

Residents are reminded to VOTE on Tuesday, April 18.

The Association of South Plainfield Churches will hold a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, 6:30 a.m. in Spring Lake Park. All are welcome.

In the event of rain, the service will be held at Wesley Methodist.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 32

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

50 CENTS

APR 18 2006

APRIL 14, 2006

## Cusick Stepping Down

Councilman Robert Cusick, who has been on the Borough Council since 2000, has decided not to run in this year's election.

Cusick cited an increased work schedule in his position as lieutenant in the Middlesex County Department of Corrections where he has worked for the last 18 years as his reason for stepping down. "I don't want to seek a third term because I can't provide the time working here," Cusick said.

Cusick has been a member of the Planning Board, Environmental Com-

mission, and chairs the Administration, Finance and Public Information Committee. He has also been a member of the Public Works and Safety committees.

Cusick is the second Democrat to decide not to run this year. Earlier, Mayor Daniel Gallagher removed himself from the slate and will not run for Mayor. But in his short statement, Cusick put out the challenge of a future race.

"This has been a tremendous experience," said Cusick, adding, "I will be back. I'm younger (than the Mayor)."

## BOE Vote Tuesday

By Libby Barsky

Voting day on the 2006-2007 \$50,475,623 school budget is Tuesday, April 18. Voters will be polled on the \$40,212,967 to be raised in taxes that will increase a home assessed at \$117,000 by an average of \$283.46 a year or a .24 increase in the school tax rate.

The budget anticipates a 15% increase in health care benefits and made \$500,000 in staff cuts—two student assistance counselors, two computer teachers, two World Language teachers, an administrator and secretary—to remain under cap. Although energy and special education costs have increased over the past three years, the amount of state aid has remained flat, resulting in a loss of 27 positions.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Rosado, cites South Plainfield's record of spending \$10,950 per pupil as one of the lowest in Middlesex County, ranking seventeenth out of 22 districts, lower than the county average of \$12,229 and lower than the state average of \$12,567. At the same time, South Plainfield's test score averages in all tests taken place the district in the upper third of schools in Middlesex County.

Rosado warns that the lack of support for the budget will cause further cuts in the school program.

Board members, frustrated by a situation where only the 31 Abbott Districts are currently eligible to receive increases in state aid, are endorsing the Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 37 co-sponsored by State Senator Barbara Buono. SCR37 proposes an amendment to utilize another formula equalizing funding with those districts with special needs. A resolution endorsing SCR37 will be voted on at the next Board of Education meeting. Meanwhile, board members are asking the public to contact district legislators to support this bill.

Four candidates—two women and two men—are running for three seats on the Board of Education.

Donna Rann's prime goal is to "Put the Children First." She will

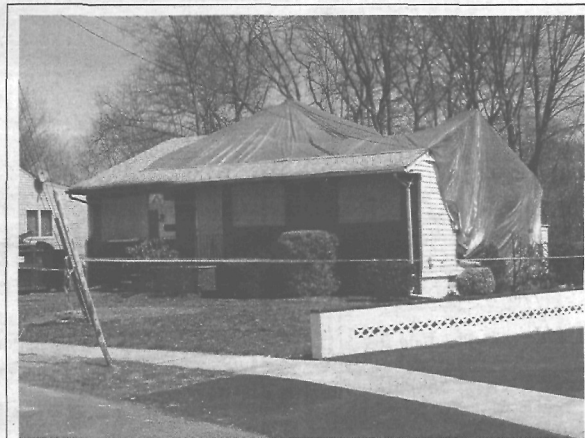
work for better communication between teachers and parents, starting with having teachers in all schools consistently post homework assignments on the Internet website set up for that purpose. She is also an advocate for continuing the arts programs in the district.

Thirty-year resident Randi Gregorio supports the sports programs at the Middle School.

John Markham, a former board member (1979 to 1988), believes in reexamining line item appropriations and reducing overall expenditures.

Ernie "Jim" Giannakis, a 20-year resident of South Plainfield, believes in taking a common sense approach to planning, spending and seeking the district's fair share of state funding and encourages more involvement of parents, residents, staff and students.

Residents are encouraged to cast their votes next Tuesday, April 18. Polling places are open from 2 to 9 p.m. Sample ballots were mailed to all residents. For information on voting locations, contact the Municipal Clerk's office at (908) 226-7606.



## Fire Destroys Home on Hudson Street

A lightning strike is being investigated as the possible cause of a fire that consumed the home on Hudson St. early Tuesday morning. Firefighters from South Plainfield, Piscataway and Colonia were called in around 2 a.m. when a blazing fire was spotted coming from the roof. According to Fire Chief Larry Del Negro, a thunderstorm in the area a few hours earlier may have sparked a slow, smoldering fire. No one was home when the fire broke out and firefighters were able to keep the flames from spreading to neighboring homes.



Members of UNICO collected gifts for troops on a service day held last week. Pictured left to right are Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr., UNICO member; Anthony J. Braico, National president of UNICO National, the largest Italian service organization; Chairperson John Farinella, Alex Barletta, and Frank Licato.

## UNICO Collects Gifts for the Troops

Members of UNICO National's Plainfield Chapter collected gifts for the troops at South Plainfield Borough Hall during the group's first Service Day on April 1. As part of the effort, members of the community donated all sorts of items for members of the U.S. Military deployed overseas, including toothpaste, phone cards, shampoo, sunscreen and other items.

The organization, Soldiers for

Hope, also worked on the event, which was attended not only by local members of UNICO, but also by its national president, Anthony J. Braico. Also on hand were the past commanders from the America Legion, Joseph Penyak and from the VFW, Rudy Poczak.

UNICO member and South Plainfield Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr. was a part of the effort, and thanked not only the people of South

Plainfield and nearby communities for helping out, but also praised committee chairman and South Plainfield resident John Farinella. "John did an amazing job setting up this program, and he is a great example of the volunteerism South Plainfield represents. Service Day reflects well not only on UNICO, but also on our community, and the neighboring communities that pitched in."

(Continued on page 3)

## SPHS Players Make Dreams Come True With Cinderella

By Michael Duquette

The South Plainfield High School Players Drama Club is hard at work preparing another musical for the public this spring. For this season, the students, under the direction of high school English teacher Gloria Naso, are tackling

*Cinderella*, the timeless tale of romance and fantasy featuring the incomparable music and lyrics of Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

After having performed shows with more appeal to older adults, such as *Hello Dolly!*, *South Pacific*, and *My Fair Lady*, the cast and crew of *Cinderella* are eager to take part in a show aimed primarily at children. A host of kid-friendly events are planned in conjunction with each performance, including an opportunity for parents to take pictures of their children with Cinderella and the Prince, a coloring contest, and a royal arts-and-crafts session focused on making crowns.

Amidst singing, dancing, hammering, sewing, stapling, gluing, and searching for glass slippers, many cast members of the play found time to discuss their roles and the play in general.

The coveted role of Cinderella will be performed by junior Katie Noonan, who said, "It's a dream come true to be playing the role all little girls dream of, but I'm nervous about all the children coming to see the play. I don't want to do anything to disappoint them."

Fortunately, Cinderella can always turn to her Fairy Godmother for guidance. This role will be played by fellow junior Susan Mott, who said, "I'm excited about the special effects for this show... Also, I never expected my costume to be as beautiful as it is."

For the role of the Prince, junior Darren Kaczowski will play the part, searching for his mysterious love with only a glass slipper as a clue. "I'm so excited that this show is set in medieval times, because I love that time period," Kaczowski said. He also had high marks for the costumes, designed and assembled by SPHS teacher Loretta Tansey, the students in her fashion class, and other high school teachers and staff who are assisting her. "The costumes for this show are amazing, and I think it's great that Mrs. Tansey and others in the high school are making all the costumes for this show."

For the King and Queen, SPHS veterans Jeff Seesselberg and Cassandra Krajcik, both seniors, were chosen to ascend the thrones. Krajcik said, "This is a really fun show to do for my senior year. It's good to be in such a close-knit cast." Seesselberg agreed, admitting, "At first this show seemed too childish, but gradually it grew on me. I'm very happy about being in this show, yet I'm upset that this is my last show at SPHS. It has been quite an experience."

*Cinderella* will dazzle audiences Thursday through Saturday, April 20-22 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m. at the Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium at SPHS. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$5 for children 12 and under. For more information, call (908) 754-4620.





TUESDAY, APRIL 18

# IN YOUR OPINION

## To the Editor

The girls and parents of South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop 493 would like to extend a big thanks to our troop leader, Abra Hodge. She is a dedicated, kind and caring person who spends countless hours helping our girls learn valuable lessons about things such as independence, life skills, feelings and getting along with others, to name only a few. We appreciate her efforts and look forward to the years ahead. Girl Scouting is truly "Where Girls Grow Strong." Thanks a million Abra!

**VERY SINCERELY,**  
CATHERINE, GABBY, JENNA,  
MICHELLE, SAMANTHA, SHANNAH,  
TARA, ZOYA & THEIR PARENTS

## A Letter of Thanks to McCriscin Home For Funerals,

"Thank you" is just not a word that can describe our feelings. Richie, Bill and all your employees made our final days with Cookie as stress free as you possibly could.

Every one of you went so far out of your way to get us through this very sad time in our lives, most especially Jimmy Gustafson. You definitely went that extra mile.

