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We'll be home eating turkey!
sue"... Happy Thanksgiving!

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 12

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 16, 2006



Frederic and Judith Moretti hold a plaque dedicated to their daughter, Sgt. Trista Moretti, who died in June.

Franklin Honors Former Student Trista Moretti

By Patricia Abbott

On November 7, Franklin School honored a local fallen hero during their annual Veterans Day Program. Sgt. Trista L. Moretti, 27, died on June 25 in Nasir Lafitah, Iraq when her unit was attacked by insurgents using indirect fire. In a touching ceremony, the school presented Trista's parents, Frederic and Judith Moretti, with a memorial plaque of Trista that will hang in the hallway of the school.

PTO member Barbara Rhoads said, "Franklin School celebrates Veterans Day every year to give the children an understanding of the acts of unselfishness and service that our family and friends gave at war for us. This year, we recognize a former student of Franklin who served our country in Iraq and lost her life doing so. She, among others, served so that we may continue to have the benefit of our freedom. We, at Franklin School, are very proud of our former student and classmate Trista Moretti. On behalf of the PTO, students, faculty and friends we present to Mr. and Mrs. Moretti a plaque in the memory of Trista, which will hang in the hallway of Franklin School." As her parents accepted

the plaque, tears were flowing freely among the teachers and guests.

Trista's energetic, shining personality seems to be everyone's first memory. Trista entered Franklin School in the first grade. The school nurse recalls her as "outgoing, dashing about the hallways, blacktop and playground with smiles and laughter." Some of her teachers are still teaching at Franklin.

Rhoads met with Trista's parents and they shared favorite memories. Even as a child Trista was very athletic playing kickball, tag, softball at the school. She loved to go behind the school with her dog. They would play in the creek and often returned home with poison ivy, but she still returned to play in the woods.

Her mother noted some of her other favorites, such as her favorite color-blue, game-scrabble, movie-"Dirty Dancing," and book-"The Little Engine that Could." Trista's favorite friend was her older sister, Jennifer.

"Trista is remembered as strong and fearless, not letting anything stand in the way of her goals." The family shared another story with

(Continued on page 7)

Fate of Helen Street Discussed At Special Council Meeting

At a special Borough Council meeting held Monday night, the fate of the Helen Street Extension Project was the topic of discussion. More than 100 residents attended the meeting.

Mayor Charles Butrico told the filled chamber that time has run out for the Helen Street Project. The N.J. Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) has given the borough until December 31 to decide whether to end the plans for the Helen Street Extension or to pursue other means.

The project has been held up in the DEP because the road will pass through a very small portion of the Dismal Swamp, which is listed as priority one wetlands. Without the DEP's approval, the borough cannot

apply for a permit to build.

Butrico laid out three options, the first of which is the "no build" option. He said, "If we take the 'no build' option, we won't owe the Federal government \$650,000. That is the amount which the New Jersey Transportation Agency (NJTPA) has already spent for engineering studies. We will also not be able to reapply for Federal funding for another five years. It also means we sign off on building a road extending Helen Street. A second option is to go ahead and apply for a 'permit to build,' without final approval from the DEP. This could cost the borough up to \$1M and if unsuccessful, we will have to pay the Federal government back the

\$650,000. The third option is to not sign off on the project and pay the \$650,000 and proceed on our own, finding our own funding."

Several residents made suggestions, including initiating a lawsuit against the Federal government. According to Butrico, engineers working with the borough feel we have a good case.

At their next public meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 4, the council plans to discuss the matter further before deciding what action to take. The November 30 *Observer* will have a more detailed story on the discussions which took place at Monday's meeting. We will also have a comprehensive review of the history of the Helen Street Project.

VFW Veterans Day Ceremonies

Nearly 60 people attended the Veterans Day ceremonies held at the VFW Post 6769 last Sunday. The ceremonies began at 11 a.m. with a prayer by VFW Chaplain Michael Ponca, followed by the placement of a wreath in front of the building and a rifle salute.

The ceremonies continued inside with Vice Commander Rudy Poczak acting as master of ceremonies. Poczak explained the many services the VFW performs each year, such as working with the Cub Scouts to teach them how to fold and take care of the American Flag. The VFW also holds a yearly essay contest and presents scholarship to the winners. Last year the middle school students wrote 312 essays. Members of the VFW also visit veterans at the Lyons Hospital each week.

Since 1776, over one million soldiers have died defending our country's freedom.

Among the many guests in atten-



Tracy Murray sings the "Star Spangled Banner" at Veterans Day ceremonies held Sunday in front of the VFW.

dance were: Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Councilmen Dennis Cerami, Matthew Anesh and Robert Bengivenga, Jr.; councilmen-elect Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak. Assemblyman Diegnan asked Specialist Jeff Heine to speak, saying he

was one of those we honor on Veterans Day. Each speaker emphasized the sacrifice our veterans made for all of us and thanked them for their service to our country. Following the ceremonies, the ladies auxiliary hosted a luncheon.

Give Thanks With Friends at Wesley Methodist Church

The community is invited to join with friends and neighbors from various Christian congregations of South Plainfield to offer a prayer of thanks and praise to the Lord for God's many blessings this Thanksgiving. Come pray for peace and share fellowship.

The services begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 20 at Wesley Methodist Church, located on Plainfield Avenue.

There will be music from several choirs, including the Rescue House of Prayer. The offertory this year will go the global appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Please bring canned food for the South Plainfield food pantry and drop them off at Wesley on November 20. The Rev. Kathleen Rooney, the pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church will preach. All are welcome to give thanks to God.

Why not invite a friend and bring your family?



Middle school students held Veterans Day ceremonies last week. See page 6 for story.

INMYOPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

To the Varsity Football Team:

I am writing this letter to congratulate you on your awesome win against Irvington. You have proven that with extreme hard work and dedication you can do anything. The teamwork you exhibit along with the respect you have for one another is phenomenal! This is the reason I am very confident you will advance to the finals. This is your time. I know you boys have the ability and the desire to take it all the way! I am so proud of all that you and the coaches have accomplished.

This Saturday you will face Scotch Plains. Let's show them how hard, tough and smart South Plainfield plays the game!

I look forward to December 1 when I can say "South Plainfield Tigers are North 2 Group III State Champions!"

GOOD LUCK
LISA COTONE SMITH

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the residents of

the 18th legislative district for their support in last Tuesday's election. It was particularly rewarding to receive the largest percentage of votes of any of my four campaigns for election to the New Jersey General Assembly.

You have my commitment to continue to give my best effort to address the issues of concern to the hard working families of our state. Our first priority must be to get the state's fiscal house in order. I will continue to work with Governor Corzine, Speaker Roberts, Senate President Codey and all members of the legislature to address our property tax crisis.

As you may know, the education of our children and in particular, making higher education affordable and more available to the middle class has always been of primary importance to me. A quality education is the cornerstone of a productive life. I will continue to be an advocate for proper funding for education for all regions of our state. If we are to remain the

shining beacon of democracy we must have an educated population.

I am also an advocate for victims rights and my first order of business will be to ask the speaker to post my legislation to remove the statute of limitations on civil claims by the families of murder victims.

