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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 16

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 22, 2006

SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
DEC 22 2006



The South Plainfield PBA 100 received a donation of childrens bikes, as well as purchasing some themselves for distribution to needy families during the holidays. Director of Social Services Marge Ackerman was given nine bicycles and three were given to the SPHS Peer to Peer Leaders for the families that they adopted. Pictured (L to R) are Police Chief John Ferraro, PBA Vice President Chris Colucci, Delegate Brian Iarrapino and PBA President Kevin Lomonte.

Council Approves Budget Amendment

Tuesday evening, the Borough Council approved an amendment to the municipal budget with an additional increase in property taxes for the 2006/07 fiscal year by a 4-2 vote. The average homeowner will now pay \$12 more per year on top of the \$58 increase that was originally approved at the beginning of the fiscal year in August. These figures are based on the average assessed value of a home in the borough of \$118,000. The municipal portion of a homeowners' tax bill in the third and fourth quarter of 2006 only accounts for 21 percent of taxes, with 16 percent going to the county and 63 percent to school tax. Escalating costs in pensions and health benefits for employees account for 60 percent of the budget increase. State legislators are currently working on reducing these costs in a measure to provide tax relief for property owners.

The adjustment in the municipal tax rate will go from .99 to 1.001. The tax rate is formulated by dividing the

amount of the budget, \$14,216,809, into the borough ratables, or the assessed value of taxable properties, which is \$1,418,951,963. Since August, the borough has already seen an increase in its ratable base of \$9,700,000 with the addition of stores like Target and Red Robin restaurant being added as assessable properties. However, they cannot be included in the current budget because of the short period of time that they have been in operation.

Councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga both voted against introducing the amendment at the Dec. 5 council meeting and at its adoption that evening. Bengivenga stated afterwards, "South Plainfield taxpayers were promised they would not receive a tax increase by the Democrats during the election in November. Yet less than two months later they went back on their promise and voted to raise taxes. They should be held to their promise, and that's one of the

(Continued on page 5)

Teachers Critical of Dress Code Policy

By Libby Barsky

A conduct and dress code for staff members was introduced in its first hearing at the Board of Education meeting held Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Many teachers were critical of the new policy, suggesting that as professionals teachers understand what is acceptable, and if there was a problem the building administrator should deal with the individual dressing inappropriately. "We are a bunch of professionals. This policy reeks of being written from the top down and we are treated as hired hands," said teacher Diana Joffe. BOE member Tim Morgan said that he brought up the need for a dress code three years ago as a guide for the district. "If there isn't

a policy saying what is inappropriate how will the teachers know? There was a reason for a dress code for teachers. We needed something in writing that could be enforced by all administrators. We wanted to create a policy conducive to a learning environment," said Morgan.

Some of the specifics the code finds unacceptable during school hours are jeans and items made of denim, t-shirts or undershirts as outerwear, sneakers, tennis shoes, and hats and sunglasses within the building. The teachers were especially critical of the provision of not wearing sneakers, with Donna Egan noting that many shoes look as if they could be sneakers when they were in fact orthopedic footwear.

The provision for physical edu-

cation teachers was found to be excessive. Although the policy allows for wearing "clothing appropriate to their subject area"—athletic jackets, golf or polo shirts, t-shirts, shorts, jogging suits, warm-ups and sneakers—these can't be worn when engaged in a 'classroom situation' like teaching health. Critics pointed out that time constraints should be considered because there would be no time or place for the teacher to change.

A second reading of a policy is required and voted on affirmatively before policy takes effect. The board agreed that they will revisit the dress code for teachers and tweak some of the provisions before the placing it on the agenda for a second reading and vote.



The Recreation Department and Santa teamed up for their annual "Photos with Santa" event at the Senior Center last Saturday. Santa provided each child with a gift, a candy cane and a Polaroid photo of their visit. For more photos, see page 12.

Guidance Center Named for Former Director

The Board of Education unanimously approved the naming of the high school guidance center in honor of former guidance director Michael DeCarlo. DeCarlo spent 36 years in education; 22 years in guidance at South Plainfield High School-16 as director of guidance.

The request by Tulio Capparelli and Tony Cotoia to honor Michael DeCarlo came only days before the meeting. Board member Carol Byrne noted it was a unanimous decision to place the name change on December's agenda. School board member Carol Byrne remembers him as "an upbeat person with a smile on his face and very nice man."

Born in South Plainfield, Michael DeCarlo attended elementary school here, graduating from North Plainfield High School in 1945 when

the district didn't have its own high school. He worked for four years in manufacturing before going to Tusculum College in Greenville, Tenn. on a football scholarship in 1949. He transferred to East Tennessee State University, graduating in 1953. He was the first member of his family to attend and graduate from college. He married his college sweetheart, Kitten Sweeten, and served in the United States Army from 1953-1955. He began teaching English and Social Studies and coaching football in the district in 1955. He also began courses towards his M.A. in Education at Rutgers and graduate courses in guidance at Montclair State College. In 1963 he became a guidance counselor, and than three years later, guidance director. The Class of 1966 also dedicated their yearbook to him that year.

Professionally he was a member of many organizations, including SPEA, MCEA, NEA, MCPGA and AASC. He was active in the community with UNICO, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Boy Scouts in Sacred Heart Church and as chairman of the Labor Day Parade Committee.

He retired from teaching in January 1991, spending time traveling in his RV, gardening and delving deeper into the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg.

Michael DeCarlo died three years ago, and after his death his children, Suzanne, Michael and Christopher, endowed a scholarship for a South Plainfield student who is the first person in his or her family to attend college, attesting to their Dad's belief in the power of higher education to change lives.



Kennedy School youngsters prepare for the school's annual holiday concert. For additional holiday concert photos, see page 12.

