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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 19

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JANUARY 12, 2007

**DAN GALLAGHER –
A LEGACY OF SERVICE**

The End of an Era



Mayor Dan Gallagher receives applause from Council President Dennis Cerami after he reads his exit speech at the Reorganization meeting last Sunday.

By Patricia Abbott

It was a day of mixed emotions for the many residents who attended the Jan. 7 ceremony swearing in of newly elected officials and committee members. After serving South Plainfield for 23 years – seven on the Borough Council and 16 years as mayor – Daniel Gallagher stepped down, handing the gavel to Mayor-elect Charles Butrico.

Gallagher told the *Observer*, “Words cannot express my feelings of gratitude for the trust placed in me. I thank all borough employees, volunteers and residents for allowing me to serve.”

Several council members offered their thoughts and memories. Councilman Ray Petronko said, “Danny has an amazing recall of facts. He knows the minute details of the issue at hand and the people he is addressing. If you glanced across the room at a speaking engagement, you would notice that people enjoyed listening to him. Danny is a thinker; he is always concentrating on problems and how to resolve them. He is a proud mayor who loves this town and thoroughly enjoyed serving this great community.” Ray offered this tale showing the lighter side, or perhaps the creative side, of a man who takes his job seriously. Ray said, “I remember once Danny used his car to block a train from crossing Metuchen Rd. Danny is always aware of proper procedures. He took issue with the trains crossing

“Words cannot express my feelings of gratitude for the trust placed in me. I thank all borough employees, volunteers and residents for allowing me to serve.”

– MAYOR DAN GALLAGHER

the roadway without the required personnel to cross a roadway, a signalman.”

Councilman Matt Anesh noted: “Mayor Gallagher has given much of his time over the years to the residents of South Plainfield. It’s fitting that even in

his retirement from public life, Mayor Gallagher will still be quite active in town. I wish him and his family good health and happiness and look forward to serving with him on the Public Celebrations Committee in the years to come.”

New councilman, Joe Scrudato, never had the chance to work with Dan. However, he said, “I would just like to say it was a pleasure walking and working with Danny during this past year’s campaign. When Danny and I walked in town from house to house, he would tell me stories about the history of South Plainfield, just great information about our town that I had never known. I consider him ‘Mr. South Plainfield’ and want to thank him for everything he has done for our great town.”

Gallagher has no negative memories of his years as mayor other than the difficult decision not to run again. He has faith in our new mayor. “Charlie is well versed in politics. He knows South Plainfield, he is familiar with issues and will be an excellent mayor,” said Gallagher.

His decision to retire was based on his desire to spend more time with his family. He and wife, Marion, have been married for 43 years. They have

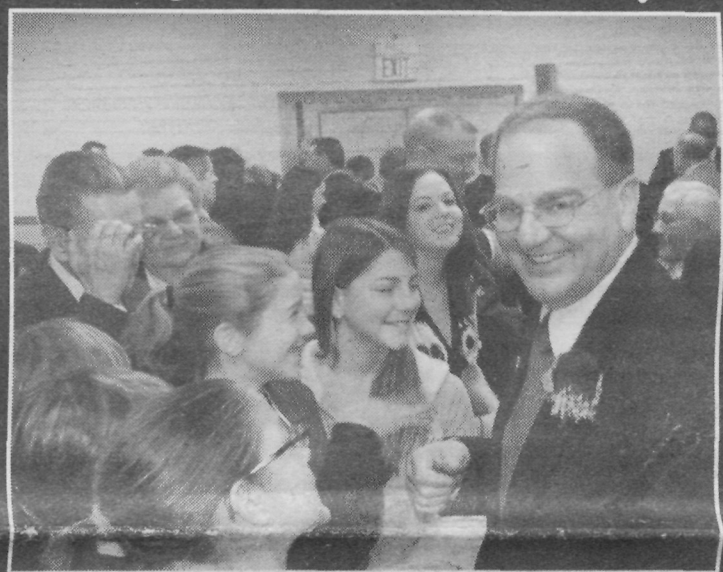
two sons, Dan and Michael, and four grandsons, Daniel III, age 9, Brian, 3 and twins Brad and Jake, 2½.

