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# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 13

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50 CENTS

DECEMBER 1, 2006

## Student Leaders Find the 'Giving' in Thanksgiving

By Libby Barsky

Giving was key in celebrating Thanksgiving this year for South Plainfield High School Student Leadership members. They decided to expand their Christmas Adopt-A-Family project to include giving seven families all the fixings needed for a traditional Thanksgiving holiday meal. Besides the turkey, the students provided a ham, five pounds of potatoes, stuffing mix, canned corn, cranberry sauce, apple cider, biscuit mix, three pies, plus three different snacks and a holiday centerpiece for each family.

The families adopted by the students were selected by Social Services Director Marge Ackerman and each family represented one of the seven schools in the district.

Initially there were to have been seven families, but the staff and teachers in the administration building joined in the project adopting two additional families, providing and packaging the seasonal food. Members of Peer to Peer at the Middle School also adopted a family for Thanksgiving.

In assembling the food, the 90 or more high school students worked in

small groups, with each student signing off on what they were going to bring. After school on Nov. 17, with their advisers standing by, the groups met in the high school cafeteria and in an atmosphere of controlled chaos they assembled and packaged the food in baskets and then carried them to their advisors cars to personally deliver them to the homes.

Kelvin Randolph, a junior, carried his basket with a big smile as did Taylor Mandel and Brittanie Wong. "It's fun and we feel like we've done our part," Brittanie said. "It makes you feel good," said Taylor. "We're helping needy families that can't afford to have a Thanksgiving celebration like others."

Friday afternoon was just the start of a very busy week for the members of Student Leadership. On Nov. 20 and 21, a group of 50 attended the Student Leadership retreat with teacher-chaperones Mary Ellen Markto, Tom Baker, Marla Vandermark, Anthony Encinas, Tammy Zurka and Kevin Hajduk. The event was held at Fairview Camp a camp and conference center in Newton. They took part in activities and

(Continued on page 23)



SPHS Student Leadership members collect food and assemble baskets for Thanksgiving.



And the winners are.... Megan Boyle and Mike Jakubik were chosen as 2006 Homecoming Queen and King at the annual pageant. See story and photos on page 15.

## Borough Seeks Volunteers For Boards, Commissions

The Borough of South Plainfield is seeking volunteers who wish to serve on various Borough boards, agencies, committees or commissions commencing on Jan. 1, 2007. Vacancies exist on the following boards:

Business Advisory Group, Cultural Arts Commission, Environmental Commission, Health Advisory Board, Library Board of Trustees, Office on Aging Advisory Committee, Planning Board, Public Celebrations Committee, Recreation Commission, Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Anyone interested in applying

for one of these positions can log on the Borough of South Plainfield website at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com).

The web site has information about the various boards, agencies, committees and commissions, including when and how often they meet. You can also download an application for appointment.

In addition, applications may be obtained at the Borough Clerks Office, 2480 Plainfield Ave., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The deadline for submission of completed applications is Dec. 18.

## Area Churches Join in Thanksgiving Celebration

The Christian community of South Plainfield held ecumenical services on Nov. 21.

This year's services were held at Sacred Heart Church, with Father John Alvarado and Father Andrew Wieliczko hosting. Participants from area churches included Rev. D. Gordon Brawn, Jr. from First Baptist Church, Rev. Daniel Nikolich from Pilgrim Covenant Church, Rev. Irene Campbell and Elder Robert Bryant

from Rescue House of Prayer, Rev. Clark Olson-Smith from St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church and Rev. Nehemiah Thompson from Wesley Methodist Church. Also participating were members of the combined choir directed by Mei-Li Chen, Dan Mahoney and Jack Bender.

Those attending were asked to bring a food donation for the needy and a dessert, which was shared with others after the services.



Area religious leaders gather at Sacred Heart Church to celebrate ecumenical services on Thanksgiving.

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**Residents can view Borough Council meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m. on Comcast Channel 74.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to  
[southplainfieldnj.com](http://southplainfieldnj.com)  
for the latest meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 5	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public

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

### planning board

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

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

Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

### zoning board of adjustment

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

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

Dec. 14.

### board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.-Dec. 6 (Revised Date), Jan. 10, Feb. 14,  
March 14 and March 28.

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-Dec. 13 (Revised Date), Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and  
April 4.

### taxpayers advisory group

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

### site plan sub-committee

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

Dec. 19

### recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

Dec. 12

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

### business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

### traffic safety advisory commission

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

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

### board of education curriculum/technology meetings

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

## South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is  
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NANCY GRENNIER  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

### 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](mailto: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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SUSAN KANEPS  
Art Director/Associate Editor

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Staff Writer/Photographer

LIBBY BARKSY  
Staff Writer

CAROL GRENNIER  
Editorial Assistant

JEAN FULTZ  
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## IN YOUR OPINION

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

### To all Residents:

In May of 2007, the South Plainfield Fire Department will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of volunteering for the Borough of South Plainfield. On Saturday, May 19, 2007, in order to commemorate this achievement, the Fire Department will be hosting a 100th Anniversary parade to be followed by a picnic at the South Plainfield PAL field on Maple Ave. We have several attractions scheduled for that day, including rides for the kids, a D.J., live music provided by a crowd favorite band, "The Nerds," along with other activities that are still in the final stages of planning. We know it will be a special day for our fire department to celebrate with our families, friends and fellow firefighters. We have sent invitations to over 600 fire companies throughout the state and most other organizations in the surrounding area.

In addition, the volunteer fire department will be publishing a Fire History Journal, featuring a business directory and buyers guide, which will be distributed before and after the 100th anniversary event. Proceeds will go towards the anniversary events. Advertisement prices are as follows: full page-\$600, half page-\$350, quarter page-\$275, eighth page-\$200, business card-\$100, kiddie ride-\$650, mugs-\$1,400, restore old fire truck-\$10,000 and refreshments-\$850. Make checks to: South Plainfield Fire Dept. 100th Anniversary. Any donation to the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department would all be greatly appreciated.

If you need to contact us, call Deputy Chief Tom Scalera at (908) 412-8868 or (908) 482-8454.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

### SP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

### Dear Editor:

On behalf of all of the residents of South Plainfield, I want to thank the Observer for its factual reporting of the Department of Transportation's approval of the banning of trucks on Hamilton Blvd. Mayor Gallagher reported that DOT approval was given preliminarily at the October council meeting, but that didn't stop the Republican candidates for mayor and council from sending out a flyer two days before the election entitled

### "Charlie Buttrico's Traffic Scam."

In the last minute flyer, Mr. Bengivenga, Mr. Barletta and Mr. Sesok said, and this is a quote: "The DOT will not allow a truck ban on Hamilton Boulevard. Buttrico knows this, yet he hopes he can hide it from the public until after Election Day. Now we know why he didn't ask permission. He knew he wouldn't get it." If the Republicans lied to try and get elected, imagine what we could expect from them if they were successful?

Thank you to the voters for seeing through their campaign of deceit. Remember their names in case they ever dare to run again. Bengivenga, Barletta, Sesok.

### COUNCIL MEMBER BOB CUSICK

### Residents of South Plainfield:

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will be holding their annual telethon the week of Dec. 4. Students from several groups in the high school will make phone calls to the parents of every student in the South Plainfield school district. They will be asking for help with a monetary pledge to the foundation. A follow-up letter will be mailed to remind each person of the amount pledged. There are several areas throughout the district where parents can direct financial assistance.

This is our most important fundraiser of the year. Through this fundraiser we are able to continue providing scholarships to deserving seniors from South Plainfield High School. We would like to continue to support the Gold Card Program at the high school. Included in the pledge letter you will receive our newsletter. The newsletter will provide you with information about the foundation. We have been in existence since 1994. We are a separate, non-profit 501c-3 organization.

Please be advised that the education foundation is not affiliated with the school board. We provide monies for scholarships and incentive programs for the entire district as an independent non-profit organization.

### THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all those who participated in our food drive to help the needy.

Your generous contributions of

### Submit Letters to the Editor:

**Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.**

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto: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 limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

food went to the 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.

Again, thank you for sharing your blessings to help a family in need.

I hope you all had a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

SINCERELY,  
DR. ANTHONY J. DE COSTA

### Dear Editor,

I would like to know what part of the law it is regarding passing school buses that people do not understand. I live on Montrose Ave. and my neighbor has a handicapped child who is in a wheelchair. Each morning the school bus comes to pick him up and almost every day the same thing happens. A line of cars builds up as the drivers wait for the child to be mechanically lifted onto the bus. Each day at least one impatient person begins honking their horn, which leads to a group of copycats who feel the need to lean on their horns as well.

What purpose does this serve? The law prohibits passing a school bus onto which children are being loaded and unloaded. Yet each day at least one vehicle passes this school bus and usually one or more follow. This morning I saw a white van pass the bus before the stop sign was pulled away by the driver and then a few other cars followed. For anyone who is unaware, there is a law which states that it is unlawful to pass a school bus that has its stop sign extended. In 2000, Governor Whitman amended this law and added the following Assembly Bill: "Assembly Bill 622 extends the time to file a complaint against a motorist for a violation of P.L. 1942, c. 192,

(Continued on page 12)

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Dinner Served Monday through Saturday from 4:30 p.m.



## Mikorski Testifies on School Funding At State Tax Reform Meeting

The following is a brief summary of testimony Frank Mikorski presented to the legislative committee on school funding. Mikorski has attended almost every meeting the State of New Jersey has held on property tax reform. He was limited to five minutes for his presentation and then submitted additional information in writing for items he did not have time to cover.

"We believe that the decision by the State Supreme Court in 1981 to fund so-called Abbott Districts (31) to the level of the wealthiest districts was not based on any funding research or analysis of other state practices or any sound educational basis. It appears that

the decision was political.

For example, South Plainfield receives 17% state aid, while Abbott Districts receive as much as 85-90% state aid. As reported in the *Star Ledger*, Newark received more state aid than all the children in all the zip codes in Bergen, Somerset and Sussex counties combined. We believe that it is the responsibility of our elected legislature to establish and determine a funding and tax policy.

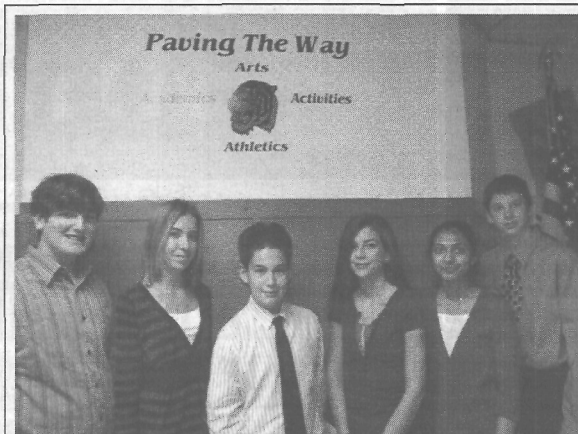
At earlier hearings, a professor from N.Y. University and a consultant testified that the N.J. Supreme Court was the only court in the country to specify funding guidelines and the only court to identify specific school

districts and how they were to be funded [Abbott Districts]. A recent Wall Street article stated, and I quote, 'When courts claim they have power to make legislators spend more to vindicate constitutional rights to basic education, they tamper with a basic tenet of our democracy—no taxation without representation.'

We believe residents of Abbott Districts should assume more of the financial responsibility for funding the education of their children by paying a higher percentage of the cost in the form of property taxes. For example, South Plainfield taxpayers pay 82% of school costs. Abbott Districts such as Camden pay only 3% in property taxes, Newark 9% and Asbury Park 7%. It is time for the legislature to do its job and provide more state funding [money] for education to the non-Abbott Districts and reduce the burden of our property taxes.

How can we help to reduce property taxes? Contact your legislator and tell them to provide more funding to the non-Abbott districts such as South Plainfield and if they do not remember what you said, when you vote in November 2007, vote them out of office."

—Frank A. Mikorski



The South Plainfield Middle School recently announced the November students of the month. Pictured (L to R) are Eddie Sullivan, Lightning; Nikki Ditch, Tsunami; Austin Jenkin, Avalanche; Lauren Keane, Thunder; Navneet Gorya, Monsoon and Kyle O'Keefe from Team Cyclone.

### Send Your Letters to Santa

Santa is waiting for your letters. It's that time! Get your list to Santa. A special mailbox has been placed at the Post Office for boys and girls. All mail placed in this mailbox gets sent directly to the North Pole! Have your letter in the mailbox by Dec. 18 and Santa will respond. Make sure you include your name and address.



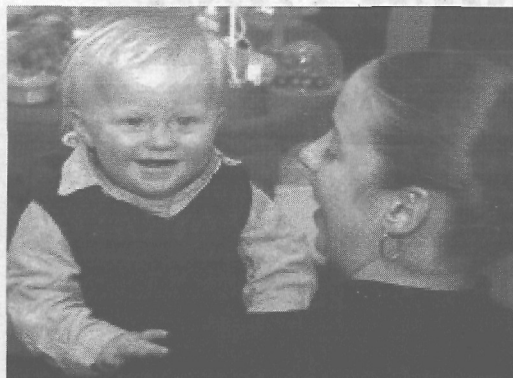
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## Open House

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10am to 2pm**

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- ❖ Internet Video Monitoring System, enabling parents to safely view their children online from 7am to 6:30pm, Monday – Friday.
- ❖ Family owned and operated center in a home-like setting.
- ❖ Full-day programs for Infants to Kindergarten plus Summer Camp.
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- ❖ New Technology Room for ComputerTots.
- ❖ We offer Soccer, Dance & Tumbling, Stretch & Grow and Karate.

### Sacred Heart First Semester Honor Roll/Principal Lists

The following are Sacred Heart students in grades 4 through 8 who made honor roll/principal list for the first marking period.

#### Principal List

Grade 8—Caresse Simmonds.

Grade 7—Andrea Muglia and Carla Palma.

Grade 5—Patrick Bogart, Alexander

LeGrand, Brandon Ozbalik, Kerri Salvatore and Jessica Thomas.

Grade 4—Giovanna Nolan.

#### Honor Roll

Grade 8—Siobhan Barrington, Kianna Cooper, Sabrina Douge, Christopher Gbogi, Joseph Landry, Allyson Ricarte and Karla Rodriguez.

Grade 7—Anthony Cardoso, Dominic Gonzales, Rhel Lapitan, Tricia Campbell, Kevaghn Charles, Christina Pokorny and Kyle Whitaker.

Grade 6—Jordana Approvato, Imani Delk, Janee Edwards, Khylah Jean, Julia Soete and Jacqueline Stenersen.

Grade 5—Rose Bach, Richard Buckley, Idris Erinjogunola, Catherine Gbogi, Sabrina Inigo, Dylan Thompson, Michael Vella and Arthur Wright.

Grade 4—Erin Buckley, Samantha DiMaano, Eric Nguyen and Virginia Novak.

### Mark Your Calendar Meeting Date Change

#### BOE Meeting Changes

Please be advised that the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 18 has been changed to Dec. 11. This meeting will be held at 6 p.m.

The Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 18 has been changed to Dec. 11. This meeting will be held at 7 p.m.

Both meetings are held in the second floor conference room in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

### Counseling for School Children

(in your home) coping with Divorcing Parents, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, 504 Prep., etc.