**On behalf of Nancy and Wayne Grennier
we thank all who have showered Nancy with
flowers, friendship and prayers.
It is greatly appreciated!**

Public Meeting

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss the Affordable Housing Program. The meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Borough Hall, 2430 Plainfield Avenue.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

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

Jan. 7 Reorganization Meeting 1 p.m.

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
January 16	7 p.m.	Immediately following

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

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

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

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

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. -

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.

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

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
Jan. 10.

Middle School Students Perform in Rockefeller Center

Many South Plainfield school students performed at the 33rd Annual Tuba Christmas Concert on Dec. 10, at Rockefeller Center in New York.

This annual concert was conceived by tuba virtuoso Harvey Phillips, to honor his teacher, the late great William J. Bell.

The first Tuba Christmas was presented in Rockefeller Center in 1974, and was conducted by Paul LaVallée of Band of America fame. This unusual Christmas tradition is firmly established in over 200 cities around the world. Enthusiastic audiences become an important part of the concert by singing Christmas carols along with the music, which was especially arranged for the tuba choir by American composer, Alec Wilder.

Approximately 500 tubas, baritone and euphoniums performed 30 minutes of Christmas music on the ice rink under the gigantic Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. The conductor of the celebration was C. Christian Wilhelm, the former conductor of New York's Famous Goldman Band and current conductor of the Ridgewood Concert Band.

This event has become a tradition



South Plainfield students perform at Rockefeller Center on Dec. 10.

in the middle school, which has had students participating in the concert for the past three years.

The middle school students involved were Richard Rotella, Isaac Blanco, Willie Hartmann and Marvin DeLaCruz. Amanda Cerini, Megan

Cerini and Elizabeth Balon represented the high school.

Grant Elementary School was represented by Jake Rotella. They were accompanied by Mr. Veiss, Mrs. Gennings and South Plainfield High School Alumni, Francisco DeLaCruz.

IN YOUR OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

As 2006 draws to a close, it is time to offer a hearty "thank you" to the many of you who supported us during the year.

As chairman of the American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter of New Jersey, I have seen first-hand the extraordinary work of our staff and volunteers who serve 22 communities throughout Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties.

Through the year we responded to 51 local disasters, most of them home fires affecting 275 adults and 102 children. We have trained more than 15,000 people in areas such as CPR, life-guarding and first-aid, provided 9,300 medical-related trips to people who had no other means of transportation, conducted blood-collection services, and provided emergency

communications linking military personnel with their families locally.

In response to major disasters on a national level, such as Katrina, we trained 180 people in disaster response, deployed 38 individuals to the affected areas for two- to three-week periods, and assisted 81 displaced families with housing and other social services.

Our goal is to ensure that every family in our community is "disaster-ready." This could mean a home fire prevention plan, someone in every household being CPR-trained, or certifications in such areas as first-aid, water safety, and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) use. We urge you to make this your family's 2007 priority and to let us help you get there.

Tonight, tomorrow, any minute now, one of our neighbors is going

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

to turn to the Red Cross for help. It is through your support and generosity that the Tri-County Chapter will be there for them.

**THANK YOU, AGAIN.
SHELDON S. GOLDBERG,
BOARD CHAIR, TRI-COUNTY
CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS**

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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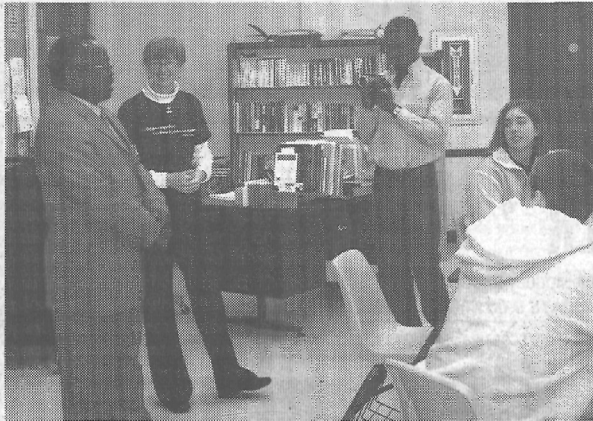
Reality of Darfur Becomes Clearer to Students

By Libby Barsky

South Plainfield High School students in Fran Flannery's social studies class have been studying genocide, past and present. Hitler in pre-WWII Germany built gas chambers to exterminate Jewish inmates and others who were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. The course also reviews the history of other genocides from Armenians, Cambodians, Bosnians and the current one in Darfur.

Last May the students started a local chapter of Help Darfur Now with over 40 members. The group is active in creating awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur through posters and fundraising.

On Dec. 11, the television cameras of N.J.N. Public Television came into the high school to tape their special session of the genocide class for the program Classroom Close-Up N.J. featuring Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of the N.J. Holocaust Commission and Abdelbagy Abushanab, president of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.



Cameras film students and speakers for Classroom Close-Up, which will air on N.J.N. Public Television in February and March.

his education and returned to farming, but left and worked as a hotel manager. "In 1989 things got worse when the present government came into power. They dismissed all Darfurians from government and other positions. It was not possible to find a job. We had always been able to go

Arab with the central government calling the war in Darfur a 'rebellion,'" he said, noting that there had always been a push to move the Darfurians off their land so Arabs could live there. Only now with the Janjaweed, an Arab militia, the government is systematically forcing out the Darfur population through aerial bombings. Despite the pressure from the U.N. with resolution to have 22,000 peacekeepers brought in to protect civilians, the government of Sudan will not consent to bringing in the peacekeepers. With Russian and China both able to veto any action taken by the Security Council, the genocide in Darfur will continue. Abushanab believes that eventually the individuals currently running the government will be found responsible for the atrocities that have occurred in Darfur.