We also appreciate the overwhelming thoughtfulness from our friends, family, former employees of the Corner Deli, customers and everyone in town who knew Cookie.

**SINCERELY,**  
THE FERRARO, TESTA AND  
BOLESTA FAMILIES

## To the Editor

I fully support Randi Gregorio for a seat on the South Plainfield Board of Education in the upcoming election. I have known Randi personally for more than five years. She is the new voice with new ideas that we need on our town's school board. She is the spark that is missing.

Randi chaired the yearbook committees at both Franklin and Grant schools where I had the pleasure of working with her. She is dedicated and organized with many ideas. Before taking a stand, Randi will look at a situation from many angles and listen carefully to others' opinions before voicing her own. And then she will back it to the end. Over the years Randi has contributed a lot of her time and effort to school functions and fund-raisers. She is a dedicated mother who will always make time to see that our children are well rounded with a good education. Randi's daughter has participated in both drama and sports in our school system. Also having a daughter in Middle School who is active in sports, I have to agree with Randi when she says that classroom education alone does not ready a child for the future. They need the sports and arts programs to teach them the everyday lessons they cannot learn from a book. Randi would like to see our students taking pride in their school and participating in extra curricular activities rather than hanging out on the streets of our town. This, coupled with her business experience, is what makes Randi the best candidate for a spot on the board.

Vote Randi Gregorio, Line 1, on April 18. I know I will.

**SINCERELY,**  
FRAN TRAMUTOLA

## To the Editor

The voters of South Plainfield need to be aware of the awesome responsibility that we have on April 18. We need to show our children that we truly care about the future of their education. We cannot afford to lose any of the programs that are so important to their future. As it stands now, we are in jeopardy of losing the computer program in our elementary schools. Not just two teachers, but the computer program itself! In a world driven by technology, how can we let this happen? We are also scheduled to lose two student assistance counselors. That will also have a negative impact on our elementary schools. These are some of the cuts that we are facing if the budget passes!

If the budget is defeated, we have no idea what other programs will be lost. We do know, however, that if the budget is defeated, it will then go before the mayor who could decide to cut an additional \$1.6 million. If this happens, many more teachers could be let go, leading to larger class sizes, and some of our sports programs as high up as the high school level could be discontinued. We can't let this happen.

Our children deserve to be provided with the skills that they need to com-

pete in the 21st century. I urge you to vote "Yes" to the school budget for the sake of our children.

**THANK YOU,**  
ANN SIMONE

## To the Editor

The Board of Education faces many challenges. First and foremost, the board must be unified and prepared for open discussion on all viewpoints and all issues.

It is common knowledge that school districts can no longer rely on increased federal or state aid. Therefore, unfortunately, taxpayers must provide the additional adequate financing for the district's present and future needs.

As I have said before, there are no simple solutions to complex problems, but the board must, this year and in future years, control spending and improve its budget review procedures. This is mandatory if the board is to provide the quality education and programs to which our students are justly entitled.

As we know, approximately 75-80% of the budget is allocated to salaries and benefits. It is time that the Board of Education recognizes that a reasonable employee contribution to the benefits package should be carefully considered as just part of the solution to eliminate staff and program cuts. Additionally, the board has for a number of years hired "on an interim basis" out of district employees for key administrative positions at a cost of \$500 plus per day. Also, retired employees were brought back at the same rate. This practice must cease. When a vacancy occurs, the board must promptly advertise, interview and hire the most qualified applicant.

I am qualified, possess financial experience and am ready to contribute time and energy to meet the needs of students, staff and community.

On April 18, please vote Line 2.

**THANK YOU,**  
JOHN MARKHAM

## To the Editor

On April 18, the voters of South Plainfield will have the opportunity to assist in establishing the goals and policies which will guide our educational process.

This will be accomplished by electing members to the Board of Education and by demonstrating a position on the proposed budget with a "Yes" or a "No" vote.

This year's campaign has been a quiet one. None of the incumbents, for what I am certain are valid reasons of their own, choose to seek another term. However, new faces stepped forward and offer talents which establish them as worthy candidates for the office. These are John Markham, Donna Rann and Jim Giannakis.

Most voters know of John's previous nine years as a member of the

## 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.

board. During that period he served the borough in distinguished fashion. What most people don't know is that he maintained his interest in education and kept current on issues of board activity. I cannot think of any other individual more qualified to serve as a board member. Vote for John Markham, Line 2.

One of the major issues in education at this time is an effective teacher/parent relationship. Donna understands this through personal involvement and can be a great contributor in enhancing existing programs. Her overall talents will make her an excellent board member. Vote for Donna Rann, Line 3.

As a long term resident of South Plainfield and as a successful businessman, Jim presents excellent qualifications in his bid to be elected to the board. He is familiar with the borough's financial position and as a businessman, he knows the need to establish goals and the requirement to produce the revenue enhancements and the cost controls needed to achieve these goals. We are fortunate in having Jim as a candidate. Vote Jim Giannakis, Line 4.

These three individuals know that they are taking on a formidable task. They are entitled to our support which can be given by casting your votes to give them a solid majority. By all means, vote. Take your spouse to the polls and encourage your relatives, friends and neighbors to get out and vote. Let's set the example for our neighboring towns that no self-interest group minority should control these vital areas because of low voter turnout.

Vote Lines 2, 3 and 4 and your position on the submitted budget.

**FRANK P. CORNELL**

## To the Editor

As the voters consider next week's vote on our annual school budget, I would ask them to consider a few important points. Although the budget does include a local property tax increase, to reduce it to the level that some have advocated would require significant further elimination of both personnel and programs. In light of the devastating impact that would

(Continued on page 10)

## HOLY WEEK/EASTER SERVICES

### Association of South Plainfield Churches Holy Week Programs

#### • Good Friday

12-2 p.m. Ecumenical Community Service, St. Steven's Lutheran Church  
3 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death, Sacred Heart Church  
7:30 p.m. Voices Round the Cross, Sacred Heart Church  
The Message of the Cross, Wesley Methodist  
The Service of Darkness, St. Steven's Lutheran Church

#### • Holy Saturday

9 a.m. Morning Prayer, Sacred Heart  
12 p.m. Blessing of the Easter Food, Sacred Heart  
8 p.m. The Solemn Easter Vigil, Sacred Heart  
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil, St. Steven's Lutheran Church

#### EASTER

6:30 a.m. Ecumenical (community) Service at Spring Lake Park

### Rescue House of Prayer

#### Friday April 14

12-2 p.m. Association of South Plainfield Churches  
Good Friday Service at Stephen's Lutheran Church  
8 p.m. Good Friday Service

#### Sunday, April 16

6:30 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Spring Lake Park  
11 a.m. Easter Worship Service  
6 p.m. Sunday School Easter Program

### Oak Tree Presbyterian Church

9:30 & 11:30 Easter Services

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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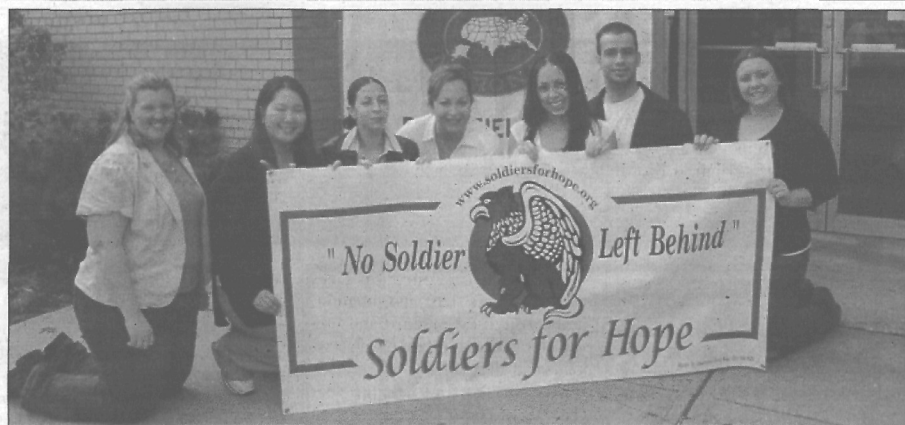
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The Soldiers for Hope-Janice Chrinico, Tricia Pine. Volunteers from Kean University are Jessica Novitski, Christine Odorn, Jonathan Irizarry, Margaret Chen, Karen Sanchez

## UNICO Collects Gifts for the Troops

(Continued from page 1)

One of the largest donations came in the form of 250 phone cards donated by Decna Zolhiwsky of Trinity Reformed Church and Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #10. Phone cards are something the troops really appreciate.

UNICO members helping to make the event a success were Carol Benhar, Robert Levinson, Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Jr., John Farinella,

Renato Biribin, Frank Licato, Robert Bengivenga, Sr., Anthony Bengivenga, Frank Romano, Janet DeAugustine and Victoria DeAugustine. They were joined by Kean University students Jessica Novitski, Christine Odorn, Jonathan Irizarry, Margaret Chen, and Karen Sanchez, as well as Janice Chrinico and Tricia Pine of Soldiers for Hope.

Those working on the project donated, as well as Alex Barletta, Phillips

Safety Products, Vicky Grasso (of the Somerset Marriott), Charlie Butrico, Barbara Purani, Chris Becker, Stephanie Correia, Kathy and George Sidons, Ann Demico, April Bengivenga, Dr. Allen Levine, Nancy Guran, Ann and Lou DeFillipo, Mike Dixon and Danny Cheng.