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# Around Town

## Edison Valley Playhouse Thru December 17

Edison Valley Playhouse presents "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" by Christopher Durang. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays, thru Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors.

For information visit our website at [www.evplayhouse.com](http://www.evplayhouse.com) or call us at (908) 755-4654.

## Knights Breakfast with Santa, Tree Lighting December 2

The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at their hall on Hamilton Blvd. The price for the breakfast (which includes eggs, bacon and French toast) will be \$3 child, \$5 adult or \$15 for a family. Reservations are required.

The Knights will also start a new tradition with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony held on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at their hall. Contact Steve Belanger at (908) 791-0640 for reservations and details.

## Senior Snow Ball Dance December 2

The Senior Center will hold a dinner dance, the "Senior Snow Ball," on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 and will feature music by Art Smith and Associates.

For reservations, contact the South Plainfield Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 or stop in to the center.

## Little Treasures Plans Open House December 2 and 3

Little Treasures Learning Center, located on Oak Tree Rd., will hold an open house on Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Little Treasures offers infant care to kindergarten and summer camp programs to fit the needs of children ages six weeks to seven years.

Visit the center for a tour during operating hours, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information, call (908) 769-3224.

## South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

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

## What's happening in DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>				
December 2 - Senior Snow Ball Dinner Dance, 6 to 10 p.m. Hunterdon Hills Playhouse December 14-Cost \$58				Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 1
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am 4 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm 5 Ladies Social Group 10am	Exercise Class 8:45am 6 Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am 11:30am & 1 pm Tai Chi Class 2pm Trip to Taj Mahal	Pathmark Shopping 9 am 7 Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 8 Lunch Available
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

## Suburban Woman's Club Theater Party December 3

The Suburban Woman's Club is sponsoring a theater party at the Edison Valley Playhouse on Oak Tree Rd. Tickets are \$17, which will be used to benefit the scholarship fund and local charities. Performance is at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3. Complimentary refreshments and door prizes.

For tickets, see the members of the Woman's Club or call (908) 757-6163 or (908) 757-3680.

## Music Boosters Meeting December 6

The SPHS Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. in the chorus room. All chorus, band and orchestra parents are welcome to attend. Membership is \$5 per family, but not required to come to our meetings. Topics for the evening include the Disney Trip, fundraising and holiday concerts. Please join us!

## Elks Dinner Dance December 9

Live entertainment, dinner and dancing, featuring Bill Turner and

Blue Smoke Band playing country, oldies, Elvis, top 40 and more on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 p.m. to midnight. \$20 per person. Dinner includes chicken, ribs, potato, baked beans, vegetable, desserts, coffee, tea and soda. Cash bar. Tickets must be purchased in advance only at the Elks club, 1254 New Market Ave. See the bartender.

For more information, call Debbie at (732) 491-5310.

## Elks Host Breakfast With Santa December 10

The South Plainfield Elks will be hosting a "Breakfast with Santa" on Sunday, Dec. 10, at the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, 1254 New Market Ave. from 8 a.m. until noon. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5-10. Children under 5 free. Breakfast consists of eggs, bacon, pancakes, sausage, French toast, cinnamon

raisin French toast, home fries, coffee, tea and juice.

## Get Your Pet Pictures Taken with Santa December 10

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is sponsoring a pictures with Santa Day on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Help-A-Pet Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping sick and injured pets. The cost of pictures is \$7 each with an extra \$2 for each additional pet in the same picture. For more information, call (908) 755-2428.

## Trip to Hunterdon Hills December 14

The Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Thursday, Dec. 14 to see the annual Christmas Show. The cost is \$58 per person and includes transportation, a luncheon with a lavish dessert buffet

and the show. For reservations, stop in at the Senior Center, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This trip is open to the public. You do not need to be a member of the center to participate.

## Visit Santa and Get Your Picture Taken December 16

Santa will be on hand for pictures and a visit (newborn to 10 years old), on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Center. Each child talks to Santa, gets a picture taken, and receives a gift. Registration is at the PAL until Dec. 14. Cost is \$5.

## American Legion Pancake Breakfast December 17

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 8 a.m. until noon. The cost of the event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. All profits will go to the scholarship fund.

## Caroling in the Park December 17

Everyone is invited to join the annual "Caroling in the Park" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. at Spring Lake Park. The high school chorus will be there to lead us. Refreshments at the Senior Center after caroling.

## — Out of Town —

## Angel Craft and Vendor Fair December 2

St. Francis Episcopal Church on New Market Rd. in Dunellen will hold an angel craft and vendor fair on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information call (732) 968-6781.

(Continued on next page)

# PARK AVENUE BARBER SHOP

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# Around Town

## Blackrose to Perform

December 2

Blackrose, the band, performs classic rock and roll and today's hits on Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:30 p.m. at Tim Kerwins Pub, Rt. 28 in Middlesex. No cover charge.

## "An Old-Fashioned Christmas"

December 2

"An Old-Fashioned Christmas" will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Dunellen Theater on North Ave. (Rt. 28). There will be two seatings—1 p.m.

and 3 p.m. The FREE community festivities will feature an hour of holiday music, audience sing-a-longs of traditional Christmas carols and other winter favorites of both adults and children. Special guest appearance by "Andy the Angel" who will share his unique perspective during a re-enactment of the Christmas story. Everyone will receive a small free gift and a special memory of Christmas 2006.

For more information, call (732) 968-3844. Reservations are not required; admission is free; no offering plates will be passed.

## International Disability Awareness Day

December 2

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo) will offer a Holiday Music and Theatre Event on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the South Brunswick Library in Monmouth Junction. The event is

being held in celebration of International Disability Awareness Day in sister city collaboration with the VSA affiliate Accessible Arts in Sydney, Australia.

Individuals interested in participating must register by calling (732) 745-3885.

## Willow Grove's Family Christmas Celebration

December 2

Willow Grove family Christmas celebration will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy an array of activities including crafting Christmas ornaments, Advent wreaths, decorating gingerbread houses and singing carols. A teen movie/game room set up as well. Cost is \$5 per person, maximum of \$15 per family.

To make reservations or for more information about Willow Grove, call (908) 232-5678.

## Edison Arts Dance

December 3

Edison Arts Society Presents "Jingle All the Way" Holiday Dance Spectacular on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. featuring Jo-Ann's Dance Studio, Lynn's Dance Connection, Metuchen Dance Centre, Spotlight on Dance, Step In Time Studio and Yvonne's School of Dance. It will be held in the J.P. Stevens High School Auditorium, in Edison. Tickets are \$14 each and can be purchased by calling (908) 753-2787, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visa and MasterCard are gladly accepted over the telephone.

## Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

December 4

Join the Gad-Abouts Group on a trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Monday, Dec. 4, for a performance of "A Playhouse Christmas." All are

invited. Carpools will leave at 10 a.m. from Willow Grove parking lot in Scotch Plains. Cost is \$55.

For reservations or information, call Barbara at (908) 322-7892.

## Middlesex East WOWs

December 8

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold an open dance on Friday, Dec. 8 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. Admission \$8 members, \$10 guests.

For more information call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

## Breakfast/Discussion at Willow Grove

December 9

The Men's Group of Willow Grove Church invites males of all ages from the community to join them on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for a free breakfast, holiday fellowship and a discussion about today's world and the roles we play in it through our vocations and faith.

For information or to make reservations, call August at (908) 889-5948 or (908) 232-5678.

## Holiday Concert at Edison Arts Society

December 10

The Edison Arts Society will present the Edison Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center in Edison.

Tickets are on sale at the Edison Arts Society for \$25 with group rates available. Call (908) 753-2787, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to reserve seats.

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South Plainfield Observer



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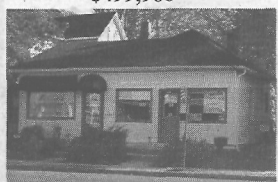
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## Krista Kaczka Named Junior Journalist



Krista Kaczka, Roosevelt School third grader, with principal, Charles Ford.

Krista Kaczka, third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week's winner in the 2006-07 Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Go Outside and Play," has earned her dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students can submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2007.

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

## 2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

### Go Outside and Play

By Krista Kaczka

When you're feeling bad or sad or even mad go outside and play.

Get off the couch and get out the door and go outside and play.

If you see your brother or sister sitting in bed watching T.V. on a beautiful day, say to them go outside and play.

So there you see, there are many lazy people today but if you're not lazy, go outside and play.

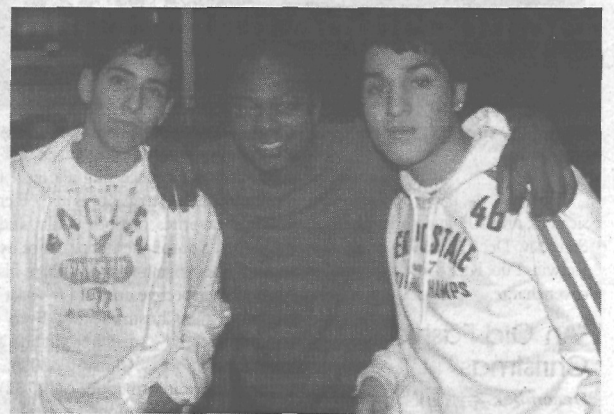
## SPHS Students Get to Know Each Other

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield High School students had the opportunity to experience a phenomenal one-man show entitled, "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me," by actor, psychologist and poet, Dr. Michael Fowlin. The gripping presentation dealt with the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention, personal identity, suicide, gender equity, homophobia and the emotional pain felt by special education children. Dr. Fowlin slips in and out of nine characters, both male and female, who share their stories in an often humorous, but at times, heart-breaking manner.

Dr. Fowlin prefaced the show by pointing out a basic difference in the audience members; students who are left-handed or right-handed. He explained how difficult it is using your left hand in a largely right-handed world. "You don't fit into the norm and have to adjust to the majority," citing an instance years ago when people who were left-handed had their hand tied behind their back and were forced to use their other hand to fit in. "Don't be like the zebras," he said. "A herd of zebras doesn't bother anyone, but when one gets in trouble, the rest of the zebras stand around and watch." Fowlin continued, "No matter what race, religion or gender you are, I want you to walk away from this experience slightly changed."

Getting into his first character, Jermaine, a bright six year-old African American with ADHD, he speaks rapidly and explains how he gets in trouble with the teacher all of the time. Next is Octavius, a tough-talking high school senior and star quarterback who fears he might be ostracized for being gay.



Dr. Michael Fowlin answers questions from students after his presentation.

Fowlin says, "Your mask may be different from my mask." YoungSoon is an Asian man facing racism in corporate America. An Indian/Korean girl named Sabine is a high school senior caught up in bi-racial and gender issues and trying to figure out her place in the world. "If all you look at is the color of my skin, you don't see me," she said. Frank Sanders, a teen dealing with police profiling, emphasized that if you are different you are considered bad. His character, Joey Schiavo, is running for class president and talks about the Columbine High School shootings and possible solutions to avoid further incidents. Tommy, a mentally and physically challenged boy, shares his experiences being made fun of. QT is a hip-hop brother who raps about understanding, non-violence and unity instead of the usual guns, sex and drugs. And finally, Fowlin portrays Jose, a Mexican American man who shares his pain of growing up in California and the

teacher who told him he was beautiful.

After leaving students spellbound and reeling from his riveting characterizations, he concluded by asking everyone to repeat the phrase, "I am beautiful." Fowlin emphasized, "Say that to yourself at least once a day. Also, smile and say 'hello' to 10 people you've never come in contact with before." Fowlin told students that if anyone needed a hug, they're free after the show. The emotional students crowded around giving hugs and asking him questions. The goal of his performance is for students to walk away realizing that they are not alone, and most importantly, that they are all beautiful.

Dr. Fowlin has been formally acting since age 11, but started creating voices by making prank calls at nine years old. In addition to his talents on stage, he has an undergraduate degree from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo. In the fall of 2001, he received a doctorate degree in clinical psychology from Rutgers University and currently resides in Morristown.

Fowlin's mission is to create an atmosphere of worldwide inclusion, not just tolerance, towards all people. He has worked extensively with all age groups in the United States and his work has included peer mediation, diversity training, gender equity workshops and violence prevention seminars. "If I have helped someone feel better about themselves and the people in the world, I've done well," he said.

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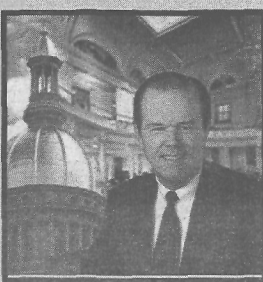
As you probably know, I was born and raised in South Plainfield. My parent's home was on Hamilton Blvd. I appreciate what a great town we live in and I am aware of the things we need to work on. The biggest problem all of our residents have to face every day is traffic congestion. In particular, the corridor of Hamilton Blvd. to Durham Ave. is the most heavily traveled road in the borough.

I have worked and will continue to work in Trenton to see that the state gives us the support we need to address this problem. During my five years as your assemblyman, working with my friends Assemblyman Barnes and Senator Buono, South Plainfield has received just over \$3 million in state aid of which \$2 million has been in the form of grants for various road projects. Almost a half million dollars in aid was received for the improvements which are underway that will widen Durham Ave. to four lanes from Hamilton Blvd. to Rt. 287 and a state grant was utilized to offset the cost of the decorative street lights on Hamilton Blvd.

I am happy that I was in a position to explain to DOT Commissioner Kris Kalluri how important it was to keep truck traffic off Hamilton Blvd. and I am particularly pleased that the department approved my recommendation to install an additional right hand turning lane on the ramp off Rt. 287 onto Durham Ave. In fact, construction of this additional lane is underway and the commissioner assures me it will be completed before winter. With this additional turning lane, two lanes of traffic will now be able to turn right onto Durham Ave., which will also be two lanes all the way up to St. Nicholas Ave. where trucks will be required to exit. Keep in mind that there will soon be an additional dedicated right hand turn lane at the Quick Check on Durham Ave. These improvements will make a tremendous improvement in traffic flow. I am very proud to have been able to be a part of the solution.

However, the best is yet to come. Just last week the DOT awarded South Plainfield the largest local grant of any town in our legislative district for the New Market Ave. extension. As you know, Mayor elect Charlie Butrico has developed a traffic plan to extend New Market Ave. through the industrial site so that truck traffic can go directly to Belmont Ave. into the industrial area. I am gratified that the DOT has so clearly demonstrated its support for the New Market Ave. extension by this award. I know that we will never be able to make the situation perfect when it comes to traffic in South Plainfield, but I can assure you that as long as I am your Assemblyman, I will work to see that we have the support of the Governor and the Department of Transportation to help wherever they can.

If you have any suggestions about traffic or any other issue, please contact me. My office is located at 908 Oak Tree Rd., Unit P. My phone number is (908) 757-1677 and my email is AsmDiegnan@njleg.org.



**News**  
**From The State House**  
**Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan**

## Cutural Arts is Sponsoring a Winter Holiday Program at Senior Center

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is proud to sponsor a "Winter Holidays" presentation by Judith Krall-Russo on Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave.

Winter—when the days are short and the nights are long. This is the perfect time to bring family and friends together for warm festivities. Learn the history, customs and foods of various winter celebrations, including Victorian Christmas, Hanukkah, Ancient Rome's Saturnalia



Judith Krall-Russo

and the Winter Solstice.