The Gallaghers have resided in South Plainfield for 32 years. Dan took his first step into politics in 1983 when he was elected councilman. He was re-elected in 1986, serving a total of seven years. He was elected mayor in 1987 and re-elected mayor in 1995, 1999 and 2002. He is the only mayor to serve four terms.

“Mayor” is defined as “an official elected or appointed to act as chief executive or nominal head of a city, town, or borough.” While this is accurate, it is hardly enough to describe Dan Gallagher. He is proud of this community. He truly enjoyed serving as mayor and treated the position as an honor. He noted what he likes about this town. “South Plainfield residents are friendly, cooperative people who always stop and say hello. They are willing to get involved and help. We have many volunteers; our fire department, rescue squad and C.E.R.T. program, as well as 30 plus committees in borough government. They take pride in their community and property.”

Marion Gallagher offered her insight. “How can I describe Dan Gallagher the man, when he is so much more than just one man? He is the man that led South Plainfield for 16 years, in good times and in bad. He is the volunteer who spent countless hours in emergencies and

Borough Installs New Mayor



Charles Butrico, flanked by nieces, nephews and well wishers, was sworn in as Mayor of South Plainfield at the council’s annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 6. For Butrico’s address, see page 6.

difficult situations. He is the public servant who dedicated so much of his personal time to the needs of the community of South Plainfield. He is the father who drove my sons to little league and basketball games. He is the grandfather who spends hours on the floor with his grandsons, making them laugh. He is the husband I trust and have loved for so many years, but he will always be the boy I rode the

Cyclone with in Coney Island over 40 years ago.”

Daughter-in-law Kim added, “Since the day I met Dan Gallagher, I’ve been amazed by the love and dedication he has shown for South Plainfield. I’m so very lucky my son has his ‘Pop’ as a role model to look up to, and I’m proud to call him ‘Dad.’”

There are a number of things he
(Continued on page 9)

Officer Injured in Accident

Park Ave. was shut down for more than two hours on Sunday afternoon during an investigation involving an injured South Plainfield Police officer after his vehicle crashed into a tree.

Officer Daniel Hoppe was traveling south on Park Ave. at approximately 1:30 p.m. when he observed a person of interest traveling in the opposite direction. According to a preliminary investigation by the Traffic Safety Dept., Officer Hoppe

made a u-turn near South Plainfield Ave. to follow the vehicle. He swerved to avoid a driver pulling out of E. Fairview Ave. and lost control of his vehicle which was heading into an oncoming driver, a resident of 2704 Park Ave. who had just pulled out of their driveway. To avoid a collision, Officer Hoppe swerved to the left crossing the lawn of 2716 Park Ave. After hitting several small trees, his vehicle overturned up against a large

evergreen tree on the lawn of 2704 Park Ave. near Avon Ave.

Officer Hoppe was extricated from the vehicle by the fire department, treated by the rescue squad and Mercy 6 and transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick. He sustained a shoulder injury and as of Tuesday was being evaluated for neck injuries.

Traffic Safety Officer Lt. Kevin Murtagh said the department’s investigation into the accident will focus on Hoppe’s operation of the police car at the time of the crash, the possible involvement of other drivers, Hoppe’s speed in the 25 MPH zone and whether he had activated the patrol car’s lights and siren. Murtagh also said that Hoppe was not considered to be in pursuit of the traffic violator he witnessed, and that police do not know what the potential traffic violation was or the violator’s identity.

Hoppe, 27, has been on the force for two years, and is the younger brother of South Plainfield Police Officer Mike Hoppe.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Lt. Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.



Rescue personnel extricate Officer Daniel Hoppe from a police car.



The Borough Council Reorganization meeting and regular meeting will be aired on Comcast Channel 74 on Mondays at 8 p.m.

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

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.
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
Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11
July and August: No scheduled meeting

environmentalcommission

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

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

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

INMYOPINION

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

Dear Editor,

On Dec. 18, our daughter's car was stolen from the South Plainfield High School parking lot while she was performing at the holiday concert. She had left her purse under her coat, on a chair in the chorus room (as did many other students). After the concert, she discovered her purse was missing, and then, to everyone's disbelief, her car was gone from the parking lot.

