

Borough to Hold Annual Reorganization Jan. 7, 1 p.m. The public is invited.

South Plainfield Observer

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JANUARY 5, 2007



Thompson Family members, friends and volunteers find the meaning of Christmas by helping others.

Thompsons Brings Holiday Joy to Needy

In the weeks prior to Christmas, preparations were already being made by resident Shirley Thomas for her annual cooking for the needy in town. She received names of residents whom she adopted to buy Christmas gifts for and feed dinner. One hundred seventy-four people were fed on Christmas Day, including Shirley's 30 volunteers. There were too many gifts to store in her house, so Steve Bohn was kind enough to offer the use of a house he owned. Just before the deliveries were made, the living and dining rooms were filled to capacity. Ten people delivered gifts on Dec. 23 to 54 children and food to 20 homes in about an hour and a half. In addition

to gifts for children, donations of pet food from Plainfield Animal Hospital were also distributed.

Many nights were spent at the house on Hamilton Blvd. sorting and wrapping the gifts. Shirley extends her thanks to her family without whom she could not do this project. Her husband, John, spent all day Christmas Eve carving turkeys and slicing hams. Her mom shopped at the last minute to buy fresh rolls. Her children were all present on Christmas Eve and an assembly line was formed to fill cups with peaches and cranberry sauce, sort fresh fruit, bags of salad, Girl Scout cookies and rolls. Once finished, they were put into bags that were labeled with each family or senior citizens name and address. Shirley began cooking around midnight. Throughout the night, stuffing, green beans, potatoes and gravy were prepared. Neighbor Anthony Petriello took four 12 pound hams to the deli where he works and sliced them into trays. Shirley's son, Jerry, started preparing 16 lbs. of baked ziti at around 5:30 a.m.

On Christmas morning, the troops gathered at 11 a.m. to begin the deliveries. Shirley, Jerry and Shirley's mom, Stella, filled trays with hot food while her daughter, Heather, coordinated the deliveries by calling out how many meals were needed for each bag. Daughter-in-law Deneen pulled the bags that were packed the previous night so they could be sent with the hot food.

Shirley is thankful to all of her immediate and extended family who de-

"What made it all worthwhile was a phone call Shirley received from a teenage boy to tell her that the presents she sent him were the best he had ever received."

livered the food. The drivers were her son, John, and granddaughter, Kasi, her husband, John, and grandson, Daniel, daughter, Candice, and Matt, Rose Travigno and Thorne Ramirez, Danielle and Tony, Denise and Doreen, Devon, Shiobahn, Brittany, and Dana, Rosemary Petriello and her sons. Upon returning, tears flowed as stories were shared of the senior citizens who were visited and who would be alone for the holiday. What made it all worthwhile was a phone call Shirley received from a teenage boy to tell her that the presents she sent him, including PlayStation 2, were the best he had ever received. And yet more tears flowed. This is what Christmas, and all of the preparations, are all about!

Many thanks go out to all of the people who donated gifts, food and their time; Billy and Jackie Weaver, Peggy and Collis Moore, Rosemary Petriello and sons, Dominick Bufalino, our neighbors on Montrose Ave. who donated food, the Wagner

Family, Ruth Gilburn, Todd and Andrea Sacco, Denise Blunda-Joyce, Steve Neidenberg, Debbie Vargas, Charlotte Scrittore, Steve Szymanski, Ted and Ellie Stockton, Riley School students and faculty, the Martin Family, Cindy Eichler, Cathy and Betty Herman, Patty Nigra, Michelle and Carmen Petrillo, George and Betty Coyne, Kingsley and Holly Baehr, the Sorrentino Family, Twin City Pharmacy, Dennis Scaler, Plainfield Animal Hospital, the Shweers Family, Joanne and Harry Robinson, Lisa and Scott Robinson, Frank from South Plainfield Funeral Home, Mark and Jeanne Riddle, Bob and Arlene Ritchey, Steven Bohn, Don and Connie Palmer, Nancy Grennier and the staff of the South Plainfield Observer, Mrs. Soto, Gregory Young, Danielle and Tony Sadowski, Wayne Haviland, Nancy Ban, Rose Travigno, the Pasch Family, Jersey Fabricators, Salon de Lipari staff, Matt Goldstein, the Matthews Family, Doreen, Denise, and Devon DeMaria, Scott and Denise Lessing, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jackson, Erica Linick, the Jannic Family, Kathy Pittinger and her Girl Scout troop, Binu and Suni George, the Hunter Family, Maria and Eduardo Ferrero, George and Cindy Zielenbach, Sensitive Colors, Joan Bechtel, Gloria and Richard Petrone and my entire immediate family. If I forgot anyone, I am truly sorry, but my sincere thanks go to everyone who helped and even those who offered to help.

Niemczyk Dies at 89

Youth Program Pioneer, Basketball League Namesake

Ed Niemczyk, known to many residents of South Plainfield as "Mr. Basketball," died suddenly on Dec. 28. He leaves behind a lifelong legacy of pioneering youth programs, including the recreation basketball program.

Niemczyk was a co-founder of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, as well as the recipient of many awards for volunteerism. Nearly 53 years ago, Ed saw a need in the borough for children to have an outlet for their energy – and basketball was his answer.

The PAL building did not exist at the time, so Niemczyk arranged to use a school in Plainfield.

During the final minutes of play in the March 1999 season, former Recreation Director Mike English presented Ed with a plaque naming the league, "The Ed Niemczyk Basketball League."



Ed and Gertrude Niemczyk in 2003 at the first "Cappy Award" dinner in 2003.

In March 2004, Ed was presented with a basketball commemorating his fiftieth year in basketball by A and D league players on the final Saturday of competition.

Niemczyk was the first recipient of the Cappy Award, in October 2003, along with certificates of appreciation from Mayor Dan Gallagher, the Borough Council and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan on behalf of the State of New Jersey. It was a special evening for Niemczyk and his family. Ed was so emotional that his son, Ed Jr., had to speak for him.

Among his other accomplishments, Niemczyk was also bestowed the honor of being nominated grand marshal of the 1988 Labor Day Parade. He had been a supervisor at the PAL since 1962 and could always be seen there during basketball season on Saturdays. He will be sorely missed.

For complete obituary, see page 9.

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HOLIDAY CONCERTS conclude. See page 6 and 7



The Borough Council will hold annual reorganization meeting on Sunday, Jan. 7, 1 p.m.

The public is invited to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

councilmeetings

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

planningboard

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

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

zoningboardofadjustment

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

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

boardofeducationmeetings

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.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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.

siteplansub-committee

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

recreationcommission

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

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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



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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

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Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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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.

Pet Food Drive Benefits Needy Families

For the fifteenth year in a row, Plainfield Animal Hospital, located at 2215 Park Ave., collected pet food during the holiday season. Unlike previous years, the food was distributed in a different manner this year.

Thanks to Erica Linick, a junior at South Plainfield High School, food was distributed to Shirley Thompson, who provides food for the holidays for people in need. Erica hopes this will help these families provide for their pets' needs.

"The spirit of the holiday season and generosity was truly overwhelming," stated Erica, daughter of Scott Linick, owner of the animal hospital. "We would like to thank everyone who donated food and for making life a little better for our less fortunate friends and their pets."



Erica Linick, with the pet food collected by Plainfield Animal Hospital.

IN MY OPINION

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

To the Editor:

In the letter "In Support of Gay Rights," the author bases his argument on the liberal interpretation of the prohibition against "the establishment of religion" in the Constitution. This particular section of the Constitution has been severely misinterpreted by the court system and by many with self-serving interests.

Whether Mr. Morgan likes it or not, this country was founded by Christians (with some support from the Jews, who were here at the time) and the laws and morals of this nation were based on the tenets of Judeo-Christian philosophies. Prior to the Revolution, the King of England was both the Head of State and the head of the Church of England. A situation most Americans believed was a concentration of too much power and influence over their daily lives. When the Constitution was written, a strong central government was not desired and many of the provisions in the Constitution were placed there to impose limits on the government. The prohibition against the "establishment of religion" simply was meant to prevent the government from forming a Church of the United States.

Since the 1950's the court system has been misinterpreting this provision and referring to it as the separation of church and state. They have

removed the reading of passages from the Bible from public schools, they have removed Christmas displays from public buildings, they have removed the Ten Commandments from court houses, and many other references to Judeo-Christian religious beliefs. If they are allowed to continue in this direction, they will destroy the very foundation upon which this nation was built.

The three branches of government established by the Constitution were meant to be separate but equal. The Supreme Court was never meant to have the final say and that is why the instruments of the enforcement of their decisions are not controlled by them. Only the executive branch of government controls the means of enforcement and has on several occasions refused to follow the dictates of the court. President Andrew Jackson defied orders of the Supreme Court in the matter of the Cherokee Confederacy and President Abraham Lincoln defied orders of the court with the suspension of habeas corpus and the arrest of the southern sympathizers in the Maryland Legislature.

