.

Surviving are her loving husband of 60 years, Philip; a daughter, Diane Grimaldi of South Plainfield; four

grandchildren, Anthony Grimaldi Jr. of Dunellen, David Marc Grimaldi of South Plainfield, Philip Morella and Vicki Lynn Morella of Georgia and six great-grandchildren, Nicholas, Abby, Jo, Anthony III, Emily Rose and Samantha.

Funeral services were held at the South Plainfield Funeral Home. Sign the online guestbook at www.southplainfieldfuneralhome.com.

Mary M. Delaney, 86

Mary M. Delaney died on Wednesday, March 15 in her daughter's home in South Plainfield.

Born in Hazelton, Pa., she resided in Avenel and Metuchen before moving to South Plainfield with her daughter 10 years ago.

A homemaker, Mary was known

for her sense of humor, and her dedication to her family and faith.

Her husband, Edward Delaney, died in 1975.

Surviving are six children, Sr. Miriam-Therese Delaney of Texas, Colleen (Joe) Lazar of South Plainfield, Ellen (Paul) Melanson of South Plainfield, Kevin Delaney of California, Brian (Karen) Delaney of New York and Edward (Kathleen) Delaney of Metuchen; a sister, Anna Scottnick of Williamsburg, Va. Also surviving are her 14 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made towards Roman Catholic Masses c/o Sr. Miriam-Therese Delaney. These masses will be offered by the Carmelite Fathers, or to the VNA Hospice of Central Jersey, 141 Bodman Dr., Red Bank, NJ 07701.

The Hillside Cemetery Association

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SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1725

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

Ordinance #1725 entitled: AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS AS STOP INTERSECTIONS AND PROVIDING A STOP SIGN AT SAID LOCATION was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$24.70 March 24, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

March 15, 2005

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on March 14, 2005.

A. Case # 05-09/M—Kentile Industrial Park.

Block 255; Lot 10; Kentile Road. The applicant's request for minor sub division approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Planning Board

\$21.65 March 24, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Mark and Lauren Giermarski requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a (2) story addition. Proposed addition lacks 8' required side setback; 4' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 151 Florence Place on Block 172, Lot 10 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, April 13, 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 March 24, 2006

LEGAL NOTICE

This budget is being presented prior to County Superintendent approval and is based on current year state aid pending the Governor's Budget Message and final release of 2006-07 state aid. The budget will be revised, if necessary, following release of final state aid at the public hearing.

School District Budget Statement for the School Year 2006-2007

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the school district of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, of a special meeting to be held in the Roosevelt Administration Building Gymnasium, 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 28, 2006. The Board will hold a public hearing on the following proposed budget for the 2006-2007 school year:

Noticia de Reunion para Presentar el Presupuesto Escolar 2006-2007

Tenemos una reunion especial para los votantes legales de South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey en la gymnasium de Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, el 28 de marzo 2006 a las 8:00 de la noche. La reunion publico es para presentar el presupuesto escolar para 2006-2007.