Thank you again for your support. I welcome your input and suggestions. My legislative office is located at 908 Oak Tree Ave., Unit P, South Plainfield 07080. My telephone number is (908) 757-1677 and my E-mail address is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
ASSEMBLYMAN PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

Dear Editor:

On November 6, the people of South Plainfield once again went to the polls to select the individuals they wish to represent them. Congratulations to Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville on their election to the Borough Council. You have been given the opportunity to use your time and talents to serve your fellow residents. It is a privilege and an honor to serve in this capacity, one that only a few of us get to experience.

I would like to thank the residents of South Plainfield for the privilege of serving them on the borough council. To have been chosen to serve this community by the individuals that live here is an immense honor and I am truly grateful for the support and trust you placed in me. It has been my pleasure to work with the great employees we have at borough hall, the members of our boards and agencies and the residents who came to me with their concerns. Working together we have accomplished much and South Plainfield will remain a great place to live as long as all of us participate in making it so.

YOURS TRULY,
KATHY THOMAS

Dear Editor,

The words "thank you" just don't seem adequate to express the appreciation we have for the people of South Plainfield. But to everyone who supported us in last week's election, we say a sincere thank you. We will do our best to make you proud and to earn the trust you've placed in us.

We won't forget why you elected us. We need to manage costs, reform the way our town does business and control traffic and overdevelopment. These are just a few of the ways we can make a better South Plainfield.

We will also do our best to work hand-in-hand with our colleagues on the other side, the Democrats. You elected us to make change, but we also know you want us to work together. Two-party government does not mean combative government. Instead, it simply means giving a voice to those

who might not otherwise have one.

We would also like to thank Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. Dennis and Kathy worked tirelessly to make South Plainfield better and for that they've earned our gratitude and respect. It's not easy to run for public office, nor is it easy to be an elected official. They've given a great deal to our town and they deserve everyone's appreciation.

Our work is just beginning. But we can't do it without your help. Come to council meetings and share your thoughts and ideas. Stop us in the street and tell us how we're doing. We want to listen more than we talk. So please, talk to us as much as you can. We're listening.

Again, thank you to everyone who made running for council something we will never forget, and thank you for honoring us by electing us to the South Plainfield Borough Council. We won't let you down.

TIM MCCONVILLE AND RAY RUSNAK, COUNCILMEN-ELECT

To the Editor:

I realize that it is the middle of November, but I want to talk about Halloween and Christmas. October, this year, has hounded us with hideous Halloween decorations and yard displays which get uglier every year; shelves and shelves of Halloween paraphernalia in stores; weird Halloween music assaulting our ears whether we like it or not; horror-filled Halloween programs and movies with vicious, bloody scenes of violence and death, for our viewing pleasure; an ever-increasing Halloween emphasis on ghouls and goblins, the scary, and the macabre, ghostly and ghastly Halloween costumes on many small children (as they want the treat without doing the trick).

And all this is for financial gain which is gaining every year!

The amazing thing is that Halloween is supposed to be a children's holiday! What are we thinking?! Have we

gone crazy?! Do we have any idea, any more, of the damage we are doing to the minds, emotions, souls and spirits of our younger generation?

And guess what? When Christmas rolls around this year, there will be fewer and fewer manger scene decorations; no nativity creches on display in public venues; no angels on the tops of Xmas trees in nursing home lobbies; very little Biblical paraphernalia on store shelves; no Christmas carols wafting through the halls in malls; an increasingly scanty selection of programs and movies about the birth of Christ.

Instead, we will be fed only Xmas
(Continued on page 10)

Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m. (Except for Holidays)



The October 17 Board of Education Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m. until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council meeting, contact the Observer.

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
December 4	7 p.m.	Immediately following
December 18	7 p.m.	Immediately following

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2490 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
Nov. 27 and Dec. 11.

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
Nov. 29 and Dec. 13.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.- Dec. 12,

Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12 and April 2

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-Wednesday, Nov. 28, Dec. 19,

Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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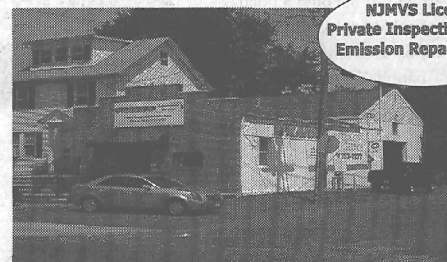
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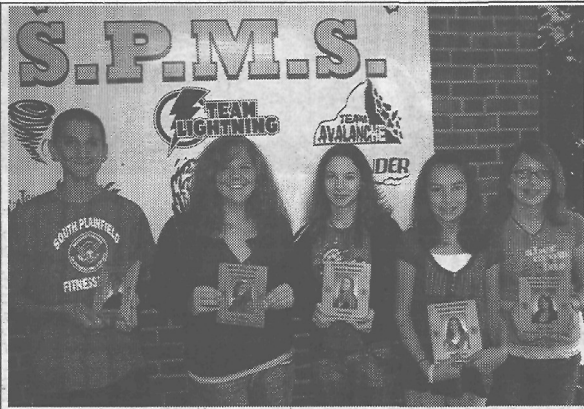


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South Plainfield Middle School announced their Students of the Month for October. Pictured (L to R) are Joey Skwiat-Team Lightning, Lainie Harris-Team Tsunami, Christine Geczy-Team Thunder, Nicole Jones-Team Avalanche and Emma Slotterback-Team Cyclone. Not pictured is Maggie McLean from Team Monsoon. Students are recommended for this honor by their team's teachers and is based on their character, academic improvement and extra curricular activities.

Two Men Killed on Rt. 287

Two men were struck and killed on Rt. 287 in South Plainfield early Saturday morning after they hit a deer and left their vehicles to check on the animal.

Justin Ridley, 19, of Hamilton and Gustavo Pineda, 39, of Elizabeth were traveling in the northbound lanes around 3 a.m. when they both hit a deer crossing the highway. According to N.J. State Police, they apparently exited their vehicles and went to where

the deer was and were struck by a driver in a 2003 Volkswagen.

Both men were pronounced dead at the scene at 3:58 a.m. The unidentified driver of the Volkswagen had only minor injuries to his hands.

Rt. 287 was shut down for four hours at Exit 4. Traffic was rerouted through South Plainfield to Exit 5 at Stelton Road during the investigation, which is still ongoing.

School Budget Audit Reports Surplus

By Libby Barsky

For the second year in a row, the audit for the school budget showed a surplus. The annual audit for the 2006/2007 school budget showed the district ending the fiscal year on June 30, 2007 with a \$546,639 unreserved fund balance in cash and an excess surplus of \$198,424. This will be returned to taxpayers as tax relief in July 2008, by applying it to the 2008/2009 budget.

According to Business Administrator Donna Tolley, the budget surplus

resulted from less spending in several areas of the budget, such as purchasing lower priced supplies, saving from transportation jointure agreements, tuitions and miscellaneous items. The \$546,639 surplus will be set aside for use in unexpected emergencies explained Tolley.

According to State Law 1701, a school district's surplus can not exceed two percent of their total budget—anything over that amount—must be returned to the taxpayers as tax relief. Last year's excess surplus amount of \$78,384 was deposited July 1,

2007 as tax relief for the 2007/2008 budget.