If you remove all the laws from this nation because of their association with Judeo-Christian religious beliefs, you will be left with a society that believes in nothing but the pursuit of materialism. Such a nation would not

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.

exist very long. Perhaps it is time for the executive and legislative branches of government to enlighten the judiciary on their Constitutional limits of power.

FRANK MCGONIGLE

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SPHS Student Leadership members after discussing the outcome of their first "Heroes and Cool Kids" mentoring session with Grant School sixth graders recently. Mentoring the student leaders was professional soccer player Tim Regan of the Red Bulls.

Now That It's Winter, Find a Camp For Summer!

As parents recently enjoyed Christmas vacations with their children home from school, more and more parents wonder how they will channel their children's energies for the entire summer. The American Camp Association has an answer: find a great camp for your children at one of six upcoming camp fairs that will be held around the state this January.

The New Jersey Section of the non-profit American Camp Association (ACA) will hold Summer Camp Fairs in Bergen, Middlesex, Mon-

mouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union Counties.

The fairs will be held over the course of three weekends this month. The first camp fair, a new location, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, at Freehold Gardens and Conference Center in Freehold. The next day, Sunday, Jan. 14, the second camp fair will be held at The Bridgewater Marriott in Bridgewater. The hotel is located across from the Bridgewater Commons Mall, Rts. 287 and 22 and Rts. 202/206.

The following Saturday, Jan. 20,

the third fair will be held at another new location, the Crowne Plaza Clark, located just off Exit 135 of the Garden State Parkway. Sunday, Jan. 21, the ACA will host the fourth fair at the Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck.

The next weekend the camp fair will be held Saturday, Jan. 27, at another new location, The Holiday Inn. Totowa/Wayne, a quarter mile from the Willowbrook Mall. The next day, Sunday, Jan. 28, the last camp fair of the season will be held in East Hanover at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center on Route 10 West. All fairs will run from noon to 4 p.m., and are open to the public; admission is free. There are numerous free giveaways and free snacks.

Representatives from The American Camp Association will be on hand at each fair to answer questions about "How to Choose a Camp" and to distribute pamphlets with the questions most frequently asked by parents who are trying to choose a camp for their child. In addition, the ACA will offer free parent seminars.

The American Camp Association will provide a free booklet, which contains pertinent information about contacting the camps and viewing their web pages, to each family attending. Typically during the fair, parents and children highlight those camps which appeal to them and then walk around the fair and talk to those camp directors.

"It is more important than ever for our youth to be physically active when they are not in school," states Marla Coleman, past president of the American Camp Association. "In the camp community, children and youth participate in healthy activities that contribute to the growth of healthy habits."

A wide variety of day and resident camps are expected to attend each fair. A listing of the camps who have registered for the fairs, so far, along with directions to the fairs can be found on the organization's website www.acanjsummercampfairs.org.

Camp directors and directors of summer programs who are interested in finding out more information about the ACA-NJ Summer Camp Fairs and how they may participate should contact Barbara Rubin at (732) 469-8910 or e-mail her at BKRubin@aol.com.

Adult School Brochures Are in the Mail

Brochures have been sent to all area residents for the upcoming winter 2007 semester of the South Plainfield Adult School. If you have not received a brochure, and would like one, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213. We welcome all area residents.

The Adult School offers a variety of classes including typing, computers, tai-chi, yoga, exercise, painting, volleyball, golf and craft classes. There is also an extensive range of exercise and swimming classes for adults and children offered through The Club at Ricochet.

Register over the phone with either a Visa or MasterCard or come to the Adult School Office in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. between 8 a.m. and 4

p.m. Evening in-person registration will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please use the Jackson Avenue side of the building and enter through the door to your right. The Adult School is located on the top floor. Most classes begin the week of Jan. 29.

There are also tickets available for the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 4. The price is \$57 and includes transportation and admission. Our very popular series of walking tours of New York City commences once again for 2007 with "West Side Story" on June 2, which highlights the fashionable Upper Westside from San Juan Hill to Lincoln Square and beyond. The price is \$46.

For more information call (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.



HELPING TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHT-Sal Esposito (right) of the Watchung Hills Youth Benevolent Association presents a check in the amount of \$3,000 to Vincent Buttiglieri for the South Plainfield Adopt-A-Family holiday program.



The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their annual Keystone Residents Christmas party on Dec. 27. More than 70 Keystone residents came for a hot dinner and a visit from Santa who delivered many gifts to the residents. The Knights of Columbus have been hosting this dinner for the past 10 years for the Keystone Community. The Knights would like to thank all their members and families who attended and either cooked or served the residents dinner. A special thank you to brother Knight, Ed Kubala, for his support as Santa. Co-organizers for this event were Bill Thomas, Kevin Keane and Past Grand Knight Joe Scudato.

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Around Town

SPJBC Meeting

January 8

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Registration for the 2007 season will be held at the clubhouse on Jan. 12, 6 to 9 p.m. and Jan. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Signups for coaching, managing and umpiring can also be done during at these registrations.

Volunteers for the 2007 season are also being sought. In particular, the SPJBC needs snack stand captains. Anyone interested is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com. Visit the SPJBC website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.

Library 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.

Rescue House of Prayer Birthday

January 13

A 70th Birthday Breakfast Fellowship for Irene Mayjette Southgate Campbell, senior overseer and pastor of the Rescue House of Prayer, Inc. will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 9 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in Edison. Buffet price (does not include gift): adults \$23, children 4-12, \$12.

RSVP to (973) 372-9100, Co-Pastor Anita Corrin Southgate-Spaulding.

Blackrose to Perform

January 13

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll and today's hits, will be performing at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave. on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

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 JANUARY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trip to Claridge, Atlantic City - January 18
Bus leaves the center at 9 a.m.

"I Do. I Do." at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
January 25

Knitting/Crocheting
9:30am-11:30am
Yoga 10:30-11:30am
Art Class 11:30am
Board Meeting 4:30pm

8

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social
Group 10am

9

Exercise Class
8:45am
Line Dancing 10am
Computer Classes 10am
11:30am & 1 pm
Tai Chi Class 2pm

10

Pathmark
Shopping 9 am
Practical Crafts 10am
Computer Class
11am & 1pm

11

Bingo
10am-2pm
Lunch Available

12

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

Pancake Breakfast

January 21

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

Elks Steak Dinner

January 27

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 invites members and the community to a steak dinner on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Elks Lodge, 1254 New Market Ave. Cost of the dinner is \$15 and includes salad, potato, vegetable and dessert. Cash bar.

Advance ticket purchase is recommended. Please call (908) 668-9750 for more information.

— Out of Town —

Willow Grove Church

January 7

Worship service at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 7.

For more information about Willow Grove, call the church office at (908) 232-5678, e-mail us at info@willowgrovechurch.org or visit www.willowgrovechurch.org.

Monday Afternoon Club Meeting

January 8

The Monday Afternoon Club of Plainfield will present Al Yoshimura at their Jan. 8 meeting at 2 p.m. at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. He was the past president of the Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity.

Tea and refreshments will follow the program. Everyone is invited.

For further information call (908) 322-9504.

NAMI Meeting

January 8

NAMI-Middlesex, an affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, is holding a general membership meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at University Behavioral Health-Care, 671 Hoes Lane in Rm. D201/203 in Piscataway. The Topic is "Recent Insights into the Causes and Treatments of Serious Mental Illness" with speaker Steven M. Silverstein, PhD, director of the Division of Schizophrenia Research at UMDNJ-UBHC.

Good Morning Middlesex

January 11

Meet for breakfast and a morning of networking on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Verizon Wireless, 1020 Cozzens Ln., North Brunswick beginning at 7:45 a.m. \$15 members, \$25 non-members. Contact Fred, (732) 821-1700, ext. 203 or email Fred@mcrc.org.

CPR Courses

January 6, 18 and 20

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering CPR

courses at the American Red Cross offices as follows: Jan. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 332 West Front St. in Plainfield (first aid w/CPR/AED-Adult, Child, Infant CPR); Jan. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (standard first aid with CPR/AED-Adult) and on Jan. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (first aid w/CPR/AED-Adult, Child, Infant CPR) at 16 Jefferson Ave. in Elizabeth. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

Call (908) 756-6414, ext. 10, to register or for more information.

Paper Mill "Summer and Smoke"

January 10-February 11

"Summer and Smoke" will play Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 10. Single tickets are now on sale and range in price from \$19 to \$68. Student rush tickets are \$16 and are available the day of performance in person with current student ID.

Purchase tickets by calling (973) 376-4343 or at the box office in Millburn, or online at www.papermill.org. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express accepted.