We have since learned that the band room door had been left propped open and the chorus room doors were unlocked as well. These doors were supposed to be locked due to previous thefts of students' personal belongings from these rooms. There was no chaperone in either room that evening, nor a police officer on duty, which may have deterred such a crime. Any individual who was near SPHS for ill purposes that evening had easy access into the high school.

We would like other parents, students and community residents to be aware that the high school is not a safe and secure place. Apparently, the police department has been urging the administration to install security cameras, or another type of security device, to better monitor individuals who enter the school. There have been previous incidents of stolen purses and cell phones, etc.; however, this is the first incident of grand theft auto. We plan to attend the next Board of Education meeting to encourage the administration to work together with the police to find a better way to secure the school.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of the students who stayed with our daughter that night and supported her through a terrible ordeal. We would also like to thank the chorus members who collected money for her; it is greatly appreciated. The stolen purse was mysteriously returned to the students house two days after the car was stolen. The only information available is that an unidentified black diesel pick-up truck was seen idling in front of the student's house the morning that it was returned. The student's license and ID were returned, however a wallet containing cash was missing.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident, please contact the police department at (908) 755-0700 or the high school at (908) 754-4620.

MR. AND MRS. FRED REICHERT

Dear Editor,

As reported in this paper, the Borough Council Democrats recently voted for a six-point property-tax increase. While the increase alone is troubling, even more troubling is how the Democrats conveniently ignored their campaign pledge of "no tax increase."

I was happy to see Republican council members Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga vote against the Democrats' tax hike. Ex-Mayor Daniel Gallagher's partisan criticism notwithstanding, Anesh and Bengivenga did the right thing in voting no. When the new increase is added to last year's tax hike, homeowners will see a whopping 16% increase over the course of two years.

It amazes me how people can run on a platform of not raising taxes and then vote to raise them a month later. It shows how the Democrats will say anything to get elected, and it also



Franklin School Boy Scout Den 9 Pack 207 pitch in to help residents.

To The Editor:

My husband and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Franklin School Boy Scout Den 9 Pack 207 for raking and bagging our leaves on Sunday, Nov. 26.

A recent, serious illness made it impossible for my husband to do the yard work this fall. Margaret and Max Waldrop and Boy Scout Leader

Tom Berry organized the early afternoon event. The boys and several dads made quick work of raking and filling about 30 bags of leaves.

How very lucky we are to live in a community where helping others is a way of life.

Thank you Den 9 Pack 207!

TOM AND LINDA PELOQUIN

shows how little regard they really have for the voters of South Plainfield. We should all remember this in November.

DAVE SESOK

To The Editor:

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan has twice, in print, urged Rutgers to fund six Olympic sports that are due to be eliminated in 2007. This was done after the Democrat-controlled legislature reduced Rutgers support by \$66 million. It seems somewhat strange that Diegnan, a Seton Hall alumnus-BA/JD, should suddenly be so pro-Rutgers. I wonder if this has anything to do with the Rutgers football team and their fabulous success this year. The success of Rutgers football has had a pro-Rutgers epiphany on another New Jersey Democrat, Senate President Dick Codey. Codey, formerly known as Mr. Seton Hall, has been all over the Rutgers map for the past four months, including the Texas Bowl victory last week. At the Texas Bowl, Codey had with him the latest Rutgers fan du-jour, Governor Jon Corzine. Corzine even invited himself

to the trophy presentation. This allowed him to be in the same picture as New Jersey's number one citizen, Greg Schiano. Diegnan, Codey and Corzine have eviscerated the Rutgers budget at the same time that they are trying to bask in the glory that is the Rutgers football program. For their cheap political theatrics, these three Democrats owe the Rutgers athletic program. What do they owe—\$400,000? This is the amount that will be needed to keep the six Olympic sports in competition. Diegnan, a lawyer, and Codey, an insurance broker, might have the \$400k, but probably don't want to spend it. Corzine has the \$400k and then some. One financial report has the Governor earning \$24 million per year through investment income. Corzine could simply take 33% of this year's income (\$8 million) and establish an endowment for the Rutgers Athletic program. Eight million dollars at seven percent will provide the athletic department with an annual income of \$560k.

More than enough!
HAROLD V. KANE

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

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HELP!!!!

How to make your Kids mind without losing yours!