Krall-Russo has studied the fascinating and rich history behind homegrown foods and exotic teas. She shares her knowledge by telling wonderful stories, laced with humor and surprising detail that make us appreciate and have an even greater taste for our New Jersey cuisine. Whether she is telling us about the Jersey tomato, luscious blueberries or her beloved and delightful teas, Judith entertains and inspires her listeners. You will want to rediscover an old family cook-

book, a unique recipe or find yourself a new teapot so you can brew some loose leaf tea for close friends.

Historian, educator, speaker and cook—Krall-Russo enriches her unique food programs with surprising facts and hints that you will be eager to take with you. Her continued interest, research and education in the field guarantees an unforgettable session for each member of the audience.

Please send an e-mail to SPCAC@aol.com confirming you will attend or call Suzanne Lyte at (908) 753-0444. Space is limited so RSVP early. Free admission and refreshments.

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Cars4charities will handle the entire donation process, from start to finish. They'll turn your unwanted vehicle into cash and send the entire

net proceeds to the charity you select from their impressive list. The process is effortless. You can complete the entire process online at [www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org). Your vehicle will be picked up in a matter of days, free of charge. Cars4charities will provide you with all the appropriate tax paperwork you'll need to claim your deduction. To claim your 2006 deduction, your

title must be signed and postmarked by Dec. 31.

Cars4charities accepts almost any car in New Jersey for donation whether it runs or not, provided it has a clear title, all its tires are inflated, it's easily accessible to a tow truck and has no parts missing. To donate your car, just visit [www.cars4charities.org](http://www.cars4charities.org) or call 1-866-448-3487.

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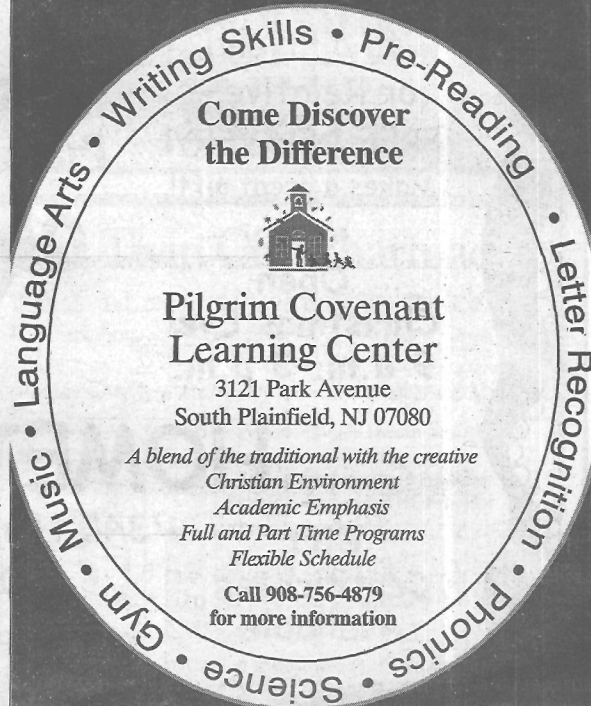
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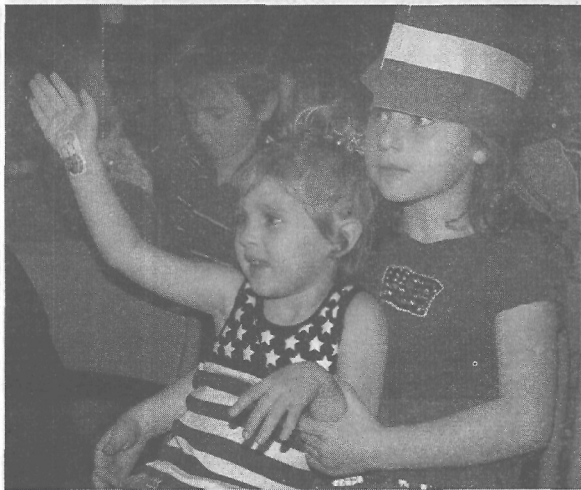
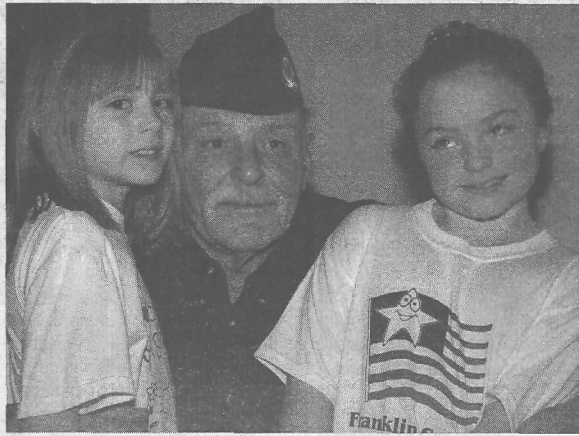
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## Veterans Honored by Franklin Students

By Patricia Abbott

On Nov. 8 Franklin School held their annual Veterans Day program. A dozen veterans were the guests of honor seated on a raised platform in the front of the gym. The event opened with the procession of military flags. School Principal Althea

Bowman-Williams offered a warm welcome to the student body, parents and special guests.

Kindergarten students wore red, white and blue hats they made out of paper bags and construction paper. With the help of computer teacher Sharon Hunt and a slide presentation, the second grade

classes honored local veterans with songs and poems. All the second grade students wore t-shirts commemorating the annual program. The event closed with Glen Parisi playing "Taps" on the bugle and two final songs, "Let There be Peace on Earth" and "God Bless America."

## Resident Wants to Bring Christmas Cheer to Elderly

Shirley Thompson and her family are again planning to bring Christmas cheer to the elderly, disabled and those in need on Christmas Day.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Thompsons are planning to cook and deliver a hot Christmas dinner to any elderly or disabled person not able to cook for themselves, and they will do it all free of any charge.

Last year the Thompsons delivered over 100 hot dinners on Christmas morning, with the help of family and a group of volunteers. Also last year, Shirley learned of several families with children that were also in need and her family decided to adopt them. Soon not only her family, but neighbors and co-workers, volunteered to help out. They not only received a hot meal, but wrapped gifts on Christmas. This list of people included 35 in all.

If you would like Christmas dinner or know of someone who is in need of a dinner, just contact Shirley Thompson at (908) 756-7686. Call between 12 a.m. and 12 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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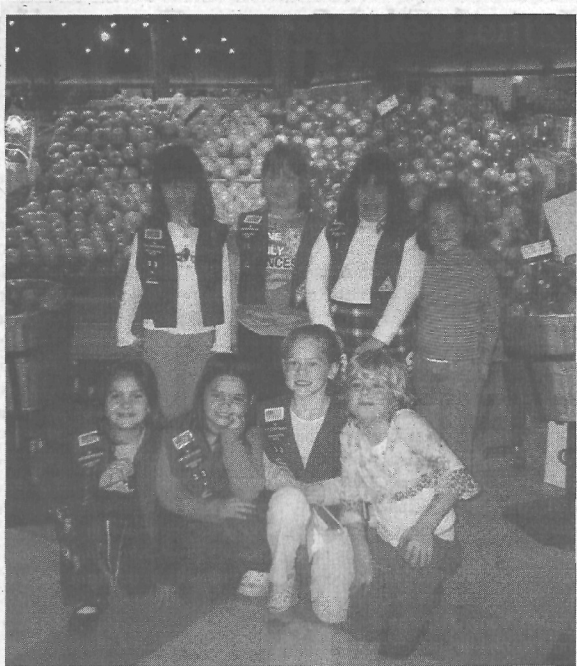
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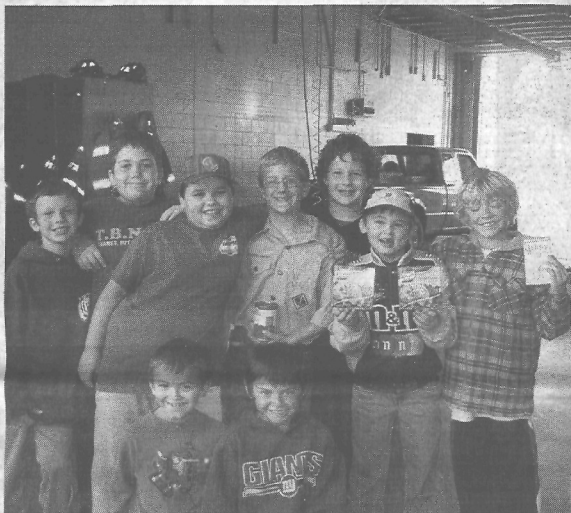
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Girl Scout Troop #33 recently went shopping at the local A&P to make a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family. The girls shopped on there own for particular items that together would make a very festive and enjoyable dinner for a needy family. We are very proud of our girls!



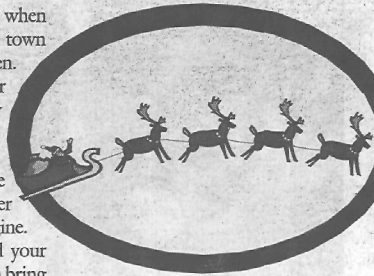
Cub Scouts from Pack 207 Franklin School participated in "Scouting for Food" on Saturday, Nov. 11. The boys successfully collected and packed over 50 boxes of food items that were delivered to the South Plainfield Welfare Dept. Great job boys! Pictures submitted by Sharon Scalera

## Santa's Coming To Town... on a Fire Engine

It's that time of year again, when Santa will be traveling around town by fire truck visiting the children.

To help raise money for their upcoming 100th Anniversary (May 2007) and Firefighters Memorial, the members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company will have Santa deliver Christmas presents by fire engine. Can you imagine how excited your children would be to have Santa bring them a present on a fire engine?

Here's how it works: The fire department is requesting a \$25 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their presents. The \$25 should be a check made payable to the SPVFC 100th Anniversary. We also ask that you wrap a small inexpensive gift for Santa to give to your child. Small presents are all that is necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$20. Mark the gift with your child's



name and address in big letters, the rest is up to us. Firefighters will visit every block in the borough to deliver the gifts. They will sound their sirens and activate their lights. The children can then come to the engine and receive their gift from Santa and his elves. Sit back, relax and enjoy the moment and of course take pictures. Families must reside in the Borough of South Plainfield.

Stop by the South Plainfield Fire

Department to fill out a form and drop off your check. Gifts can be dropped off at fire headquarters weekdays through Dec. 8 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 3 between 1 and 4 p.m. Packages brought in after Dec. 8 will be charged \$50.

Santa will be delivering presents through the various school districts between Monday, Dec. 11 through Thursday, Dec. 14 between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. A delivery schedule will be announced.

This is a huge undertaking by the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department so it is very important that your address and child's name are on each gift so each child is not disappointed.

Santa's hotline number is (908) 412-8868. Leave a message. Calls will be returned during the evening.

## Inches-A-Weigh Opens in South Plainfield

Inches-A-Weigh North America, a national weight loss and fitness organization recently opened a new center in South Plainfield. Located in the new Durham Plaza shopping center, the center offers one-on-one nutritional counseling, toning, shaping and cardiovascular exercise for women in a spa-like atmosphere. This 3-Phase Method is founded on the established guidelines set by the American Heart and Dietetic Associations and the Surgeon General.

Clients are losing between 1.5 and 2.0 pounds per week, while establishing low fat, low carbohydrate, maximum protein lifestyles. Unique figure shaping equipment is guaranteed to help women lose 8-15 inches in just three weeks! Several ladies have already exceeded these expectations. The toning and shaping equipment provides resistance training with no impact. This type of exercise is safe and effective for clients from young adults to those with advanced osteoarthritis and low back conditions.

The center's treadmills, bikes and elliptical cross-trainers provide low impact cardiovascular training.

Dr. Geraldine Banda, a licensed chiropractor for the last 22 years in Union County, owns and operates the center. "Promoting healthy lifestyles has been my business for two decades, says Dr. Banda. "I find this program to be medically sound, safe and holistic. As you know, combining weight loss with fitness is the only way to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. It just makes sense."

Diet programs range from 1,200 to 1,800 calories include vegetarian and culturally diverse menu plans. Menus can be designed to accommodate any health condition or personal need.

Dr. Banda stated, "Personally, I lost 70 pounds and 21 inches with this program, and I am still losing. I've tried many programs and this is the only method that works for me. If I can do it anyone can."

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## Holiday Grief Seminar

The McCrisky Home For Funerals will be hosting their annual grief seminar entitled "Coping with Grief During the Holidays" on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m. at South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post #243, located on Oak Tree Ave. The program will be presented by Jessie Flynn, certified grief specialist. Refreshments will be served immediately following the program.

Facing the holiday season without a loved one who has died can be one of the most challenging and difficult experiences. At a season when everyone is supposed to be happy, you may be feeling sad and lonely. No one has to suffer passively though the season. Whether your loss occurred a week ago or many years ago, this seminar may help you to cope with the emotional pain that often accompanies the winter holidays.

Come join us and learn about some steps for grieving which will ease your pain and make the season more enjoyable.

All are welcome. RSVP by Dec. 7. For more information, contact McCrisky Home For Funerals at (908) 561-8000. You can also email us at info@mccriskyfuneralhome.com.

## Roosevelt Ice Skating Rink Now Open

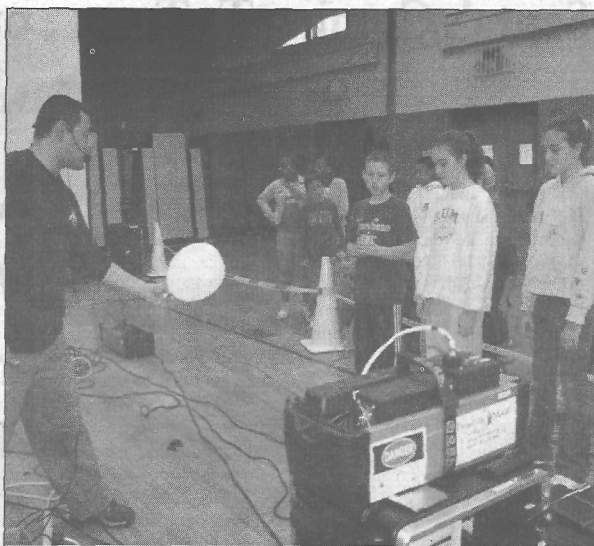
Middlesex County's family ice skating rink within Roosevelt Park in Edison has opened for the season. Situated lakeside adjacent to the county's level playing fields complex, the 85-foot by 185-foot open-air rink welcomed about 16,000 skaters last winter.

Services offered at the rink include the highly acclaimed skating school, birthday party packages, private rink rentals, skate rentals (from toddler size eight to men's size 15) and on-site skate sharpening. There is also a food concession offering a variety of hot and cold snacks and beverages.

Hours of operation are 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and holidays and noon to 3 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. on Sundays. The rink is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Christmas Day.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens and children 17 and under. Skate rental is \$4 and skate sharpening is \$6.50.

For more information, call (732) 494-3785. To book an event, call (732) 494-2980.



Norberto Cancel shows students how a laser works by projecting a green beam onto a balloon.