Table with columns: ENROLLMENT CATEGORY, October 15, 2004 Actual, October 15, 2005 Actual, October 15, 2006 Estimated. Rows include Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time, Pupils on Roll Reg Accr. Adult High Sch, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Actual, 2005-06 Revised, 2006-07 Anticipated. Rows include GENERAL FUND, Budgeted Fund Balance - General Fund, Revenues from Local Sources, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Actual, 2005-06 Revised, 2006-07 Anticipated. Rows include Revenues from State Sources: Core Curriculum Standards Aid, Transportation Aid, Special Education Aid, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Actual, 2005-06 Revised, 2006-07 Anticipated. Rows include SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, Revenues from Local Sources, Revenues from State Sources: Demonstrably Effective Program Aid, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Actual, 2005-06 Revised, 2006-07 Anticipated. Rows include DEBT SERVICE, Budgeted Fund Balance, Revenues from Local Sources, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Actual, 2005-06 Revised, 2006-07 Anticipated. Rows include DEBT SERVICE, Budgeted Fund Balance, Revenues from Local Sources, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE, Regular Programs - Instruction, Special Education - Instruction, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include CAPITAL OUTLAY, Equipment, Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include SPECIAL SCHOOLS, Summer School, Instruction, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include SPECIAL SCHOOLS, Instruction, Accredited Evening/Adult HS/Post-Graduate, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, Local Projects, Demonstrably Effective Program Aid, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include Nonpublic Handicapped Services, Nonpublic Nursing Services, Nonpublic Technology Initiative, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, Debt Service - Regular, TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2004-05 Expenditures, 2005-06 Rev. Approp., 2006-07 Appropriations. Rows include DEDUCT APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDED IN MULTIPLE FUNDS DUE TO TRANSFERS: Local Contribution - Transfer to Special Revenue, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, General Fund (Reserved), Gen. Fund (Reserved), General Fund (Reserved), General Fund (Reserved). Rows include Budget Category (1), General Fund (Unreserved) (2), Cap. Reserve (3), etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category (1), General Fund (Unreserved) (2), Cap. Reserve (3), Gen. Fund (Reserved) (4), General Fund (Reserved) (5), General Fund (Reserved) (6). Rows include Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (Prior Budg), Approp. Balances 6-30-04 (from Audit), etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category (1), General Fund (Reserved) (2), Debt Service (3), Special Revenue Cap. Reserve (4), Totals (10). Rows include Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (Prior Budg), Approp. Balances 6-30-04 (from Audit), etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category (1), General Fund (Reserved) (2), Debt Service (3), Special Revenue Cap. Reserve (4), Totals (10). Rows include Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-04 (Prior Budg), Approp. Balances 6-30-04 (from Audit), etc.

Table with columns: Per Pupil Cost Calculations: 2003-04 Actual, 2004-05 Actual, 2005-06 Original Budget, 2005-06 Revised Budget, 2006-2007 Proposed Budget. Rows include Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost, Total Classroom Instruction, etc.

The information presented in columns 1 through 3 as well as the related descriptions of the per pupil cost calculations are contained in the 2006 Comparative Spending Guide and can be found on the Department of Education's Internet address: http://www.state.nj.us/education/when available. This publication is available in the board office and public libraries. The same calculations were performed using the 2005-06 revised appropriations and 2006-07 budgeted appropriations presented in this advertised budget. Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost is defined as current expense exclusive of tuition expenditures, transportation, residential costs, and judgments against the school district. For all years, it also includes the restricted entitlement aids. With the exception of Total Equipment Cost, each of the other per pupil cost calculations presented is a component of the total comparative per pupil cost, although all components are not shown.

Annual School District Budget Statement Supporting Documentation

4A. Advertised Capital Outlay Projects

Describe below, by project number, the appropriations for budgeted Capital Outlay Projects including those items related to the district's Long Range Facilities Plan. Include only construction, remodeling, renovations, installation of service systems, land and improvements, and the purchase of buildings. If the project is eligible for a grant, enter an 'X' in column 4. Do not include equipment. Include all projects budgeted on the transfer lines to capital projects fund (8326 and 8335). If the project is a request to exceed an existing referendum (Under N.J.A.C. 6A:26-4.4(a)3), enter an 'X' in column 5 and enter the funding source for the request in column 6. Complete a detailed budget for each project.

Table with columns: Description/Activity, Project Number, Dollar Amount, Eligible for Grant, Request to Exceed Referendum, Funding Source for Request. Rows include Asbestos Removal (Kennedy & Middle Sch), Track Repair (High School), Folding Doors (High & Middle Schools), etc.

RESOLVED, that there should be raised an additional \$93,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2006-2007). These taxes will be used exclusively for one capital project including the installation of one new section of bleachers in the High School gymnasium. This proposed additional expenditure is in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Resuelto, que se debiera levantar la cantidad adicional de \$93,000, en Fondos Generales en el mismo año escolar (2006-2007). Estos impuestos serán exclusivamente para un proyecto capitale el cual es para la instalacion de una seccion nueva de sillas plegadizas (bleachers) en el gymnasio de la escuela secundaria. Es propuesto gasto adicional es ademas de los gastos necesarios para realizar las Normas de Contenido del plan educativo.