UNICO, whose motto is "service above self" is the largest Italian-American service organization in the nation.

## School District to Implement Plan to Improve Special Ed Reporting Efficiency

by Libby Barsky

A plan of action to improve and upgrade procedures and methods of reporting to parents is being implemented in the district as the result of a survey assessing the special education programs offered by the district.

Dr. Kathleen M. Rotter, assistant professor of Special Education at The College of New Jersey and a consultant on Educational Services, was brought in by the Board of Education to address concerns parents had about incomplete records, Child Study Team referral methods, the status of progress reports and other matters. At a meeting held on March 27 with parents and members of the board, Rotter gave her recommendations on upgrading the paperwork to be implemented immediately to improve the paperwork procedures. She stressed that her report was not talk-

ing about assessment, planning or programming or evaluating staff. "It's about the procedural side," said Dr. Rotter.

"My belief is, if you don't do the paperwork right, parents may begin to feel something isn't right. If the paperwork isn't clean, you lose a certain level of trust. So one of the reasons I focus on procedures is that it helps to build trust when everyone understands how it is going to happen. I'm interested in building the trust level," Dr. Rotter said.

Rotter suggested the following:

- Child Study Team members should be retrained to refresh them on what order dates and signatures are recorded and what signatures are required.

- Review secretarial assignments and consider additional secretarial support for Child Study Team members to ensure correct typing and filing of forms

with the object of getting IEPs out to parents in a timely manner. "It's been reported to me that these IEPs often come out the last two weeks before school opens. That's not timely for the parents to review to give feedback," Dr. Rotter said. The Special Services files should be completely overhauled and student materials put in chronological order so it's easier to review for compliance. Files should be reviewed periodically so they are in compliance, i.e. correct and that signatures are obtained at meetings.

- Reinforcement and training of general education teachers on how to read and implement IEPs. When a child goes to a new school, ensure that IEPs are developed consistently with services available at that school so children receive those programs when they arrive there. There should be a procedure developed for updating IEPs during the summer so students receive the services set up for them.

According to Dr. Rotter, after providing training for the child study team on procedural matters and having the staff understand the paperwork requirements, she will return in six months and do a mini-review to see what changes have taken place and make the results known to parents. "I will be monitoring these documents to see that these things have taken place," she said.

## Residents and Business Adopt Spots in South Plainfield

Diane Pender has signed a contract with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to keep the Willow Avenue Park behind Borough Hall litter-free. The Pender and Moore families have joined forces to maintain this heavily-used park. Eight people will be collecting litter there on a monthly basis.

In addition, Dominique Pender of Pender and Sons Trucking has adopted the PAL Building grounds, where eight people plan monthly cleanups as well.

The Pender Family is active in scout-

ing, and last year became involved with the Glitterbug Club. The Glitterbugs is an award-winning club for children and their parents, which combines fun with learning about environmental issues and how individuals can help improve their community. Pender has taken on a leadership role with the Glitterbugs, and has now committed to maintaining two highly-visible borough properties.

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

## Library Holding Sweet Fundraiser

The Friends of the South Plainfield Library are sponsoring a fundraiser selling Gertrude Hawk Chocolate. Dark chocolate and crispy bars can be purchased at the Library for \$1.00 each.

All proceeds will be used for projects at the library.

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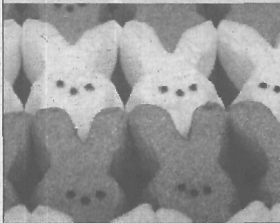
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# Events

## Easter Egg Hunt Rescheduled for Saturday

The Recreation Dept. has rescheduled the rained out Easter Egg Hunt for this Saturday, April 15 at 1 p.m. behind the PAL Building. Residents between the ages of one and 10 are welcome to come join in the fun. Bring a bag for the eggs you will collect. The Easter Bunny will make an appearance; be sure to bring your cameras.



## Rescue Squad Flower Sale

April 14

South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold a flower sale on Friday, April 14 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 15, 8 a.m. until sold out. Come early for best selections. We have daffodils, hanging baskets, hyacinth, hydrangea, lilies, mums new guinea impatiens and tulips.

## Republican Org. Meeting

April 19

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, April 19, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. All residents are invited to attend and bring their concerns and comments for an open discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.


## AARP Chapter 4144

April 20

AARP Chapter 4144's next meeting will be held at South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave. on Thursday, April 20 at 12:30 p.m. A program on IRAs will be presented by Senior Seminar Services, Inc. of

## South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<div><div>UPCOMING EVENTS</div></div> <div>Atlantic City Trip - Claridge April 20 90's Birthday Bash - May 17</div> <div>***</div> <div>Overnight trip to Baltimore w/Dinner Theatre Date Changed to September 30 through October 1</div>				Center Closed 14
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	17 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available	18 Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Line Dancing 10am Tai Chi Class 2pm	19 Shop Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm AARP Meeting 12:30 Atlantic City Claridge 9am	20 Lunch Available Bingo 10am-2pm
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## VFW Dinner

April 21 and May 19

VFW Memorial Post #6763 located at 155 Front St., will host a dinner from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, April 21 and May 19. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call (908) 668-9751.

## Girl Scouts Fair, Flea Market

April 29

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts will hold a Family Fun Fair and Flea Market on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the PAL on Maple Ave. This fundraiser will benefit more than 50 girl scout troops in the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council.

They are looking for vendors and food donations. For more information, call (908) 755-7884.

## Benefit for Alyssa Marie Ricciardi

May 7

Friends and family of two-year-old Alyssa Marie Ricciardi are sponsoring a dinner in her honor to help the fam-

ily with the costs associated with her battle with cancer on May 7 from 5-9 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave.

Tickets may be purchased from Twin City Pharmacy, Our Town Deli, Sals Spirit Shoppe or at the door. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

For more information, call (908) 464-0498 or (908) 561-0982.

## Breakfast at the VFW

May 7

VFW Memorial Post #6763 located at 155 Front Street, is hosting a breakfast on Sunday, May 7 from 8-11 a.m. All are welcome.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

## Fire Dept. Concert

May 12

The Volunteer Fire Department has scheduled its annual benefit concert for Friday, May 12 at 8 p.m. The show will be held at the South Plainfield High School Auditorium.

This year the entertainment will be provided by 1960's recording group, The Vogues.

For more information, call the sales office at (908) 412-6559.

## Comedy Show at Polish Home

May 20

The Polish National Home will present a Comedy Show on Saturday, May 20 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. You are welcome to bring your own food. Cost is \$30 per person.

Call Lisa at (908) 668-9442.

## Yankees vs. Orioles

June 4

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to see the Yankees vs. Orioles at Camden Yards on Sunday, June 4.

Tickets are on sale now. Call the Recreation Department at (908) 226-7713 to make reservations.

## Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Trip

June 6

AARP Chapter 4144 is planning a bus trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Tuesday, June 6 to see "Born Yesterday." The cost is \$65 per person. You do not need to be a member to take this trip. For information or to purchase tickets, call Lee at (732)

## What's happening in APRIL

cruise up to the Bronx, it's a short seven-minute walk to the stadium. The boat docks 30-minutes prior to the first pitch and departs 30-minutes after the final out of the game.

Round trip tickets are \$18 adults; \$14 for children under 12; and \$15 for seniors. Food and beverages are available for sale on board.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.nywaterway.com](http://www.nywaterway.com) or by calling 1.800.53.FERRY.

## Copacabana

April 21-23

Neshaminy Valley Music Theatre, in conjunction with Bucks County Playhouse, 70 South Main St., New Hope, present Barry Manilow's, "Copacabana." The musical will run on Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 18 years of age and can be purchased by calling theater box office at (215) 364-4999.

## Out of Town

## Animal Item Drive

April

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will conduct an animal item drive in April to benefit the Plainfield Area Humane Society.

Items needed include cat and dog food, cat litter, rolls of paper towels, bleach, dish and laundry detergents, guinea pig bedding and rabbit food.

For drop off locations or more information, call (908) 754-0313 or (732) 548-0925.

## Starlight Socials

April 14

Starlight Socials for Single Professionals invites you to Clancy's, 1250 Rt. 31, North Lebanon for a singles happy hour: 5:30-7 p.m. Free buffet, singles mingle. 9 p.m. live band and dancing. No cost except for whatever you order.

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

## Yankee Clipper Cruise/NY Waterways

April

NY Waterway Tours' Yankee Clipper Baseball Cruise offers Yankees fans a hassle-free way to get to all home games this season, starting April 11.

Departs from Port Imperial in Weehawken. After a fun and festive

## Trash & Treasure Sale

April 22

The Women's Association of the Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, 445 Plainfield Rd., Edison, will hold its annual Trash and Treasure sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 22.

Household goods, small appliances, toys, games, books, jewelry, sports items, baby items, children's items, holiday decor and baked goods will be available. Proceeds will go to the church. Early birds are not admitted.

For info, call (908) 769-6553.

## "Monuments of Russian Music"

April 22

The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents "Monuments of Russian Music" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at the Bridgewater-Raritan High School Theatre, Garretson Rd. in Bridgewater.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for students and may be purchased at the door or in advance at the Raritan Music Center, 56 W. Somerset St., Raritan. For information, call (908) 359-0906 or visit [www.cjsso.org](http://www.cjsso.org).