The Darfur Rehabilitation Project is non-profit and established by individuals from Darfur whose mission is to inform the American public about extensive violations of human rights. They aim to unify voices of Darfurians everywhere in order to bring increased attention to the ongoing crimes against humanity in the region and advocate justice for victims. More information can be found at the website www.darfurrehab.org.

The airing of the class on Classroom Close-Up N.J. will be shown on Monday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. and at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, and March 19 and 24.



Speakers at the genocide class include (L to R) Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of N.J. Holocaust Education Commission, Blanche Foster, acting executive director, Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Abdelbagy Abushanab, president Darfur Rehabilitation Project and teacher Fran Flannery.

Dr. Winkler addressed how Genocide keeps occurring. "It's too easy," Winkler said. "It's too easy to be biased. It's something we learn to be." Winkler outlined the similarities in the stages that result in genocide, starting with hate language.

The group is demeaned through stereotype, making them worthless, like vermin and able to be eradicated. At the same time the larger population doesn't challenge this bias, becomes compliant and allows the targeted group fewer and fewer opportunities to work and places to live. Abdelbagy Abushanab described how he grew up in Darfur, illustrating how his government's actions affected him.

One of 23 children from a father who had three wives, Abushanab began his presentation explaining the geographical location of Darfur as a large agricultural state within the country of Sudan, and surrounded by 10 Arab countries. "Darfur has a history of injustice of fundamental needs. For the Darfur population of six million there were four high schools—not enough schools to educate Darfurians. "I graduated middle school with an 82%, and there was no high school in my area to go to," he said.

For Abushanab it was a two-fold struggle to obtain his education. "I had to personally assure my father that I wouldn't run away from farming if I were educated. Abushanab did get

into the park and find positions there. Then they closed the park to clean it up," he said.

Between 1983 and 1993, Abushanab said he was arrested 29 times. He left Darfur and lives in the U.S. as a citizen. "The society always was pro-

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Reach, Stelacone to Wed in July

Joan and Richard Reach of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia, to Bernard J. Stelacone, Jr., son of Jacqueline Stelacone of West Wyoming, Pa. and Bernard J. Stelacone, Sr. of Exeter, Pa.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of DeSales University with a B.A. in elementary/special education. She currently teaches third grade in Pageland, S.C. and is working on her masters in education at Francis Marion University in S.C.

Her fiancé is a graduate of DeSales University with a B.S. in sports management. He is currently employed by Patterson Dental Company in Charlotte, N.C.

A July 2007 wedding is planned.



Patricia Reach and Bernard Stelacone



The Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their annual Breakfast with Santa for members' children and the community.

Knights of Columbus Hold Breakfast with Santa

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 held their annual Breakfast with Santa at council hall on Dec. 2. The breakfast was for members' children and the community to celebrate "Keep Christ in Christmas." The Knights served eggs, bacon and French toast to everyone who attended, and of course, there was a visit by Santa for the children. Many games were played and a great time

was had by all.

The Knights would like to thank everyone who attended, especially Steve Belanger, who was chairman of the event, and member Ed Kubala for playing Santa.

The Knights of Columbus would also like to wish the whole South Plainfield community and our armed forces abroad a very Merry Christmas.

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Around Town

New Years Bash with John Roesch Orch.

December 31

There will be a New Year's Eve celebration at the Polish National Home on Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., featuring The John Roesch Orchestra, an 18-piece big band. They will be playing all of your favorite big band era music as well as modern and latin songs for dancing and listening enjoyment!

A scrumptious buffet including chicken marsala, salmon, a sirloin carving station and a shrimp and lobster station will be served along with a fabulous hors d'oeuvres hour before dinner. Open bar all evening with a champagne toast at midnight. Door prizes during the night.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a special jazz scholarship fund to be awarded to a graduating senior in the SPHS Jazz Band.

Cost of tickets is \$100 per person and will only be sold in advance.

For more information, please call John Roesch at (908) 753-0688.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

January 9

The annual reorganization meeting of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the library. Information regarding the library's present and future plans, including the proposed new library building, will be reviewed. Members of the public are invited to attend.

For more information please call (908) 754-7885, or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Pancake Breakfast

January 21

American Legion Chaumont Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., is hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 21



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What's happening in DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS <i>Senior Center is Closed on Monday, Dec. 25 and Monday, Jan. 1 for Christmas and New Year's Day.</i>				Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 22
25 CENTER CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HAPPY HOLIDAYS!	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am 26	Exercise Class 8:45am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am 11:30am & 1 pm Tai Chi Class 2pm 27	Pathmark Shopping 9 am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm 28	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available 29
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

from 8 a.m. to noon. Adults \$5, children \$3, children under six free. All profits go to scholarships.

AARP Meeting

January 22

AARP Chapter 4144 will hold a meeting on Monday, Jan. 22 at 12:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Due to the holiday, this is the fourth Monday.

Needlecrafters meet on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

— Out of Town —

Nutcracker at Paper Mill Playhouse

December 22-30

The Nutcracker at Paper Mill Playhouse opens on Friday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. and continues through Saturday, Dec. 30, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Week-day performances at 2 and 7:30 p.m.,

Sunday performances at 1 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$54 plus a \$1.25 Facility Preservation Fee. Student rush tickets \$16, available day of performance in person with current student ID.

Blackrose to Perform

December 29

Blackrose, the band, plays classic rock and roll music and today's hits. They will be performing at Rugs & Riffy's, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, Dec. 29, at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Watchung Arts Center

January 3 & 6

The Winter/Spring 2007 Series of the Life Drawing Studio Group will begin an 11 week session on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7-10 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Watchung Arts Center located at 18 Stirling Rd.,

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Please call between 10-12 through December 23.