The report was given by Gary Vinci from the firm of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins of Fair Lawn.

The audit statement also showed that total liabilities and fund balances were \$2,446,200, with \$1,508,468 in encumbrances owed to vendors who had not been paid because the paper work was not completed.

Scouting for Food

Cub Scout Pack 324 handed out bags on November 10 in the Kennedy School district for their annual Scouting for Food drive that will be picked up on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Remember to put out your non-perishable donations in the bags provided. Thank you for your support.

AIDA SANTOS

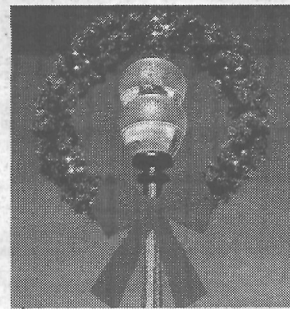
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Spread Cheer-Sponsor a Wreath!

Decorated wreaths have been installed on the new lights along Hamilton Boulevard. The South Plainfield Business Association is leading a drive to purchase those wreaths.

The cost to sponsor a wreath is \$230. The wreath can also be purchased in memory of a loved one, so please specify if you want your wreath to be "sponsored by" or in "memory of."

The South Plainfield Business Association is planning to display a plaque in Borough Hall recognizing all the sponsors.

Checks should be made payable to the Borough of South Plainfield and in the memo area put "decorative

wreaths." Mail your check to SPBA, P.O. Box 852, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

AristaCare at Cedar Oaks announces its new Stroke Support Group: "STROKE? R.E.A.C.T."

HOLD THE DATES

**Mon., November 19, 2007
Noon—1:00pm**

(afternoon meeting features
Dr. Paul Abend, Physiatrist)
(a physician specializing in Rehabilitation Medicine)

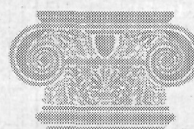
**Wed., November 28, 2007
6:00pm—7:00pm**

(first two meetings feature
Dr. Michael Merkin, Neurologist)



**Rehabilitation
Expectations
Answers
Concerns &
Treatments**

Our support group for stroke survivors, stroke patients, family members, and friends, features noted speakers who are extremely knowledgeable in the area of strokes. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery of strokes, ranging from mild to severe, in an informal, friendly setting. Various rehabilitation topics related to strokes and stroke awareness will be presented by the Doctors and followed by a question and answer period. MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT CEDAR OAKS.



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We would appreciate RSVPs as we will be preparing a meal for all attendees. Kindly call Kathy Sherry, Admissions Director at (732) 287-9555, ext 123 to make a reservation.

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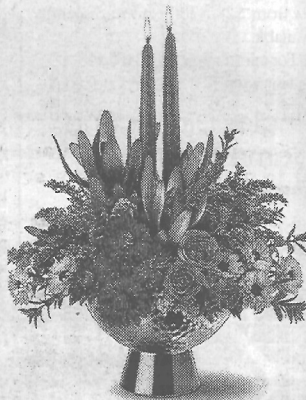
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Around Town

EVP Presents "Talking With..." Monologues

November 16, 17, 23, 24

The Edison Valley Playhouse presents "Talking With..." on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 students/seniors. For information call (908) 755-4654 or go to www.evplayhouse.com.

Holiday Boutique And Tea Room

November 17

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is holding a holiday boutique and tea room on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many handmade items; Longaberger baskets, Discovery Toys, Dove Chocolate at Home, Tastefully Simple, Creative Memories and more. Variety of foods; children can create their own gift or ornament at our "make-take table."

For information call (908) 755-3850.

Thanksgiving Bake Sale

November 18

St. Stephen Church, 609 Lane Ave., is holding a Thanksgiving baklava bake sale on Sunday, Nov. 18. Half tray is \$12; full tray is \$20.

To place an order, call (908) 231-8262 or (732) 548-4947 or E-mail to joanja6@aol.com.

Fall Nature Walk and Open House

November 18

Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve and Nature Center, 115 Sylvania Place, is holding a fall nature walk and open house on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

What's happening at the South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am AARP Meeting	Flu Shots at Senior Center Friday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon ... Cappy Awards Dinner Saturday, Nov. 17-6 p.m. at the center			Bingo 10am-2pm 16
	19 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	20 Aerobics 8:45 am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm	21 CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING	22 CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
				23 CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

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

Visit www.geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods.

Pancake Breakfast

November 18

American Legion Chaumont Post 243, Oak Tree Avenue, will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 18. All you can eat; adults \$5 and children \$3. Children under three are free. Everyone is welcome.

Final Financial Aid Workshop for Parents

November 19

There will be a financial aid workshop for parents/guardians of the class of 2008 on Monday, Nov. 19. The workshop begins at 6:30 p.m. and takes place in the high school auditorium. Seniors are welcome. Questions or concerns? Call Elaine Gallo at (908) 754-4620, ext. 464.

Over the River and Through the Woods

Nov. 23, 24, 25, 30 Dec. 1

ACT IV Productions will present "Over the River and Through the Woods" on Friday, Nov. 23 and 30 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m. The play is directed by Bill Cochrane. The show will be performed at the Parish Theatre, First Unitarian Society of South Plainfield, located at 724 Park Ave. in Plainfield. To purchase tickets, call (908) 756-0750. A special benefit performance benefiting the Plainfield UNICO will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2.

St. Peter-by-the-Sea Orchestra Concert

November 25

The Orchestra of St. Peter-by-the-Sea, conducted by Rev. Alphonse Stephenson, will perform a Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart Church on South Plainfield Avenue on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 3 p.m. General admission tickets \$25, seniors/students \$20. For tickets, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or (732) 549-9633.

Fall Clothing Drive

December 1, 2

Sacred Heart School is holding a fall clothing drive on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m.-noon and 4-5 p.m. and

on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. A trailer will be in the church parking lot if you are unable to come at the listed times. We accept all clean, usable, wearable clothing, shoes, boots, sneakers, accessories, bedding, towels, curtains, tablecloths, stuffed animals and small toys. Place items in plastic bags. For information call Laurie at (908) 756-4738 or Joan at (908) 313-3001.

American Legion Holiday Craft Show

December 1, 2

The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 243 on Oak Tree Avenue is holding a holiday craft show on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2. Vendors are needed.

Call MaryAnn at (718) 619-2751 or the Post at (908) 757-8131.

— Out of Town —

Annual Tricky Tray

November 16

The Daughters of Penelope, Tethys Chapter #229, will hold their annual tricky tray fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in St. George Greek Orthodox Church on River Road in Piscataway. Admission is \$7.

For information, call (732) 297-0581 or (732) 297-6246.

Bollywood Bonanza

November 17

Mark G. Etes Arena, Trump Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, is hosting a Bollywood Musical Bonanza on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$25-\$200; group discounts available.

For information, call (516) 248-8777 or visit www.BollywoodAwards.com.

Singles Dinner and Game Night

November 27

Christian singles 35-55 dinner/game night will be held at Panera Bread in Fair Lawn in the CVS strip

mall on Tuesday, Nov. 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is whatever you order. Bring your favorite party or board game.