NJPAC 10th Annual Celebration

January 11

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's FamilyTime Series presents its 10th Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall. Special guest, Mayor Cory Booker.

Tickets are \$15-\$37 for adults, \$15 for children under 14. Purchase by calling 1-888-466-5722.

MLK Holiday Celebration

January 14

The New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission will host its Annual King Holiday Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton. The theme for the program is "One Love One Dream." The event is free and open to the public.

Rahway Quilt Exhibit

January 14

The Arts Guild of Rahway presents "The Naked Truth: Quilted and Sewn Figurative Works and Nudes," an art exhibit of sewn/quilted works begins Sunday, Jan. 14. There will be a reception with the artists, open to the general public from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

For more information call the Arts Guild at (732) 381-7511, by e-mail at artsguild1670@verizon.net, or by visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

AIDA SANTOS
VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER

Valley National Bank

Durham Ave. & Hamilton Blvd
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 757-5868
Fax (908) 757-0494

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 4:30pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am



Scotch Plains Music Center

The All Inclusive Music Store
...NOT Resort.

	YES	NO		YES	NO
Music Lessons	✓	-	Rentals	✓	-
Professional Staff	✓	-	Service	✓	-
All Accessories Drums Too!!	✓	-	Free Parking	✓	-
Guitars - Basses	✓	-	Friendly Help	✓	-
All Wind Instruments	✓	-	Swimming Pool	-	✓
Sheet Music	✓	-	Open Bar	-	✓
Music Books	✓	-	Air Conditioning	✓	-
			Cable TV	✓	-

413 PARK AVENUE • 908-322-7542

HELP!!!!

How to make your Kids
mind without losing yours!

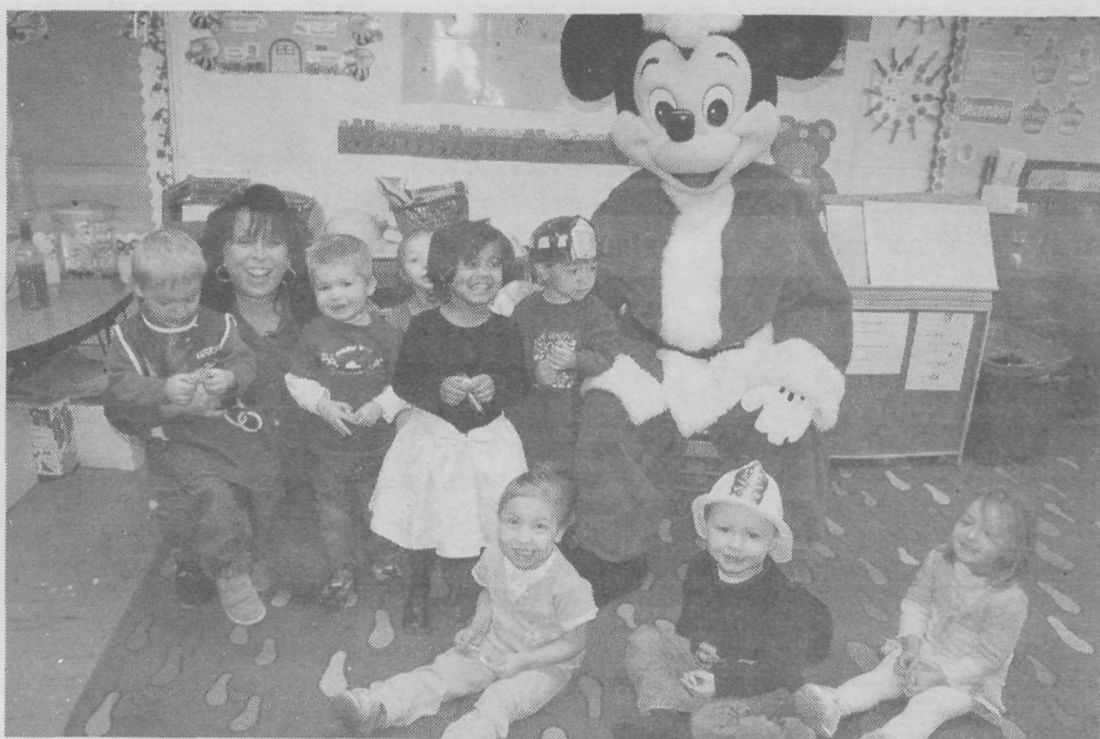
Where? Pilgrim Covenant Church 3121 Park Ave. South Plainfield

When? Starting Jan. 14th. This will be a 6 week video series for parents with children of any age. There will also be classes for children preschool to 5th grade.

In this series, you will learn....

- Why kids misbehave
- How to discipline without giving in
- How to build love, trust and respect in your child
- How to build a healthy self image in your child

Time? Sundays 9:30 am Please join us for Worship afterwards at 11am. For more information call 908.756.2474
(There will be a \$10 fee for the cost of the workbook.)



Mickey Mouse Santa recently made a visit to Elyne Foscolo's Future Stars Preschool class.

Advice for Choosing a Tax Return Preparer

With the tax year winding down, it is never too early to start thinking about choosing a tax preparer for the upcoming tax season. The Internal Revenue Service wants to offer these tips for taxpayers contemplating us-

ing a tax preparer. During the tax season about 65 percent of New Jersey filers will use a paid tax professional to prepare their tax returns.

"Taxpayers who pay someone to do their taxes should choose a preparer

wisely. If you choose to use a paid tax preparer, it is important that you find a qualified tax professional," said IRS spokesperson Gregg Semanick. "Taxpayers are ultimately responsible for everything on their return even when it's prepared by someone else. While most tax return preparers are professional and honest, taxpayers can use the following tips to choose a preparer who will offer the best service for their tax preparation needs."

- Ask about service fees. Avoid preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers, or those who guarantee results or base fees on a percentage of the amount of the refund.

- Plan ahead. Choose a preparer you will be able to contact after the return is filed and one that will be responsive to your needs.

- Get references. Ask questions and get references from clients who have used the tax professional before. Were they satisfied with the service received?

- Research. Check to see if the preparer has any questionable history with the Better Business Bureau, the state's board of accountancy for CPAs or the state's bar association for attorneys. Find out if the preparer belongs to a professional organization that requires its members to pursue continuing education and also holds them accountable to a code of ethics.

- Determine if the preparer's credentials meet your needs. Are they an enrolled agent, certified public accountant, tax attorney or public accountant? Only attorneys, CPAs, enrolled agents and public accountants can represent taxpayers before the IRS in all matters including audits, collection actions and appeals. Other return preparers may represent taxpayers only in audits regarding a return they signed as a preparer.

If you suspect tax fraud or know of an abusive return preparer, report this activity using IRS Form 3949-A, Information Referral. You can download Form 3949-A from the IRS website at IRS.gov, or call 1-800-829-3676 to order by mail. Send the completed form, or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity, to Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, Calif. 93888. Please include specific information about who you are reporting, the activity you are reporting and how you became aware of it, when the alleged violation took place, the amount of money involved and any other information that might be helpful to an investigation. Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential.

Get Noticed. Advertise in the Observer. Call 908-668-0010.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

by Kenneth Morgan

Weren't we supposed to have bases on the moon, household robots, and atomic-powered hovercars by 2007? Sure, we have Hi-Def TV, electronic organizers, and Lt. Uhura earpiece phones, but we're still not all that futuristic. Then again, it doesn't really matter how much we've ventured into sci-fi territory; we have South Plainfield Library, regardless of the era and its trappings. So, let's take a look at what's going on here:

Next week, once again, we'll follow the normal schedule of children's programming. Since what's "normal" for you may not be what's "normal" for us, here are the details: "Storytime," for children age three and over, is held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30, and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children age two and 3, is held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30, and Thursday evening at 6:30. And "Books 'N' Babies," for children up to age three, is held on Friday morning at 10:30. If you'd like more information, please call us and ask for Linda or Mija.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7:30. This will be the annual reorganization meeting. There will also be discussion regarding the library's current and future plans, including the proposed new library building. Members of the public are invited to attend.

We've recently done a bit of interior rearrangement (that means we've moved stuff around) to make better use of our limited interior space (and not to mess around with you). We've

installed some new CD storage shelves facing the New Books bookcase, and have moved one of the larger CD carousels over next to it. The collection buckets for used batteries are now located in the vestibule. The collection bin for plastic bags is now on the other side of the Circulation Desk, over by the word processors. And the Early Learning computer is now in the Juvenile section (see Miss Linda for details on that). If you need help finding something, please ask at the Circulation Desk. (We're working on getting everything hooked up to the GPS.)

In spite of recent reports, it looks like Elvis may not be working too well. There are still a few persistent problems with the system, which we are working to correct. So, if you're renewing items, we advise that you allow yourself time to try our website or call us during regular hours, just in case.