## Students Enjoy Patriotic Themed Laser Light Show

By Jane Dornick

If you haven't seen one of Prismatic Magic's Laser-Light Spectaculars, you have yet to experience one of the most awe-inspiring assemblies available.

Grant Elementary School students spent an hour learning about how laser beams "come to light" with the word laser standing for the acronym light, amplification, stimulate, emissions, radiation. The show combined

cutting edge technology with a high energy, musical light show with a patriotic themed "American Pride" show featuring animated scenes from the first moon landing to Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Since the first show in 2002, the family owned Prismatic Magic Laser Light Spectacular has become the fastest growing school assembly provider in the country. Nearly a half-million students have been captivated by the laser light show programs.



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## Local Girl Scout Council Seeks Adult Volunteers

The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council Inc. are still looking for adults interested in joining the movement. The council, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2007, is in search of adults (over age 18) with an interest in helping mold girls of courage, confidence and character that will someday make the world a better place.

The council is currently on the lookout for those interested in serving as troop leaders and assistant leaders as well as people to assist with the cookie sale and various community and council-wide events. The time commitment is as significant or limited as you wish. On a larger scale, GSWRC is always looking for individuals interested in joining the policy-making arm of the council on its board of directors or committees. You don't need to have a daughter in Girl Scouting to become a part of America's pre-

eminent organization dedicated solely to girls. All you have to possess is energy, enthusiasm, time and a desire to shape tomorrow's leaders today.

Founded in 1957, GSWRC provides the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults in 24 communities throughout Union County and parts of Somerset and Middlesex Counties. For more information on the council or to begin the process of joining us, please consult [www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts](http://www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts) or call (908) 232-3236.

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## News from Edison Valley Playhouse

The final show of our 2006 season is one that is not to be missed. A new Christopher Durang play, "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge," opens Dec. 1 and runs until Dec. 17. Showtime is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. on Sundays.

The Edison Valley Playhouse (EVP) has the privilege of being the first theater in the NY/NJ area to stage this show, so you have the opportunity to see something before the NYC audience.

Directed by David Christopher, the show features Arlene Britt, Joe Verno, Sam Ogilvie, Bill Martinak, Joyel Crawford, Christopher Morrissey, Amy Toporek, Vince Pelosi, Rhondi Sabo, Brandon Gulya, and Scarlett Pepitone. Stage manager is Dawn Noonan. Set design is by Bill Seessel-



**Edison Valley Playhouse**

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berg. Lighting design is by Mitchell Ruff.

Make your plans now to come see this Dickens of a Christmas carol you won't forget.

Reservations can be made by calling (908) 755-4654, or by visiting our website [www.evplayhouse.com](http://www.evplayhouse.com). Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.

**Auditions For Glengarry Glen Ross**—Auditions for our first show of 2007, David Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross," will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. at the playhouse.

For more information, including required monologues and call back details, visit [www.evplayhouse.com](http://www.evplayhouse.com). Show dates are Feb. 16 through March 10, 2007. The show will be directed by William Biach.

Be a Part of EVP—Be a part of the

exciting season taking shape at Edison Valley Playhouse! Everyone of course is welcome to come and enjoy our shows in the audience, but there is more behind the scenes that you can be a part of.

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

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

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Sundra L. Randolph

The holiday season is here and the library can be a great resource for materials. We have an abundance of music CDs including a Big 80's Christmas, Fabulous Fifties Christmas, a Rock-n-Roll Christmas, individual albums by Amy Grant, Michael Crawford, Lind Ronstadt, Christina Aguilera and more.

We have books on decorating, and more importantly, holiday cooking, for all holidays from Chanukah to Christmas, to Kwanzaa. We have videos, including *It's a Wonderful Life* (in case you haven't seen it enough on TV), *Rugrats Chanukah* and *Rugrats Kwanzaa*. So when you are organizing your holidays stop by the library and let us help you.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m., Heather Mulvey will present a program of holiday songs. This program is for all ages.

Also Mr. Kurt is back! Next Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Kurt will bring his popular holiday program back to the library. Children love his

sing-a-longs which are always very popular and well attended. So just let us know at the library of your intention to attend so we know how many attendees to expect.

Miss Linda and Miss Mija will be doing their children's programs throughout the month. On Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. they will have a storytime/craft program for children three years old and up. On Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are programs for 2s and 3s, and on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. is the program Books 'N' Babies. All programs are drop in so no registration is required.

This is a wonderful time to visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (next to Borough Hall). We are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., or you can always check out our website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

## Plainfield Animal Hospital Holiday Giving for Needy Pets

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2215 Park Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and used to purchase pet food for those in need.

Food will be distributed to local non-profit pet organizations. Thank you for your generosity and may you have happy and healthy holidays.

For more information or directions to the hospital, please call (908)-755-2428.

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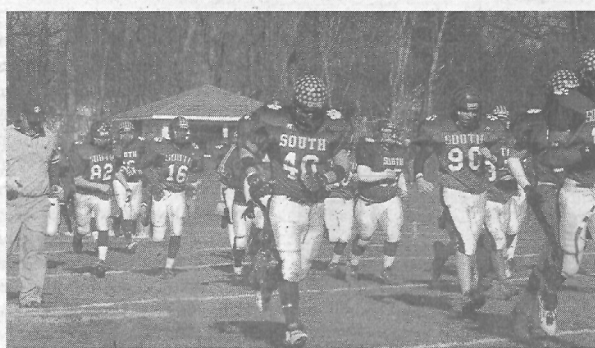
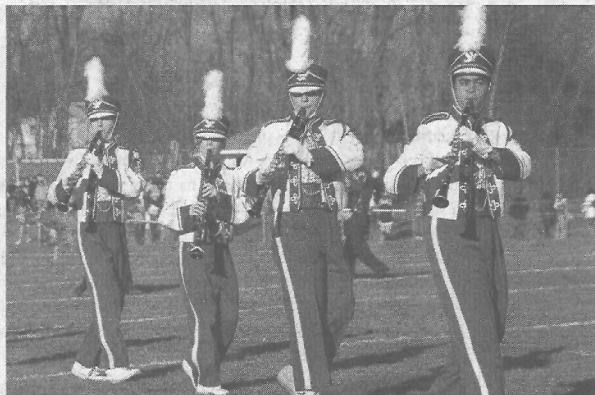
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## Tigers Pep Rally Revives North/South Rivalry



The crowd witnessed the great school spirit of the cheerleaders, football players, coaches, Color Guard and band. The evening concluded with a bonfire behind the school. The rain may have dampened the guests, but not their spirits. Prior to the pep rally there was a powder puff football game between junior and senior girls and the seniors, of course, won! The North/South game is a tradition reinstated a few years ago. This year's game, played at home, saw the North Plainfield Canucks go home with the Mayor's Trophy, but there's always next year!

By Patricia Abbott

On Nov. 22, the students at South Plainfield High School held several events to celebrate the Thanksgiving North/South football game against

rivals North Plainfield High School, which was rescheduled to Saturday, Nov. 25.

This unfortunate event didn't prevent the pep from coming on strong at the evening pep rally and bonfire.



Bob and Debbie Boyle and Jane Dornick pick the winning number in the super 50/50 raffle.

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## Cub Scouts Give Veterans A Heartfelt Thanks

Kennedy Elementary School Cub Master Scott Waters and Assistant Ken Wolpin held a Veterans' Day celebration at the school for members of the VFW. The entire school sang the *Star Spangle Banner* and *God Bless America*. The scouts presented the veterans with a large handmade "We Thank You With All Our Hearts" American flag. Each scout cut out a heart and wrote a special message for the veterans. VFW Post #6769 members attending were Rudy Poczak, Tom Waters, Metro Kopchak, Commander Julius Peterson and VFW Post #506 member James Yednak.



## Cell Phone 'Do Not Call Registry' is a Hoax

Despite dire warnings about the imminent release of cell phone numbers to telemarketers that continue to be circulated, no such thing is about to occur, nor do cell phone users have to register their cell numbers with the national Do Not Call registry before a soon-to-pass deadline to head off an onslaught of telemarketing calls. The panic-inducing e-mails have grown out of a misunderstanding about the proposed creation of a wireless directory assistance service.

Cell phone numbers have generally been excluded from printed telephone books and directory assistance services. However, since the use of cell phones has burgeoned in recent years, several national wireless companies have banded together and hired Qsent, Inc. to produce a Wireless 411 service. Their goal is to pool their listings to create a comprehensive directory of cell phone customer names and phone numbers that would be made available to directory assistance

providers.

Many cell phone customers are opposed to the proposed Wireless 411 service for a number of reasons. They prefer the privacy of knowing that their cell phone numbers are available only to those to whom they provide them. They don't want other people being able to obtain their cell phone numbers without their consent or knowledge.

The Wireless 411 service will be strictly "opt-in"—that is, cell phone customers will be included in the directory only if they specifically request to be added. The phone numbers of wireless customers who do nothing will not be included. Those who choose to be listed can have their numbers removed from the directory if they change their minds and there is no charge for requesting to be included or choosing not to be included.

Cell phone subscribers can list their numbers on the do-not-call registry if they choose, but there is no deadline to get on the list, as the e-mail messages now circulating suggest. Nonetheless, many consumers don't trust the Wireless 411 consortium to uphold their promises and although Qsent and its clients plan to make the Wireless 411 service available sometime in 2006, its implementation is far from certain as the wireless companies are still contesting proposed legislation which seeks to regulate wireless phone directories.

So, although the gist of some warnings are correct in alerting consumers to a proposed directory of cell phone numbers, they are misleading in stating that such a directory will "soon be published" and in directing readers to sign up with the National Do Not Call Registry. The latter step will not keep wireless customer listings out of the proposed Wireless 411 database—it will only add their phone numbers to a list of numbers off-limits to most telemarketers, a step which is premature and largely unnecessary.

## Website Helps Taxpayers Locate Undeliverable Refund Checks

In an effort to assist taxpayers in finding out "Where's My Refund?" the Internal Revenue Service wants to get refund checks that were returned as undeliverable into taxpayers' hands.

On Nov. 16, the IRS issued a local news release. This annual news release along with the taxpayer listing has historically generated a high level of public interest among readers, listeners and viewers.

In addition to the local news release the following information will be available upon request:

- Locally tailored listing of taxpayers that are entitled to refund checks including name, town/city and zip code; and,
- Statewide and county statistics including total number of taxpayers; total amount of refunds; and, average amount of refunds.

Your IRS media relations contact is available to provide interviews and provide assistance in developing stories and articles on the undelivered refunds.

In the past, many media outlets have chosen to post a taxpayer listing tailored to their market on their web site for public access. This posting will generate interest in accessing your web site.

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732.577.1608 **My Turn**





Nicole Benak and Darren Kaczowski (left), first runners up, and Katie Hardy and Taylor Mandel, second runners up.

## King and Queen Chosen at Homecoming Pageant

By Patricia Abbott

The SPHS 2006 Homecoming Pageant was an event not to be missed. A crowd of family and friends were at the high school auditorium to support their favorites.

The nominees—26 ladies and 10 young men—vied for the honor of being named Homecoming King and Queen. Bill Cochrane was emcee for the evening.

The extended runway gave each nominee a moment to shine before the finalists were named. Hopeful cheers filled the room as the winners were named.

Second runner-ups were Katie Hardy and Taylor Mandel; first runner-ups, Nicole Benak and Darren Kaczowski and the Homecoming

Queen and King, Megan Boyle and Mike Jakubik.

Principal Dr. Ken May said, "We, as a school, are fortunate to have a strong community support base that has helped build a legacy of success. Our students recognize the value of our

traditions and work to expand upon them by their contributions. I thank the community and commend our students for their efforts."

The king and queen attended the traditional North Plainfield/South Plainfield football game.

### Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Daily at 8am except Wednesdays

(908) 756-1333

Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass  
Thurs.-Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10am

Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 5:30pm  
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am



## CEDARCROFT BIBLE CHAPEL

1715 Kenyon Ave. So. Plfd. - [www.cedarcroft.org](http://www.cedarcroft.org)

### The Christ Of Christmas

Citizens, awake! O, can't you sense the danger?  
Christ, the Son, left heaven's heights for Bethlehem's crude manger!  
Came to earth, a volunteer for military duty,  
Charged to liberate the men who saw in Him no beauty.

Heav'nly hosts announced His birth to shepherds—not to princes!  
Humble people round the earth are those whom He convinces.  
Herod, Pilate, Caesar, Priest, and unrepentant sinner  
Have yet to see Him as He is, the World-wide, Sin-war Winner.

Refused by His human creations (He permits our choices),  
Rejoicing in His awesomeness, His angels raise their voices.  
Reflect on this, O citizens of this God-prospered nation,  
Remain on course rejecting Him? We stay on His probation!

Instead of cute and cuddly child, we need to see Another—  
In essence, infinite in might—not infant with his mother.  
It is to Him we give account. [He fills you with revulsion?]  
If I were you I'd really hate to face His just expulsion.

So, citizens, for us a timely wake-up call is needed.  
Signs of the time remind us that God's warnings should be heeded.  
Serenity has quickly fled. (Results of bad behavior?)  
Security forever can be found in Christ the Savior.

Turn to Him now, this Christ of Christmas. Who is The Redeemer,  
To Him Who on the cross endured the taunts of the blasphemer.  
Turn to Him now, while Christ awaits the time of your submission.  
Then joyfully receive from your Commander your commission.

"Christ" is a name which means "Anointed One." In Bible times, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed when inducted into service. Have you anointed Christ as your King to Whom you will give full allegiance? Have you anointed Christ as your High Priest through Whom you have access to the presence of God the Father? Have you anointed Christ as your Prophet through Whom God's truth is Communicated to you?

Please consider seriously the challenge in this poem and if you have any questions, call Kingsley Baehr at (908) 757-7598 or e-mail him at [kbaehr@erols.com](mailto:kbaehr@erols.com).

Please feel free to visit us at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel during an SADJFLDJFAD  
**ENJOY A VISIT WITH US AT CEDARCROFT BIBLE CHAPEL**  
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## Suburban Woman's Club News

As 2006 is nearly over, some of the members of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club are busy making "Blue Bears" to supply police cars and the rescue squad ambulances with little handmade bears to give to children who are involved in scary situations. The ones we made last year have all been given out so we must make more.

We collected goodies for a Thanksgiving basket to be given to a family that was beautifully decorated by Jeanine Kimmel. Kimmel puts her heart and hands into making these baskets look wonderful. She will do another one for Christmas.

Our next big event will be the Theater Party on Dec. 3, at the Edison Valley Playhouse. The play is "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge"

by Christopher Durang. The tickets are \$17 and the presentation will be at 3 p.m. There will be refreshments and door prizes at the intermission.

Proceeds from this event will be used for a scholarship fund and local charities.

Call (908) 757-6163 or 757-3680 for information and tickets. Come and start your holiday season by seeing this hilarious comedy.

The Suburban Woman's Club will hold their annual Christmas Party. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Post on Oak Tree Ave. They will be entertained by the "Chimes and Bell Choir" from the Wesley Methodist Church, under the direction of Laura Livingston.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning, Publicity Chairman

## Host Family Volunteers Needed

World Heritage is seeking families, couples or single parents (with or without children at home) who are adventurous, fun-loving, responsible, and most of all, caring, and who are interested in hosting a high-school-aged foreign exchange student.