RSVP to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

Grief and the Holidays Lecture

November 27

The Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care will offer a grief and the holidays's lecture presented by Donna Dandrilli, M.A., A.T.R. and bereavement counselor on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1900 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains.

Call (908) 654-3711 for more information.

Depression And Bipolar Meeting

November 28

On Wednesday, Nov. 28, the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature David Chowes, professor of psychology at Baruch College of the City University of New York at its monthly meeting. The meeting will take place at 7:45 p.m. at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. The public is cordially invited.

For further local information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274.

Single Professionals Happy Hour

November 29

NJ Single Professionals is holding a happy hour on Thursday, Nov. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Rio 22 Brazilian Steakhouse, 2185 Rt. 22 West in Union. Private group. Half price drink specials. RSVP to AngelButterfly37@aol.com or NJSingleProfessionals@yahoo.com or call (732) 764-9073.

Holiday Sale

December 1

A holiday sale will take place on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Danish Home on New Durham Road in Edison, featuring a large selection of holiday gifts, many Danish items, children's gifts and more.

For more information, call (732) 287-6445.

Craft Fair

December 2

Crafters/vendors are needed for the second annual craft fair to be held on Sunday, Dec. 2 at Middlesex County Recreation Council Kiddie Keep Well Camp, 35 Roosevelt Dr. in Edison.

For information E-mail info@kiddiekeepwell.org or call (732) 548-6542. Proceeds go toward camp sponsorship of Middlesex County children and senior citizens.

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November 17, 2007

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Congratulations to Our 100th Winner!

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Kennedy School fourth grade student Gabriella Cusick with teacher Cynthia Severino.

Gabriella Cusick, Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros and South Plainfield Observer-sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with her story, "A Feather's Journey." She also

has the honor of being our 100th Junior Journalist winner.

Gabriella will be the recipient of a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros. She will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, she will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children in South Plainfield, The Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students should submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers, who will submit them to the *Observer*.

If you have any questions, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

A Feather's Journey By Gabriella Cusick

The feather from a turkey flowing in the sky. Brown leaves blowing everywhere camouflaging the feather. The feather flows past a bald eagle gliding around. The feather glides past a wild pack of buffalo and a bear looking for food.

The feather glides through the forest. The wind blows harder and harder making the leaves move faster. The feather flies past a pack of hunters hunt-

ing for buffalo. The feather glides past a village, going past deer eating berries.

The feather flies past a corn field, past birds flying everywhere in the blue sky. The feather flies into a small village past tepees and fires burning. The feather flies into a tepee where a baby is sleeping with her dream catcher, catching the nightmares. The feather flies into the dream catcher. The feather's journey is over.

Dr. DeCosta Holds Food Drive

This is the time of year we count our blessings and think of ways we can share our good fortune with others.

The Association of New Jersey Chiropractors, a non-profit state organization, is sponsoring a statewide food drive. People can drop off non-perishable food for those in need at Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta's office, located at 129 South Plainfield Ave.

All non-perishable food will be do-

nated to FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

Drop off all items at the office through Monday, Nov. 19. The office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon and 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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Congratulations!

2007-08

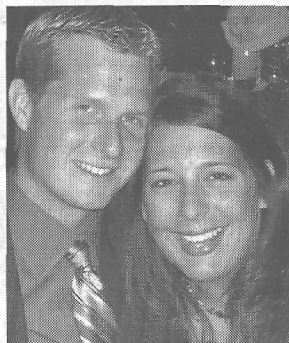
JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Shayna Hodge, stepmom Sandy Hodge, father Dave, mom Abra Hodge, stepdad George Hogan and sister Zoya.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Toni Marie Ippolito to Wed Robert Anthony



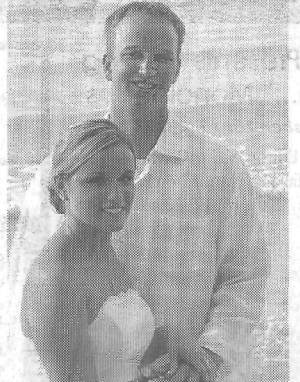
Robert Anthony and Toni Marie Ippolito.

Scott and Denise Hildebrand of New Providence announce the engagement of their daughter, Toni Marie Ippolito to Robert Anthony, son of Richard and JoAnn Anthony of South Plainfield.

The bride-to-be graduated from New Providence High School in 1998. She went on to receive her BA in psychology from The Pennsylvania State University and a masters degree in counseling psychology from The College of Saint Elizabeth in New Jersey. She is currently employed as a school counselor at Millburn High School.

The groom-to-be graduated from St. Joseph High School in Metuchen in 1996. He received his BA in individualized studies from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is currently the construction manager at J. Anthony Equipment Company in South Plainfield.

A November 2008 wedding is planned.



Samantha Noonan and Robert Suter.

Samantha Noonan, Robert Suter Wed

The Rochotte, Noonan and Suter Families are proud to announce the marriage of their children, Samantha Noonan and Robert Suter Jr. The union took place during a fun-filled trip to Jamaica.

Kimberly Bishop Graduates from Kean University

On May 10, Kimberly Bishop graduated from Kean University earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in criminal justice.

Kimberly is employed by the law firm of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith and Davis. A 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School, Kimberly is the daughter of Scot and Debra Bishop.



Kimberly Bishop

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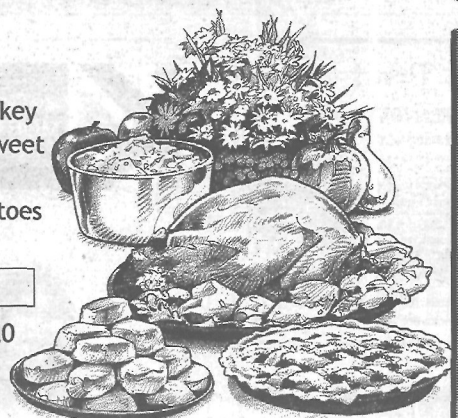
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Veterans Day Program Held at Franklin School

By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School's annual Veterans Day program once again proved to be an emotional event. Approximately 20 area veterans attended as guests of honor. There was a full house, with parents joining the students in the ceremonies. The program was highlighted with a special presentation to the parents of former student Sgt. Trista Moretti, who lost her life on June 25 while serving in Iraq (see story on page 1).

In addition to parents and grandparents, guests included former Principal Nancy Erickson, Board of Education members Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones, Supervisor of Student Personell Services Laurie Hall, Staff Developer Mary Rodger, Superintendent of School Jose Negron and As-



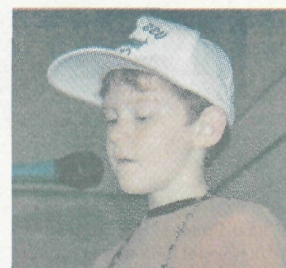
Abigail Lapp



Caylee Dress



Danny Trieu



Andrew Bisgaard



Veterans from all branches of service were guests of honor.

sistant Superintendent Anthony Massaro.