NOTICE/ADVISIO The complete budget will be available for examination by the public at the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Education at 125 Jackson Avenue, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from March 13, 2006 to March 28, 2006, both inclusive.

En su totalidad el presupuesto se hara disponible al publico en el Oficio del Secretario de la Junta de Educacion en Jackson Avenue, No. 125 de 9:00 de la manana a las 4:00 de la tarde desde 13 de marzo, 2006 a 28 de marzo, 2006.

Donna M. Tolley, Secretary/Secretario South Plainfield Board of Education/Junta de Educacion 125 Jackson Avenue South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 \$795.00 March 24, 2006

CITIZENS URGED TO VOTE IN APRIL 18, 2005 SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET ELECTIONS

Polls are open from 2 to 9 p.m. Check your ballots for polling places or call the Borough Clerk's Office, (908) 226-7606

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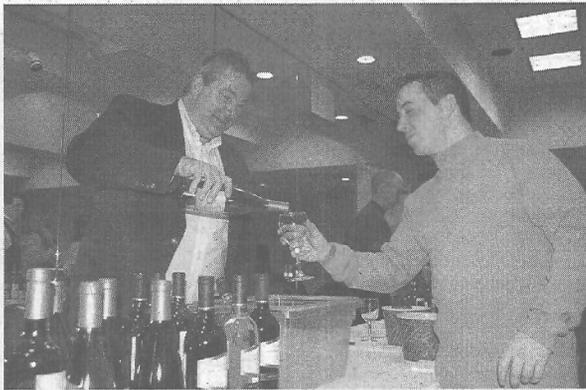
Come claim your new loves! All kitties have been altered, HIV tested, vaccinated, dewormed, fed hi-grade cat food and are litter trained on eco-friendly corn litter. Many are leash and collar/clothing tolerant. Indoor cats only! Adoption fee and home inspection to ensure that the Starkittys will be placed in stable, permanent and safe homes. Guaranteed return policy. See our ad under Pet Adoptions or call (908) 334-3171 for more info. Also, visit the Starkittys, Sat. March 18 and 25 and April 1, at Petsmart, Chimney Rock Rd., Bridgewater between 1-5 p.m.



Volunteers For Litter Clean-up Week Needed

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a borough-wide cleanup 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. They will target roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots. Volunteers will be invited back to Borough Hall for a free pizza pickup picnic, complete with environmentally friendly door prizes. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own.

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



Matt DeSimone of Federal Wines pours drinks at benefit wine tasting.

Rotary Club Wine Tasting Benefits SPHS Athletic Boosters

By Patricia Abbott

Spirits were high at last month's South Plainfield Rotary/Edison Rotary Club wine tasting. The annual joint venture held at the Clarion Hotel in Edison was organized by Dan Rattie, owner of Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors, who provided vendors offering a wide variety of beers, wines and liquors for sampling.

There was also a sumptuous array of desserts, sandwiches, cheese and crackers. Proceeds from the event

went to the SPHS Athletic Boosters to replace the football field gatehouse that burned down last fall. Approximately 130 people were in attendance.

The two Rotary clubs have been hosting the wine tasting for about five years. John Nakashian is the incoming president of the club and Yede Dennis is acting president. Drawings for the gatehouse are finished and they hope to start construction soon. An additional fundraiser for the gatehouse project—a 70's dance—is tentatively scheduled for May.



Crystal Dice of Plaza Buy Rite, Rick Reed owner/brewer of Cricket Hill Brewing, Gene Bataille, Jen and Dan Ratti and Brian Greer of Hunterdon Brewing.