Where? Pilgrim Covenant Church 3121 Park Ave. South Plainfield
What? 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

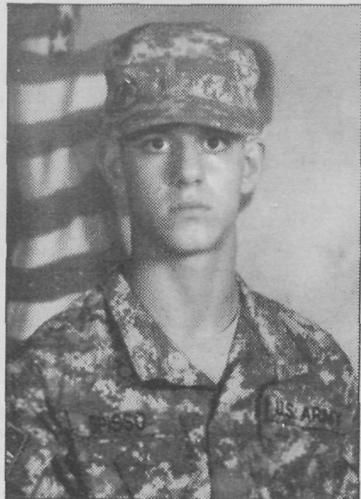
(There will be a \$10 fee for the cost of the workbook.)

When? Starting Jan. 14th.
Time? Sundays 9:30 am.
Please join us for Worship afterwards at 11am.
For more information call 908.756.2474

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Spisso Graduates from Basic Training



Brian Spisso Jr.

Army Private 2nd Class Brian Spisso, Jr. has graduated from basic military training at Fort Knox, Ky.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, and physical fitness. He also received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises. He completed the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Sill, Okla.

He is an active duty member of the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Brian is a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School. He is the son of Brian and Vicki Spisso of South Plainfield.

Petriello Inducted into Upsilon Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Rosemary M. Petriello was inducted into the Upsilon Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Middlesex County College on Nov. 15. Petriello, from South Plainfield, is majoring in Journalism/Broadcasting, and is the daughter of Rocco and Rose DeCovolo of Ventura, Calif.

Established in 1918 by two-year college presidents, Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious honor society serving two-year colleges around the world. The society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming. Students

must rank in the top 20% of the class to be invited to membership in Phi Theta Kappa and must maintain high academic standing during their enrollment in the two-year college.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.7 million members and 1,100 chapters located in the United States, United States territories, Canada and Germany. In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges. The society holds membership in the prestigious Association of College Honor Societies as the general scholarship honor society representing two-year colleges.

RECYCLING CENTER/YARD WASTE

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 16, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday weekend. Recycling will be open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17. Both the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 13.

Regular Recycling Drop-off Center hours are 12 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.

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(L to R) Jim Flannery, Ralph Fech, Kevin Dunbar, former South Plainfield recreation director, and Joe Kravetsky, enjoy the opening spring training game between the Philadelphia Phillies and the New York Yankees.

Former Recreation Director Enjoys Success in Florida

Kevin Dunbar, a former director of recreation in South Plainfield, moved to the city of Temple Terrace, Fla. in 1993.

From 1993 until 1999 he was the director of parks and recreation, overseeing the renovation and construction of a 55,000 sq. ft. facility that included a new aquatic area and tennis complex in Temple Terrace.

Kevin was hired by the City of Clearwater in July of 1999, as director of parks and recreation, providing community leisure services and community involvement for the 110,000 citizens. With an annual budget of \$30 million, he secured over \$50 million in grant funding for the department. The parks and recreation department employs 221

permanent employees.

In 2003, the department acquired the Long Center facility, a 150,000 sq. ft. community complex (renovated in 2006) and N. Greenwood Recreation and Aquatic complex, a 28,000 sq. ft. facility that consists of two full size indoor basketball courts, teen center, fitness center, meeting rooms and aquatic center.

In 2005, Kevin was the lead person in the dynamic, \$34 million Brighthouse Networks Field, home to the Philadelphia Phillies spring training and Clearwater Threshers.

Kevin and his wife, Cathy, have three wonderful children, Travis, Kit and Alex.

Friends of the Woods Announces Winter Exhibits

The Nature Center at Highland Woods Reserve has several exhibits on display from January to April.

An exhibit of photographs by C. Andrew Beagle capture the seasonal changes and beauty of the 36-acre nature reserve in. His color close-ups of flowers and mushrooms reveal tiny details that many eyes cannot see.

Tiny details are also brought out in the exquisite Leaf Rubbing Collection executed in the 1930s by Jay Scovronek of South Plainfield. Jay, a self-taught naturalist, also donated a collection of rocks from around the world. These rocks are in addition to a sampling of "Rocks of New Jersey," 16 fully-described specimens from across the state. A video tape of how rocks and minerals are formed is integrated into the exhibit.