## Planning an event?

Send it to [spobservers@comcast.net](mailto:spobservers@comcast.net)

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## southplainfieldpeople

### Milestones

#### Romano Accepted to Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts



Camile Romano

Camile Romano, a sophomore at Bishop Ahr High School, has been accepted to the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts for the summer intensive and year round ballet and academic training programs.

Located in Torrington, Conn. and recognized as one of the foremost accredited private ballet schools in the country, Nutmeg offers pre-professional training that prepares students for professional dance careers while maintaining a challenging academic program. As a resident student, Camile will be among a young, especially qualified group of ballet students who have demonstrated excellent potential. With a stellar roster of core faculty, Nutmeg students also study with a wide variety of the dance world's best known ballet masters, choreographers and dancers. Graduates of the program have built performing careers in over 45 professional companies worldwide. Camile currently trains fifteen hours per week with The New Jersey Ballet School in Livingston.

#### Eric Burnham Takes Third Place in Skateboard Competition



Eric Burnham

Congratulations to fifth grader Eric Burnham, who took third place in the Shields Skate Park Annual Skateboard Competition on Sunday, April 2 in Flemington. The field consisted of 25 skaters from the tri-state area. Each skater competed in two one-minute heats, performing as many tricks as they could in the allotted time.

Eric is currently being sponsored by the Old School Skateboard Company and the CJS Skate Shop in Edison.

Eric was a regular skate boarder at the South Plainfield Skate Park, along with many other skateboarders in town where he practiced his skills daily.

#### Bishop Named to Dean's List

Shannon Bishop has earned the distinction of being placed on the Dean's List for the Fall 2005 semester at Rowan University. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher to be

eligible for the Dean's list.

Shannon is earning her Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She is the daughter of Scot and Debra Bishop.

#### Kennedy School's Newest Rising Stars

Kennedy Elementary Schools Rising Star Program recently added some new stars to its list. Each student receives a star with their name on it that is placed on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the school. Children also receive a certificate and small prize, such as a movie pass or food coupon.

Students who attained a personal goal are Heather Melendez and Katie Reo. Promoting a positive role model

are Scott Riccardi, Matt Waters, Jesse Nobel, Nancy Tran, Brandon Wizda and Billy Keane. Jason Petriello, Alexandra Lacasale, Daniel Beaufort, Robert Adams, Glenn Holloway, Brianna Swenson, Lindsey Soper and Kyle Courtney received a star for academic improvement. Showing an act of kindness are Sheehan Chaudhri, Brenden Russell, Philip Aquilina and Hamid Walli.



Students pair to learn popular Spanish dances as part of Roosevelt School's multicultural celebration.

#### Roosevelt School Multicultural Dancers

Roosevelt Elementary School students presented dances from different cultures as a part of the Eleventh Annual Multicultural Celebration. The event was chaired by art specialist Glenda Posey.

Fourth grade student Ishti Patel danced in her third and final Multicultural Celebration. Ishti danced a Garba, which is a folk dance style from the northwestern state of Gujarat in India. The dance depicted a young



Fourth grader Ishti Patel

village woman singing as she fetches a pot of water from the river. Ishti danced with a clay pot called a Bedlu. She wore a traditional Gujarati tribal costume and jewelry. The dance was choreographed by her mother, Kinnari Patel.

Spanish instructor, Linda Kapur, taught a fourth grade group the popular Spanish dances Bachata and Merengue. Both dances were created in the Dominican Republic. Jared Agee, Omar Alba, Dante Barden-Lowery, Nina Bavosa, Daisy Castro, Kimberly Corsino, Crystal Custodio, Alyssa Gomez, Tiffany Marrero-Fierro, Nancy Potrillo and Venice Turner participated in the pair's dances.

Third grade student Kelly Simpson concluded the dance portion of the evening by dancing the Irish Reel in traditional Irish dance costume. A student at the Marie Moore School of Irish Dance, Kelly competes in local and regional competitions called Feis.



Kelly Simpson in traditional Irish dance costume.

She will compete in the Nationals in San Diego in June.

#### Automated Postal Center to Offer 24/7 Access

USPS South Plainfield Postmaster Michael Deignan has announced the expansion of customer access to the Automated Postal Centers (APC) in the lobby of the Oak Tree Ave. post office. Customers are now able to conduct postal business 24 hours a day and seven days a week at the APC.

APC's are a free-standing kiosk that accepts credit and debit cards and enables customers to weigh and mail letters and parcels and purchase stamps. It also dispenses postage in any amount for Express Mail, Priority Mail, first-class mail, and parcel post services. The APC also provides mailing information, Zip code lookup and delivery confirmation services.

"We are striving to make it easier for our customers to do business with us at their convenience," says Deignan.

Deignan explains that the APC provides quick, easy and convenient access for postal products and services.

For computer savvy customers, Deignan also recommends the Postal Service's [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) website which he describes as, "the post office at your fingertips." Over 23 million customers visit the Postal Service's

award-winning website every month. Just about anything that can be done at a post office, can be done from a home or office computer. Ordering stamps, print shipping labels, shipping packages, scheduling carrier pick-ups for packages, sending greetings and gifts, and using postal services of all kinds can all be done online.

#### Kindergarten Enrollment Announced

Kindergarten enrollment in the South Plainfield School District for the 2006-2007 school year will be held April 18 through April 27.

Kindergarten enrollment packets are available in the Enrollment Office located in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

Enrollment is by appointment only. Please call (908) 754-4620, ext. 222, for information and to schedule an appointment.

Have you submitted photographs for publication in the *Observer*? Would you like them returned? While we can't send them to you, they can be picked up at the *Observer* office, Monday through Friday, 9 to 5 p.m.

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## Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Classic

The South Plainfield Education Foundation, Inc. will host a Golf Classic in memory of Emil Leporino on Monday, April 24 at Heron Glen Golf Course, located at 110 Highway 202 and 31 in Ringoes.

The objectives of this event include

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financial support for incentive programs that encourage academic achievement and good citizenship for South Plainfield students, annual scholarships, internship and co-operative work opportunities, opportunities for inventive industry/school partnerships, and endowment funds for scholarships.

To register, send a check for \$155 (per person) payable to: South Plainfield Education Foundation, PO Box 733, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Include your name, company, address, city and telephone number. Checks guarantee your reservation; this is a first come, first serve event. Your entry includes an 18 hole golf event, green fees and cart, lunch and a buffet dinner. All gratuities are included. Wear casual attire and rubber spikes only. The prizes are attractive, including a new car, a vacation, or a pot of gold for a hole in one. Prizes will also be given for low net, low gross, longest drive, closest to hole, closest to the line, corporate team net and corporate team gross.

The outing schedule is as follows: registration at 10 a.m., shotgun start, 10 a.m.; dinner and awards at 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.spsvision2001.org](http://www.spsvision2001.org).



The Climax Gun Club of Plainfield frequented a parcel of land on Clinton Ave., according to the remembrances of John Setteducati. The puller (on the right) working the trap machine that launches the clay pigeons looks like Daniel Sofield, a local fellow from a very old family. Photo courtesy of Plainfield Public Library, Paul Revere Collier Collection, donation of William T. Garrett.

## Putting the Pieces Together



### In Search of Local History

By Dorothy Miele, President,  
South Plainfield Historical Society

The South Plainfield Historical Society will officially open The History Center to the public on Tuesday, April 25 from 2 to 9 p.m. at its headquarters in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. The center's opening is a milestone in the preservation of local history, and gives the public easier access to local history material, most notably, the photograph archive.

The Historical Society has collected over 2,000 photographs in the past four years. Its collection, however, differs from those of neighboring communities with photograph repositories. Unlike the dozen professional photographers represented in the collection of Plainfield Public Library (over 20,000 images—2,000 by Paul Revere Collier), or Metuchen Library (with the J. Lloyd Grimstead collection), South Plainfield had no resident professional photographer to record its architectural heritage, portraiture or everyday life. Many photographs in the South Plainfield collection are amateur shots executed with the common-man's \$2 tool—the Kodak #2 Brownie box camera which was mass-produced in the early 1900s. It had an affordable sticker price and was simple to use to catch spontaneous moments on film. The Brownie box camera did not replace the professional photographer. If there was a need for one, the number to call was Plainfield 2432, Paul Collier's office.

Collier (1886-1951) began his photography career at the turn of the century. Working for the *Courier News*, *Plainfield Today*, the Plainfield Police Department and the Federal government in World War I, Collier's images included funerals and death portraits, accident scenes, houses and timely events. He once said he surveyed or photographed every square foot of land in Plainfield. Fortunately for South Plainfield, Collier's skilled services took him outside Plainfield's city limits. But what did he shoot?

The first foray into the Plainfield Public Library archives for Collier photographs was made early in 2002 by Historical Society member, Dr. Richard Veit. He was seeking material for *Images of America: South Plainfield*. Richard found several great photos, including the memorable young lady on page 75 in shorts, high heels and billowing parachute at Hadley Field. There were other Hadley shots and some of Cornell-Dubilier equipment, too. Certainly there were more of the Borough, but not all of Collier's photographs were indexed, identified,

or made into prints from glass plates and nitrate negatives. Plainfield Library was still conserving the recently donated collection. Of the 12,000 images, 4,000 were prints. The Historical Society needed volunteers with the time, the patience and a knack at recognizing the unknown, to look at Collier's prints.