Junior Journalist **WINNER**

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Shaunique Cisson pictured here with mom April Figueroa, grandmother Diana Cisson and sisters Jinez Figueroa and Nya Figueroa. Congratulations Shaunique!

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policereport

• On March 7 Latoya L. Bradley, 22, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

• A Camden Ave. resident reported that his 1992 GMC Sonoma had been stolen from the parking lot at the Polish Home on New Market Ave.

• On March 8 James A. Riddles, 18, and Najem M. Sheppard, 18, both of South Plainfield were arrested for receiving stolen property.

• On March 9 Eric S. Hendricks, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for a brake light out, driving on a suspended license, hindering apprehension and two outstanding warrants.

• An English Ct. resident reported the theft of hubcaps from their 2001 Toyota Corolla.

• A Frederick Ave. resident reported the theft of his license plates.

• On March 10 Quashon Aaron Brooks, 18, of Scotch Plains and Darnell T. Phelps, 19, of South Plainfield were arrested for possession of a controlled substance in a motor vehicle.

• David B. Madsen, 54, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and speeding.

• A Hillside Ave. resident reported that their front windshield had been smashed and a palmcorder and Play-

station were taken.

• On March 11 Juan C. Nunez-Mendez, 24, of Trenton was arrested for driving on an expired license and an outstanding warrant.

• Naseem S. Qurichi, 27, of Boonton was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

• On March 13 Stacyann Marie Burrell, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

• On March 14 Brian D. Patrusovich, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for reckless driving, no insurance, driving on a suspended license, obstruction and an outstanding warrant.

• Bernard L. Jennings, 49, of Plainfield was arrested at Pathmark for shoplifting \$284 worth of over the counter medications.

• A Joan St. resident reported the theft of her cell phone from her purse that was left unattended in a shopping cart at the A&P.

• A Wenzel Ct. resident reported that a watch, gold chain, gold ring and cash were taken from his apartment. There was no sign of forced entry.

• On March 15 Jacquelyn M. Lodge, 19, of Edison was arrested for failure to stop and an outstanding

warrant.

• On March 16 Wayne F. White, 37, of South Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, tinted windows, failure to turn, failure to exhibit documents and driving on a suspended license.

• RJP Limited reported the theft of a 1992 Wabash trailer from the Hall's Warehouse lot on Kentile Rd.

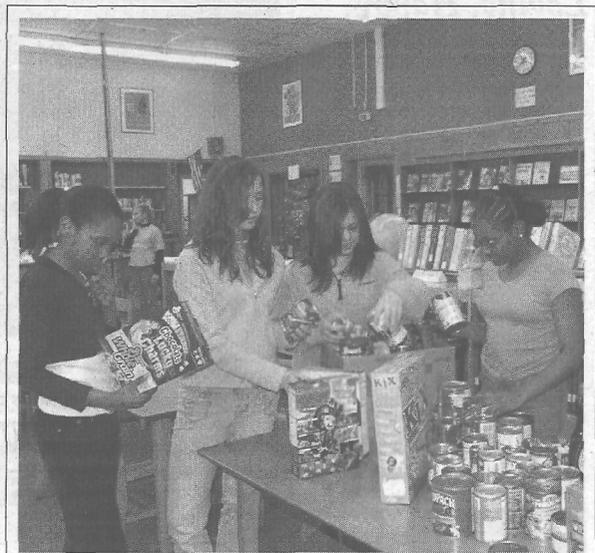
• On March 17 Carlos A. Silva, 44, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to keep right.

• An Arlington Ave. resident reported the theft of a Sony Playstation 2, a laptop computer, a DVD player, jewelry and a Sony digital camera from their home. Suspects entered through an unlocked bathroom window.

• On March 18 Gregory Deloach, 40, of East Orange was arrested for eluding an officer, receiving stolen property and possession of a controlled substance.

• On March 19 a W. 7th St. resident reported that theft of a 1997 Toyota Corolla that was left running unattended in the driveway.

• A Clinton Pl. resident reported the theft of four rims and tires for their vehicle that was parked on Harvard Ave.