Winter Woods: what to look for on your next woods walk gives walkers an idea (and a checklist) of what to observe in the winter landscape. "The Animals of Highland Woods" is a visual display of the critters that live in the nature reserve and the tracks they make in the winter snows.

Test your knowledge with the "What am I?" Mystery Skulls and Bones exhibit. A dozen specimens of skulls, bones, teeth, skin and scales of animals mostly found in Highland Woods are on display in the Activity Room. The twist? The visitor must figure out what species they belong to by using helpful clues.

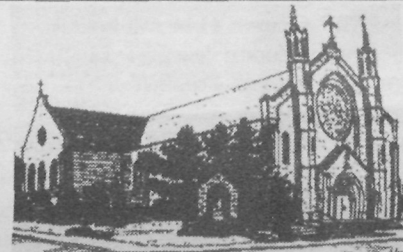
The Nature Center is located at 115 Sylvania Pl. (off South Clinton Ave.). Hours of operation are Saturdays from 1-3:30 p.m. The trails at Highland Woods Reserve are open seven days a week from sunup to sundown.

For more information, visit geocities.com/friendsofhighlandwoods or e-mail SPNatureTrails@cs.com.

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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Around Town

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-Spaulling.

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.

SP GOP Meeting January 18

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Restaurant. All residents are invited to attend and bring their concerns and comments for a discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

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.

Ponytail Parent Meeting January 23

We hope to see some new faces this year. You can make a difference, you just need to show up. The next Parents' Ponytail Association Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the PAL building located on Maple Ave. Reminder: all meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Visit our website at <http://www.spponytail.com>.

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 <i>Trip to Claridge, Atlantic City - January 18</i> <i>Bus leaves the center at 9 a.m.</i> <i>"I Do. I Do." at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse</i> <i>January 25</i>				
15 CENTER CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	17 Exercise Class 8:45am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am 11:30am & 1 pm Tai Chi Class 2pm	18 Pathmark Shopping 9 am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Claridge Trip 9am	19 Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

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.

Little Treasures Plans Open House March 10 and 11

Little Treasures Learning Center, 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Those interested are also invited to meet the staff and visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For directions and additional information, please call (908) 769-3224.

Senior Center Trip March 12

The South Plainfield Senior Citizen Center is planning a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Monday, March 12, to see "Catch Me If You Can." Tickets are \$58 per person, including transportation and dinner. Menu includes fried shrimp and scallops, roast loin of pork, yankee pot roast, lemon pepper cod or lemon chicken with mushroom.

Stop in the senior center to reserve your tickets.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex WOWs January 12

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold an open dance on Friday, Jan. 12, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Live music and refreshments. All are welcome. Admission is \$8 members, \$10 guests. For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

EVP Laugh It Up January 12 & 13

Laugh It Up with two nights of improv on Friday, Jan. 12, and Saturday, Jan. 13, at Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. Showtime both nights is 10 p.m. and admission is \$5.

For more information go to www.evplayhouse.com or call us at (908) 755-4654.

Diocese Of Metuchen Mass January 14

The Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate a Mass for Racial Harmony on Sunday, Jan. 14, at noon in Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. The Racial Harmony Mass is being sponsored by the Diocese's Commission for Black Catholic Ministry. A reception will follow the mass.

For information, call (732) 562-1990, ext. 1630.

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: Quilts 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 visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

MCRCC Breakfast January 16

Monthly opportunity for business leaders to meet with legislators. Featured speaker, Middlesex County Freeholder Director David B. Crabel on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 8 a.m. at Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center, 125 Raritan Center Pkwy. in Edison. Cost is \$20 (breakfast included).

Contact Debbie, (732) 821-1700, ext. 202, or email Debbie@mcrcc.org.

Ostomy Association Meeting January 16

The Ostomy Association of Somerset County will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Conference Rooms C & D at Somerset Medical Center on Rehill Ave. in Somerville.

All are welcome to attend the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

For further information, please contact Ed Wheeler at (908) 534-7897.

Girl Scouts Camp Hoover Open House January 17

Be sure to attend an open house for Camp Lou Henry Hoover, the resident camp of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the GSWRC Service Center, 201 Grove St. East in Westfield.

Camp is open to girls entering grades 1-12, in the fall of 2007, and runs from July 8-August 18 mostly in one-week sessions.