In late 2002, two members tackled the Collier collection. Gloved hands leafed through volume after volume of photographs. With general knowledge of local history, they studied, eliminated, then made educated guesses and assumptions as to whether or not an image was from the borough. Keeping in mind that South Plainfield was somewhat of a playground for Plainfield society, the members searched for images of fox hunts and the Maltby house on Thompkins Avenue; mounted drill teams and horse show participants from the Driving Park next to Brantingham's Hotel on Park Avenue; patrons in the grandstand at the trotter track on the Maltby estate where the Central Jersey Horsemen's Association convened. What other fun things did Plainfielders do here that may have been captured on film for a newspaper?

In the end, the time-consuming effort paid off. Several photographs were discovered that had never before been seen by contemporary citizens. A year later, and with a small grant from Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, copies were made for the South Plainfield archives. Unfortunately, there was no information to accompany any of the photographs, but as the search for local history information continued, clues to identification would appear.

In February of 2003, the Historical Society initiated the Oral History Preservation Program. Volumes of information was discovered through nearly 100 interviews, and hundreds of photographs were copied. Collier photos began turning up in private hands: a 1930s testimonial dinner given by the movers and shakers of the Borough in honor of Police Chief C.J. McCarthy; members of the first Board of Education at the 1928 Roosevelt School construction site; a 1927 gathering of the Holy Name

Society including civic leaders, clergy and the full fire and police departments. Interviewees put names to faces, and places with dates, thus shaping community life of 80 years ago. Soon it became easier to recognize town figures such as Edward Ten Eyck, William Hamilton, C.J. McCarthy, Father Baldwin, Bill Sloan and Daniel Sofield.

Now able to identify more of the locals, the Collier photos from Plainfield Library were once again tackled. On the first visit, a picture of six well-dressed trap shooters caught the members' eyes. The blurred farmhouse in the distance looked like it could belong somewhere on Clinton Avenue. The young man pulling the trap might be a hired assistant. Upon examining the photo a year later, the puller could now be identified as a local fellow from an old family, Daniel Sofield. Were the shooters from South Plainfield, too? That answer was provided in John Setteducati's oral history in November 2003. John grew up at 706 Maple Avenue and stayed in touch after the family moved out of town. He clearly remembered that the Climax Gun Club of Plainfield met on Clinton Avenue in the 1920s to trap shoot. Did John provide the smoking 'shot' gun?

So how does this contribute to the understanding of local history? It verifies, once again, that South Plainfield was the playground of the rich and sometimes famous (that story for another time). From the aristocratic horsey set of the Plainfield Fox Hunting Club, to the high rollers who bet on the trotters at Boro Race Track in the 1930s, South Plainfield had many desirable amenities (including no blue laws). The next trip to the Plainfield Library archives ought to be a revelation.

There is hope that long-sought images of the Randolph-Brooklyn Grist Mill and the Dunn sawmill, important industries for over 200 years in South Plainfield, are either among the unprinted plates and negatives in the Collier Collection, or in someone's attic, tucked away with the #2 Brownie box camera. Although convoluted, the search for local history information is panning out, and it's a lot of fun putting the puzzle together.

Learn more: visit <http://geocities.com/sphistoricalociety>.

## CURBSIDE PICKUPS CONTINUE...

Curbside bulk pickups will continue throughout the month of April. Residents are asked to place their items at the curb the Sunday of the week they are going to be collected. Collection schedule is as follows:

Week of April 17 ..... Section 3 ..... Place items at curb on Sunday, April 16  
Week of April 24 ..... Sections 4 & 5 ..... Place items at curb on Sunday, April 23

If you are unsure of your section, or have questions, contact the Municipal Clerk's office at (908) 226-7606.



## Middle School Vandalized

On Monday morning, janitors at the South Plainfield Middle School walked in to the building to find that the school had been ransacked over the weekend when the building was closed.

According to South Plainfield Police, the front corridor from the main office to the gymnasium was filled with clothing, books and paperwork that had been pulled out of lockers. Classroom door windows were broken, desks turned over, books and other materials had also been thrown through the outside windows. One computer had been damaged and graffiti

covered the corridor walls and floors. The principal's office and the main office were left untouched, however the assistant principal and guidance counselor's offices had food, paper and other items thrown about.

Police Capt. Paul Brembt stated that it was unclear if the alarm had been set for the weekend or not because nothing was reported at the station. It appears that the vandals entered the building through an unlocked window. At the moment police have a couple of leads and believe that the damage was probably caused by several individuals.



Girl Scout Troop #118 visited Domino's Pizza on Maple Avenue. The trip helped the girls earn their Creative Cooking Interest Patch. They enjoyed a tour of the facility and learned more about the pizza business. Members of the troop, Beth Becker, Sarah DeLair, Amanda Hoagland, Megan Kaczka, Amelia Lyte, Sarah McCarthy, Veronica Ruiz, Nicole Usuriello and their leaders would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to the manager and team at Domino's Pizza for making this possible.

## Leaders Day On The Horizon

Girl Scout Leaders Day is set for April 22. The event will be observed nationally as councils throughout America will take a moment to recognize the efforts of their volunteer leaders. Locally, Leaders Day is an excellent opportunity for the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council Community to pay a well-deserved tribute to the nearly 1,500 dedicated women and men who serve as leaders through-

out its 24 communities. In addition to the council's plans to recognize the leaders, individual communities are strongly encouraged to find ways to honor these volunteers who graciously and selflessly donate their time and efforts to assist the development of girls and young women.

For information on how you can take part in Leaders Day, call (908) 232-3236.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

Spring is here. If you are planning on planting a garden or flowers or vegetables, the library has books for you. There are books on square foot gardening, container gardens and flower gardens. The library has books on trees and shrubs, lawn care, and for the really ambitious person, there are books on building a deck, gazebo, patio, wall, walkway or shed. If spring cleaning indoors is on the agenda, the library has books on de-cluttering your house, homemade cleaning solutions, painting and wallpapering, stenciling, remodeling, plumbing, wiring, roofing, etc. The library is the place to come for ideas for your home and yard.

When you are tired of all the work, sit down with a good book or movie from the library. There are new books

and DVDs arriving every week. Check the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us) to see what the library owns or stop in and browse the shelves. Also check the library's website for the new downloadable audio books. Instructions are provided on how to download and listen to the audio books.

Children's programs are cancelled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 18, 19 and 20. Storytimes will also be canceled the following week. Programs will resume the beginning of May. At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19 there will be a Dino Bingo game time. It will start at 6:30 p.m., just like the regular story time. Books-N-Babies will be held at 10:30 a.m. on April 21.

## Tsanj Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Board of Directors of Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey (TSANJ) is accepting applications for the 2006 TSANJ Scholarship Award.

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

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

Students interested in applying for the scholarship should call the TSANJ office at (908) 575-7350 or visit the website at [www.tsanj.org](http://www.tsanj.org). Applications

are due by April 26.

The 2006 scholarship is presented annually. Individuals interested in supporting the scholarship should forward the contribution to Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey, Inc., 50 Division Street, Suite 205, Somerville, NJ 08876.

## Girl Scouts Selling Cookies

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts are now selling cookies. Booth sales are being held each weekend at various locations around town. Please support us! For more information regarding girl scouting in our town, visit [www.spgirlscouts.com](http://www.spgirlscouts.com) or [www.westfield.com/girlscouts](http://www.westfield.com/girlscouts) for the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council website.

# WEEKENDS at Wegmans

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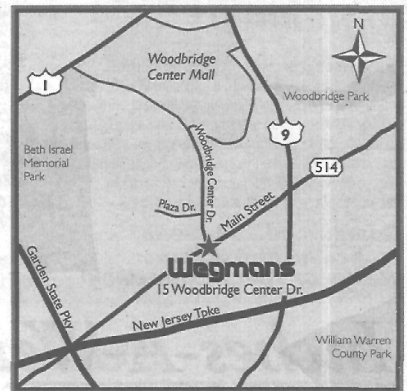
Whether you're celebrating Easter or Passover, we'll have Ready to Cook items that you can just grab and go, from entrees to side dishes. Just heat, eat, and enjoy your company.

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# Sports

## WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

### Ashnault Claims 4<sup>th</sup> Kids State Title

Anthony Ashnault, a 65-pound Midget recreation wrestler, won his fourth consecutive USA New Jersey Kids State Wrestling Championship. Ashnault is the second wrestler in the history of South Plainfield recreation wrestling to achieve that goal.

As a leader of this year's Central Jersey Wrestling League Champions, Ashnault compiled a 33-0 record and was undefeated in league competition going 17-0, he also won the league tournament title. He was the South Plainfield Tournament Champion and was the champion at the prestigious Penn State Nittany Lion Classic that



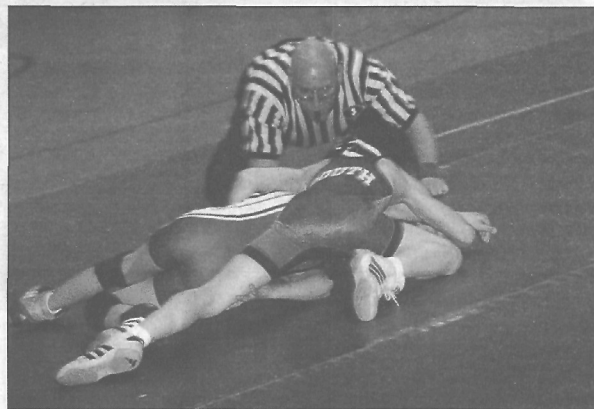
Anthony Ashnault, Recreation Wrestler of the Year

was held in State College, Pa. earlier this year. He was the champion at the North Burlington state qualifying

tournament.