While the weather has been somewhat wacky lately (jacket temps one day, long john temps another), winter began back on Dec. 23. That means some actual cold weather is coming, so we have a request: please take it easy with the main doors. We weren't planning on heating the whole outdoors, so we'd like to keep that warm air inside. Please keep the doors open only as long as you need them, and don't hammer away on the opening button (that means you, kids).

That's about all for this week. To find out more, please call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. Catch you next Friday (unless they replace us with a couple of isolinear chips and an R2 unit).

NEWS FROM THE Suburban Woman's Club

December was a wonderful month for the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club. Our Christmas Party on Dec. 7 was most enjoyable. The Chimes and Bells Choir from the Wesley Methodist Church were superb. If you ever have a chance to hear them, do yourself a favor and do so. We all were thoroughly enthralled by the music and the explanations given by Laura Livingston, the director.

The theater party we held at the Edison Valley Playhouse was very well attended thanks to the hard work of Filomena Viola and Frieda Walker. We had a full house and everyone seemed to appreciate the refreshments during the intermission. "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge," by Christopher Durang, was a cleverly written play which included references to every Christmas play you can think of and even a reference to the Enron fiasco. We all had many good laughs and were certainly eased into the holiday season.

Submitted by
Gloria M. Breuning

HOME TIP:

Replace disposable furnace filters monthly or clean reusable filters bi-monthly. A professional tune-up every year will reduce heating costs and keep air cleaner. Please call if I can be of service to you.



E. A. Boniakowski Agency, Inc.
929 Washington Ave.,
Green Brook, NJ 08812

Direct Line: 732.529.0320 • Office: 732.968.0700
EMAIL: Brigitte.nowicki@era.com • www.eabrealty.com



Brigitte Nowicki-Yefko
Licensed Realtor for 20 Years
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Michael & Oscar MO's Salon

Mo's Salon welcomes Nichole Coddling, a Paul Mitchell classically trained hair stylist, who has worked with the top names in the beauty industry.



Nicole is available Tuesday-Saturday.
Call today for an appointment.

908-769-8330 • 25 South Plainfield Ave.

Log on to the
Borough of South Plainfield's
official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

- Mayor and Council
- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
- Recreation • Youth Activities
- Senior Corner • Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board • Civic Organizations
- Election Results and more

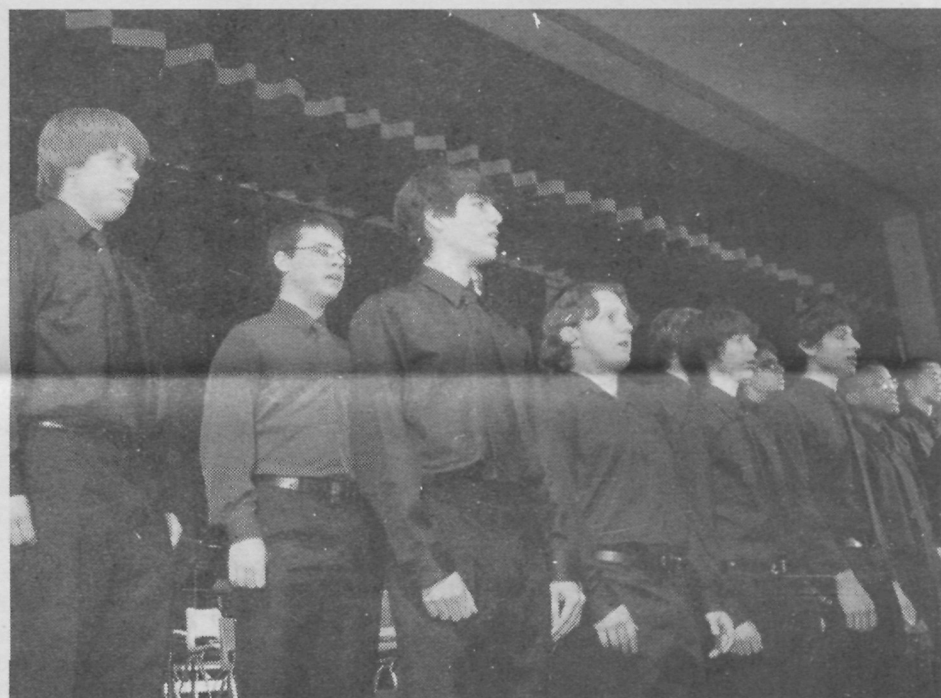
Advertise your business and support on
South Plainfield's own web site
For rates or information email at: southplainfieldnj.com
Or call 908-226-7656



South Plainfield High School Holiday Concert

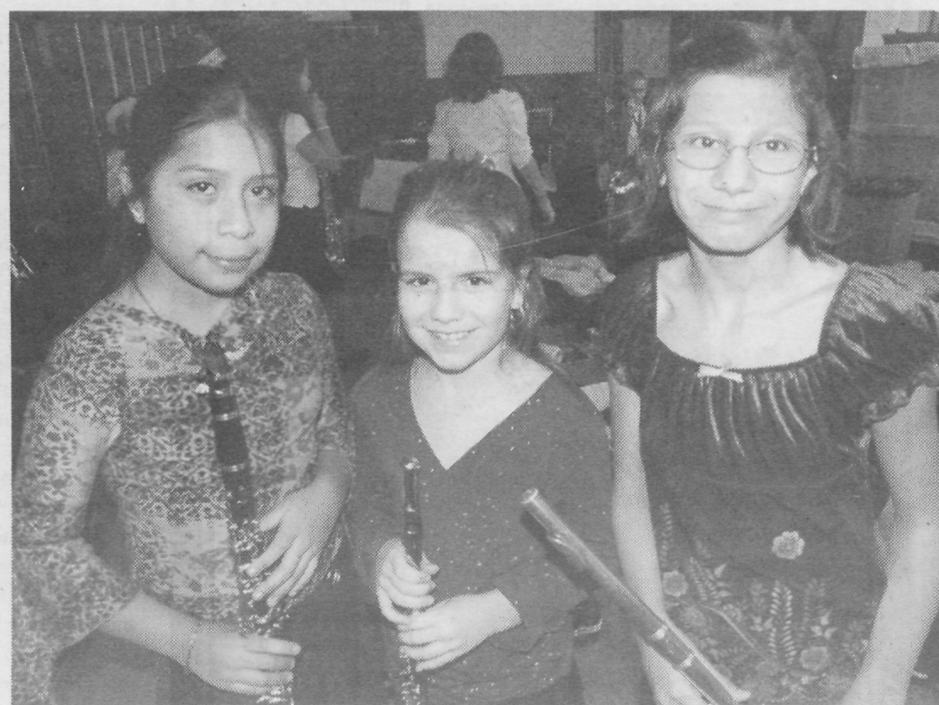
The SPHS Music Department held an Evening of Holiday Song and Music in the auditorium on Dec. 18 featuring the Emeralds and Jades chorus ensembles and the Jazz and Concert bands. Choral Director Tracy Murray lead the Emeralds in singing "Quando Corpus Morietur" and "Amen from Stabat Mater." The Jades sang "Wassail Song." The Jazz Ensemble played "Killer Joe," "Autumn Leaves," "It Had to be You" and "Got Rhythm?" and the Concert Band entertained the crowd with "Joy to the World," "An American Christmas," "The Festival of Hanukkah" and "Sleigh Ride." Both were conducted by Band Director Roger Vroom.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS



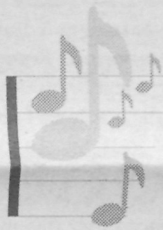
Grant School Holiday Concert

Grant Elementary School held their annual holiday concert in the South Plainfield High School auditorium on Dec. 20. The orchestra, conducted by Tobie Baldwin with Joan Stasio accompanying on piano, played "The Russian Music Box," "Kings of Stone" and "DECKorations." The Jazz Band, directed by Mark Tweed, played "The Blues is Loose," featuring Cory Singer on trumpet and "Quality Time." The fifth grade band played "The Little Drummer Boy," "A Chanukah Festival," "Yo Christmas Tree" and "The Hallelujah Chorus." The sixth grade concert band played "Christmas Fantasy," "Celebrating Chanukah," "Sax Attack" and "Sleigh Ride." Both were conducted by Joan Stasio. The chorus sang "Sleigh Ride," "When Christmas Comes to Town," "On This Still, Silent Night" and "Naughty or Nice?" They were led by Joan Stasio, with Patricia Landy accompanying on piano.