For additional information on Camp Hoover, call (908) 232-3236, ext. 1213 or email Coleen Hay at chay@gs wr c.com.

CPR Courses January 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. 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.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting January 22

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will hold a meeting on Monday, Jan. 22, from 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments will follow.

For more information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or visit the website at www.chatsnj.com.

Paper Mill "Summer and Smoke" Through 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. through Feb. 11. 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, at the box office in Millburn or online at www.papermill.org. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express accepted.

Woodbridge WOWs January 21

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., in Woodbridge. Refreshments. All are welcome. Admission: \$8 members, \$10 guests.

For more information, contact Ron at (732) 819-9334 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

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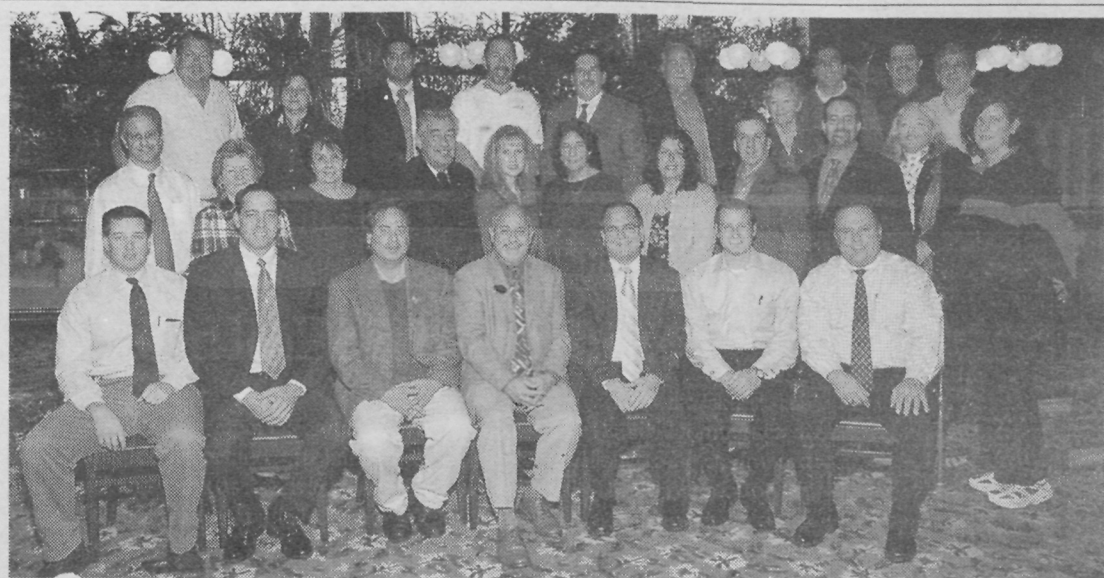
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The South Plainfield Business Association recently held its holiday luncheon at Sherban's Diner. The annual event was sponsored by Sherban's owners, John Stellakis and Peter Ganiaris. Borough representatives joined association members to hear details of a plan to merge the borough's business directory (www.southplainfield.com), with the SPBA online member directory (www.spba.biz) and the hard copy of the business directory that is mailed annually. The SPBA can be contacted at (908) 757-8811 or at spba@comcast.net.

Grant Gets State-of-the-Art Music Lab



Music teacher Tobie Baldwin, with students Alex Dornick and Tommy Olah, shows off the new computers and synthesizers in the music room.

By Jane Dornick

Grant Elementary School was the recipient of a generous donation of computers to complete an MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) lab in the music room.

According to music teacher and orchestra director Tobie Baldwin, "It has been a goal of the music department to set up an MIDI lab since 2003. We were able to order synthesizers and

software through the school, but we just didn't have enough computers in the class to make it work. With the budget so tight, we decided to see if any members of the community would be willing to donate computers." Resident Mark Stasio was able to donate five older computers last year on behalf of his employer, Nomura Securities, but they still needed more for an entire class.