Ashnault was dominating in his quest for a fourth title, winning his first match of the day by fall over Kurtis Hewitt of Franklin Township at 3:17. In the quarter final round he defeated John Hennelly of Wrecking Crew by major decision 8-0. In the semi final round he faced a tough Alexander Rinaldi of Blairstown and went on to win by decision 6-0. At this point in the tournament Ashnault did not give up a single point to the competition. In the finals his dominance continued as he took early control of Mike Magaldo of Warren. In the third period Ashnault released his man for an escape then quickly took him down to secure the victory by tech-fall 16-1. For his exceptional accomplishments Ashnault is the Outstanding Recreation Wrestler of the Year. Congratulations.

Corey Stansenko, another recre-



Anthony Ashnault scores backpoints in the finals of the Kids State Wrestling Championship.

ation wrestler also had a good season and state tournament wrestling at 85-pounds. In his first match he defeated Jeff Ferina of West Essex 4-3. In the quarter final round he defeated Jacob Campara of Lacey 7-5. He came up short in the semi-final round and in

the consolation semi-finals, but bounced back to defeat River Ullrich of NBC by fall at 1:16 for fifth place.

Dylan Painton 70-pounds, won two matches before having to forfeit due to injury. He finished in eighth place.

By Glenn Cullen

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

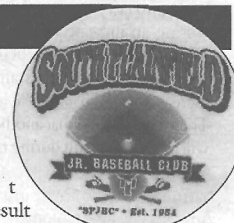
The SPJBC season has started. Although Opening Day festivities were rained out on Saturday, the SPJBC is looking to have a 2006 celebration later in the season. Games did begin on Sunday, and there were some opening day dramatic finishes. The SPJBC Executive Board would like to thank the entire SPJBC Women's Auxiliary for their assistance and bake sale throughout the weekend. It brought sunshine on a rainy Saturday.

Managers and all parents need to be cognizant of their team field duty assignments. This weekend, Pony B Mets and Pony B Yankees have field duty on Saturday, April 15 at 7 a.m. Failure to work a field detail assign-

ment will result in a loss of the work bond.

There will only be Pony games this weekend due to the Easter holiday. Happy Easter everyone from the SPJBC.

The SPJBC is still 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](mailto:www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com). Also, feel free to visit the SPJBC website at [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc).



### It's Scholarship Time for Ponytail Softball

As you may or may not know, the Parent's Ponytail (Softball) Association is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the South Plainfield High School Guidance office.

To qualify for the scholarships, applicants must be high school seniors graduating this June and current resi-

dents 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 Ponytail Softball League.

To qualify for the Ponytail All-Star scholarship, applicants must have played South Plainfield recreation softball for a minimum of four years and South Plainfield Ponytail All-Stars 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 SPJBC Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or returned to SPJBC guidance office in a sealed envelope labeled SPJBC Scholarship. Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded. Send in applications as soon as possible. Best of luck to all.



To place an ad for your garage sale, call the Observer at 908-668-0010.

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Inches In Just 3 Short  
Weeks or Your Money Back!

**Inches-A-Weigh®**  
WEIGHT LOSS CENTERS FOR WOMEN

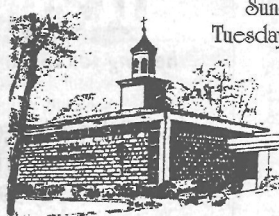
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"I lost 90 lbs.  
& went from  
a size 28 to a  
size 8. If I  
can do it, you  
can too!"  
Marsha

### "Lent is a time for a fresh new taste of God!"



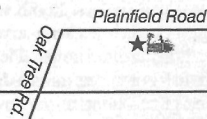
**Oak Tree Church**

The Rev. Rick Oppelt, Pastor

445 Plainfield Ave.,  
N. Edison  
732-549-4178

Sunday Worship-10am  
Tuesday Night-"Soup & Prayer"  
6:30 pm  
Maundy Thursday Soup  
Supper/Communion  
Service 6:30 pm  
Easter Celebrations  
9:30 am / 11 am

[www.oaktreechurch.org](http://www.oaktreechurch.org)



"O Taste and see that the Lord is good!"



# Scouts Recognized at Blue & Gold Dinner



Pictured are the graduating Webelos (L to R): Keanu O'Neal, Brandon Pauls, Nathanael Ganthier, Brian McCarthy, Kevin Belanger and Tommy Riccardi, with Cubmaster Jeff Pauls standing behind the boys. Not pictured is Shane Cusick.

We believe that the taxpayers of South Plainfield should be alerted to a few details concerning the school budget, which will be up for vote on Tuesday, April 18.

We also encourage you to recognize what has happened as a result of past budgets to impact on our property taxes that have risen appreciably.

1. The school budget for the past three years, including the present proposal, amounts to \$8,555,058, monies assessed to you, the taxpayer, representing an increase of 27%.

2. During the same period mentioned, the education staff received increases of 4.75%, 4.5% and 4.5%. There is likelihood that another increase will be forthcoming during the present negotiations.

3. The health plan annual costs provided the education staff are: family plan \$16,571.28; single \$6,235.56; managed care-family \$12,070.30; managed care-single \$5,014.80.

Members of the Forum believe that one way to reduce impact on health care costs ultimately paid for by our

## FROM THE Senior Men's FORUM

By Walter J. Pasacrita, Chairman

property taxes is to have single staff members pay 1% of salary annually for their coverage and family (includes all medical and dental care plus prescription drugs coverage for the entire family) 2% of salary annually.

We ask you to realize that school budgets over the past several years continue to increase, causing our property taxes to rise commensurately.

The budget you will vote on is proposed at \$50,500,498; this is an increase of \$2,544,437, which represents 20 to 23 tax points. We ask that when you vote, compare the sacrifices you are making when paying your property taxes with the increases in salaries and benefits for the education staff and determine who is making the most significant sacrifice. Then, vote accordingly.

Walter Pasacrita is chairman of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum periodically submits columns on their views and opinions. If you would like to know more about the group, you are invited to attend one of their meetings.

Cub Scout Pack 324 of Kennedy School held their Blue & Gold Dinner last month at the VFW in South Plainfield. The dinner was catered by Flanagan's Restaurant.

The dinner and awards were followed by a magic show by Matthew Dwinells.

With a lot of work from volunteers, the dinner was a great success. Scouts were awarded trophies for the Pinewood Derby, along with various other awards. The graduating Webelos participated in a bridge crossing ceremony, with six scouts continuing on to Boy Scouts.

Kevin Belanger, Brian McCarthy, Brandon Pauls and Tommy Riccardi received the Arrow of Light Award.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by James M. Boettcher requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a 8' x 12' shed. Proposed shed lacks 30' front setback from Clarke Ave.; 20' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 2555 Linden Avenue on Block 82, Lot 15 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 27, 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 April 14, 2006

## Feature Home



### South Plainfield New Construction Ready by the Summer

4 Bedrooms • 2½ Full Baths • Lot size: 100 x 100

Approx 3,200 sq. ft. of elegant living. Sunken family room opens to second floor with skylights. Large entrance foyer with double staircase, formal dining room, living room, large master bedroom and gourmet kitchen. Lots of space for a growing family. Call the "L" team for additional details. List Price: \$659,900

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## LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Advertisement and Notice to Bidders

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield for the "MAPLE AVENUE AREA STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS" and publicly opened and read aloud at the Borough of South Plainfield, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 10 a.m. prevailing local time.

The project generally consists of storm sewer improvements to the East Crescent Parkway, Linden Avenue, Clarke Avenue, Park Avenue, Holly Avenue, Selene Avenue, Woodland Avenue, Worth Drive, and Oxford Avenue, including but not limited to storm sewer pipe and inlet installation, permanent hot mix asphalt and concrete curb and sidewalk restoration where necessary and any necessary related work within the Borough of South Plainfield, and all other associated work as contained in the Contract Documents or as ordered by the Engineer.

Contract documents and plans for the proposed work prepared by David J. Samuel, P.E., Borough Engineer, CME Associates, may be examined at the office of said engineer at 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, New Jersey, and at the office of the Borough Clerk, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, during business hours and may be obtained at the Borough Engineer's office until 48 hours prior to the time set for the opening of bids upon payment of \$100 per set. No refunds will be made. Proposals and the Contract Documents must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the name and address of the Bidder and the name of the work on the outside addressed to Mayor and Borough Council, Borough of South Plainfield and must be accompanied by a Statement of Consent of Surety from a surety company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the owner. All bids submitted prior to the bid opening shall be mailed or delivered to the Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the amount of not less than ten (10%) percent of the bid payable without any conditional endorsement as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will within ten (10) days thereafter execute such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond. Upon failure to do so he shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this requirement by the bidder. No interest shall be allowed upon any such certified check or cash. A bid bond in the amount of ten (10%) percent of the bid may be substituted for certified check or cash.

Each bid must also be accompanied by a certificate from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder be accepted they will furnish the bond set forth in paragraph one of the General Conditions of the contract and the acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon the fulfillment of this

requirement.