The program began with a welcome from Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys. The veterans rose as the flags representing all branches of the service were presented. The Franklin School Chorus sang an armed forces medley and the "Grand Old Flag" during the procession. Flag bearers were Nolan Berry, Christopher Mathis, Christopher Maszczak, Kelsy Prins, Angela Ruhnke, Desmond Santos and Katelyn Scott.

A series of poems and essays were read by fifteen students from all grades. In between each essay or poem, the chorus and student body entertained with songs such as "Freedom" and "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Excerpts were chosen at random from several of the 15 essays.

Kindergarten student Abigail Lapp wrote: "A veteran is someone who served in the military in times of war or peace. My grandpa Lapp was a Marine. He fought in World War II and also served during the Korean

War. My grandpa Skrocki served in the Army during the Vietnam War. They are both veterans. Veterans Day is a special day to thank and honor those who served in the military."

Aubrey Marish, second grade wrote, "Veterans are important because they protect our country from harm and terrorism. A veteran is very brave and strong. Veterans should be honored because they protect our freedom."

Cole Peterson, second grade wrote, "They deserve our respect because they sacrificed their personal lives for the freedom of our country. I also have a brother that is in the Army and I am proud that he helps to keep us free."

Elizabeth Lee, third grade wrote, "They miss Christmas, anniversaries, Valentine's Day, birthdays, Thanksgiving and New Year's. Their families have dinner with an empty chair. As we celebrate they are in war. They fight face to face. They fight for freedom and to help others. And we honor those who gave their lives. They fought for the love and care of U.S.A."



Brian Rudnick

and that's why we appreciate them. They face danger while their loved ones have to manage without them."

Jocelyn Paredes, fourth grade wrote, "What would it be like if the wars never ended? Our land would be trashed. Our hospitals would be full. More lives would have been killed. On November 11, 1918 at 11 o'clock it all began. Finally on November 11, 1954 the United States of America designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor all U.S. wars."

Other essays were presented by Andrew Bisgaard, Nicole Goitandia, Emily Sukenik, Caylee Dress, Jacob Niedzielski, Danny Trieu, Miranda Bourbeau, Bryan Rudnick, Justice Lipuma, Todd Roach and Lanac Ali, who read for Selenia Rodas.

The program ended with the playing of "Taps" by Glen Parisi. The final song was supposed to be "God Bless America," but the chorus was persistent in asking Parisi for just one more song, a favorite at the school, "God Bless the U.S.A." The entire student body joined in as well as teachers and parents, providing a special moment for all.

The Franklin School Veterans Day program began in 1994. The teachers ensure that each and every student has an understanding of what a veteran is and what Veteran's Day is about. For 13 years, area veterans have been the guests of honor, seated on risers before the student body. For many years, Franklin School was the only school to celebrate Veterans Day with a program. In recent years other district schools have programs celebrating the day. Franklin School can be proud of the fact that they were leaders in honoring our veterans.

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A Great Idea!!!

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following: A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

-Submitted by Jeanne Gruver

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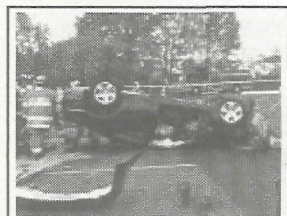
Franklin Honors Trista Moretti

(Continued from page 1)

Rhoads. "Trista did what she trusted was the right thing to do and after being told 'no' as a young adult, as soon as she turned 18 her father recalls she went skydiving and had a tattoo etched across her bottom. Then she told her parents!"

Trista attended the middle school and South Plainfield High School. She tried her hand at the flute, but became bored. Her calling was sports. She was on both the field hockey and spring track teams. Trista graduated in 1998 and attended William Paterson University, the College of St. Elizabeth and Middlesex County College. Instead of receiving a diploma, she followed her heart and joined the Army with plans to finish college after she was discharged. Her Army career began at Fort Leonard in Missouri in June of 2003. She enlisted for three more years. Her unit was deployed to Iraq in October, 2006. Her goal was to study military intelligence. She hoped to one day work for the FBI.

Trista's plaque shows her in uniform with her famous thousand-watt smile. The plaque will remind students daily that freedom is not free, that our veterans keep us safe and those that serve in the armed forces today work continuously to ensure that we remain free.



A man driving a 2007 Dodge Charger lost control of his vehicle, plowed into three parked cars and overturned his vehicle in the parking lot in front of Uno Chicago Grill on Hadley Road Saturday afternoon at around 12:30. The driver, Louis Lobue, 54, of Piscataway was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. His injuries are unknown at this time.



Senator Barbara Buono signs autographs for Grant Elementary School fifth grade students in Dana Hauck and Michele O'Toole's social studies classes after teaching a lesson on government recently.

Middle School Holds Veterans Day Ceremony

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Middle School opened their Veterans Day program last Wednesday with Student Council Secretary Kathleen Vincent singing the "Star Spangled Banner." Teacher and Master of Ceremonies Joe Blondo introduced the many guests and speakers who attend this annual event, which honors the men and women who have served our country.

Principal Steve Novak expressed to the student body that, "We want to say thank you to people who have served" and that they have to "strive for world peace." He added, "Freedom isn't free. You have to sacrifice and pay the price for liberty." VFW Post

#6763 Staff Sergeant Rudy Poczak, who served in the Korean War, explained, "Veterans Day is more important than Memorial Day as we serve the dead better by serving the living." Shianne Martinez played "Taps" and the band, lead by Andrew Veiss, played "Stars and Stripes."

Attending the ceremony were Board of Education members Carol Byrne, Debbie Boyle and Bob Jones, Superintendent Jose Negron, Assistant Superintendent Tony Massaro, Borough Councilman Matt Anesh, UNICO National Director Renato Biribin and members of the South Plainfield Bureau of Fire Prevention. The special guest was resident and Army Specialist Jeff Heine, who had served in Iraq.

Wanted: Old Clothing

Are you cleaning out the closets of old clothes to make room for winter clothes?

Please help Sacred Heart School by participating in their fall clothing drive!

They will accept all clean, usable and wearable clothing, including: men's, women's and children's clothing; shoes, boots and sneakers; accessories (handbags, belts, scarves, ties and hats); soft household items (bedding, curtains, tablecloths and towels) and

stuffed animals, small toys.

Place your items in plastic bags and them drop off at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. The trailer will be parked at the back of the main parking lot. Look for the sign.

The trailer will be at the church all weekend and available for drop-off if you are unable to come at the manned times on Monday, Dec. 3 until 2 p.m.

For questions, call Laurie at (908) 756-4738 or Joan at (908) 313-3001.

policereport

• On November 6, a Sprague Avenue resident reported the theft of a fiber hood and wind deflector from their 1992 Honda Civic.

• A Delancey Street resident reported that someone had opened their rear door and left with a bottle of wine, a box of candy and a set of keys.

• On November 7, Rutila Carbajal, 45, of South Plainfield was arrested at the motor vehicle agency for forging a signature.

• On November 8, Kevin D. Garman, 18, of South Plainfield was arrested at Dunkin Donuts on Maple Avenue for obstruction.

• On November 9, John P. Barrios, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for passing bad checks at Oak Tree Farms.

• A Delmore Avenue resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their vehicle.