Holiday Mass Schedule

Sacred Heart RC Church
149 So. Plainfield Ave. • (908) 756-0633
Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.—Children's Mass
12:00 a.m.—Midnight Mass
(Christmas Choral Preludes begin 30 minutes before the 5 p.m. and Midnight Christmas Eve Masses)
Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day
8:00 a.m.—Mass
11:30 a.m.—Mass
(Please note: there is NO 9:30 a.m. Mass)

Our Lady Of Czestochowa RC Church
807 Hamilton Blvd. • (908) 756-1333
Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m.—Vigil Mass (for Children)
10:00 p.m.—Night Mass
Monday, Dec. 25, Solemnity of Christmas
9:00 a.m.—Mass at Dawn
11:00 a.m.—Mass of Christmas Day

Wesley Church
1500 Plainfield Ave. • (908) 757-2838
Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Service
10:30 a.m.—Service of Inspiration
7:30 p.m.—Christmas Pageant, Candle Lighting, Singing
(children report at 7 p.m. at Northex)
11:00 p.m.—Worship and Holy Communion

St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church
3145 Park Ave. • (908) 757-4474
Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
4:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service
7:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service

Ronald McDonald House Offering Scholarships to Graduating Seniors

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri-State Area (RMHC-NY-TSA) is offering scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from local communities with limited access to educational and career opportunities. The scholarship initiative is a part of the ongoing commitment of RMHC and McDonalds restaurants to support advanced education to gifted students with scarce resources.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2007. Students of all backgrounds are eligible to apply for the scholarship in various categories including: RMHC/Asian-Pacific Students (RMHC/ASIA), RMHC/African American Future Achievers Scholarship, RMHC/Hispanic American Commitment to Educational Resources (RMHC/HACER) and RMHC General Scholarship. Students from any background may apply to the RMHC General Scholarship. Each applicant may apply to only one category. Applications are being distributed to all New York Tri-State Area high schools and may also be downloaded by visiting www.mcdonalds.nymetro.com.

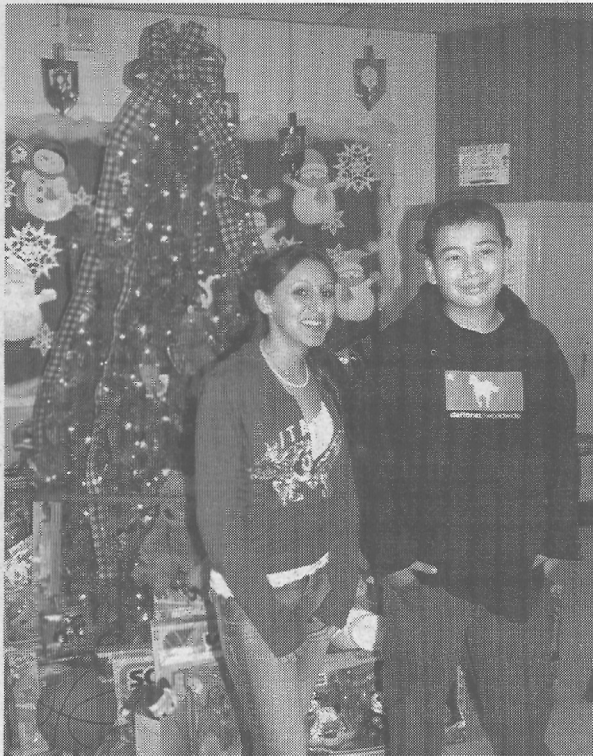
LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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

- A. Case # 60-06—Keith W. Soper, Block 76; Lot 1; 2504 Maple Avenue. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance for a (1) story frame deck w/ a covered porch together w/ front and side yard setback variances for a (1) story addition and an easterly side yard setback as well as a lot coverage variance was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- B. Case # 63-06—Sergio Modernel, Block 27; Lot 2; 1706 Plainfield Avenue. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to permit the construction of an add-a-level w/ an overhang and a westerly side yard setback was hereby GRANTED subject to (1) additional voluntary condition.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary, Board of Adjustment



Student Council President Connie Caldrony and Vice President Bacilio Alvarado stand among the donations they received from their annual Gifts for Kids toy drive.

Middle School Students Collect Gifts for Kids

By Jane Dornick

Members of the middle school student council have been busy with their annual toy drive collecting gifts to give to the 1st Marine Corps Reserve N.J. Chapter Gifts for Kids program and

the needy family they adopted in town. The drive kicks off just after Thanksgiving where students and faculty are asked to contribute a new, unwrapped gift. All of the donations are placed under the Christmas tree in the school hallway.

The week before Christmas members of the student council box up the toys which are picked up by the Marine Corps who then distribute them to needy children throughout Central Jersey. This year the Peer to Peer group had adopted a family for Thanksgiving and are continuing the giving with toys and donations they received from the drive.

During the school year, the Marine Corps visit the school to show their appreciation and give the students a pizza party and plaque.

Recycling Center Holiday Hours

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday weekend. Recycling will be open instead noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Both the recycling center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 23.

The recycling complex will also be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 2, for the New Years' holiday weekend, and open on Wednesday, Jan. 3, noon to 7 p.m. Recycling and Yard Waste will be open as usual 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 30.

Regular Recycling Drop-off Center hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular winter Yard Waste hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

2007 Yard Waste Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall Monday through Friday. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline at (908) 226-7620.



Senior citizens enjoy a turkey dinner at the senior center hosted by the SPHS Student Leadership Club.