The Borough reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities specified in the manner designated in the Specifications. The Borough reserves the right to award this contract based on funds available.

All bidders are required to be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor if they elect to bid public works projects. The bidder shall be required to comply with "The Public Works Contractor Registration Act" (P.L. 1999, C. 238), as identified in Section B-Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3.13 and in the Appendix of these Specifications. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on prevailing wage projects, which have a public building component, must attach a certificate of registration from the Department of Labor, to all bids.

All bidders are required to submit "Proof of Business Registration" to the contracting agency if they elect to bid public works projects. Proof of business registration shall be a copy of a Business Registration Certificate issued by the Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue. The bidder shall be required to comply with business registration provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:33-44; P.L. 2004, C.57 (Chapter 57) as identified in Section B-Instruction to Bidders paragraph B3.14 and in the Appendix of these specifications. All Contractors and Subcontractors working on public work projects must attach a Business Registration Certificate to all bids.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with the provisions of the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, Chapter 150 of the laws of 1:63, effective January 1, 1984.

During the performance of this contract the Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27), all requirements of the State of New Jersey Worker Health and Safety Act (N.J.A.C. 12:110 et seq.) as amended and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910), as amended with regard to worker and jobsite safety.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a surety company bond in the full amount of contract price indemnifying the Borough of South Plainfield. New Jersey for all proceedings, suits or actions of any kind of description and conditional for the faithful performance of the work.

All bid security will be returned to all Bidders except the three (3) apparent lowest bidders within 10 working days after the opening of bids, and to the three (3) apparent lowest Bidders with three (3) working days after the successful Bidder has executed the Contract and his Contract security has been approved by the Borough.

The Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its opinion it is in the best interest to do so and to award the contract for any and/or all items.

By order of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield  
Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC, CMC  
Borough Clerk

\$152.00

April 14, 2006

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BAREFOOT CELLARS  
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EXCEPTIONAL VALUE!  
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CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Gewurztraminer 7.99 750 ml Rich in flavor, with a tangy balance to the lightly sweet grapefruit, rose petal and peppery spice aromas and flavors. The spice will perfectly complement the taste of doves in your holiday ham.	LOUIS JADOT Beaujolais-Villages 7.99 750 ml This wine is clean and soft, with mixed berry fruit followed by a hint of sandalwood. It is the perfect red to pair with your holiday ham.	NOBILLO MARLBOROUGH Sauvignon Blanc 8.99 750 ml This wine's tart style is like a mouthful of lime juice, with just enough apple and pear flavors to round it out. It finishes as a savory and refreshing. The crisp acidity will hold up well with your entire feast.	PIPER HEIDSIECK Brut Cuvée 26.99 750 ml This is creamy, enticing and bursting with honey, vanilla, hints of coffee and candied berry flavors, all matched to a rich texture and firm structure. Has fine length and harmony, with the ability to mature. Enjoy it with the main course and dessert as well.														
JACOBS CREEK Chard, Shiraz 6.99 750 ml RATED 88	LUNA DI LUNA All Blends 7.99 750 ml RATED 83	YELLOW TAIL RESERVE Chard, Shiraz 9.99 750 ml RATED 89	BOLLA All Types 10.99 1.5 liter RATED 89	MEZZA CORONA Chard., Pinot Grigio 11.99 1.5 liter RATED 91	LOUIS JADOT Pouilly-Fuisse 15.99 750 ml RATED 91	SANTA MARGHERITA Pinot Grigio 18.99 750 ml RATED 91											
CORBETT CANYON COASTAL CELLARS All Varieties 5.99 1.5 liter	COLUMBIA CREST TWO WINES Cab, Shiraz, Merlot 6.99 750 ml	BLACKSTONE All Types 7.99 750 ml	RANCHO ZABACO DANCING BULL Sauv. Blanc, Zinfandel 7.99 750 ml	BERINGER White Zinfandel 8.99 1.5 liter	HARVEY'S Bristol Cream Sherry 9.99 750 ml	PIPER HEIDSIECK Brut or Extra Dry 10.99 750 ml											
KENDALL JACKSON VINTNER'S RESERVE Chardonnay 10.99 750 ml	FISH EYE Cabernet 11.99 1.5 liter	J. LOHR LOS ODS Merlot, SEVEN OAKS Cab. 11.99 750 ml	CLOS DU BOIS Merlot, Pinot Noir 14.99 750 ml	SIMI Cabernet 16.99 750 ml	NANDO Asti Spumante 7.99 750 ml	KORBEL Brut or Extra Dry 10.99 750 ml											
EXCEPTIONAL VALUES	ZELKO Vodka 10.99 1.75 liter	BENTLEY'S CANADIAN Whisky 11.99 1.75 liter	CLUB 400 Blended Whiskey 12.99 1.75 liter	SCOTCH ISLAND Scotch Whisky 14.99 1.75 liter	CARLO ROSSI Burg., Chablis, Sang., White Gren., Chianti 8.99 4 liter jug	FRANZIA Burg., Chablis, Chianti, Rhine 10.99 5 liter box	ALMADEN Cabernet, Merlot 12.99 5 liter box										
LIQUOR & SPIRITS	STOCK Dry or Sweet Vermouth 4.99 1 liter	E & J GALLO VS Brandy 7.99 750 ml	DEKUYPER Pucker Sour Apple Cordial 8.99 750 ml	FLEISCHMANN PREFERRED Whiskey 12.99 1.75 liter	SAUZA Gold or Blanco Tequila 12.99 750 ml	BACARDI Party Drinks 12.99 750 ml	BLACK VELVET Canadian Whisky 13.99 1.75 liter	CLAN MACGREGOR Scotch Whisky 15.99 1.75 liter	BACARDI Light or Gold Rum 19.99 1.75 liter	JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK Premium Scotch Whisky 27.99 750 ml	ROMANA SAMBUCA Cordial 17.99 750 ml	SOUTHERN COMFORT 76 Cordial 22.99 1.75 liter	COURVOISIER VS Cognac 23.99 750 ml	SKYY Vodka 80° 24.99 1.75 liter	DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL Scotch Whisky 29.99 1.75 liter	TANQUERAY London Dry Gin 30.99 1.75 liter	KETEL ONE Vodka 80° 34.99 1.75 liter
BEER SPECIALS	MILLER LITE & MGD REGULAR OR LIGHT 12 oz. N.R. Bottles 11.99 18-Pack	Heineken PREMIUM LIGHT 12 oz. N.R. Bottles Loose Case 22.99 Case	TECATE 21/2 Paks 12 oz. Cans 15.99 Case	PILSNER URQUELL 21/2 Paks 12 oz. N.R. Bottles 21.99 Case	KEYSTONE LIGHT & ICE 12 oz. Cans 11.99 38-Pack	O'DOUL'S NON-ALCOHOLIC LAGER OR AMBER 12 oz. N.R. Bottles or Cans 12.99 Case											

ALL CASES REPRESENT 24 PACK UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

PRICES EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 THRU TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

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Mon. Tues. Wed. 9-9  
Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9-10  
Sun. 10-7



# IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)  
have on the quality of education that our students would receive, it was an approach the board was not willing to support.

It should be noted that currently our school system is ranked 17 out of 22 districts in Middlesex County in per pupil spending, a position you cannot be in by spending money exorbitantly. Should our goal as a community be to be last? Considering that Congress continually raises its debt limit to historic new levels, the State of New Jersey has a 4.5 billion dollar deficit, and over the past 10 years the borough's budget has increased 38% versus the school district's budget increase of 28%, one wonders what the outcome might be if the school budget was not the only governmental spending subject to annual voter approval?

For those that believe by underfunding the district it would provide greater leverage or urgency to the Board in the current round of contract negotiations with the teacher's union, if the process ends up deadlocked and carries on for a period of time without settlement, the Board is still bound to the terms and conditions of the current agreement. The proposed budget as presented, as controversial as it has been, includes eight staff cuts. A defeated budget potentially further reduced after council re-

view would inevitably mean more positions and programs eliminated.

The Board's entire budget development process was conducted at a series of public meetings. Each aspect of the district's spending was thoroughly analyzed, evaluated and debated. Members of the Senior Men's Forum were in attendance at every meeting and had a first hand chance to see the difficult decisions that had to be made. Unlike those who choose to strictly be critical, Senior Men's Forum members also provided suggestions and they are to be thanked for their participation in the process.

No one likes to cause anyone's taxes to go up. However, until the funding formula for education in New Jersey is changed by the Legislature, a body whose responsibility it is to collect taxes and appropriate spending, with no additional aid from the Federal government, and again being flat-funded by the State for the fourth straight year, the burden unfortunately falls on the local property tax levy.

It has been my experience that people don't generally get angry until they are personally affected. If our schools open in September suffering the effects of significant cuts in personnel and programs, might the voters realizing what they've been left with remember it come November? I suppose that remains to be seen.

DANIEL M. SMITH

# police report

• On March 21 Julio Cesar Colcas-Mendez, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to take a breathalyzer test, reckless driving, careless driving, speeding and having an open container of alcohol.

• On March 23 David J. Cousins, 29, of Port Murray was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• Schenuda Mohammed, 40, of Port Reading was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to take a breathalyzer test, driving while suspended and having an open container of alcohol.