At Back to School nights, Baldwin solicited parents for old computers that weren't being used, and this year he hit the jackpot. Jerry Harris, who had two children in Baldwin's music class, and his partner, David Spatz of Jer-Tex Computer Solutions on Park Avenue, said that they had 10 computers available and could they be used. "When he delivered the computers, it turned out to be 18 complete computers, each with a keyboard, mouse and speakers," exclaimed Baldwin. Jer-Tex specializes in setting up and maintaining computer

networks and the donation was made on behalf of their client, Ruprecht, Hart & Weeks, LLP of Metuchen.

"Fellow music teachers Joan Stasio, Mark Tweed and I are really excited about having these computers available for our students," said Baldwin. "We are really appreciative of the donation. There is a wealth of music software available that allows students to compose, arrange and record music, as well as helps students learn about music theory and history. It's really going to enhance the music experience at Grant School. Students are already using technology in all other aspects of their lives. We are trying to tap into that and allow them to explore and create music in a more self-directed and creative way. Integrating this technology into the current curriculum allows us to do both."

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

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My Gift to The World

by Paras Gheewala

I will give the world vanilla ice cream and all my toys.

Then I will give blue ribbons to all my friends.

I want the world to have a party and then go to see a movie, maybe it can be Scooby Doo 2.

I want the world to have a balloon.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Thank you to all the library patrons who brought cookies, cakes and candy for the library staff over the holidays. We appreciate the thoughtfulness.

The library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15, in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The library will be open on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who borrowed library materials from the library in 2006. The library's circulation increased approximately 5% over 2005. The circulation of library materials was almost equal between the adult and children's materials. Sixty-two percent of the circulation was books, 36% was audiovisual materials—DVDs, CDs, books on tape and books on CD. Magazines accounted for 2% of the overall circulation. Attendance at library programs has also continued to increase. Over 8,000 people attended programs at the library in 2006. The request for inter-library loans by library patrons has also increased. There were over 2,000 requests by patrons to borrow items from another library. The library loaned over 1,200 items to other libraries.

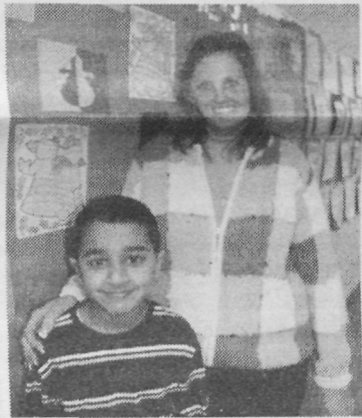
Children's programs for the week of Jan. 15: Storytime and craft for ages three and over is held on Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m. and Thursday 1:15 p.m.; Time for 2's and 3's is held Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. and Thursday

at 6:30 p.m.; Books 'N Babies, for children up to three years old, is held on Friday, 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please call the library and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

It is winter even though it hasn't felt like it some days. We usually advertise the use of the library's Homebound Program when the weather is either too hot or too cold. Sometimes it is difficult for people to get to the library, but did you know that the library can come to you? We deliver books and other library materials to individuals as well as assisted living facilities in South Plainfield. Any resident who is temporarily or permanently homebound can receive deliveries of books, books on tape/CD, music CDs or DVD/videos from the library. There is no charge for this service. The library staff can arrange for deliveries direct to you! Call (908) 754-7885 and ask for the library director.

Make a New Year's resolution in 2007 to look at and use the library's website (www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). New additions to the website are the genealogy databases Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. Also check out DearReader.com for new books and their online book club. NextReads provides information on new and older books. Listen to books on tape/CD by downloading unabridged books from the audio books link on the library's web page. Try the website and give us your feedback.

Gheewala Named Junior Journalist



Third grader Paras Gheewala with teacher, Margaret Celentano.

Paras Gheewala, third grader at Roosevelt School, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist contest. His efforts have earned him dinner, 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.

SPHS Orientation For Parents of Eighth Grader

The High School has scheduled an Orientation Program for the parents of the Class of 2011 (currently in eighth grade).

The orientation is geared to parents and will take place on Jan. 17 at 6:45 p.m. in Cafeteria A/B.

If there is inclement weather on the that date, the orientation will be rescheduled for Jan. 31.

The high school administration looks forward to seeing you there!

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Standing left to right behind Mayor Charles Butrico are councilmembers Ray Petronko, Joe Scrudato, Matt Anesh, Kathy Thomas, Dennis Cerami and Rob Bengivenga.