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mester or year in the U.S. are fulfilling a lifetime dream. American culture plays an important role all over the world; the English language is the international language of our times. Share your home for a year; enjoy a friendship for a lifetime!

To begin this exciting cultural experience, call Debra, at (800) 888-9040 or visit our website at [www.world-heritage.org](http://www.world-heritage.org).

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## New Year's Eve Gala

featuring  
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Whether you are a ballroom dancer, latin dancer, or just looking to have a great time — Come join us for an evening of **MUSIC and DANCING** to welcome in the New Year.

**Where:** The Polish National Home  
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South Plainfield, NJ 07080

**When:** 8:00 p.m. December 31, 2006

**Cost:** \$100 per ticket — advance ticket sales only

**Menu Featuring:**

- Fabulous Cocktail Hour (antipasto and salads)
- Buffet Dinner includes: Chicken Marsala, Salmon, Sirloin Tips, Shrimp and Lobster Station and more!!
- International Dessert Table!!!
- Open Bar All Evening!!!
- Champagne Toast at Midnight!!!
- 18 Piece Big Band!!!

**Please Contact: John Roesch at 908-753-0688**

There are only a limited number of tickets being offered, so get your tickets today — you can even reserve an entire table!

A portion of the proceeds will be awarded to a special scholarship for the South Plainfield High School Jazz Band

**John Roesch ORCHESTRA**



## FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

Our voices are being heard loud and clear by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Continue to sign and mail your petition letters. The Helen Street Project has waited long enough and needs to be put on the top of the list. Jane Dornick and I will not rest until this project is pushed forward. Two letters were published in the Grant School *Tigers Paw* newsletter written by 11-year-olds discussing truck traffic and the confusion caused by trucks overloading our main thoroughfares. You can read them on page 19. Even young children can figure out that another route is needed.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Business Association for inviting Jane and I to their last two meetings and for forming a subcommittee to work with us on the Helen Street Project. Positive energy is always encouraged in all aspects of daily life and is a big part of team work. It's so easy to sit back and criticize and never become involved. Instead of constantly trying to undermine each other, why not try to discover what you can do to help move things along. Let's unite for a common cause. I hope you read the outstanding letter to the editor by Margie Reedy in the Nov. 17 edition of the *Observer*.

The Grant Elementary School Cultural Arts program, chaired by Mrs. Donahue and Jane Dornick, hosted a laser light show by Prismatic Magic. It was amazing. The children were introduced to the concept of lasers and delighted with the laser show. Once again, the Cultural Arts program was made possible by the Grant PTO and activity fee. The fifth grade Stokes Gertrude Hawk fundraiser and the volleyball fundraiser are in need of chairpersons and committee members. Contact Angel Jazikoff, chairperson of the 2007 Stokes Committee. Thank you to the Grant PTO for the beautiful new flag pole obtained from the American Flag Company, Pat Liberatore, vice president, in Union.

Congratulations to all the South Plainfield High School Homecoming applicants. You all possess outstanding qualities in your academic skills and community involvement. Be proud of your contributions and the way you carried yourselves.

John, April and Kathy of Flanagan's Restaurant did a great job catering the South Plainfield High School Girls' Soccer Dinner on Nov. 17. As always, your food is remarkable. Frank and Jimmy from the South Plainfield Italian American Progressive League hosted the dinner. Attending were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosado, Principal Dr. May, Athletic Director Michael Buggy, Assistant Principal Kelly Panuzzo Richkus, Guidance Counselor Greg Young, Head Coach Dana Curcio, Assistant Coaches Eric Biscoe and Jess Wilson. Also, thanks to the parents for their attendance and support; to Lori Little for preparing the gold seal certificates and to Francisco Jiminez and Michael Boyle for setting up the room.

Please continue to support Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblymen Pat Diegnan and Peter Barnes on their bills seeking property tax reform with reference to the Abbott Districts. A percent of those funds need to be returned back to the surrounding districts. You can contact Senator Buono, Assemblymen Diegnan and Barnes through the South Plainfield School website, [www.spnet.k12.nj.us](http://www.spnet.k12.nj.us) then click on Middlesex County, 18th District. It is extremely important to let them know that you support their endeavors. Thank you to Frank Mikorski for continuing to attend the hearings on the property tax reform proposals.

Congratulations to the University

of Scranton Ice Royals and Captain Daniel Stallone of South Plainfield in your victory over the Rutgers University Ice Knights on Nov. 18. Great job! Thank you to John and Carolyn Stallone for hosting a post victory dinner party.

The South Plainfield High School Varsity Football team and coaches had a hard fought game in Irvington on Nov. 18. Be extremely proud of yourselves for the way you battled tough and the outstanding sportsmanship that all of you displayed. Hold your heads high!

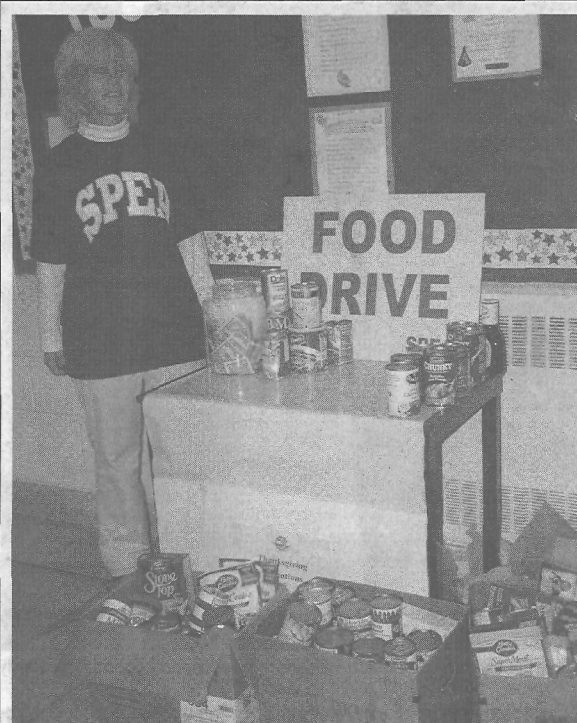
To SPHS graphic arts student Stephanie Kelly, we really appreciate the hours you spend videotaping the Borough Council meetings twice a month. Thank you to the Borough Council for being receptive to Stephanie and allowing her to continue her learning experience. Thank you to Rich D'Urso for working with Stephanie to help her perfect her video skills. The meetings are shown on Comcast Channel 74. The Graphic Arts class hopes to eventually obtain their own studio and equipment through donations. Please help support this wonderful endeavor by donating any studio equipment in good condition.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Errico family.

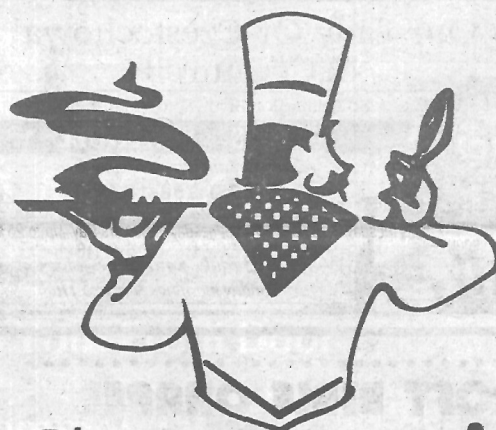
Watch for the Riley School PTSO Pasta Dinner with Santa. Their dinner is always a huge success.

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will be supporting another super 50/50, benefiting the Jost Field ticket booth and the indoor high school bleachers. It officially begins when approved by the council at the end of December and runs until June 6, 2007, at the "Meet of Champions." The first super 50/50 was drawn at the SPHS football game on Nov. 25 and the winner was SPHS teacher, Miten Shah, who won \$2,200. Thank you to Artie Sabino from the South Plainfield Elks for the use of their raffle ticket holder used to draw the winning ticket.

Menlo Park Mall sponsored a "Night of Giving" on Nov. 29 to support the Simon Youth Foundation. Many of the mall stores participated in the night of giving, however many of the larger stores remained open, but did not participate, much to the dismay of the shoppers. Thank you to Cheryl Papa for selling the tickets, which benefited the Simon Youth Foundation and the 2007 Stokes trip.



Kathy Zota collected food and donations on behalf of the South Plainfield Education Association during the November Board of Education meeting. The food donations were given to FISH and the monetary donations went to South Plainfield resident Shirley Thompson, who prepares hot meals for the elderly on Christmas.



# Carmen's Trattoria

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He graduated 5th in the Class of 1987 at Culinary Institute of America.

Darek is a resident of South Plainfield, with many ties to the community,

making Darek a perfect addition to our staff. So, come on down to

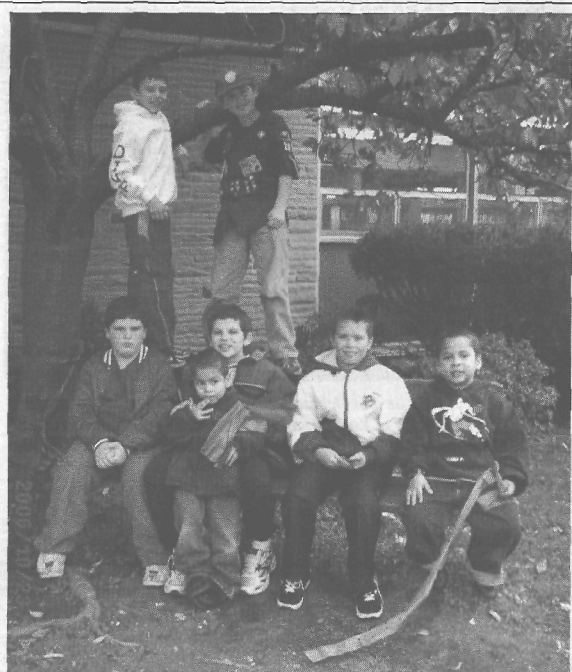
Carmen's and taste some of our new and exciting specials.

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Cub Scouts from Franklin School Pack 207, James Markey, Frank Ferraro, Daniel Pacheco, Zachary Henderson and Giovanni Santiago and sibling Xavier Santiago, along with Boy Scout Christopher Markey of Troop 309, hung ribbons around town to commemorate the fifth year of this scout project. Ribbons were hung at Borough Hall, the library, rescue squad, fire department and PAL building. The Red Ribbon hanging coincides with Red Ribbon Week that is celebrated in our schools. Red Ribbon Week is a visual statement showing that the kids are against drugs.

## southplainfieldpeople

# Milestones

### Lee Aboosamara Receives Awards at Valley Forge Academy

Lee Aboosamara, son of Leon and Kim Aboosamara, has attended Valley Forge Military Academy since August 2005 as a freshman. While finishing out the year, he earned several awards. He was awarded a Gold Rope award as Best Cadet of the corps of cadets, Red Rope for the top 10% of his company, Yellow Star for Honor Unit with Distinction, The McCloskey Medal for the Highest Disciplinary Reputation in their respective class, The Alumni Gold Sword Awards which is for the new cadets from each unit who has best demonstrated the Spirit of Valley Forge. Lee also placed second for the Feehan Award which is given for the Cadet of the Year and judged before the VEMAC board.

On Aug. 11, Lee returned to school to attend leadership detail and after a combination of intense physical training and daily classes, he was awarded the rank of staff sergeant and placed in command of his own unit of cadets. The leadership training included 150 hours which involved teamwork, responsibility, accountability, goal setting, motivation, confidence, character, integrity, loyalty, honor, discipline, communication, feedback, evaluation, manual of arms and preparation. Also stressed was a philosophy of "one corps, one standard" and servant leadership.

At the end of August, along with

his leadership unit, he went to Fort Dix to learn military procedure and other leadership requirements. These included two major areas, one was the confidence course, where each cadet attacked numerous physical stations designed to test and build their personal confidence in accomplishing physical tasks and the other was seven leadership exercise stations, where cadets had the opportunity to lead a group and formulate a plan to complete the task presented, communicated that plan to the group and then lead the group in executing the plan.

As the new school year started, Lee, for the second year in a row, has made the Varsity Soccer Team and is playing first string. The VFMA Soccer Team has a very tough 12 game season, playing other prep schools in the Eastern Pennsylvania area.

Share Your Good News...

Send your Milestones!

Email: [spobserver@comcast.com](mailto:spobserver@comcast.com)

Fax: 908-668-8819

## Latin American Studies

The Interamerican University Studies Institute will offer two programs in Latin America this summer for high school students. Costa Rica ¡Pura Vida! focuses on biology and includes Spanish immersion as well. Artes en México provides an opportunity to work with professional Mexican arts teachers while improving Spanish skills. Individual homestays, excursions and small group instruction are features of both.

The programs are open to students between the ages of 15 and 17 who will have completed two years of high school Spanish by June.

Scholarships are also available for each program. Applications are due Feb. 9. For more information, call IUSI at (800) 345-4874 or visit their

website at [www.iusi.org](http://www.iusi.org).

IUSI is a non-profit institution incorporated in Oregon in 1985. We have been developing and operating exchange programs in Latin America since the summer of 1986.

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193 Garden Dr., South Plainfield

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210 Warren St., South Plainfield

3BR, 2FB Custom Ranch. Professionally landscaped ranch. Hardwood floors, EIK w/ oak cabinets. Close to transportation. Priced to sell at \$389,900

1455 Cherry St., So Plainfield (Not Pictured) - Lowest priced split in South Plainfield. 3 BR, 1FB, 1Half B, Formal DR w/ French doors to deck. Wood-burning stove. New roof. Priced to sell \$315,000



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Patricia Bixel, director of guidance, and Sr. Lisa Gambacorto, RSM, directress of the academy.

## Mount St. Mary Announces Five AP Scholars with Honors

The Guidance Department of Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung is pleased to announce the results of its AP exams. Many colleges allow students to test out of specific college classes if they score a three or higher in the AP exam for that class. Testing out allows the student to take another course or have a lighter schedule. If tuition is paid by credit, the cost is reduced. The Mount offers AP classes in American Literature, English Literature, Biology, American History, European History, Psychology, Calculus, Physics, French, Italian and Spanish.

This year Mount Saint Mary Academy has six AP scholars: granted to students who receive grades of three or higher on three or more AP exams; five students as Scholars with Honors: granted to students who received a grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more of these exams, and six AP Scholars with Distinction; granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of three or higher on five or more of these exams. It is the highest record of achievement in the Mount's history.

## policereport

- On Nov. 15 a Tompkins Ave. resident reported that the windshield of their vehicle had been broken by a landscape rock being thrown at it.
- On Nov. 18 Daniel MacNeill, 24, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and driving on a suspended license.
- On Nov. 22 Amerlain Emanuel Caver, 21, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.
- On Nov. 23 a resident on Wadsworth Ave. and a resident on Central Ave. reported that the tires on their vehicles had been slashed.
- On Nov. 24 Bernard J. Daly, 31, of Edison was arrested for possession of a hypodermic needle and two outstanding warrants.
- A resident of Keystone on Front St. reported the theft of a radio CD player/tape deck.
- On Nov. 25 Jacques J. Smith, 34, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance, speeding and eluding a police officer.
- On Nov. 26 Lamaar T. Grier, 24, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- Fahmeel Tahir, 23, of Laurence Harbor was arrested for careless driving and an outstanding warrant.