Student Leadership Hosts Second Annual Dinner Dance for Seniors

The SPHS Student Leadership Club once again made the season a bit merrier for South Plainfield senior citizens. The youths hosted their second annual Holiday Dinner Dance at the Senior Center. One hundred and fifty people were served a turkey dinner, beverages and dessert. Seniors and students alike danced to music provided

by a live band. A more memorable moment was the comical congo line that ran a few circuits around the hall. The students also set up and cleared tables for the event. Advisors for the club are Mrs. Martko, Mr. Encinas, Mr. Hajduk and Ms. Raimondo. Chairpersons for the event were seniors Megan Boyle, Asia Hollis and Billy Ashnault. Students in attendance were seniors Nicole Benak, Sam Martin, Mike Jakubik, Nick Dorey, Ashley Little, Jenn Little, Lauren Fry, Aiphi Nguyen, Chantiyana Beckeh, Tiffany N. Smith, Dorian Bishop, Nick Gianakis, Susan Mott, Samantha Corveley, Cathryn Avery, Amanda Makowski, Tina Bijlani, Danny Hubner, Brittany Hollis. Juniors were Mark Wagner, Blaire Houston, Dana Alexa, Matt Fabino, Brooke DeNitzio, Kristen Partesi, Tara Goitandiam, Scott Barton, Kathy Gorman and Chris Pennisi. Sophomores attending were Erik White, Stephanie DiCindio, Lyndsey Murtagh and Ashleigh Gray.



Bizup Tree Farm, located on New Market Ave., donated a wreath for the Firefighter Memorial to members of the Volunteer Fire Dept. Pictured (left to right): Mike Pellegrino, Chief Larry DeNegro, Capt. Joe Abbruzzese, and Wayne and Jean Bizup.

Budget Amendment Approved, 4-2

(Continued from page 1)
reasons we could not support their tax increase."

Councilman Butrico, who will be sworn in as mayor on Jan. 7 at the annual Reorganization Meeting, explained, "When we made the promise of no tax increase we were already into the budget year." He also stated, "The revenue from new homes and businesses, along with grant applications and continued attempts to reduce costs, will help offset any increase in the tax rate for 2007/08. That is why we could make that promise."

Before banging the gavel for the last time to close the meeting, Mayor Dan Gallagher expressed his disappointment that neither Anesh or

Bengivenga had ever attended a budget meeting and that he wished everyone could work together. After the meeting, Republican Chairman Bob Jones expressed his dissatisfaction with not being able to comment on the mayor's statement. However, he did say, "Anesh did attend the budget hearings run by the finance committee and that Bengivenga had met either personally or by phone with the CFO Glenn Cullen, repeatedly to address budget issues. Contrary to the mayor's claim, the Republican council members and council candidates have repeatedly proposed methods to reduce the budget which have fallen upon deaf ears."

Keystone Renews Adopt-a-Spot Contract

The Roseo Family has renewed its adoption of the Cedarbrook Ave. stream crossing for another year. Mrs. Roseo first adopted this spot, which stretches around the corner to the open field on Morris Ave. and fronts on the large Middlesex Water Company property, in 2005. They pick up litter and junk on a quarterly basis.

The wooded area near Riley School seems to attract litter and illegal dumping, so it is important to have regular cleanups. The Roseo's took over the adoption last year when the Pilgrim Covenant Church had to give it up. They are committed environmentalists and have participated in the Borough's Clean Communities program since its inception.

The CBA is looking for more adopters for roadsides that front on wooded areas. Stretches of Belmont Ave., Garfield Ave., New Market Ave. and Metuchen Rd. need attention.

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Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
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10:00pm Night Mass
Monday, Dec. 25-Solemnity of Christmas
9:00am Mass at Dawn
11:00am Mass of Christmas Day

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Corporate Accounts Welcome

Sports

SPHS BOWLING By Ralph Fecho

Tigers Nearly Upset State Champion Carteret, Triumph Over Monroe

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team is looking to improve on last year's 30-14 record with the help of some very polished and experienced sixth graders along with a nice blend of tough seventh and eighth graders, which should make for a very solid team.

ing and adding experienced depth are Andrew Sanchez 80, Dan Bori 140, Alex Lundy 150, Michael Molinaro 100, Randy Hurst 120 and Alex Khidre 120.

Newcomers to the middle school team include Anthony Ashnault 70, Kyle Brady 75, Troy Heilmann 80, Scott Whalen 90 and Corey Stasenکو 95 are all very good experienced wrestlers and will make a big impact on this year's team. Other sixth graders who will see plenty of varsity action are Bobby Kolvites, Dylan Painton and Joe Pellegrino.

The middle school has a record of 19-4 to date losing to two Pennsylvania teams and to Jackson Middle School. In the Jackson match the weight classes were different than what the Tigers had and they had to give up three forfeits plus kids wrestling in different weights. The middle school lost a nail bitter to league rival High Point 43-40 over the weekend but defeated Voorhees 67-21. They also defeated Freehold 65-45, Raritan 74-26, North Hunterdon 49-33, Warren Hills 69-16, Berkley Heights 69-24 and Kenilworth 52-33.

SPHS	804	772	763-2,339
Carteret	814	871	788-2,432

The girls bowling team nearly pulled off the upset of the decade as they gave state champion Carteret all it could handle as the Ramblers squeezed out two close games. The young Tigers, comprised of mainly sophomores, were led by Jackie Kukuch's booming 240 game. Also scoring well for SPHS were Katie Yon 183, Lyndsey Murtagh 184, Gin Curcio 179 and Katie Salvatore 169. The Tigers stand at two wins and two losses.

SPHS	782	710	790-2,283
Monroe	706	711	688-2,105

The Lady Tigers cruised to its³ third win despite dropping one game by a single pin. Jackie Kukuch led the Tigers with a 193 game and 535 set. Chipping in for the solid team effort were Katie Yon 182, Gina Curcio 170, Lyndsey Murtaugh 168 and Jessica Vasquez 169.