• A Somerset Ave. resident reported the theft of \$3,855 worth of jewelry from their bedroom. The rear kitchen window had been broken to gain access.

• On March 24 Andrew James Ball, 18, of Merrick, NY was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• A Princeton resident reported that while parked at Oak Park Commons the driver's side door lock of his 2005 Audi had been popped out. Nothing was taken.

• On March 25 Steven William Brown, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for a tail light out and an outstanding warrant.

• A Tobyhanna, Pa. resident reported that their windshield had been smashed while parked on Sampton Ave.

# LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

## LEGAL NOTICE

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL NOTICE

Take notice that application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield for a hearing to be held on May 2, 2006, at 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 to permit the place to place transfer of the Plenary Retail Consumption License #1222-33-013-004 heretofore issued to American Foods at South Plainfield, Inc. t/a Red Robin, 6200 Hadley Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 to include the premises located at 6200 Hadley Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The person who will hold an interest in this license is:

American Foods at South Plainfield, Inc., t/a Red Robin, 6200 Hadley Rd., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The applicant intends to engage in the retail sale of alcoholic beverages at American Foods Inc. t/a Red Robin, 6200 Hadley Road, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 under the terms and conditions allowed by law.

Objections if any should be made immediately in writing to:

Vincent Buttiglieri, Administrator/Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 or Director, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

American Foods at South Plainfield, Inc.  
t/a Red Robin  
6200 Hadley Road  
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

\$66.00

April 14, 2006

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

## LEGAL NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on April 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Dept. through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

The motor vehicles may be examined by contacting Traffic Safety.

Year	Make	VIN#	Status	Desc.	Min. Bid.
1997	Toyota	JT3GP10V0V0017629	Junk	RAV4	\$2000.00
1993	Toyota	4T1SK12E3PU186701	Resale	Camry	\$1800.00
1988	Cadillac	1G6DW51Y9JR759361	Resale	DeVille	\$1000.00
1995	Dodge	1B3ES47C85D535968	Resale	Neon	\$1000.00
1989	Ford	1FTCR10A5KU470865	Resale	Ranger	\$1000.00
1993	Mits	JA3BP47H4PY039126	Resale	Diamante	\$1500.00

South Plainfield Police Department  
Officer Karl W. Schultz, Traffic Safety Officer  
\$27.00

April 14, 2006

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## Obituaries

### Ruth E. "Cookie" (Testa) Ferraro, 63

Ruth E. "Cookie" (Testa) Ferraro passed away suddenly on Monday, April 3 at J.E.K. Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Plainfield, Cookie has been a lifelong, well-known resident of South Plainfield and a graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Cookie and her family had been the owners and operators of Corner Deli on Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield for 32 years before retiring recently.

A great homemaker, she was also a devoted wife, wonderful mother and doting grandmother. She was also a dear sister, daughter and aunt. Cookie loved to cook and crochet. She had a special love for spending time with her two grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her mother, Ruth Testa and a sister, Judith Krempa.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Sr.; a daughter, Allison; two sons, Frank Jr. and Anthony and wife Lisa; her father, Salvatore "Sam" Testa; a sister, Doreen and husband Stanley Bolesta; and two grandchildren, Emmalynn and Anthony Jr. Also surviving are a niece, Christine and three nephews, Stephen, Ricky and John.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

### Harold A. "Red" Krebs, 75

Harold A. "Red" Krebs passed away on Friday, April 7 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Hospice Unit in Plainfield.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. Krebs had resided in Scotch Plains and Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1964.

A tool and die foreman, he had been

employed by the former Combined Processes Inc. of South Plainfield from 1964 to 2001, when he retired at the age of 70.

Red served as a captain on the Plainfield Special Police Reserve for over 20 years and was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Long Beach Islands Lodge #5. He was also a pistol marksman and a stamp collector. Most important to Red was time spent with his six grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his brother, Herbert.

Surviving are his wife Theresa (Rosa) Krebs, daughter Beverlyjean Krebs of South Plainfield, son Hal and his wife Tish Krebs of Indiana, two brothers, Joseph of Flemington and Donald of Pennsylvania. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Amanda Grace, Jennalee and Robert Austin Jenkins and Conlin, Keely and Erin Krebs.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Marie A. (Raith) Sporman, 68

Marie A. (Raith) Sporman passed away on Wednesday, April 5 at home in South Plainfield.

Born in Montclair, Marie was raised in Newark and has resided in South Plainfield for the past 42 years.

Mrs. Sporman was a homemaker. She is predeceased by her husband, Ernest W., who passed away in 1982.

Surviving are four children, Rene Carmon and husband John of Georgia, Donna Nelson and husband Gary of Flemington, Brian Sporman and wife Ann of Piscataway and Wayne Sporman of South Plainfield; two sisters, Dee Farese and husband Martin of Florida and Alberta Rotger of Arizona; a brother, Michael Hrabowski and wife Sharon of Arizona and nine grandchildren. Also surviving are five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Carmen A. Butrico, Sr., 74

Carmen A. Butrico, Sr. of Punta Gorda passed away on Thursday, April 6. He was born July 24, 1931 in South Plainfield to Frank and Anna (Pelligrino) Butrico.

Carmen was the youngest of ten children. He owned and operated an auto repair business for over 40 years.

He was an avid golfer and recorded two holes-in-one at Blue Heron Pines, where he lived.

Carmen will be greatly missed by his wife of 53 years, June; children Carmen (Cindy) Butrico, Jr., David (Ginny), Annette (Joe) Smith and Terri Goldman; grandchildren Carol, Robert, David Jr., Kelly, Amanda Smith and Jackie Goldman; three brothers, Joe and Frank of South Plainfield and Bill of Seminole, Fla.; two sisters, Tessie DiSesso of South Plainfield and Grace Scala of Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Frank; brothers James and John; and sisters Josephine and Mary.

A celebration of Carmen's life was held at the Punta Gorda Chapel of Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services. To express condolences to the family, please visit [www.LTaylorFuneral.com](http://www.LTaylorFuneral.com) and sign the online guest book.

### Freddie Teske, 35

Freddie Teske died on Thursday at home in Toms River.

Born in Plainfield, he resided in Metuchen before moving to Toms River 14 years ago.

Freddie was the owner and operator of Freddie's Ready Construction Co. of Toms River, a company he founded five years ago and of which he was very proud. He was a 1988

graduate of Metuchen High School.

His father, Frederick T. Teske, Jr. and maternal grandmother, Josephine Piazza, have both predeceased him.

He is survived by his mother, Joanne Teske of Manahawkin; his fiancée, Dawne Sparno; maternal grandfather, Albert Piazza of Brewster, NY; a sister, Tracy Ann and her husband Glenn Mahoney of Allentown and a brother, Christopher of Manahawkin; uncle and aunt Butch and Cindy Piazza of South Plainfield; a niece and nephew, Arianna and Vincent Mahoney and cousins Mike and Nick Piazza.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Frances M. (Russo) Sydorko, 85

Frances M. (Russo) Sydorko passed away on Saturday, April 8 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she had been a resident of Plainfield for 65 years before settling with her daughter in South Plainfield 20 years ago.

Frances was the housekeeper for the priests of St. Mary's Parish in Plainfield for 25 years, retiring in 1985.

She was devoted to her loving family and will be missed by all.

Frances is predeceased by sisters and brothers Jennie, Elsie, John, Mary,

Louis, Nick, Josephine, Tom and Rose.

Surviving are daughters Patricia Phillips of South Plainfield and Mary E. Bender and her husband Stan of Readington and two granddaughters, Marie Castricone and Roseanne Phillips.

Also surviving are three great-grandchildren, Daniel, Samantha and John and many dear nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Gladys M. Mode, 95

Gladys M. Mode passed away on Sunday, April 9 in Newton Hospital.

Born in Brooklyn, NY she resided in Iselin for 70 years and South Plainfield for 13 years before moving to Matamoras, Pa. six years ago.

Gladys was a homemaker.

Her husband, Hughes C. Mode, and daughter Vern DeLisle have both predeceased her.

Surviving are children Linda (Ray) Morella-MacDougall of South Plainfield, Joann (Junior) Robinson of North Carolina, Sylvia (Marshall) Ramsey of North Carolina, Allan (Lucy) Jensen of Pa., Mel (Chris) Jensen and Warren (Linda), all of Fla.

She is also survived by grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a hearing before the South Plainfield Planning Board will be held on April 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey concerning an appeal of the denial of the application of Joseph Poletti a/k/a Giuseppe Poletti, Antonio Poletti, Iole Fragassi, and Anna Caruso for the property at 3131 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey (Block 222, Lot 6 on the South Plainfield tax map) to obtain the following concerning said property:

1. Approval of subdivision of the land from one (1) lot into two (2) lots, and
2. Variance approval for lot depth of one (1) or both resulting lots, lot width of one or both resulting lots, lot frontage of one or both resulting lots, and rear and/or side yard set back requirement for the accessory building (shed), and

The Applicant(s) may seek such other relief as the Planning Board may require. The Applicant(s) seeks to convey the resulting southerly lot to an interested person who would then construct a single-family residential dwelling thereon.

You are entitled to appear and be heard on this application. All maps and other documents for which approval is sought are available for inspection by the public in the Zoning/Planning Office of the Municipal Building at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey on any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Anthony J. Mara, Jr.  
Counselor at Law, LLC  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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April 14, 2006

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