South Plainfield Middle School held a food drive during the week of March 6 and collected over 1,000 items to be donated to food banks and shelters throughout Middlesex County. Pictured are Peer Leaders (l to r) Jenae Goodson, Amanda Plum, Julianna Agrillo, Kayla Prins and Chante Martin.

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Our modern world functions in a 24/7 mode but it is not possible for every institution to be open those hours. However, there is an answer to the problem and it is the Internet. Online programs are available 24/7 and best of all can be accessed from your home while you are in your bedroom slippers. The South Plainfield Library has endeavored to acquire those databases which we feel are most useful to our residents. Thus we have Access Science, legal forms, Testing and Education Reference Center and more.

Moreover the library allows access to JerseyClicks. This program was started under Governor Codey in 2004 and in 2005 users logged onto JerseyClicks over two million times. What is JerseyClicks? It is a collection of 30 databases which are too expensive for the average person (or library) to subscribe to. Moreover, the structure of the program is such that you can search all the databases concurrently. This means you save significant time in not having to constantly sign in and sign out of each individual database. To fully appreciate this program all you need to do is go to the South Plainfield Public Library website: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us and look under the Search Tools and Database heading for JerseyClicks Quick Search and click on that. But you must have a South Plainfield Public Library card to use this service. The cards are free for first time registrants; all you need to do is bring in an item that shows your name and your South Plainfield address. If you have any questions please feel free to call the library at

(908) 754-7885.

Also, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 26 you are invited to come to the library to hear a Celtic Music Journey with musician Heather Mulvey. This program is free and no registration is required.

The next day, Monday, March 27, the scarf knit along will again be in the library at 10:30 a.m. During this knit-along, Ronda Wisniewski will teach students the basic skills needed to complete a scarf. While there is no cost for this program, however you must register.

And, as usual, Miss Linda and Miss Jamie will have their children's programs this week. Miss Linda will have her storytime/craft programs for children 3+ years old on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Then there are the two Time for 2s and 3s on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and Books-n-Babies on Friday at 10:30 a.m.

We hope that Spring will be bright and cheery and that April showers will bring May flowers.

Wanted Drug Dealers Surrender

Suspected drug dealers Kevin Koonce, 33, and girlfriend Leonda Harrell, 31, of 177 Robert Pl. turned themselves into South Plainfield Police after fleeing their home prior to a police raid on November 17.

Acting on tips of drug dealing at the home, police found three pounds of high-grade marijuana valued at \$12,000 hidden in a bedroom closet along with two illegal 9mm loaded handguns and magazines containing hollow point bullets.

The couple had left town along with Harrell's two sons, age 13 and 10. Koonce turned himself into police on Jan. 17 and Harrell on Nov. 18, 2005. Both are currently residing at their Robert Pl. home. The children are currently living with relatives.

Both face charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession with intent to distribute and possession of firearms. No court date has been set.

Annual Curbside Pickups To Begin

The annual spring curbside pickup is about to begin. Starting the first week in April and running for four weeks, the Public Works department will visit each of the five districts.

Collection schedule is as follows:
Week of April 3, Section 1. Place items at curb on Sunday, April 2.

Week of April 10, Section 2. Place items at curb on Sunday, April 9.

Week of April 17, Section 3. Place items at curb on Sunday, April 16.

Week of April 24, Sections 4 and 5. Place items at curb on Sunday, April 23.

To find out what district your street is in and a listing of pickup dates, please see next weeks *Observer*.

A map of the five districts is avail-

able can be found on the borough website at southplainfieldnj.com.

Pickups are for any large household items, including recyclable items, yard debris and automotive items.

Debris should be placed at the curb in front of the residence on the Sunday night prior to the week in which the collection is to occur. When possible, items should be either tied or boxed and be neatly placed at the curb. The amount of waste cannot exceed 12 ft. x 3 ft by 3 ft.

Apartments and condominium/townhouse complexes are not included in the curbside pickup program.

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