Tigers Crush Carteret Dandola (682) Pauls (660) Battle Monroe to 2-2 Tie

SPHS	945	960	928-2,833
Carteret	825	850	822-2,498

Mike Dandola and Ryan Pauls led the boys bowling team to a 4-0 shellacking of Carteret. Dandola crushed the pocket with games of 257-and 231 enroute to a 682 high set. Pauls fired games of 235-200-225 for a 660 set. Chris Esposito chipped in with 210 and a solid 580 set as the boys evened the record at 2 and 2.

SPHS	867	923	894-2,684
Monroe	891	887	898-2,676

The boys bowling team and Monroe battled to a 2-2 tie despite Robert Parillo's brilliant 645 set as he fired games of 214-227-204. Teammate Chris Esposito added a 223 game and a solid 566 set.

The Facts:

More people in South Plainfield read the Observer than any other local newspaper.



Publication	Circulation in South Plainfield
Home News Tribune	495
Courier News	1,886
Star Ledger	2,600
The Observer	3,000

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ROSEMOUNT
Chardonnay 2004 **7.99**

This Chardonnay is broad and tangy. It is also lively with lime, pineapple and gently smoky flavors that linger impressively. Drink now through 2006.

— Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 15, 2005.

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CANADIAN PEAK Whisky 1.75 liter	13.99	GRAND MARNIER Cordon & Dry Vermouth 750 ml	28.99
SCOTT ISLAND Scotch Whisky 1.75 liter	14.99	ROBERT MONDAVI NAPA Cabernet 750 ml	28.99
SEAGRAM 7 CROWN 100% 1.75 liter	15.99	ROBBIE WALKER RED Scotch Whisky 1.75 liter	28.99
ABSOLUT Vodka 750 ml	17.99	STOLICHNAYA Vodka 80° 1.75 liter	30.99
ROMANA SAMBUCA 1.75 liter	18.99	GLENFIDDICH 12 Year Old Scotch Whisky 750 ml	31.99
LICOR 43 Licor 43 1.75 liter	18.99	REMY MARTIN VSOP Cognac 750 ml	32.99

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RUFFINO Luma Pinot Grigio 750 ml	9.99		

TERNAZAS
Napa Cabernet 2005 **8.99**

This Napa Cabernet 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.

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SOUVERRAIN
Chardonnay 2004 **13.99**

PIPER
HENSECK
Red Cabernet NV **29.99**

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Chardonnay 2004 **13.99**

This Chardonnay is sleek, with well-defined green apple, lemon-lime, mineral and citrus flavors. Turns subtle and elegant on the finish. — Chosen as a top value of the 2004 vintage by Wine Spectator on July 31, 2006.

PIPER
HENSECK
Red Cabernet NV **29.99**

This is creamy, elegant 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 Nov. 15, 2005.

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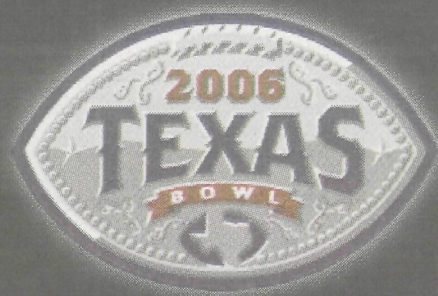
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We, at the Observer, welcome the privilege of following the ups and downs of South Plainfield, and continue to celebrate the generosity and selflessness abundant here in this small corner of the world, not only during this holiday season, but throughout each and every year.

We thank those who continue to support the Observer, our subscribers, advertisers and contributors.

May you find peace,
health and happiness
in the coming year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Nancy Grennier, Publisher
& the Staff of the South Plainfield Observer*

**South Plainfield
Observer**
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Obituaries

Helen E. (Biss) Stroz, 86

Helen E. (Biss) Stroz died on Monday, Dec. 18, in the Alterra-Claire Bridge Assisted Living Facility in Hamilton.

Born in Jersey City, she had resided in South Plainfield since 1951.

Helen was employed by Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield, working in the school cafeteria as the assistant cook for many years before her retirement.

She was also a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Chester J. Stroz, and her siblings, Catherine Kaufman, Mary Moscatello, Anna Krok and John Biss, have all predeceased her.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Stroz of Robbinsville; a son, Richard J. Stroz of Greenville, Tenn. and a sister, Jean Zimmerer of Carlstadt.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Lucas Grieb, 78

Lucas Grieb died on Monday, Dec. 18, at the Father Hudson House in Elizabeth.

Born and raised in Metuchen, Lucas entered the United States Navy at the end of WWII. He served as a seaman and was discharged in 1948.

He had resided in Edison and Tarpan Springs, Fla. before moving to South Plainfield in the 1950's.

Lucas had been employed by Ethicon, a branch of J&J in Somerville as a floater, doing various duties for a number of years before his retirement.

His hobbies included all types of fishing and gardening.

He was predeceased by his wife, Marie (Kosinski) and a brother, Peter.

He is survived by a daughter, Diana Lynn Brown of Hamilton; three sons, Lucas W. and Peter M., both of Fla., and William S. Grieb of Ill.; a sister, Lucy Evans of Edison; his dog, Holly and four grandchildren, Brian, Jason, Nancy and William.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Steve Wiczorek, 90

Steve Wiczorek, Sr., died on Sunday, Dec. 17, at The Highlands-Care One Facility in Edison.

Born in Plainfield, Steve had been a resident of South Plainfield since

Prayer of the Blessed Virgin

O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, immaculate virgin, assist me in my necessity.

O Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are here my mother.

O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none who can withstand your power.

O Mary conceived without sin pray for us that have recourse to thee (three times).

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times).

Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish it and it will be granted to you.

- M.A.P. -

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

The tax assessment list for the 2007 tax year will be open for public inspection on Tuesday, December 26, 2006 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The list can be viewed in the office of the Tax Assessor in the Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

This advertisement complies with New Jersey Statute 54:4-38.