## It's a Wonderful Christmas!

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but it can also be one of the most stressful times of the year. That's why we at Pilgrim Covenant Church invite you to come join us for a Pre-Christmas series to discover the wonder of Christmas again! We will be looking at the timeless classic, "It's a Wonderful Life" and discovering the truths that God has for us this season. So please come and join us. Worship is at 10 a.m. with a Children's Program during the service.



### It's a Wonderful Christmas

- Dec. 3 • *Slowing Down the Madness*
- Dec. 10 • *Keeping the Right Focus*
- Dec. 17 • *Managing the Distractions*
- Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve Morning 10 a.m. Celebrating Whatever your Circumstance
- Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. Enjoy a God Pleasing Christmas

Pilgrim Covenant Church  
3121 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
908-756-2474 908-756-2151 (fax)

## Middlesex Co. 4-H Gift Drive

Are you ready to share your good fortune this holiday season? The Middlesex Co. 4-H Teen Council will be collecting gifts on Dec. 4 and 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the 4-H Center, 645 Cranbury Rd. on the corner of Cranbury and Fern Roads in East Brunswick.

Interested participants are encouraged to bring clothing, toys, games and other items to the Ninth Annual Project GIFT event. Project GIFT is a holiday shopping event for families with limited resources.

If you'd like more information on the gift drive, call the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 398-5261. For directions to the 4-H Center visit <http://co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/4hclubs.asp>.

## 2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



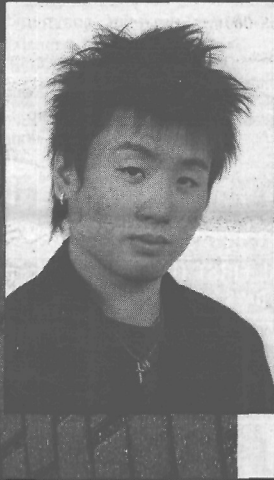
Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Kiran Rajan, pictured here with mom, Sundari Natarajan; father, Rajago Palan, and sister, Kripa.

**CONGRATS!**

## Capelli Haircutters

proudly presents

### Eric Yeh



Eric completed a training program specializing in men's hairstyling and coloring under the watchful eye of Gino Antonelli, owner of Capelli's and nationally recognized stylist/colorist.

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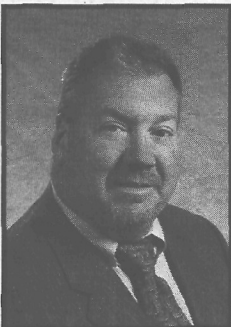
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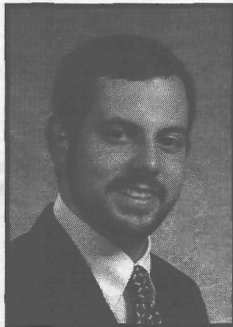


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Michael Pedersen  
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## IN YOUR OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

the illegal passing of a school bus from 30 to 90 days."

If you are in that much of a rush to get to where you are going, leave home earlier. Do not risk the lives of our children, or others, by passing a school bus. Drivers, please be responsible and cautious. As we've all heard before, our children are precious and we have none to spare. It will be my pleasure to start writing down license plate numbers each morning, if need be.

To the South Plainfield Police De-

partment: be aware that this unlawful behavior is taking place each and every day. It might be helpful to have a police car on Montrose Ave. watching out each day at about 8:15 a.m.

SINCERELY,  
ROSEMARY PETRIELLO

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On Oct. 29, I completed the Marine Corps Marathon. I want to extend my most sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you who supported and encouraged me in this accomplish-

ment. As I crossed the finish line, I thought of those who sponsored me for the Run for Tom Fund, and those who sent their well-wishes and encouraging words. Each of you lifted me throughout the 26.2 mile course.

Once again, South Plainfield residents proved how big their hearts are. You are the reason why I am so proud and grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community. Thank you once again; I am so appreciative.

SINCERELY,  
DANIELLE SCHWEERS

## Grant Students Voice Traffic Concerns

The following are two articles that were recently published in the Grant School newspaper. It's good to see our students are keeping up with current events.

By Bobbie-Jo Rapaso

As you may have noticed, construction in our town is a serious problem. It seems when construction is started, they take a break before starting it back up. Sometimes they put up detour signs that wind up making you lost and confused. This causes a lot of annoyance and extra traffic. You may have noticed when Hamilton Blvd. was under construction, it took so much longer to get to home from the movies. Sadly, there isn't much we can do except hope the workers will finish the job. As you can tell, con-

struction is a big problem in South Plainfield.

By Matt Resende

South Plainfield is a quiet town, but with all of the construction, it is making commuting much harder. The intersection of Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. is making it harder to get to I-287. The new lights, traffic signs and pavement will hopefully

help. Once all of the construction is done the traffic will be back to normal, but trucks will be kept off Hamilton Blvd. permanently.

Intersections can be very dangerous. The intersection of South Clinton and Sampton avenues is dangerous. A driver who is not paying attention can crash right into an oncoming car. There should be either a traffic light or a blinking light.

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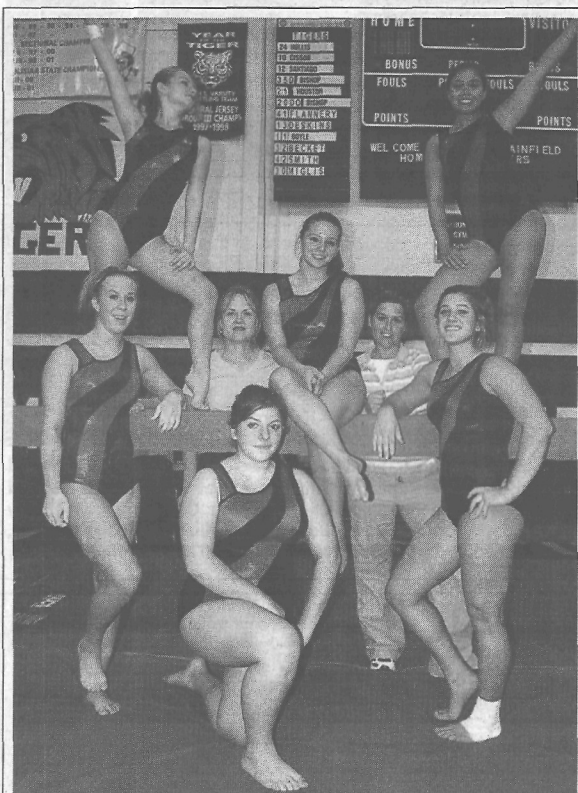
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<b>TERRAZAS</b> Malbec Mendoza 2005 <b>8.99</b> 750 ml This Malbec has an alluring nose of mocha and spice, with a rich texture that carries raspberry and boysenberry fruit to a creamy finish. Drink now through 2007. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on July 31, 2006.	<b>CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE</b> Merlot 2003 <b>11.99</b> 750 ml This Merlot is light and fragrant, centering on currant and floral aromas and flavors, finishing with a smooth texture. Drink Now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on June 30, 2006.
<b>YELLOW TAIL</b> RESERVE Shiraz 2003 <b>9.99</b> 750 ml This wine is generous, but not heavy. It shows very ripe cherry, sweet spice and toasty oak flavors that persist on the plump finish. - Rated as a Best Value by the Wine Spectator on October 15, 2005.	<b>PIPER HEIDSIECK</b> Brut Cuvee NV <b>29.99</b> 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. Fine length and harmony, with time to give. Drink now through 2010. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on November 15, 2005.
<b>TURNING LEAF</b> Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay <b>6.99</b> 750 ml	<b>VENDANGE</b> Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot, White Zinf. <b>6.99</b> 1.5 liter
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# Sports



**Congratulations to the SPHS Gymnastic Team and their great success this year. Pictured, on the beam, are Kristy Ray and Gaby Abon; team captain Heather Ray (seated), Michelle Kobilis (left), Brittany Pasquarella and Dani Butrico (right). Coaches are Meredith Murawski, head coach and Vicki Uniacke, assistant coach.**

## FALL BALL

### Storm Win Fall Ball Championship

The 11-year-old South Plainfield Storm overwhelmed the Central Jersey Thunder of Flemington 13-0, to win the DXL Fall Ball Championship. Joel Curran was the winning pitcher throwing four no-hit innings against the Thunder. A.J. Celentano threw the last two innings to secure the championship shutout.

Taylor Born led the offensive juggernaut with a single, double and three run homerun. Taylor also had three runs scored and five RBIs. Anthony Ashnault, Joel Curran and Mike Polizzano each reached base safely three times, and combined for five runs scored.

The Storm had a tremendous fall ball season. In the playoffs the Storm outscored the competition 24-1. The Storm received contributions from all 13 members of the baseball team throughout the fall ball season.

## Resident's Dream Dog Becomes Retail Reality!

Have you ever found yourself asking, "Why didn't I think of that?" So many people have ideas they wish they could develop into actual products. Success stories like Joy Mangano, a housewife and mom of five who built a retail empire on her "Miracle Mop" and "Huggable Hangers" and the recent television show "American Inventor" certainly illustrate this and inspire other would-be inventors to jump into the invention arena.

South Plainfield Resident Susan Kolesar was no exception. She jumped in and is so glad she did. She invented and patented a pet toy called the "Tug A Jug." It started as a dream and is finally a retail reality. It is meeting with rave reviews and wagging tails!

Like many dog owners, she delighted in seeing her two Boston Terriers, Oreo and Droxie, enjoying themselves with a new toy. Unfortunately, her delight would quickly turn into frustration and disappointment when within hours, if not minutes of buying most toys, her dogs would destroy them. The damaged toys often presented safety risks in their mangled state. The remains ended up in the garbage or in what she calls the "dog toy graveyard" (a.k.a. the hall closet) waiting for repair if she ever ventured to attempt such a feat. She refused to continue spending money on toys that didn't last. So, she decided to invent her own dog toy, one that would be safe, fun, and that would last the test of time and of course, two dogs. As a high school teacher, she drew upon her training in differentiated instruction and multiple intelligences to design a toy that would appeal to a variety of dogs in a variety of ways. She wanted it to have multi-sensory appeal. Ideas came to her and she would then make prototypes that Oreo, her co-inventor, would test out. Oreo revealed the design flaws and Susan would then make the necessary improvements.

The end result of her dream and hard work is the "Busy Buddy Tug A

Jug". It is a treat dispensing toy that can be used for play alone by the dog or as a durable tug and fetch toy between man and his best friend. It can also be used for training and feedings. It comes in two sizes and is made of very durable "bullet proof" plastic that underwent pressure testing for durability and safety. Other components include a thick rubber ball around the neck of the bottle that cleans teeth and massages gums as the dog plays with it. This also serves as a comfortable grip for the dog's owner when playing a mean game of tug-a-war, as opposed to the usual tug toy that leaves you with rope burn and aching hands. A tightly wrapped rope runs through the neck of the bottle and ball and can be used by the dog during tug and to carry and swing the toy around as he works to get the treats out.

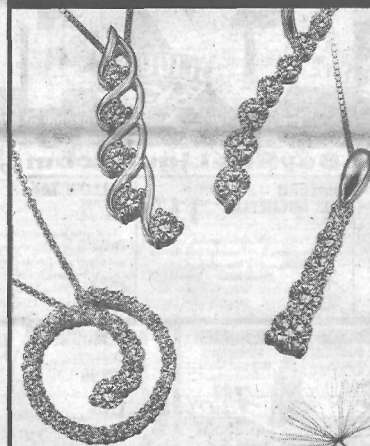
Currently, the "Tug A Jug" can be purchased through various on-line retailers and in a limited number of retail stores throughout the country. One on-line retailer, [www.doggy-gifts.com](http://www.doggy-gifts.com) (866) 937-3647 carries both sizes and offers free shipping. Size small retails around \$9.99 and is for dogs less than 40 pounds. The medium/large size is for those over 40 pounds and retails around \$14.99. For more information, you can con-

tact them at (866) 937-3647 or the toy's manufacturer, Premier Pet Products ([www.Premier.com](http://www.Premier.com)), an award winning business based in Virginia that is best known for their Gentle Leader® Headcollars and Fido Fleece dog coats.

Hopefully you will be inspired by Susan Kolesar's success and pursue your dream of inventing the next big thing. It can be a long process, with many ups and downs, but in the end it just might be worth it. Remember that your invention doesn't have to be something that will change the world. It can simply be something that makes life a little easier or more enjoyable (even if just for pets!).

There are many resources out there to help you get started. One of the most obvious is the United States Patent and Trademark Office's website at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). Many books are available to help you get started as well. Susan strongly recommends the following three books published by NoLo ([www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com)): "Patent Pending in 24 Hours," "Patent it Yourself" and "License Your Invention." All three are easy to read, give step-by-step instructions to guide you through the invention and licensing processes. A good patent attorney is also recommended.

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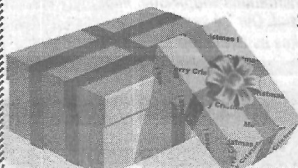
\$2.00 for each additional pet in same picture.

Where: Plainfield Animal Hospital  
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## Weatherization Assistance Program Available

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is partnering with state-level agencies to implement the Weatherization Assistance Program. The program helps eligible consumers reduce their energy bills, save money and energy, safeguard their health, create jobs and prevent pollution.

Weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income families by improving the efficiency of their homes. High energy costs are an excessive burden on low-income families and by lowering their energy bills, it increases their self-sufficiency.

Weatherization prioritizes services to the elderly, persons with disabilities and families with children. It can reduce the average annual energy costs by \$218 per home by installing cost-effective measures to reduce home energy consumption in hot and cold climates. Technicians use energy audits to determine which energy efficiency measures are most appropriate and cost-effective for each home. Typical measures include installing insulation, reducing air infiltration, performing tune-ups and repairs to heating and cooling systems, replacing ap-

pliances to improve efficiency and safety, and replacing incandescent lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs. Energy-related health and safety conditions, particularly carbon monoxide and combustion safety, are also addressed.

Weatherization can produce benefits for communities nationwide by creating jobs for energy professionals and private contractors. It educates consumers about energy efficiency practices and decreases energy demand, thereby reducing power plant emissions and reduces the nation's dependence on imported oil. It mitigates the annual emissions of nearly 68,000 tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to avoiding the emissions of more than 22,000 cars.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) partners with state-level agencies in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and among Native American Tribes to implement the Weatherization Assistance Program.

DOE regional offices award grants to state-level agencies, which then contract with local agencies to deliver weatherization services to eligible resi-

dents in every county in the nation.

State and local agencies leverage DOE funding with state, utility and other resources to weatherize more homes.

In New Jersey, Proceed Inc. delivers services to hundreds of households each year. These energy efficiency improvements have resulted in average energy savings of 40% per household. Proceed Inc. partners with various utility companies to deliver more

energy efficiency services to more low-income households.

For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, call (908) 351-7727 or visit the national website at [www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization\\_assistance](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance).

More than five million homes have been weatherized since the inception of the Weatherization Assistance Program in 1976.

## Monday Afternoon Club News

The Monday Afternoon Club of Plainfield will feature Florence Lazzeri on Dec. 4 at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield.