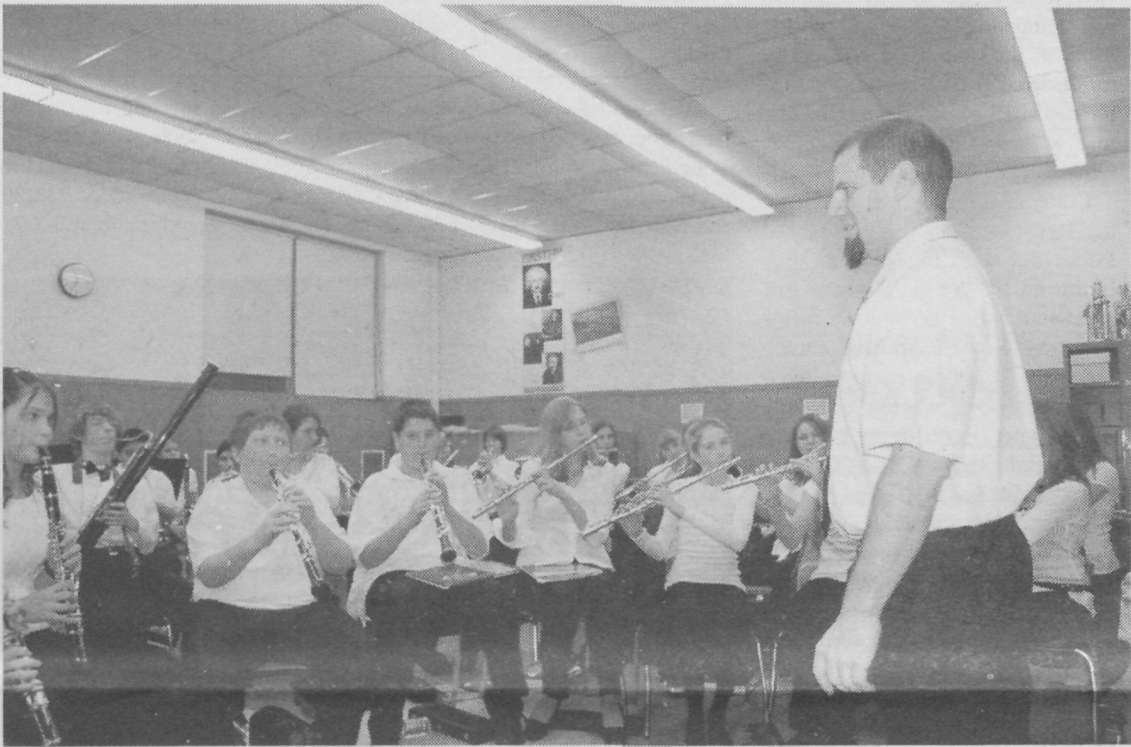




Middle School Winter Concert

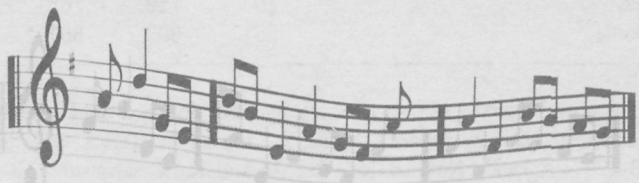


The last holiday concert of the season was presented by the Middle School on Dec. 21. The event featured the orchestra, conducted by Carleen C. Tedeschi, and accompanist Frank Jacobson, the Concert Choir and Gems, conducted by Donna Markiewicz, and the Concert Band, conducted by Andrew Veiss.



Roosevelt School Winter Concert

Roosevelt Elementary School held their annual winter concert on Dec. 19. Music teacher Bruce Mikolon led the string ensemble in the "March of the Cadets," "Beginner Medley," "Song of the Wind" and "Linus and Lucy." The chorus sang, "Home for the Holidays," "December's Keep," "Let the Dreidl Spin!" and "Winter Holiday," which was led and accompanied by music teacher Sharon Perez.

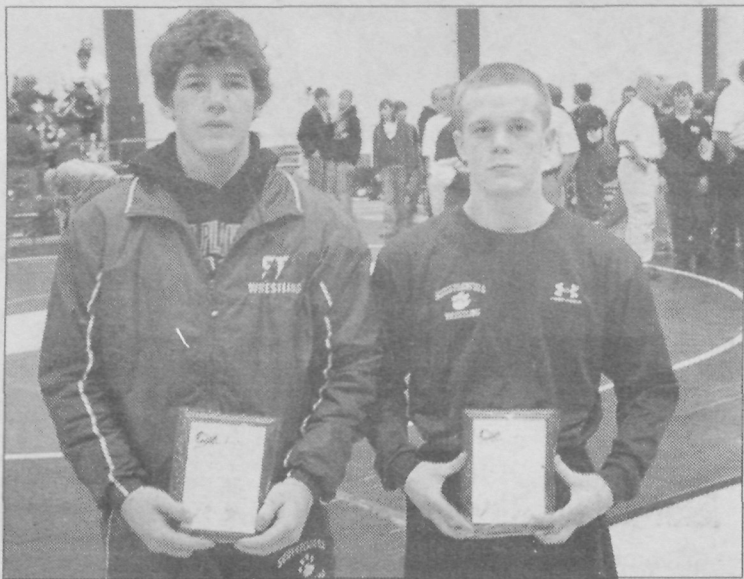


Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Tigers 3-3 at the Clash



Patrick Hunter and Billy Ashnault in Minnesota.

The Tigers arrived in Rochester, Minnesota ready to wrestle in the toughest team tournament in the country, and despite being short-handed and banged up, they still did an outstanding job, winning three out of six matches for a third place finish in bracket three and coming in 11th out of the 32 team field.

This has been the best competition the Tigers have faced in consecutive matches in school history. Entered were 12 nationally ranked teams and 20 teams were ranked in the top five in their respective states.

The opening day action started on Friday morning with the Tigers taking on Adrian, MN which is the number five ranked team in Minnesota. The Tigers came out fired up and won 12 out of 14 matches. Nick Heilmann 103 won by tech fall 17-2. Patrick Hunter 112 won by tech fall 16-1. John Wylam 119 won by decision 3-2. Nick Pauls 125 won by decision 7-4. Bryan Hunt 130 won by decision 4-1. Billy Ashnault 135 won by fall. Nick Dorey 140 won by decision 8-2. Mike Jakubik 145 won by fall. Sam Martin 152 won by decision 5-0. Mark Wagner 160 won by major decision 9-1. Danny Pompilio 171 won by fall. Brad Martin 215 won by fall. The final score was South Plainfield 53 and Adrian 9.

In round two, the Tigers faced Albert Lea, the number three ranked team in the state and 31st nationally. A very strong and balanced team, Albert Lea won nine of 14 bouts, but the match was closer than the score indicated. Nick Heilmann 103 won by decision 8-3. Patrick Hunter 112 won by fall. Billy Ashnault 135 won by fall. Nick Dorey 140 won by fall. Mark Wagner 160 won by decision 8-5. The Tigers dropped 2 very close bouts, 1-0 and 4-2. The final score was Albert Lea 39 and South Plainfield 24.

In round three of opening day, there was a battle between east and west when the Tigers took on Vacaville, Calif., another top ranked team. With the match starting at 189, the Tigers dropped the first three bouts and trailed 14-0 when Nick Heilmann 103 got the Tigers going with a big 7-3 win. Patrick Hunter 112 put the Tigers back in the match with a fall at 0:36. John Wylam 119 came on strong and won by decision 8-3. The Tigers trailed 20-12, when Bryan Hunt 130 came through when he won by decision 5-2. Billy Ashnault

135 got the Tigers even with a tech fall 18-1. Nick Dorey 140 kept things going with a 7-3 decision win. The Tigers dropped the next two bouts 9-7 and 2-1 giving the California team the lead 26-23. Mark Wagner 160 came through with a huge 2-1 victory to tie the score 26-26 heading into the last bout of the match. Things looked dim for the Tigers when Danny Pompilio 171 was trailing 8-1 at the end of the first period. Pompilio battled back to make it 8-7. Pompilio then locked up the cradle and scored the winning fall at 4:58. The final score of that match was South Plainfield (East) 32, Vacaville (West) 26.

It was announced that this match had the longest distance between schools in the tournament.

On Saturday in the bracket three finals, the Tigers faced another nationally ranked team, the Wisconsin Rapids from Lincoln. The Tigers dropped the first two bouts and trailed 12-0 when Nick Heilmann 103 defeated Wisconsin state champion Carl DeLuca 5-3 to get the Tigers on the board. Patrick Hunter 112 then faced state place winner Coltin Brehm and went on to win by tech fall 17-2. The Tigers could not keep things going losing the next three bouts. Billy Ashnault 135 stopped the bleeding when he pinned Jordon Cepress. Nick Dorey 140 followed with another decision victory 4-2. Mike Jakubik 145 kept things going with a 13-8 decision victory. Mark Wagner kept the Tiger hopes alive when he decided Mike Fuller 8-5. The Tigers needed the next match for any chance of winning, but it was not meant to be losing by decision. The Tigers then forfeited the last match. The final score was the Wisconsin Rapids 40, South Plainfield 23.