Gary F. Toth
Tax Assessor

\$25.00

December 22, 2006

1938.

He was a machine operator for Phelps Dodge in Elizabeth for 40 years before retiring in 1979.

Steve is a long time communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, a member of the Polish National Home, AARP and the South Plainfield Senior Center. Most importantly, Steve was a treasured grandfather who adored his grandchildren and spent as much time as possible with them.

He was predeceased by his daughter-in-law, Jeanne, who died in 1996.

Surviving are his wife of 68 years, Vera (Sylvia) Wiczorek; a daughter, June Lubas and husband Theodore of Belle Mead; three sons, Steve Jr. of Green Acres, Fl., Robert and wife Joanne of Point Pleasant, and Ken and wife Mary of South Plainfield; two sisters, Loretta Wisniewski and Stella Diampola and a brother, Michael, all of Dunellen. Also surviving are nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Desmond D. MacMahon, 73

Desmond D. MacMahon died on Thursday, Dec. 14, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Mr. MacMahon lived in Cranford before moving to South Plainfield 38 years ago.

A 1951 graduate of Cranford High School, Desmond, along with his wife Nancy (Billson) was the former owner and operator of Von Graff Greenhouses and Landscaping in South Plainfield for more than 40 years.

Desmond served with the army during the Korean Conflict as a member of the 82nd Division Paratroopers and was a member of the 82nd Division Paratrooper Association.

As a hobby, Mr. MacMahon enjoyed collecting and restoring canes, scales, and antiques. During the 1960's, Desmond became highly active in politics and was considered a progressive democrat.

While his children were growing up, Mr. MacMahon attended every sporting event his kids participated in. He was predeceased by a sister, Maureen Reinhart.

In addition to his wife of 49 years, Desmond is survived by two daughters, Michelle MacMahon of South Plainfield and Caolan Quinn MacMahon and husband Peter Beal of Boulder, Colo.; two brothers, Miles and wife Virginia of Summit and Arthur and wife Claire of Pa. and a newly born granddaughter, Sophia Grace Beal-MacMahon.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Adam Labno, 77

Adam Labno died on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in South Plainfield, Adam had been a life-long resident. He also served in the National Guard for eight years.

Working as a roofer for most of his life, Adam had worked for Winiski Roofing Services. He later became a partner before becoming the sole owner and operator. Most recently, Adam changed the name of the company to Adams Roof Maintenance.

Adam was an avid outdoors man. He spent as much time as possible hunting, fishing and trapping. In addition, he enjoyed bowling. He bowled in the Somerset Rec and Plainfield Rec leagues.

He was predeceased by a brother, Donald.

Surviving are two sisters, Dorothy Wyckoff of Bridgewater and Mary Lou Orlando of Raritan; a brother, John and wife Barbara Labno and his long-time companion, Thelma Bennett. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 246 Monmouth Rd., Oakhurst, N.J. 07755 or the American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

Ruth L. (Demmer) Proctor, 85

Ruth L. (Demmer) Proctor died on Monday, Dec. 18 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Newark, Ruth

lived in South Bound Brook before moving to Middlesex in 1950, and just recently moved to South Plainfield.

An avid bingo player, Mrs. Proctor loved to knit and she also enjoyed Atlantic City. Ruth, along with her husband, the late Merritt M., was a charter member of the Middlesex Presbyterian Church.

She volunteered at the former Raritan Valley Hospital in Green Brook for more than five years and for 10 years she worked as a lunch aide at Middlesex High School in Middlesex.

In addition to her late husband, Mrs. Proctor was predeceased by all of her brothers and sisters.

Surviving are a daughter, Cathy Newman and husband Robert of South Plainfield; a son, Robert and wife Barbara of Hillsborough; two grandchildren, Steven Newman and wife Lisa and Kristine Craggan and husband John, all of South Plainfield; and five great-grandchildren, Ashley, Kristen, Justin, Alexys and Jessica.

Funeral services were under the direction of McCriskin Home For Funerals.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, Jan. at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in South Plainfield.

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In Loving Memory-Sixth Anniversary

I see the countless Christmas trees, around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring for it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for

me loved ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or the love he has for you! So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

ANTHONY EDWARD SINGH
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FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

Residents, please continue to support the Helen Street project with your letters, emails and positive comments to the DEP to re-direct truck traffic. To date, there has not been a pedestrian truck incident, but why wait until there is an accident or a fatality involving your loved ones before something is done to complete this project.

Congratulations to Assemblyman Patrick Diegman, who received a plaque thanking him for obtaining grant money for the Board of Education. Assemblyman Diegman is a hometown hero and we truly appreciate his continued support in helping the residents of South Plainfield. He has always stated that he is here for everyone and he continues to prove that on a daily basis.

The Student Leadership Peer to Peer program, under the direction of Mary Ellen Martko, Mr. Baker, Ms. Vandermark, Mr. Encinas, Mr. Hajduk, Ms. Zurka and Ms. Raimondo, hit the halls of Grant Elementary with the "Heros and Cool Kids" program on Friday, Dec. 15. The "Heros and Cool Kids" students played games with the sixth grade students and then discussed the emotions that students felt during the question and answer portion. The students were extremely responsive to the

program and cannot wait for the leadership group to return when they will present a bullying program. Thank you to "Hero and Cool Kids" for your informative introduction on expressing emotions.

The high school Student Leadership will be distributing holiday baskets to needy local families. This is a great way for the students to spread holiday cheer with donated gifts and food to our adopted families.

The Roosevelt Administration personnel have also donated baskets to be distributed among the 10 adopted families, along with middle school Student Leadership. A big thank you to the program, the directors, the Grant PTO and administration.