• On November 10, Dionne L. Gentles, 35, of Somerville was arrested at Liquid Assets for disorderly conduct.

• Theseus P. Causing, 49, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

• DHL on New Durham Road reported an attempt to pry open the side door of their building.

• On November 11, Alvaro R. Santiago, 34, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

• On November 12, Jabbar Singh, 38, of New York, N.Y. was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and refusal to take a breath test.

• Franklin School reported that a window had been broken on the northeast corner of the building.

• The Knights of Columbus reported that the rear door of the building had been pried open and several file cabinets and the bar were rummaged through.

Middlesex County Transit Guide Updated

The latest edition of the Middlesex County Transit Guide is now available, and for the first time includes local and regional bus and train route information in both English and Spanish.

The Middlesex County Planning Department and Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM), the County's transportation management association, produced the bilingual guide, which includes information on points served, ticket options, transfers, ticket agents, special services and phone numbers.

Free copies of the Middlesex County Transit Guide are available by contacting KMM at (732) 745-4465 or www.kmm.org.

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2007-08
JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to winner Patricia Lacasale, her mom, Danielle, dad, Joe, grandmother, Pat Harris, great grandmother Tessie DiSesso, sister, Stephanie, and brothers Anthony, Joseph and Christopher.

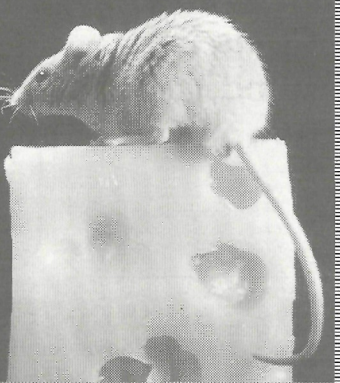
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Send us your "souped up" recipe based on one of Quick Chek's many delicious selections now at www.souperchefcontest.com.

If you are selected as a finalist, you must be present for the Souper Chef Cook-Off on Saturday, December 15 from noon until 2 p.m. at the Quick Chek located at 317 Durham Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Sports

SOCCER

by Chris Paez

A Needed Win for the U-14 Bullets

The U-14 boys traveling soccer team gained a much needed win last Sunday against the Glen Ridge Redwoods, 3-2. The Bullets needed to beat Glen Ridge in order to become the flights first place team.

The first goal was scored by Alex Valladares during the first half of the game. The pressure was on because the team was determined to win. The ball was being passed back and forth

between the two teams the entire game, with not one team dominating more than the other.

The second goal was scored by Edgar Callegas on a penalty shot and the third by Ryan Marcoux with minutes left in the game. Great goal defending was played by David Forero. The rest of the team did a tremendous job on offense, defense and midfield. These players were Shaun Alers, Kevin

Flanagan, Ryan Riccardi, Anthony Quadrel, Jelani Pta, Zachary Noll, Joseph Krawiec, Tony Franczak and Jimmy Gerber. Marc Paez watched from the team's bench due to injury.

The Bullets' last game is on Sunday, Nov. 24 at the Kenneth Avenue Field at 3 p.m. Please come out and show your support and cheer on the team as they try to defend their flight standing.

Arsenal Defeats Flemington 7-0

Last Sunday afternoon, the U-9 boys traveling soccer team defeated the Flemington Hurricanes 7-0, bringing the teams' record to eight wins for the season.

Arsenal demonstrated just how well they play together as a team through their communication with each other and the way they pass the ball to an open player. They know that it isn't just about scoring, but about dominating the field and playing "keep away" from their opposition.

The goal scorers for the game were

Jared Marks, Jake Hoffman, Jason Cieszkiewicz, all scoring two goals, and Jake Giordano, who scored the last goal of the game. Playing great goal tending and defense was Alec Paez, Tyler Curtis, Jose Arrubla, Samardhi

Jeedigunta, Ricky Pellegrino, Jake Smith, Nicholas Plate and Nicholas Pezzolla.

Arsenal's last game of the Fall 2007 season is this weekend against Scotch Plains. Wish them luck!

Soccer Club Meet and Greet

The South Plainfield Soccer Club will be holding a meet and greet information session on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Kenneth Avenue Soccer Complex from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the Spring 2008 season. All players be-

tween the ages of eight and 16 are welcomed to attend.

For more information, contact Danielle Gray at (908) 755-6314 or (201) 926-0974.

Magic Wins Again

Another exciting game was played by Magic, the girls U-13 traveling soccer team on November 11 against the Westfield Breakers at Kenneth Field.

The defenders played a remarkable game really making it difficult for their opponent. The offensive players showed tireless efforts. We were really proud of how they displayed such teamwork. Magic once again dominated their opponent winning by a score of 3-0.

Captains were Kim Walsh and

Allison Ratti. Allison Ratti scored one goal and Emily Skula scored two goals. Magic's record is 6-0-2. They all played an excellent game.

Offensive and defensive players were Allison Ratti, Jackie Dvorak, Kim Walsh, Carlee Gonzalez, Marissa Smith, Brooke Penik, Marie Lanza, Annie Pezzolla, Emily Skula, Kaitlin McHugh, Alexa Douras, Danielle Butrico and Taylor Crews. Jackie Dvorak and Annie Pezzolla were our goal keepers who made some nice saves.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

We are nearing completion of field three expansion. With the ability to accommodate both 50/70 and 40/60 fields, the versatility of our complexes are greatly enhanced. Come on down and check it out. Special thanks to Bob Bors and Leo Appolloni for endless hours volunteering and thanks to the many others who helped make it happen.

The last 2007 registration is Satur-

day, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for spring baseball in 2008. It's important that you register now so we can plan for the season's activities. You can also sign up to manage, coach, umpire or be part of a committee at that time. Visit our Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc for more details.



Happy Holidays!

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PERFECT TO PAIR WITH YOUR FEAST	
Ravenswood Zinfandel Old Vines Sonoma 2004 11.99 750 ml <small>Rated 86-87</small> <small>This Zin has super ripe, slightly rounded aromas of blackberry and licorice. Flavors of black cherry, cedar and mint, along with a slight suggestion of granite. Drink now. Rated by the Wine Spectator on July 31, 2007.</small>	Clos Du Bois Chardonnay Reserve 2005 13.99 750 ml <small>Rated 88</small> <small>This Chardonnay has a bold, ripe, fruit-driven style with layers of fig, peach, pear and apple. Well-focused, elegant and lively with a lingering, pear-energetic aftertaste. Drink now. Rated by the Wine Spectator on July 31, 2007.</small>
Serenity Pinot Noir Central Coast 2005 14.99 750 ml <small>Provocative aromas of rose petals, incense and dark cherries with flavors of pomegranate and strawberry, with a spicy finish.</small>	Louis Jadot Pinot Noir Pouilly Fuisse 2005 16.99 750 ml <small>Rated 89</small> <small>A full-bodied, complex Chardonnay boasting peach, apple and mineral flavors accented by a touch of oak. Has a fine structure and a programmatic, gleaming with a tangy, juicy aftertaste. Drink now through 2012. Rated by the Wine Spectator on August 31, 2007.</small>
Ruffino Chianti Classico Riserva Gold Label 2004 27.99 750 ml <small>Rated 88</small> <small>This Italian red has an attractive, poised and berry-cherry. Full-bodied, with round tannins and a radiant finish. Needs a little more time in the bottle. Buy after 2009. Rated by the Wine Spectator on October 31, 2007.</small>	Veuve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label NV 37.99 750 ml <small>Rated 85</small> <small>This Champagne is fine, with a fine minerality, this shows bright apple, lemon and floral flavors. Crisp, lively with a subtle structure. Drink now through 2008. Rated by the Wine Spectator on November 30, 2006.</small>