Next up was Skutt Catholic from Nebraska ranked 37th in the country by Amateur Wrestling News rankings. With the match starting at heavyweight, Rocco Petriello fell behind early but battled back and scored a huge pin over Matt Kathol to give the Tigers an early lead.

Nick Heilmann 103, facing another state champion wrestler, went on to beat Zach Cottle 4-3. Patrick Hunter 112 continued the momentum with another tech fall over Andy Hollins 16-1. The Tigers then dropped the next two bouts, but were still in the lead 14-11. Bryan Hunt 130 gave the Tigers a little breathing room when he pinned Josh Berens.

Billy Ashnault 135 then defeated Qunitin Cottle by decision 5-3. Nick Dorey 140 kept things going with a major decision win over Mike Corritore 12-1. Mike Jakubik 145 did his part after trailing 8-2 going into the third period. Taking the offensive position Jakubik wasted no time in locking up the cradle to get the fall. Leading 33-11, Skutt Catholic came charging back winning the next three bouts cutting the lead to 33-21 with two bouts to go. Danny Pompilio was bumped up to 189 and put the icing on the cake when he won by major decision 10-2. The Tigers then forfeited 215 to end the match. The final score was South Plainfield 37, Omaha Skutt Catholic 27.

In the final match of the evening, the Tigers faced another top ranked Minnesota team in Wayzata. Nick Heilmann 103 got the Tigers off to a good start when he won by major decision 8-0 over Ryan Arne. Patrick Hunter 112, facing highly ranked Danny Zilverberg, was in a battle early until Hunter opened it up and went on to win by tech fall 21-6. The lead was short lived as the Tigers dropped the next three bouts and trailed 15-9. Billy Ashnault 135 got the Tigers moving again when he pinned Danny Obermeyer to tie the match. Nick Dorey 140 did his part by securing a 9-3 decision over Carl Lymangood. Mike Jakubik 145 followed with a major decision over Brandon Groth 14-3. Nick Vallone 152 did a great job filling in as he won by major decision over Zach Verbick 12-4. Mike Wagner 160 did a great job in a tough loss. Mark Wagner, then bumped up to 171, won by decision 12-6. But Wayzata came charging back to tie the score at 26 going into the heavyweight match. Rocco Petriello was in a battle before getting caught and pinned to close the match. Final score Wayzata 32, South Plainfield 26.

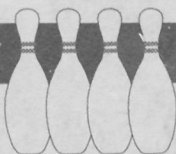
Congratulations to Billy Ashnault who recorded his 100th career victory. He and Patrick Hunter were named to the Clash All Tournament Team for their individual performances. Ashnault scored four pins, one tech fall and one decision. Hunter scored two pins and four technical falls. Montini Catholic of Illinois, the number five team in the country, was the only other school to have two wrestlers selected for the all tournament team.

South Plainfield had two other wrestlers go undefeated for the tournament: Nick Heilmann 103 and Nick Dorey 140. Mark Wagner went 5-1 on the trip.

The Tigers were surprised when they were exiting off of Route 78 in Watchung after returning from Minnesota. They were greeted by the South Plainfield Police Department and escorted back to town. They were then met by two South Plainfield Fire Department vehicles with sirens blaring and lights flashing giving them a heroes welcome home where they were greeted by applause from high school Principal Dr. Ken May, fans and parents. You did a great job in Minnesota and made all of South Plainfield very proud! Many thanks to all the sponsors who so generously donated and made this incredible experience possible for the Tiger wrestlers.

SPHS BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



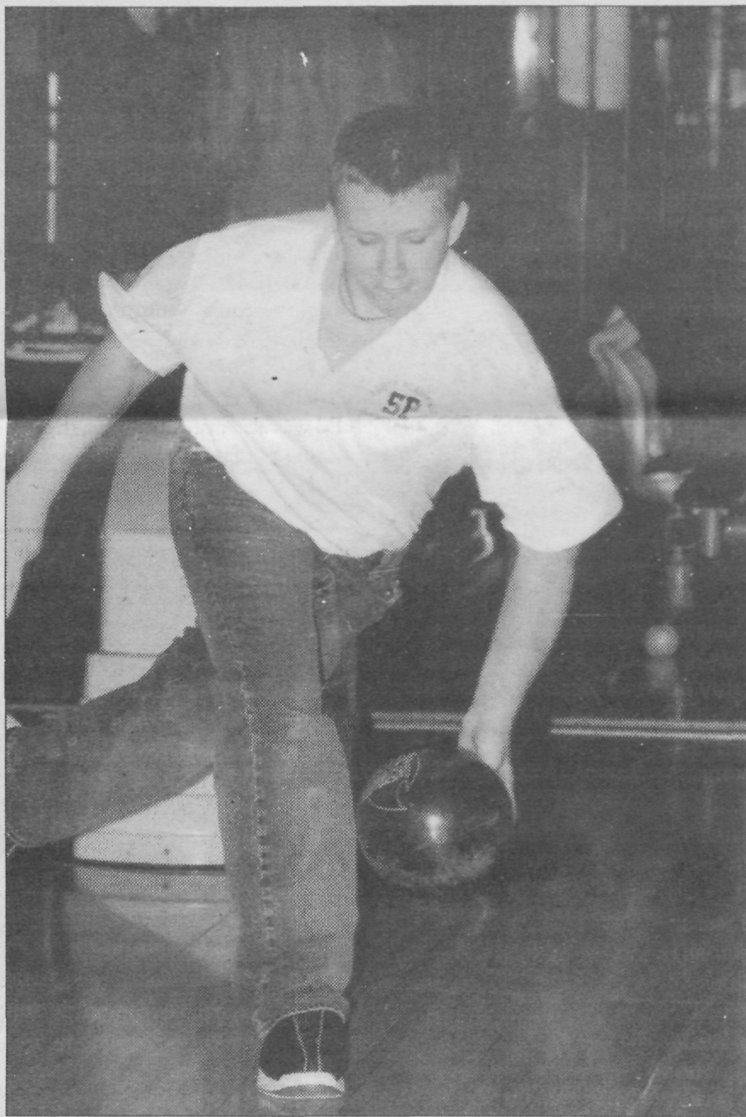
Tiger Bowlers Red-Hot, Romp Over Perth Amboy, Bow to Colonia... Pauls Sizzles

SPHS	996	1,100	920-3,016
Perth Amboy	800	745	844-2,389

The SPHS boys bowling team, led by Ryan Pauls who scorched the lanes with a booming 697 set on games of 222-268-207, walloped Perth Amboy as the Tigers rolled their highest output of the season. Teammates Robert Parillo 246-227 and 646 set and Mike Dandola 245-223-636 set added to the route. A season high 1,100 game was belted out by the Tigers on a tremendous team effort.

SPHS	1,006	1,031	924-2,961
Colonia	1,094	999	1,001-3,094

The team gave strong Colonia all it could handle, splitting the first two games, but dropped the finale in its upset bid. Mike Dandola paced the Tigers as he fired games of 219-241 enroute to a 639 set. Ryan Pauls crushed the pocket with a booming 279 game and 632 set. Chris Esposito added 238-205 and 604 and Robert Parillo a 202 game. The Tigers record stands at 3-3-2.



Tiger bowler Ryan Pauls who bowled 222-268-207 for a season high 697 set. He also followed that with a season high 279 game, 632 set.

Lady Tigers Cruise Over Short-handed Perth Amboy, Fall to State Ranked Colonia

SPHS	660	734	716-2,110
Perth Amboy	298	331	446-1,075

The SPHS girls bowling team coasted to an easy victory over Perth Amboy on the strength of Jackie Kukuch's 170-187 and solid 509 set. Katie Yon also chipped in with games of 156 and 160.