The Bizup Family has also donated 10 Christmas trees that will be distributed to the adopted families.

A big thank you to Marge Ackerman, director of social services, for all the service work that she performs and for the huge toy collection for adopted families, along with Ricochet Family Health and Fitness Center.

Grant Elementary 2007 Stokes parents, please continue to volunteer and support Stokes fundraisers. Next up is the pasta dinner on Feb. 2 at Grant. Linda and Rosanne are the chairpersons. They need help, as well

as donations of baked goods.

Genevieve Zipp, chairwoman for the Grant Holiday Boutique, did a wonderful job with all your hard work in preparing for the holiday boutique on Dec. 13 and 14. Sales went beyond expectations. Thanks to the those who came out on Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, to help Genevieve: Beth Graves, Jaime and Katie Hughes, Debra and Joe Krawiec, Sue and Nicole Miller; Mia, Steve and Genna Clements; Colleen Berry; Eleanor, Christina and Angela Lobosco; Julia and Joey Zipp; Jen and Vincent Pellegrino; Debby DiDolce; Angel Jazikoff and Eileen Brady. The boutique will need a new chairperson for the 2007 season. If you feel that you can help next year, please let the PTO know. This boutique is for the shopping pleasure of students so that they can purchase inexpensive gifts for the holidays.

Bob and I hosted a high school girls basketball team and coaches season kick-off dinner on Dec. 14. Everyone had an enjoyable evening, learning how to "walk it out," cheering and supporting each other and forming bonds with each team member. Their love of the game proved itself with a big win in the Monroe game on Dec. 15. Congratulations coaches and girls!

The high school boys basketball team had a hard fought home game on Dec. 15. You all did a great job.

Continue to play tough and together. Team sports are all about supporting each other. The wins and losses are secondary.

Congratulations to all high school wrestlers who took part in the Morris Knolls tournament and to those who placed in the tournament. You all did a great job and had lots of supporters in the audience.

Watch for the SPHS Athletic Booster Club's second super 50/50 which supports the indoor high school bleachers that need to be repaired/replaced. Ticket sales will take place at home basketball games, wrestling matches and spring track meets. The drawing will take place at the June 6 "Meet of Champions" at Jost Field. The winner does not have to be present.

Thank you to all those individuals and businesses that supported the South Plainfield Education Association during the telethon. If you could not participate in the telethon, please let the student know during the conversation. Please do not hang up on them. The students spend many of their volunteer hours making phone calls requesting donations for the education foundation, which supports many activities and scholarships. They will understand if you let them know.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

policereport

• On Dec. 13 Julius Lynn Powell, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to produce an insurance card and several outstanding warrants.

• On Dec. 14 Marley K. Moses, 28, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license, expired inspection sticker and an outstanding warrant.

• A Monroe resident reported the theft of a duffle bag containing miscellaneous papers from his unlocked delivery truck that was parked at Witty's Liquors on Plainfield Ave.

• On Dec. 16 Victor J. Cleary, 42, of Lambertville was arrested for no insurance, unregistered vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

• On Dec. 17 Lakeisha Alexander, 21, of Piscataway was arrested for hindering apprehension and an outstanding warrant.

• A Fred Allen Dr. resident reported that three sets of Christmas lights had been damaged.

• A Frase St. resident reported that the head of a lighted reindeer on the front lawn had been broken off.

• A Flakne Ct. resident reported the drivers side mirror of their vehicle had been broken off.

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Santa listens to holiday wishes at the Recreation Department's annual "Photos with Santa" at the Senior Center on Dec. 16. Ed Kubala, South Plainfields' resident Santa, was assisted by volunteer elves.



Caroling in Spring Lake Park

Tracy Murray, SPHS choral director, and members of the chorus sang at the gazebo in Spring Lake Park last Saturday. Santa and his assistant arrived via fire truck and delivered candy canes to all present. More than 50 people were on hand to enjoy the music. Among those in attendance were Mayor Dan Gallagher, Ray Petronko and Kathy Thomas. When the music concluded visitors were invited for hot chocolate and goodies at the Senior Center.



The Senior Center held a holiday luncheon on Dec. 17, prior to the annual Caroling in Park at Spring Lake Park.



Kennedy School Holiday Concert



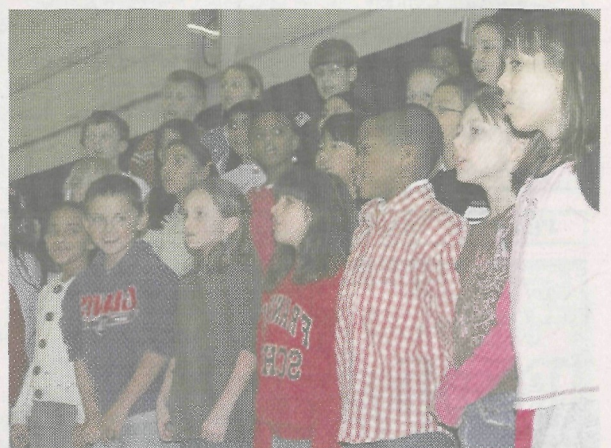
Kennedy School held their annual holiday concert on Dec. 15. Each grade, K-4, sang three holiday songs they had practiced during music class. Music teacher Barbara Habeeb accompanied the children on piano.

Franklin School Holiday Concert

Franklin Elementary School held their holiday concert on Dec. 11 for family and friends. Music teacher Bruce Mikolon directed the third and fourth grade orchestra which played

"March of the Cadets," "Beginner Medley," "Song of the Wind" and "Linus and Lucy." The school chorus sang "Sing a Song of Merry Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman," "Ha-

nukkah Holiday," "Gotta Catch That Santa" and "Winter Fantasy." They were directed by Glenn Parisi and accompanied by Frank Jacobson.



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