Florence Lazzeri, lyric soprano, has a diversified professional career and combines operatic and non-classical music in her repertoire.

She received her vocal training in New York City and in Italy, at which time she sang in many of the opera houses throughout Italy.

She has performed on many concert stages and sings leading roles in

*La Bohème*, *Fosca*, *Carmen* and *Die Fledermaus*. Lazzeri appeared on *Eye of New Jersey* (Channel 9) in their filming of *La Bohème*, in which she sang the leading role. She is also afounder and member of the vocal ensemble Bel Musica.

Tea and refreshments will follow the program. The program will be presented at 2 p.m.

For further information call Millie Colley, communication chair at (908) 756-3476 or President Margie Messmer at (908) 322-9504.

## Bryman Institute Places Graduate in Medical Field

Judis Peralta of Plainfield was working in retail on a commission only basis. As more competition developed in the immediate area, store traffic slowed and her ability to increase her standard of living diminished.

With three children to support, Peralta decided it was time to make a change in her career. During this transition period, she saw a TV commercial on The Bryman Institute of South Plainfield and decided to investigate the possibility of training for a medical assisting position and applied within days after seeing the TV spot.

"I was looking for an entirely different career and the idea of learning something that was the complete opposite of what I was doing really appealed to me," said Peralta. Upon further investigation and discussions with Bryman's admission staff, she discovered the Medical Assisting program at the institute encompasses patient care and communication; clinical assisting and pharmacology; medical insurance, bookkeeping and health sciences; cardiopulmonary and electrocardiography; laboratory procedures; endocrinology and reproduction and therapeutic care.

As part of her education, Peralta had to complete 160 hours of 'externship' at Dr. Myrna Guerra-DeLuna's Obstetrics/gynecology (OB/GYN) practice in South Plainfield. She interacted with patients and applied the principles and practices of what she learned in the classroom to the doctor's practice.

Upon completion, Dr. Guerra-DeLuna offered her a position and she has been on the job since early Sept. As a medical assisting employee, Peralta helps the doctor with routine office OB/GYN procedures such as getting patients ready for examinations and entering the entire patient's data into the computer so that Dr. Guerra-DeLuna can spend less time with paperwork and more time with her patients.

"Everything I learned at Bryman is what I actually experienced on the job," said Peralta. "The training was top notch."

According to Norman Rankis, Bryman Institute's campus president, "Peralta was a fast learner and her exceptional externship at Dr. Guerra-DeLuna's practice landed her the position for which she was extremely qualified." Rankis added that Bryman makes the career aspirations of its students come true through education in a 'learning-by-doing' environment.

Rankis said that he was extremely pleased with his staff of doctors who teach classes on medical assisting, pharmacy technician and medical insurance billing/coding at the school.

The Bryman Institute, which opened in December of 2005, offers diploma programs in medical assisting, pharmacy technician and medical insurance billing and coding. The 36,000 square-foot South Plainfield campus serves the metropolitan area southwest of Newark and is located at 5000 Hadley Rd., Suite 100.

Bryman Institute is part of the Corinthian Colleges, Inc. (NASDAQ: COCO) network of schools. Corinthian is one of the largest post-secondary education companies in North America with 97 schools in 25 states and the U.S., and 34 schools in seven provinces in Canada. Corinthian offers diploma programs and associate's, bachelor's and masters degrees in a variety of fields, including health-care, transportation maintenance and technology, trades, businesses and criminal justice.

For more information on the Bryman Institute, call (908) 222-9300.

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# Sports



Boy's U14 Fusion Traveling Soccer Team.

## U-14 Fusion's Freezing Finish

As temperatures dipped below forty degrees last Tuesday evening, the Boy's U14 Fusion Traveling Soccer Team captured a 2-1 win in their final game this season.

After rescheduling a rainout game, the boys dominated the field against the Berkeley Heights Boomers. Scoring goals were Matias Palma and Edwin Molina, but winning the game would not be possible without the rest of the driving force be-

hind Fusion: Jesse Allen, Ryan Billich, Edgar Callejas, Mike Dispenziere, Jeff Gillen, Lucas Goitiandia, Ryan Hutchison, Stephen Lanza, Will Mott, Kyle Pompilio, Jake Salerno and Mike Zelasko. Sharing time both in the net and on the field were Jason Pattison and Nick Ross.

Fusion's first season together ends with a 4-3-3 record along with a third place rank in their respective flight. Thanks to our coaches for their time,

energy and expertise—Paul Billich, Mike Dispenziere, Pete Goitiandia and Thom Lanza.

Our Fusion family recently celebrated with a potluck dinner and awards ceremony that was held at The Danish Home of Edison. Thanks to everyone for continuing to support the South Plainfield Soccer Club. We look forward to the Spring 2007 season and as a team, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

By Glenn Cullen

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4. This will be the last time to register in person before the rates for the 2007 season increase on Jan. 1, 2007, by an additional \$20. Rates for the 2007 season is \$95 per child with discounts for those families with two or more children. Also, there is a \$75 bond for new registrants and those that requested refunds at the end of the 2006 season.

Questions? Please feel free to contact the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090. Registration forms for the 2007

season can be downloaded from the club's website, filled out and mailed in. The SPJBC website is [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc). The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's address is P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The SPJBC had a very successful 2006 season, with over 400 children playing baseball. The upcoming 2007 season is poised to be just as exciting. Come on out and enjoy the fun at the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.



## Loenser, Morgan Exceed Goals in Philly Marathon

Mike Loenser and Tim Morgan, both of South Plainfield, exceeded their individual goals at the Philadelphia Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 19.

On a perfect day for running, partly cloudy and temps in the low 50s, both Mike and Tim ran their personal bests for the 26.2 mile race.

Loenser ran his fourth marathon in a personal best two hours 38 minutes and 37 seconds. This was almost nine minutes faster than his previous best and a couple minutes faster than his goal of two hours 40 minutes. While Loenser ran an average of 6:03 per mile, his last mile was around eight minutes. He 'hit the wall' about mile 25 and said his legs just did not want to move. Loenser finished 37th out of 6,200 runners and crossed the finish line with the exact same time as one

of his runningmates from East Stroudsburg University. He runs for Runners High Running Club out of Metuchen.

Loenser's training partner, Tim Morgan, ran his very first marathon and his goal, like Lance Armstrong in the NYC marathon, was to finish under three hours. While Lance had world-class runners to pace him and finish just below the three hour mark at 2:59, Morgan actually beat Lance by running his first marathon in two hours 53 minutes and 56 seconds. He finished 125 out of the 6,200 competitive runners. Morgan's average pace of 6:38 per mile was also hindered when he also hit the wall around mile 21. Morgan said, "The last five miles were very tough." It could have been attributed to his faster pace in the beginning. While recovering from complete exhaustion, Morgan was asked if he is ready for the next marathon and he answered, "This was my first and last marathon!" However, it is very likely that he will run the 26.2 miles again.

Congratulations to both Mike and Tim for an outstanding job and for representing South Plainfield.

## William Moates Earns First Varsity Letter

South Plainfield High School sophomore, William Moates, earned his first varsity letter as a member of the Muhlenberg College Football Team in 2006.

Moates started all 10 games at nose tackle and was tenth on the team with 29 tackles (15 solo).

He also had three tackles for loss, including two sacks, two pass break-ups and a forced fumble.

Moates won the "Terminator" award as defensive most valuable player from the Mule coaching staff, after making a career-high eight tackles against McDaniel. He also received the "Dig In" award for contributions to the team twice during the season.

Muhlenberg College finished the 2006 season with a 5-5 record.

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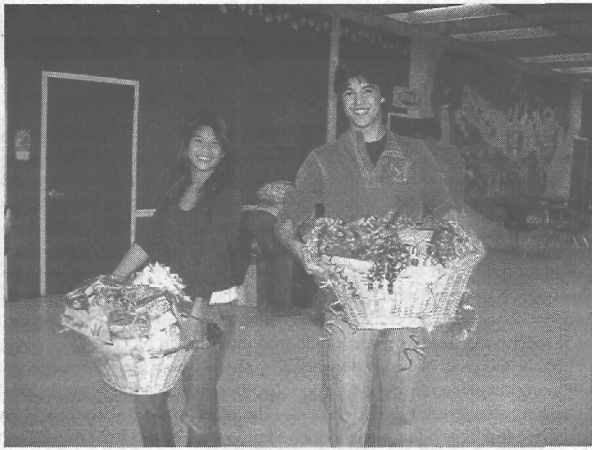
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Brittanie Wong and Taylor Mandel carry baskets of food from Student Leadership to "adopted" families.

## Student Leaders Find the Giving in Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 1)

programs promoting leadership and team-building. At the Thanksgiving Day football game on Saturday, students held a toy drive. Anyone bringing a new toy received a free ticket to the traditional North/South football game. The toys will be distributed to borough children through Social Services.

A Snowball Dance for senior citizens will be held at the Senior Center on Saturday, Dec. 2. The dance was also organized by Student Leadership. The students are very much involved in a new venture involved in bettering the lives of seniors. Members of Student Leadership are meeting with the recently formed Senior Citizen Coalition—a group which is in the process of coming up with ways to help seniors who live alone. The students are brainstorming different ways that they can offer services for the program. Currently there is a competition to come up with a design for a logo that will be used to identify the organization. The prize for the winning logo is \$200.

As December begins, the students will turn their efforts to the seven families they have adopted for Christmas. Each member of an "adopted" family

receives five gifts. The families also receive a tree with decorations and gift certificates to Target or Shop and Stop. In February, students will join Habitat for Humanity for three days to help build homes in Plainfield.

"To join Peer to Peer or Student Leadership, a student doesn't have to have top grades," said student advisor Mary Ellen Martko. Teacher recommendations are used to determine if the student is accepted in the program.



Kelvin Randolph, student leadership member, with gift basket.

Three recommendations are asked to be submitted. "Student must show the qualities of leadership and be prepared to be a role model," added Martko.

## Buono-Vitale Bill Advances to Insure Mental Health Addiction Services

Insurance coverage for alcohol addiction and mental health treatment would be greatly enhanced under a bill approved today by the Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee.

"It's only right that mental health problems and alcohol and drug addictions be covered in the same manner as other diseases," said Senator Joseph E Vitale, a prime sponsor of the bill, S-807.

"We have to bring our health insurance laws up to par with advances in treating mental illnesses, nervous disorders and addiction," said Senator Barbara Buono, also a prime sponsor of the bill.

The two Middlesex County Democrats said their bill should be considered now outside looming concerns about the overall cost of health care

because parity in coverage is needed to overcome mistreatment of those suffering from mental health disorders, alcoholism and substance abuse.

The bill would apply to state regulated health insurance contracts including hospital medical and health service corporations, commercial health insurers and the State Health Benefits Plan.

Senators Vitale and Buono noted that the Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission recommended enactment of the bill's Assembly counterpart, A-333, last December.

"Early diagnosis and treatment of non-biologically based mental illnesses including alcohol and drug addiction will help prevent greater health care costs in the long run," said Senator Vitale.

Senator Buono said a key section of the provision would expand the

definition of treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse to include inpatient and outpatient care, detoxification, screening and assessment, and non-hospital residential treatment.

"The treatment community has made significant progress in the last decade to break the cycles of addiction with extremely positive, life-saving consequences," Senator Buono said.

Cost estimates for the bill from both the executive branch and the Legislature's Office of Legislative Services project that \$4.5 million in State and local funds would be required for the bill this year, a figure that would grow to \$4.9 million next year.

The panel approved the bill 12-2 and it now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

## Share Your "Little Treasures" With Us Former Rainbow Academy Gets New Name

Christine and Troy Glennon, formerly part-owners of Rainbow Academy on Oak Tree Rd. in Edison, have taken full ownership of the 11,500-square-foot child care center and it's family owned and operated in a home-like setting. The center, renamed Little Treasures Learning Center, has added two new rooms. The new multi-purpose room serves as a computer lab, extra-curricular room and staff lounge. The other new room is a kindergarten classroom.

Little Treasures Learning Center is a state-of-the-art safe and pristine facility that can accommodate up to 206 children from infants to kindergarten. Summer camp programs are also available for 5 to 7 year-olds. The center is equipped with 11, age-specific classrooms that offer developmentally appropriate education programs featuring academics, art, music and creative movement. In addition to the curriculum they also offer a free music class to all children three years and older. Computer Tots is taught to all Pre-K students. Also, dance and tumbling, karate and

stretch and grow classes are offered in the inside play area.

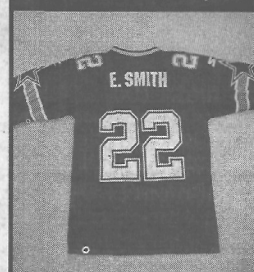
Little Treasures Learning Center, a leader in early childhood development, offers an Internet viewing system to all parents at no additional cost. They take pride in staffing the center with 45 experienced and loving teachers who give young children the foundation for success in a fun and enriching environment. The center operates with lower than state-required ratios in the classroom and all of their teachers are certified in first aid and CPR.

Little Treasures features two outdoor play areas, including a perma-

grass area playground for infants and toddlers, as well as a park like setting for 3 to 5 year-olds, securely fenced in behind their facility. Children three and older are offered soccer in the spring and fall.

Little Treasures Learning Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd. (between Park Ave. and Plainfield Rd.), will hold an open house on Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Center hours are 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information on Little Treasures, including space availability and tuition prices, call (908) 769-3224.

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## RE/MAX Competitive Edge of Warren Announces Opening of Middlesex Office

RE/MAX Competitive Edge of Warren, located at 31B Mountain Blvd., is moving and expanding its current office to a 3,200 square-foot facility at 177 Washington Valley Rd. in the Pheasant Run Shopping Center, which will be open in February 2007. Broker/owner Anthony DiNardi is proud to announce the addition of a Middlesex office, which will open by year's end at 138 Bound Brook Rd. (Route 28) in Middlesex. The new facility will be managed by veteran broker Maryhelen Thievon.

An award-winning agent with over twenty years of real estate experience, Maryhelen also brings a great deal of personal knowledge of the Middlesex community to this exciting new position. The Thievon's are lifelong residents of South Plainfield along with other family members. "My husband Paul and I raised our four children in Middlesex County," she explains, "and one of our sons is raising his family in the town of Middlesex."

Maryhelen observes that she and Paul, a realtor associate and new construction specialist with fifteen years experience, are delighted to join the RE/MAX Organization—and the RE/MAX Competitive Edge team in particular. "I am so impressed with

Anthony's entrepreneurial spirit, enthusiasm and drive," she adds.

Anthony's lively, inspirational approach obviously works. The office in Warren, which attracts both new and seasoned real estate professionals, is about to relocate to much larger quarters. When asked what he considers the secret to Competitive Edge's prosperity, Anthony responds, "I think the spectrum of qualified agents working out of our offices have something to offer every type of client—from the first-time home buyer to the empty nester." Opening the Middlesex facility "will allow the RE/MAX Competitive Edge team to even better serve the diverse communities of Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Hunterdon, and Morris Counties," he adds.

And while the general consensus seems to be that the real estate market has taken a downward turn, Maryhelen corrects this mistaken perception. "We are in a changing market, but in fact, we are actually returning to a traditional real estate market. Interest rates are still quite low and the inventory of homes is plentiful. Well-priced homes are still selling in a timely fashion."