SPHS	703	759	768-2,230
Colonia	851	909	861-2,621

The team bowled well over their average, but dropped three straight games to undefeated division leader Colonia. Scoring for the Tigers were: Katie Yon 163-479 set; Jackie Kukuch 166-462 set and Katie Salvatore 158-454 set. Also chipping in for the solid team effort were Lyndsey Murtagh 178 high game and Gina Curcio 158.

police report

- On Dec. 17 a Frase St. resident reported the head of a lighted reindeer on their lawn had been broken off.
- A Fred Allen Dr. resident reported three sets of Christmas lights on their property had been damaged.
- On Dec. 18 Precious D. Gordon, 29, of New Brunswick was arrested at Target for shoplifting \$903 worth of miscellaneous items.
- Federal Metals and Alloys on Skyline Dr. reported fencing had been cut and aluminum rims worth \$10,000 had been taken.
- On Dec. 20 Roderick S. Candelaria, 39, and Robbie K. Pangilinan, 25, both of Piscataway were arrested at Target for shoplifting a webcam worth \$49.
- On Dec. 21 St. Stephen's Church on Park Ave. reported two wrought iron stair railings and a sign post had been broken by juveniles skateboarding on the property.
- A Piscataway resident reported the theft of an envelope containing cash from the counter at Harmony Jewelers on Stelton Rd.
- On Dec. 23 a Rush St. resident reported their mailbox had been damaged. Two mailboxes on Elsie St. had also been damaged.
- A Wood St. resident reported the their outdoor Christmas lights had been cut.
- BCS Machine & Manufacturing Corp. on Kennedy Rd. reported a temporary car enclosure had been broken.
- A Dominick Ct. resident reported all four sides of their vehicle had been scratched.
- An Anna Pl. resident reported the rear tires of their vehicle had been slashed.
- On Dec. 24 an Edison resident reported the theft of her purse from a shopping cart at Pathmark.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Aldave Enterprises, LLC for public improvements at 845 Spicer Avenue in South Plainfield, Block 378, Lot 7.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Aldave Enterprises, LLC for public improvements at 845 Spicer Avenue in South Plainfield known as Lot 7, Block 378 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on January 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Aldave Enterprises, LLC
845 Spicer Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

\$38.50

January 5, 2007

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND

To Michael and Mary Sikanowicz for public improvements at 592 Arlington Avenue in South Plainfield, Lot 12.01, Block 365.

A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted Michael and Mary Sikanowicz for public improvements at 592 Arlington Avenue in South Plainfield known as Lot 12.01, Block 365 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held on January 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Michael and Mary Sikanowicz
592 Arlington Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

\$38.50

January 5, 2007

LEGAL NOTICE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

TAKE NOTICE that application has been made to the Borough of South Plainfield for the person to person transfer to RUBY TUESDAY, INC., of Plenary Retail Consumption License Number 0222-33-012-009, heretofore issued to NAN-LEM, INC. for premises located at 2239 South Clinton Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080. The applicant, Ruby Tuesday, Inc., is a publicly traded corporation. The name and address of the General Manager is:

Henry C. Grau, Jr.
Less than 1% Ownership Interest
1055 Bennetts Mill Road
Jackson, New Jersey 08527

Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to Vincent Buttiglieri, Clerk/Administrator of the Borough of South Plainfield, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

RUBY TUESDAY, INC.
Henry C. Grau, Jr., General Manager

\$46.35

Dec. 29, 2006 and Jan. 5, 2007

Obituaries



Edward A. Niemczyk

Edward A. Niemczyk, 89

Edward A. Niemczyk died suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 28.

Born in New Castle, Pa., Ed came to South Plainfield at the age of five and has been a lifelong resident of the borough.

A Navy veteran of WWII, he served as an aircraft mechanic. Later becoming a member of the CCC, the Civilian Conservation Corps, he was also a member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 and a WWII honoree.

Employed as a steel worker for 45 years with Harris Steel, he retired in 1980. Ed was a long time vital part of the South Plainfield Recreation Department. He was a long time supervisor and a very familiar face to many as he is credited with running the first basketball league out of a school in Plainfield due to lack of space in the borough. He has also been credited with "teaching South Plainfield how to play basketball." He was a founder of the South Plainfield Little League baseball program. As a steel worker, Ed was also instrumental in the fabrication of the steel used to build the PAL.

With many roots in South Plainfield, Ed was also a longtime parishioner of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. He was also an active member of the Polish National Home, where he served as president, vice president and director. In his leisure time he enjoyed spending time golfing and fishing.

Ed had received numerous awards during his lifetime. They include being the first recipient of the Cappy Award in October of 2003, outstanding citizen of the year in 1990 and grand marshal of the 1988 Labor Day parade.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gertrude (Stopera); a daughter, Arlene and husband John Hayeck of South Plainfield; a son, Dr. Edward V. and wife Rosemary of Cream Ridge; two sisters, Lillian Bradford and Lee Allerton; a brother, George Niemczyk and four grandchildren, Jennifer Campbell, Edward Z., Allison and Daniel Niemczyk.

Funeral services were held at the PAL Building, under the direction of McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Edward A. Niemczyk Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Chester Piotrowski, 90

Chester A. Piotrowski died on Thursday, Dec. 28 at Community Hospital in Toms River.

Born in Brooklyn, he resided in Poland as a child. He returned to the United States at the time of WWII residing in Plainfield until 1956 when he moved to South Plainfield. He and his wife moved to Whiting 12 years ago. In addition, he and his family maintained a summer residence on Long Beach Island.

Employed as a carpenter and millwright for Mack Trucks in Plainfield and then Bridgewater for 37 years, he retired in 1980.

He enjoyed woodworking and fishing as well as trips to Atlantic City and investing.

Chester is a former communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and St. Stanislaus Church in Plainfield. He was a long-time member of the Polish National Home and a communicant of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Whiting and St. Francis of Assisi in Long Beach Island.

He was predeceased by a brother, Eugene.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Frances (Welc); two sons, William and wife Cynthia of Tallahassee, Fla., and Donald and wife Eileen of Dublin, Ohio and four grandchildren, John A., Allison, Caitlin and Ryan.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

John Robert Blount, 83

John Robert Blount of Plainfield died on Monday, Dec. 25 at Overlook Hospital.

Mr. Blount was born in Plainfield and grew up in Union and Elizabeth. After returning home from WWII he resided in Newark with his wife. He built his house Plainfield and was a resident of Plainfield for 55 years.

He was a machinist at Singer Manufacturing Company in Elizabeth Port for 40 years before retiring in 1983. Mr. Blount served in the Armed Guard during World War II from 1943 to 1945 as a gunner's mate.

He was an avid skier and a member of the Watchung Ski Club. He also volunteered as a coach for Special Olympics for many years.

Mr. Blount was predeceased by his parents, John Joseph and Elta

(Lillian) Blount of South Plainfield, and a brother, Carl Blount of Clark.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Frances; a daughter, Ellen Peterson and husband Matthew of South Plainfield; a granddaughter, Christine Krieger and husband Charles of South Plainfield; two grandsons, Brian and David Peterson of South Plainfield; a great-grandson, Joshua Ward, also of South Plainfield; two sisters, Celeste of Riverview, Fla. and Betty of Beaumont, Tx.; two brothers, Joseph Blount of Webster, Wisc. and David Blount and wife, Patricia of South Plainfield. He also has two additional brothers, James and Franklin Daniel, whose whereabouts at this time are unknown.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the American Lung Association, 1600 Rt. 22 East, Union, N.J. 07083, the National Kidney Foundation, 30 E. 33rd St., Flr. 3, New York, N.Y. 10016-5337, the American Heart Association, 1 Union St., Ste. 301, Robbinsville, N.J. 08691 or the American Diabetes Association, Center Point II, Ste. 103, Rt. 22 East, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807 or will be accepted at the funeral home.

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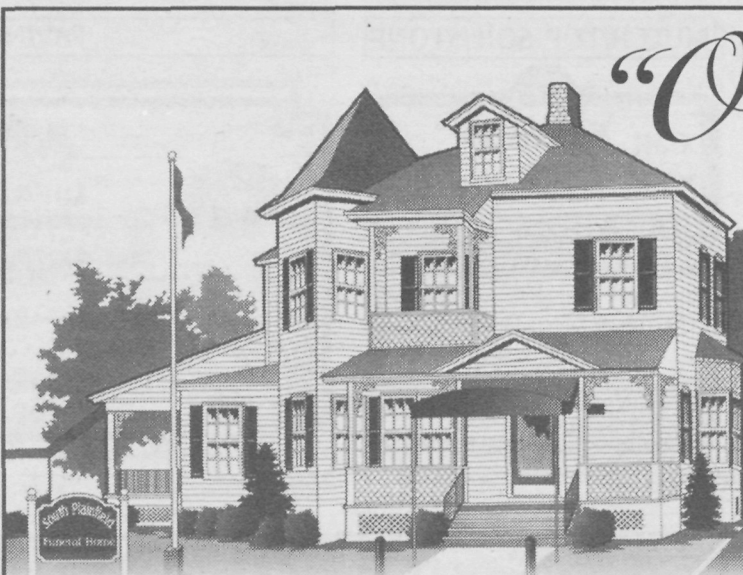
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FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all.

Congratulations to the SPHS Girls Varsity Basketball team as they captured first place in the JP Stevens High School Holiday Basketball Tournament.

The South Plainfield High School boys varsity basketball team had a hard fought game in the finals of the holiday tournament. It was wonderful to see many of spectators there to support the boys. Way to play, boys.