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Paso Creek 15.99 750 ml

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Ruby or Tawny Port 9.99 750 ml

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Sandeman Founders Reserve Port 13.99 750 ml

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Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9-10
Sun 10-7

Highland Woods Open House and Walk Sunday

Enjoy an autumn stroll through the Highland Avenue Woods Environmental Education Reserve on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. with Friends of the Woods nature guides. On this leisurely, family-friendly walk, explore the habitats of the 35-acre open space tract and enjoy the splendid color changes of the mixed oak forest. They will be looking for over-wintering birds such as downy woodpeckers, juncos, titmice, nuthatches and chickadees, plus those who hunt them—the resident red-tailed hawk and sharp shinned hawk.

Stop in The Nature Center to warm up, view the displays, or use the restrooms. The building is handicapped accessible.

The walk and open house are free and no registration is required.

Log on to www.geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods for a virtual tour of the nature reserve.

Cut-A-Thon at All About U Salon

All About U Salon & Spa, located at 285 Central Ave. in Metuchen, will be holding a Holiday Cut-A-Thon on Monday, Nov. 19 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Once again the All About U Salon stylists are putting their combs and cutters to work to help our community. The proceeds of their cut-a-thon will go to help "Metuchen Pulls Together."

Last year, "Metuchen Pulls Together" conducted its first holiday drive in conjunction with Metuchen schools. Their efforts provided gifts to area children who would otherwise go without. Requests were granted for clothes, bedding, coats, shoes and toys.

Come join the folks from "Metuchen Pulls Together," the members of the Metuchen Fire Department and your friends and neighbors to get your hair cut for a great cause; refreshments and giveaways. All proceeds go directly to the "Metuchen Pulls Together" holiday drive. Hair cuts are just \$15, regularly \$20.

For more information, contact Danielle or Ana at (732) 516-0155.

LEGAL NOTICES

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**
LEGAL NOTICE
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND
To Trinity Home Builders LLC/Pamela Weingarth for public improvements at 803 Trinity Street in South Plainfield Lot 22; Block 3.
A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Trinity Home Builders LLC/Pamela Weingarth for public improvements at 803 Trinity Street in South Plainfield known as Lot 22, Block 3 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on December 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.
Trinity Home Builders LLC/Pamela Weingarth
2235 Springmeadow Drive
Spring Hill, Florida 34806
\$38.50 November 16, 2007

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**
LEGAL NOTICE
RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND
To Ronald DeSciapani for public improvements at 801 Delmore Ave. in South Plainfield Lot 12; Block 379.
A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Ronald DeSciapani for public improvements at 801 Delmore Ave. in South Plainfield known as Lot 12, Block 379 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on December 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.
Ronald DeSciapani
116 Perth Place
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
\$38.50 November 16, 2007

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**
LEGAL NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned has applied to the South Plainfield Planning Board for the relief described below in connection with the construction of an approximately 103,259 square foot industrial building on property located at 3500 Hadley Road and identified as Lots 46.06, 46.07, and 46.08 in Block 528.01 on the tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield (the "Premises"). The Premises is located in the M-2 zone. Industrial uses are permitted in the M-2 zone. Applicant seeks the following relief:
1. Preliminary and final major site plan approval.
2. Bulk variance from Ordinance Section 709.2 (lot and yard requirements) and the Schedule of General Bulk Regulations with respect to minimum side yard setback.
3. Bulk variance from Ordinance Section 603.9, if deemed necessary, to bank approximately fifty-four (54) of the required on-site parking spaces.
4. Such other relief as may be required, including any submission or design waivers, or any variances or waivers deemed necessary by the Planning Board or its professionals during review of this application.
Copies of the application, plans and other supporting documents are on file in the office of the South Plainfield Planning Board at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080 and are available there for inspection Monday through Friday during normal business hours.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this matter has been placed on the agenda of the South Plainfield Planning Board for November 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080 at which time you may appear in person or by an attorney to present any objections or comments you may have to the relief sought.
3500 Hadley Road, LLC
160 Raritan Center Parkway -Unit 20
Edison, New Jersey 08810-7808
\$35.00 November 16, 2007

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**
LEGAL NOTICE
Ordinance No. 1804
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:
Ordinance #1804 entitled: A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOMPKINS AVENUE AND SPICER AVENUE APPROPRIATING \$340,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$320,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, November 16, 2007 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately after the 7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
PUBLIC NOTICE
BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENT AND SUMMARY
The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, on November 5, 2007. It will be further considered for final passage, after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, Council Chambers, Plainfield Avenue, in said County, on December 4, 2007 immediately after the 7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:
Title: A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOMPKINS AVENUE AND SPICER AVENUE, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$340,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$320,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF
Purpose(s): Roadway improvements along the entire length of Tompkins Avenue and the installation of sidewalks and curbs on Spicer Avenue. Said improvements are to consist of, but not limited to, as applicable, resurfacing, milling, paving of roads, and construction of sidewalks and curbs and installation of lighting and signage.
Appropriation: \$340,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$320,000
Section 20 Costs: \$16,000
Useful Life: 7.72 years
ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk
\$109.00 November 16, 2007

Obituaries

Frances H. Piotrowski, 85

Frances H. Piotrowski died peacefully on Monday, Nov. 5 at the Big Bend Hospice Center in Tallahassee, Fla.



Frances H. Piotrowski

Born in Connellsville, Pa. in September of 1922, she was one of four daughters and a son of Mary and Walter Welc. Frances and her late husband of 59 years, Chester, resided in South Plainfield for many years and then settled in Whiting before his death in December of 2006. She recently relocated to Tallahassee to be closer to her son.

Frances had initially worked for Mack Trucks in Plainfield and then spent 27 years as the principals assistant at Barlow School.

She enjoyed reading, knitting and playing cards, shopping with her sisters, playing the piano and spending summers at the Jersey shore, but most of all, she enjoyed the time spent with her family and friends. Frances was a former member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, where she had been active in the Alter Rosary Society, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Whiting and Good Shepherd Church in Tallahassee.

In addition to her husband, Frances was also predeceased by three sisters, Stella, Julia and Sophie and a brother, Stanley.

Surviving are two sons and their wives, Donald and Eileen of Ohio and William and Cindy of Florida and four grandchildren, John, Allison, Caitlin and Ryan.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Mary Ellen Voget Miller, 49

Mary Ellen Voget Miller died on Tuesday, Nov. 6 in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mary grew up in Scotch Plains.

She graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. While attending high school, Mary was a twirler with marching and. Following high school, Mrs. Miller attended Union County College where she earned an associates degree.