Of course, as with every other type of industry, the Internet has changed

the way real estate conducts business. RE/MAX Competitive Edge is equipped to handle that change. As Maryhelen points out, "The reality is that most people today start their real estate searches on the Internet. Although there is much information available to the general public, house hunters need a professional to get them to their chosen property."

That's where the RE/MAX Competitive Edge team is ready to assist. The office, though friendly and low key, is state of the art. "We connect clients immediately with the properties that interest them, and take them all the way to closing," Maryhelen asserts with confidence. "As for me, I am really looking forward to assisting everyone who enters the Middlesex office. I can't wait to open our doors to the public."

The RE/MAX Competitive Edge team, currently located at 31B Mountain Boulevard in Warren, can be contacted seven days a week at (908) 791-1010. For more information, visit [www.recehomes.com](http://www.recehomes.com). For more information about the Middlesex office, which will soon be open for business, please contact Maryhelen Thievon at (908) 756-9197.

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## NOVA Job Seekers Support Group Meeting

The NOVA Job Seekers Support Group has announced that many of its members have secured new jobs! As we celebrate the success of those who have "landed," we are extending an invitation to other unemployed professionals to come and join us.

The group meets every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to network, share ideas, contacts and recharge our batteries.

Job hunting can be a long, lonely and tedious process, definitely made easier by working together in a group to motivate and strengthen one another.

To reserve your place or for further information, please call Diane Markowitz at (732) 777-1940 or email [d.markowitz@jfv.org](mailto:d.markowitz@jfv.org).

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Girl Scouts earned several badges at Cookie College.

## Cookie College a Success

Over 250 Girl Scouts ranging from Brownie to Seniors from throughout the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's 24-community jurisdiction attended Cookie College held Nov. 18 at First Presbyterian Church of Roselle. The day was split up into two sessions with Brownie Girl Scouts taking part in the morning workshop on their way to earning the Smart Cookie Try-It. In the afternoon, Junior Girl Scouts earned the Cookie Biz Junior Badge while Girls 11-17 completed the requirements towards the Cookies and Dough Interest Project Patch.

The day helped to prepare those in

attendance for the upcoming Cookie Sale which starts with order taking on Jan. 1. Girls learned how to develop and deliver a successful sales pitch, marketing techniques as well as taking part in a cookie tasting exercise. Girls also made promotional posters and the Brownie Girl Scouts in attendance came away with a bunny craft.

As mentioned, the cookie sale begins on Jan. 1. Log on to [www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts](http://www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts) for more information on the sale including the eight delicious offerings. Founded in 1957, GSWRC provides the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults in 24 communities.

## Kiwanis Clubs Donate Millions

More than 3,000 humanitarians in over 100 Kiwanis Clubs across the State of New Jersey donated almost two-thirds of a million dollars, volunteered over 1,000 hours per week, and completed over 100 projects per month in the period from Oct. 1, 2005, to Sept. 30, 2006. During that period the New Jersey Kiwanis District also opened new clubs in Summit and Metuchen.

Major efforts by the New Jersey Kiwanis District included \$70,000 towards the 10-year \$500,000 Children's Specialized Hospital Project, major donations to each of several different autism organizations, sponsorship of the Kiwanis Youth Leadership Program, high school and college scholarships, grants for reading tutors in three counties (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester), a grant for therapeutic horseback riding, a grant for court advocates for children and more. In a major effort by the Kiwanis-sponsored New Jersey Key Club District, high school students raised \$92,000 for pediatric cancer through Alex's Lemonade Stand projects across the State.

"With Kiwanis clubs in N.J. completing a banner year of service in 2005-06 we anticipate an even greater impact for 2006-07 throughout the state as we focus on some additional major emphasis programs," said Jeanne Hagen, 2006-2007 New Jersey Kiwanis district governor. "Our clubs will be working closely with the American Heart Association to bring awareness of childhood obesity issues to our schools. With the help of our Key Clubs, Builders Clubs and K Kids, we can impact children at a young age and help them change their lifestyles so they can live long and healthy lives. N.J. district Kiwanians

are proud to serve their communities and clubs are always looking for new programs to get involved with."

Opening in 2007, PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital will be a \$65 million, 128,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art inpatient pediatric rehabilitation hospital on the campus of the renowned Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Linked to both Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital and the Child Health Institute, the center will create a comprehensive service delivery system that has never before existed in New Jersey. Their physical connection will offer unparalleled benefits to children as they move seamlessly from acute to rehabilitative care. There will be access to emergency acute care services and research, in-house blood and fluid tests for quicker turn-around times and lower costs, and collaboration opportunities for physicians. Parents will also

be able to take a more active role in their child's recovery and in the therapies their child requires thanks to facilities for parents to stay, family lounges, laundry and shower facilities, playrooms for siblings and more.

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International and its service leadership programs for young people, including Circle K, Key Club, Key Leader, Builders Club, K-Kids, Kiwanis Junior and Aktion Club dedicate more than 19 million volunteer hours and invest \$100 million to strengthen communities and serve children annually.

The New Jersey District is a group of Kiwanis Clubs within the State of New Jersey; for information visit [www.njkiwanis.org](http://www.njkiwanis.org) or call (888) 510-7615.

## Girl Scouts Theater Badge Workshop Held

Nearly 425 Junior Girl Scouts (grades 4-6) from the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council and the Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council took part in a Theater Badge Workshop held on Nov. 18 at Ridge High School. Participants spent six hours earning their Theater Badge by taking part in a number of exciting and educational mini-workshops culminating in a performance of skits under the bright lights on the high school's stage.

Some of the topics covered included makeup, costumes, acting and learning about the finer points of lighting

and technical aspects of theater under the direction of a professional theater group. The girls then took in scenes from a play presented by students at Ridge High School before taking to the stage for their own performance as 20 groups in all performed skits.

Combined GSWRC and the Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills deliver Girl Scouting to over 26,000 girls and adults in six New Jersey counties.

Be sure to visit GSWRC online at [www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts](http://www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts) and the Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills in cyberspace at [www.girlscouts-rh.org](http://www.girlscouts-rh.org).

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### *The Giving Season*

CENTURY 21 Moretti Realty has adopted 11 area families in need for the holiday season. Food packages were provided for Thanksgiving; toys will be delivered for Christmas. An "angel" tree in the South Plainfield office will ensure every child's wish is granted.

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\* Century 21 Double Centurion Award 2004 for sales production; Century 21 Pinnacle Award 2004 for 95% customer satisfaction; Century 21 President's Award for earning Centurion and Pinnacle Award in the same year. Century 21 Moretti Realty is the only office in Central NJ to earn this award in 2004.



## IRS Seeking Community Volunteers

Looking for a rewarding volunteer experience? Do you like to help people? "The Internal Revenue Service is seeking volunteers for the Volunteer Return Preparation Program (VRPP)," said IRS spokesperson Gregg Semanick. "The IRS is still looking for volunteers to take part in the VRPP throughout New Jersey."

During the tax filing season, VRPP volunteers, in community locations throughout the state, help prepare tax returns for older taxpayers, people with disabilities, non-English speaking individuals and other people who cannot afford professional assistance. Many of the volunteer sites offer free electronic filing. The IRS provides

VRPP volunteers with free instruction and all the materials needed to prepare basic income tax returns such as Forms 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040. Training for volunteers is generally held at convenient locations or on-line.

"These are great programs that help citizens meet their tax filing obligations. In New Jersey during the last tax filing season, VRPP volunteers assisted over 28,000 taxpayers at 400 volunteer sites in communities across the state," Semanick said. Who are these volunteers? They are people just like you—members of professional organizations, college students, law and accounting students, homemak-

ers, or members of other volunteer or community organizations.

Although an accounting background is helpful, it is not required, but basic computer skills are necessary. Additionally, it will be helpful if you have been preparing your own tax returns and are familiar with tax forms and the aspects of electronic filing. The VRPP also needs volunteers who are fully bilingual.

Volunteers are also needed to help in other aspects of the VRPP such as organizing sites, instructing classes, reviewing returns prepared at the sites and publicity. If you have a skill and would like to help, the VRPP can find a way to involve you in the program. Local civic and fraternal organizations, educational institutions, churches and social groups can also sponsor VRPP sites. Tax assistance generally is provided at schools, churches, malls, libraries and other convenient neighborhood locations.

Interested in becoming a VRPP volunteer? Does your organization want to sponsor a VRPP site in your community? To get involved, contact Judi Kuzma of the Internal Revenue Service by callin (973) 645-3749 or send a FAX to 973-645-6691. You can also volunteer via e-mail at judith.kuzma@irs.gov.



Eric Burnham

## Burnham Takes 2nd In Skateboard Contest

Congratulations to Eric Burnham for taking second place in the Intermediate Division at the annual Shield's Skateboard contest in Flemington on Sunday, Nov. 19. Eric was the only 12-year-old competing in this division of 20 skateboarders ranging in ages from 14-17 years old.

Eric is currently sponsored by Central Jersey Skate Shop (CJS) of Edison and DOINK Clothing Company of Central Jersey.

## Freeholders Back County College-Raritan Bay Medical Center Partnership

The Board of Chosen Freeholders offered its official support for a planned partnership between Middlesex County College and Raritan Bay Medical Center, saying the move would put the County College's nursing program at the forefront of health care education in the State.

"With the encouragement of Freeholder John Pulomena, Middlesex County College has aggressively pursued this relationship with Raritan Bay Medical Center to enhance its nursing program," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel. "The educational

opportunities at Middlesex County College will ensure that qualified, talented students will meet the ever-increasing healthcare needs of our area residents.

Middlesex County College and Raritan Bay Medical Center have developed a new associate degree nursing program that will admit 110 prospective nurses each year. Currently, the college can accommodate 40 students each year in its popular program. The students will take classes at Middlesex and participate in clinical experiences at the medical center.

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## Obituaries

### Marie A. (Santa Barbara) Corbo, 61

Marie A. (Santa Barbara) Corbo died suddenly on Thursday, Nov. 16, at home.

Born in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Corbo grew up in South Plainfield, attended Sacred Heart School and in 1962 graduated from South Plainfield High School. She moved to Texas, residing there for 12 years, before moving back to South Plainfield.

She had been employed as a receptionist for the law firm of Mauro, Savo, Camerino & Grant of Somerville.

A loving mother and grandmother, Marie also had a love for reading. She enjoyed surrounding herself with books and enjoyed arts and crafts.

Her father, Andrew and two brothers, Andrew and Walter Santa Barbara, predeceased her.

She is survived by two daughters, Lisa Corbo and Louise Corbo of Elkton, Va.; her mother, Catherine Conselina of South Plainfield and a brother, Fr. Robert Santa Barbara of New Brunswick. Also surviving is a granddaughter, Isabella Corbo.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association.

### Adolph "Al" A. Winsmann, 83,

Adolph "Al" A. Winsmann died on Monday, Nov. 2, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Jersey City, he grew up in New York City. After being discharged from the Army, Al resided in Bayonne for a brief time before moving to South Plainfield 56 years ago.

Prior to WWII, he worked at RCA in Kearny. Following his discharge from service, he had worked for a short time for the former Ballentine Brewing Co. in Newark. Before his retirement 23 years ago, Al worked as a driver/salesman for Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co. in Newark for 32 years.

During WWII, he served with the Army in the 26th Division 101st Engineers Battalion and saw battle action in Germany and Europe. He was awarded the American Service Medal and European African Middle Eastern Service Medal in addition to the WWII Victory and Good Conduct Medals.

He was a life member and past commander of the American Chaumont Post 243 and was a longtime member and past master of the Continental Lodge No. 287 of the Free and Accepted Masons in New York City. He was also a member of the Crescent Shriners of Burlington.

He was predeceased by his brother, Fred Winsmann.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Carolyn (Babula) Winsmann; a daughter and son-in-law, Wendy and Warren Zimmerman of Piscataway; a son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Kathy Winsmann of South Plainfield; five grandchildren, Scott, Kevin and Keith Winsmann and Cindy and Michael Colucci and a great granddaughter, Leah Elizabeth Winsmann.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or to Catholic Charities.

### Carmela "Millie" (Papa) DeVito, 79

Carmela "Millie" (Papa) DeVito passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 23 surrounded by her family at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, she resided in South Plainfield for 51 years, where she raised three children and worked at Riley School for 25 years, retiring in 1998.

Millie was a long time and highly active member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. For eight years, along with her husband Matty, she taught CCD and for 12 years she participated in the Pre-Cana program, both within the church. Millie was also an active member of the Sacred Heart Rosary Alter Society.

A former member of the South Plainfield VFW Post 6763 Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. DeVito was an active member of the North Plainfield Traveling Seniors, where she enjoyed traveling.

She is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Matty; a son, Ralph DeVito and wife Linda of Marlborough; two daughters, Laurie DeVito and husband Edward Cunningham of Brooklyn and Patricia Callanan and husband Shawn of South Plainfield; a sister, Anna Marie Garcia of Staten Island and six grandchildren, Tony, Lisa, Renee, Dylan, Emily and Shawn.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in Millie's memory may be made to Sacred-Heart RC Church, 200 Randolph Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

### George P. Keseday, Sr., 85

George P. Keseday, Sr. died on Friday, Nov. 24, at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park in Edison.

Born in Bayonne, George had resided in South Plainfield since 1946.

Mr. Keseday was employed as a production line stockman for GMAC in Linden for 35 years before retiring in 1974.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served during WWII in the Asiatic Pacific area with the 42nd General Hospital outfit. George also served on the USA Hospital Ship Marigold and was docked in Yokohama, Japan where he assisted with U.S. POW's.

Mr. Keseday was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and participated in the church's Caring and Sharing program. He was also a member of the AARP and Adult School, both of South Plainfield. George also found time to volunteer at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He is predeceased by a brother, John.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn M. "Peg" Keseday; a son, George "Chip" Keseday of Freehold; a daughter, Carol Keseday O'Brien of Sterling Heights, Mich.; a sister, Marie Vargo of Fla.; a brother, William Keseday of Freehold; six grandchildren, Brian, Todd, Jenny, Anne, Jodi and Amy and two great-grandchildren, Annie and Hannah.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Pauline (Labno) Govlick, 93,

Pauline (Labno) Govlick, 93, died on Saturday, Nov. 25, at home in Florida.

Born in Plainfield, Pauline lived in South Plainfield for 84 years before moving to Palm Coast, Fla. five years ago.

A former member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield, Mrs. Govlick was also a member of the Polish National Home in South Plainfield.

Pauline enjoyed crocheting and was a homemaker.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, who died in 1956; a

daughter, Victoria Malecki, who died in 1974; three sisters, Eva Phillips, Margaret Niemczyk and Anna Ejk and two brothers, Leo and Adam Labno.

Surviving is a daughter, Rita Alberino and husband Anthony of Palm Coast, Fla.; five grandchildren, Dianne Laverne and Carol Perrine of Palm Coast Fla., Anthony Alberino of Bound Brook, Janet Kaj of Piscataway and Stanley Malecki of Annandale. Also surviving are 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Pauline's name may be made to Florida Hospital Memorial Hospice Care, 875 Sterthaus Ave., Ormond Beach, Fla. 32174.

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