I have written about sportsmanship before and I will continue to comment about the unsportsmanlike conduct that continues to be displayed among teams. Two years ago during a girls' basketball game in Perth Amboy, one of our girls was bitten on the arm by an opposing team player which was documented. This year, after a boys soccer game in Perth Amboy on the handshake line, one of our boys was punched in the chest. Again, during a girl's basketball game against Eastern from Camden at the JP Stevens tournament, one of our girls was slapped in the face. Our athletes are continually encouraged to be

the 'bigger person' and walk away. There are many incidents that happen that are never brought to the attention of the officials. When the Harlem Wizards came to Grant School on Dec. 19, I asked them to discuss sportsmanship and teamwork, which they did, and emphasized how important sportsmanship and teamwork are.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is never encouraged and should be dealt with immediately. Teamwork is encouraged, along with camaraderie between players. There is not one person on any team in this town or any other town that can win a game single-handedly. A wrestler can win a match, but it is the team that scores the points.

It is acceptable to cheer for a player who makes a great move or scores, but in the end the entire team needs the applause. I heard booing coming from the JP Stevens spectators; this is unacceptable behavior. Remember, children learn what they live. You win as a team and lose as a team. Even the players who never come off the bench are still part of the team,

which is another issue. Punching, hitting, slapping and biting is not acceptable and should never be tolerated by any child. You are still children, no matter what the grade level and you need to bring these issues to the person of authority. Maybe the officials should watch the plays more closely.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Niemczyk Family. Ed Niemczyk had a tremendous knowledge of the history in our town and continually supported our children with his kind and gentle ways. Ed had been an open gym supervisor at the P.A.L. for many years. He started the first basketball league in South Plainfield and was one of the founders of the junior baseball program in town. He received the prestigious "Cappy Award," was the grand marshal of the Labor Day parade in 1988 and received the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award in 1990. Ed also worked for Harris Steel for 45 years. He was known as a "living legend in recreation" by many of our residents. Ed truly loved South Plainfield and his presence will truly be missed.

Best wishes to Mayor-elect Charles Butrico, Councilman Ray Petronko and Councilman-elect Joseph Scrudato as you assume your new positions with the Borough Council. Thank you to the council as you continue to support and protect the residents of South Plainfield in 2007. Please continue to work together as a team for the amelioration of our beloved town.

Residents, please continue to support South Plainfield businesses in town. There are many that volunteer their time and effort to help make South Plainfield a better place to live and play.

Thank you to Carol Ullom of the SPHS Athletic Booster Club for all her volunteer time selling school spirit wear at wrestling matches. If anyone is interested in purchasing school spirit wear with the Tiger logo, obtained from Sportworld, please see Carol at many of our sporting events. If your size is not available, Carol can place a special order. What a great way to support our schools and the wonderful work of the Athletic Booster Club. Thank you Mr. Fabino for your help.

Thank you to Regina Smith and Donna Houston for hosting a pre-tournament dinner for the SPHS Girls Basketball team. It was truly appreciated by the coaches and girls.

Please remember that positive energy is always required in all that you do and say. It is so easy to sit back and condemn, instead of joining in and helping out. Try to be positive and encouraging. You never fail unless you fail to try.

For all those residents who do not receive notices of what is happening in our schools, please read the *Observer*, which continually covers what's going on in our town. Subscriptions are delivered through the mail, and can be requested by fax, phone, email, or regular mail by filling out the subscription form printed in the paper.

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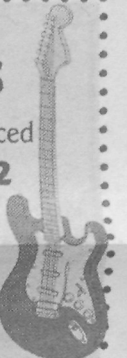
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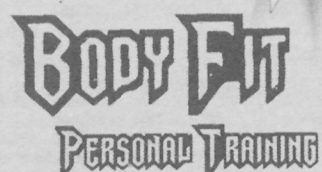
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Middlesex Co. to Share Homeland Security Funds

Middlesex County Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano has announced that the county is now eligible to be a part of a consortium of counties and two cities that share a lump sum of federal Homeland Security funds to boost efforts in the nation's urban areas.

Middlesex County will join the cities of Newark and Jersey City and six other counties in the Metro Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Earlier this year, the group received \$34 million to complete projects on a regional scale. Middlesex County will be eligible to share 2007 funds. The funds must be used on projects that benefit the entire region.

The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness awarded the designation after county officials and State Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan (D-18th) lobbied for the distinction.

Originally, Middlesex was barred from the group because Federal guidelines stated only counties that were geographically contiguous to Essex or Hudson County were eligible.

"After carefully analyzing the relevant facts, I have requested that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) include Middlesex County in the New Jersey UASI region beginning in 2007," said Richard L. Canas, director of New Jersey's Homeland Security and Preparedness Office. "In terms of the factors that

combine to define risk, which are threat, vulnerability and consequence, Middlesex's characteristics made a compelling case to include it in the UASI planning area."

"This is good news for Middlesex County, and the designation as a UASI County will help us greatly in our work to safeguard our residents," said Rafano, chair of the County's Law and Public Safety Committee. "I commend and thank Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who fought hard for this designation. He went above and beyond when looking out for the best interest of this county and all our residents."

"The decision not to include Middlesex County in the original UASI group just did not make sense," Diegnan said. "But Trenton really did listen to our concerns. They were receptive and reactive to the very clear presentations made by Freeholder Rafano, County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan, Fire Marshal Michael Gallagher and Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Rory Zach. It proved to me that when you see something that doesn't seem right, you must fight for it."

Since 2003, the county has received a total of \$7.8 million in federal Homeland Security funds to harden targets, outfit first responders with state-of-the-art equipment and training, and purchase vehicles and three boats to safeguard the county's communities and waterfront areas.

"The money we have received from the Federal Homeland Security Department has helped us make great strides ensuring the safety and security of our residents in any number of crises or emergencies," Rafano said. "Now we are ready to take the next steps in becoming an active and willing partner on the UASI team to do our part to help protect all citizens in the county, in the region and, when necessary, throughout the state."

As a UASI county, Middlesex will have representation on a committee that will determine how the regional funds will be spent. UASI projects in the past include the establishment of a 1,000-officer strong Rapid Deployment Force with officers from every county and the two cities. The force is available to respond immediately anywhere in the region for large-scale emergencies.



Third grade students from John F. Kennedy School recently visited the Highland Woods Education Reserve to enhance their knowledge of living and non-living things.

JFK Third Grade Science Class Visit Highland Woods

Dorothy Meile, from the South Plainfield Historical Society, and South Plainfield's Environmental Specialist, Dr. Alice Tempel, run a program at Highland Woods that provides an opportunity for students to learn about the environment. John F. Kennedy's third graders took a trip to the woods recently to enhance their knowledge of living and non-living things.

The trip started in the new classroom at Highland Woods. The students then proceeded to tour the

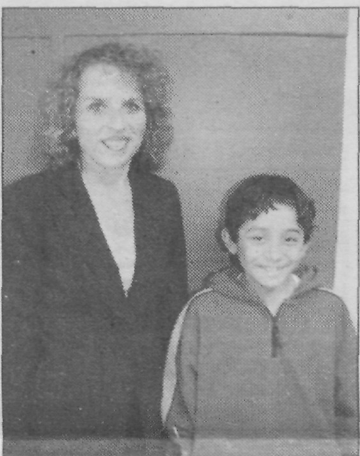
woods looking for all types of producers, consumers and decomposers.

Highland Woods is an outstanding way to help the students learn about their environment hands on.

Highland Woods, located off South Clinton Ave., on Sylvania Place, has 36-acres of walking trails, in addition to the new classroom.

For more information, visit their website at geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods/.

Gonzalez Named Junior Journalist



Seventh grader Pablo Gonzalez with Assistant Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys.

Pablo Gonzalez, seventh grader at South Plainfield Middle School, is this week's winner in the 2006-07 Junior Journalist program. His poem has earned him dinner for his family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros 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.

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2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

#1

Untitled
by Pablo Gonzalez

I am a kid
I pretend to be a superstar
I dream to be a soccer player
I deserve to be treated like an adult
I reach for the stars
I expect to be an adult
I understand not being an adult
I create a pie
I regret nothing
I am a kid

LEGAL NOTICES

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE 1762

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

Ord. 1762 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CH. 85 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "BINGO AND RAFFLES" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$25.00 January 5, 2007

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

LEGAL NOTICE
ORDINANCE 1763

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

Ord. 1763 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CH. 48 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "POLICE DEPARTMENT" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$25.00 January 5, 2007

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from our
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2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

CONGRATS!

#1

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Alyssa Liszewski, pictured here with mom Laurie, dad Alex, brothers Sal and Alex and sister Emily.

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by John Christ requesting a variance or other relief from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to 1) proposed new front porch 5 x 8 lacks 30' front setback; 25.3 proposed; 2) proposed new garage lacks 8' side setback; 7.5' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 131 W. Elmwood Ave. on Block 231, Lot 18 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 25, 2007 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$38.50 January 5, 2007

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