She was employed as a secretary for Piscataway High School for the past seven years. Mrs. Miller served as an NJEA representative, as well as participating with the Piscataway After School Care program and was a member of the Super Chiefs Band Parents Association.

An avid bingo player, Mrs. Miller enjoyed vacationing in Ocean City, Maryland. She taught CCD at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church in Piscataway and was a girl scout leader. One of her more favorable activities was volunteering for the Rawhide Rescue and Greyhound Friends of New Jersey and just recently she was a team leader for the Mommy Millers Support Staff Team in Making Strides Against Breast

Cancer, a fundraiser walk in support of fighting breast cancer, an illness in which Mary was battling.

She was predeceased by her parents, George and Dorothy Voget and a brother, George.

Surviving is her husband of 25 years, Jim Miller and three children, Allison, Kimberly and James Miller, all of Piscataway; her mother and father-in-law, David and Patricia Miller also of Piscataway; a brother, Michael and wife Gail Voget; a sister-in-law, Evelyn Voget and three brothers-in-law, David and wife Sally Miller of North Plainfield, Stephen and wife Donna of Clark and Matthew and wife Nikki of Virginia. Also surviving are numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 2600 US HWY #1, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902

Meeting Time Changed

The BOE Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting originally scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26 has been changed to 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the second floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

trees, fake Santa Clauses, reindeer, elves and snowmen. There will be more and more expensive toys and games, trying to bring Xmas* cheer to children of all ages. (*We have to take the "Christ" out of "Christmas" these days!)

And why are we taking Christ out of Christmas? To appease and assuage the anger of those who reject the God who created them! "We might upset a few people" is the politically correct line. But how about the multitudes of people like me who are saddened by it all? Do we count for anything? We won't riot because of it. We won't ram our opinions through the courts of the land. We won't threaten with violence those who disagree with us. We have

been taught to love and pray for those "who say all kinds of things against us falsely." (Matthew 5:11b)

And so there will continue to be a decreasing emphasis on the majesty surrounding that miraculous birth 2000+ years ago that changed the course of history.

And little attention paid to Jesus Christ (the reason for the season before the treason of the season was foisted upon us).

And a disregard for the purity of His person, the wonder of His love, the selflessness of His sacrifice, and the glory of His gift of eternal life.

What are we thinking?! Have we gone crazy?! Do we not realize that His tender love, His measureless mercy, and His great grace are what our children,

our society, and our nation need to be celebrating?

O Lord God of heaven and earth, please forgive us for our failure; please save us from our sinfulness and please restore us to our right minds. This is my November prayer to You this year, 2007.

KINGSLEY BAHR

Dear Residents,

On behalf of myself, Richard W. McCriscin II and James A. Gustafson, we would like to thank our supportive community in participating with this year's sweatshirt drive. With your help, we were able to collect well over 100 sweatshirts and without your help this would not be possible.

For over 30 years my father, Rich-

ard, along with my uncle, William, served the families of South Plainfield. Now, Jim and I are proud to say that we are honored to follow in the same footsteps serving the community in where we were born, raised and continue to reside in.

Through the years, Jim and I have learned what it means to truly serve families in their time of sorrow, but this cause has given Jim and I the opportunity to serve our community in a different fashion. With the amount of sweatshirts donated, this continuously proves that the residents of South Plainfield really define the word "community."

Again, we would like to thank all who participated in our sweatshirt drive. We look forward to next year's

"Help Keep Our Kids Warm" program which will be announced next autumn.

**SINCERELY,
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Class of 1977 Celebrate 30 Year Reunion

By Patricia Abbott

On October 27, members of the South Plainfield High School Class of 1977 gathered to celebrate their 30 year reunion at Embassy Suites in Piscataway.

The festivities began with a happy hour and continued with an evening of dinner and dancing, memories and renewed friendships. The main attraction was a slide show of photos covering their high school years. The youthful faces brought gales of laughter, mingled with comments of "I remember that!" "Look at him!" and "That's me!"

The slide show was organized and produced by Francine Martinkovic Hill and Lisa Napolitano. It was compiled from various classmates personal photo archives and the 1977 South Plainfield High School yearbook. The slideshow was accompanied by hits from the 70's.

The celebration began the night before when a group of committee members and classmates met for dinner at Vincenzo's Restaurant in Middlesex and then moved to Sal's Spirit Shoppe in South Plainfield, where everyone met up with still more old friends. On Saturday morning, 30 classmates met at Sal and Sandy



Severini's home for a pre-reunion brunch. Sunday morning the group met for a farewell brunch at Embassy Suites.

South Plainfield Mayor and graduate Charlie Butrico commented, "It was nice to see old friends and the people I went to school with and to have the opportunity to rekindle old friendships. Everyone was doing well and we all had a great time at the reunion. I would like to thank the reunion committee for doing such a wonderful job."

In addition to those still residing in New Jersey, classmates came from 14

states all across the country including New York, California, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, Connecticut, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Traveling the greatest distance to attend was Phil Helmer, who traveled from Washington State. He said, "It was very obvious that there was an immense amount of planning by the group. Their forethought made the journey from Washington State and the time spent away from family well worth it. The Severini's opened their home and business to the class on top

of planning and helping at all of the functions. It was wonderful to catch up with so many people after 30 years and a source of pride to be able to say "I'm from South Plainfield!"

Reunion Committee members were Francine Martinkovic Hill, head reunion contact; Sal and Sandy Severini, George and Maureen Veinott and Lisa Napolitano. It was the largest reunion ever with a total of 80 classmates and 28 spouses and guests. Organizing the event was a nine month effort on part of the committee.

Many of the classmates who came to the 30th reunion had never attended any of the reunions. They were thrilled to be there and commented how they cannot wait for the next one. Special guests at the reunion were Class Advisor Tony Barca and his wife, Connie.

Reunion organizer Sal Severini said, "Thank you to all the '77 alumni

and friends for making this reunion such a memorable one. Friends, both old and new, worked together to make our 30th the best ever and I look forward to celebrating many more milestones together. Ideas are currently being tossed about celebrating our 50 birthday at a 'destination event' which is just around the corner!"

Last week the Observer published a letter from Joe Walko, a '77 classmate, who was unable to attend the 30-year reunion because he is stationed in 'Taji, Iraq.

The class also received the following E-mail from Kenny Stampely who is also in Iraq. It reads: "How is everybody doing, I wish I could be there to see you all. I am still in Iraq and have been here with the Army as a avionics contactor for the last three years. I live outside of Augusta Ga. in a small town just like South Plainfield. I have three children, two girls 23, 24 and a boy, 18. The oldest just joined the Air Force, my middle girl just graduated college and my son is in his first year of college. Life has been good to me. I have been married for 25 years as of November 16 to a lady from Fayetteville N.C. and I said I'd never get married! I retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years. I spent six years in Germany, five years in Ft. Rucker, Ala., one year at Ft. Hood, Texas and six years at Ft. Bragg, N.C. in the 82nd Airborne Div. So with all of my heart felt thoughts of all of my good friends from South Plainfield which I never forgot, you guys, you have made me into the man I am today. I will always fight to keep our home land safe."

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
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