Council President Dennis Cerami swears in Charlie Butrico as South Plainfield Mayor as family members look on..

Butrico Takes Top Spot, Thomas Fills Vacated Seat

Charles E. Butrico was sworn in as the eighteenth Mayor of the Borough of South Plainfield at Sunday's annual Reorganization Meeting at Borough Hall. Butrico is taking over the office that was held by Dan Gallagher, who served an unprecedented four consecutive terms since the borough's incorporation in 1926.

Dignitaries attending the ceremony included Edison Mayor Jun Choi, former South Plainfield Mayor Jim Eckert; former councilmen, Owen Kelly and Ed Kubala, Senator Bob Smith and Middlesex County Surrogate Kevin Hoagland, as well as many borough employees.

After an invocation by Reverend

Charles Mingle, Butrico was sworn in, along with Councilman Ray Petronko for a third three-year term, and newcomer Joe Scrudato, who said enthusiastically, "I can't wait to get to work."

Former Councilwoman Kathy Thomas was appointed to fill Butrico's unexpired council term of one year. Thomas was also appointed to the council in January of 2004 to fill the unexpired term of former Councilman Jim Vokral, who resigned mid-term. She also ran unsuccessfully in 2005. Gallagher addressed the crowded courtroom and expressed his thanks to everyone he had worked with over the years. He

expressed his intention to spend more time with his family.

After adjourning the 2006 council, the first order of business for Mayor Butrico and the council was to present plaques and certificates honoring outgoing Councilman Bob Cusick, who served two terms, and Dan Gallagher, who served as a councilman for seven years before being elected mayor in 1990. Pat Diegman was appointed as the borough attorney and Councilman Dennis Cerami

was nominated, and again appointed, as council president. Mayor Butrico addressed the council and audience, and the appointment of members to the various town boards and committees were announced and sworn in for the year 2007.

In closing, Councilman Matt Anesh spoke on behalf of the Republican Party saying, "For myself and Councilman Bengivenga, we are both optimistic about working with Mayor Butrico, someone who we

believe will see the benefits that bipartisanship and teamwork can bring to the council. Charlie, I hope you will see Rob and me as teammates who look forward to working with you. There will be times when we disagree, but as elected officials we should never shy away from sincere disagreement. It is open discussions and honest differences that make our governing body stronger. We are optimistic about what can be accomplished by new leadership."

Gallagher Bids Farewell

January 1983, 24 years ago, I took the oath of office as a member of the borough council. I renewed that oath twice more as a council member and four times as your mayor. It has been an exciting, enjoyable and rewarding experience for me and I thank the residents of South Plainfield for the trust they placed in me.

Realizing the extent of the time required; time away from home and family, I immediately became aware of how fortunate and blessed I was. My son, Dan, served as a member of the Board of Adjustment; my son, Michael, as a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, currently holding the rank of lieutenant and my wife, Marion, a member of the ladies auxiliary of the rescue squad, and a position she holds today as a member of the Public Celebrations Committee. I thank you all for your love, your support and understanding.

To the mayors I have served with, Mike English and Mike Woskey; the clerks, Bill DeSabato, Jim Eckert and Vin Buttiglieri; the chiefs of police, Fred Boosman, Tom Boyle, John Muller, Steven Merkler, Bob Merkler and John Ferraro; chiefs of the fire

department, John Cotone, John Mocharski, Joe Abbruzzese and Larry DeNegro; past presidents of the squad, the borough employees and department heads and most importantly, our volunteers, I thank you for your service to our borough.

Working together we have accomplished great things. The many road projects, upgrading and expanding our parks, Spring Lake Park, open space preservation, Highland Woods, senior housing, senior recreation center, PAL expansion, Veterans Park, Monument Park, Firefighter Memorial Park, Bureau of Fire Prevention, Office of Emergency Management with our emergency operations center, director of our senior center, recycling and environmental coordinator.

So many people-oriented programs and activities successfully implemented to enhance the quality of life for our residents and I assure you there is much more to come. I mention these accomplishments not in any way to claim credit, but to thank you for allowing me to be a part of it all.

My decision not to seek re-election was not an easy one, for I will miss you. I will miss what most refer to as a problem where I saw challenges and



DANIEL J. GALLAGHER

opportunities to bring about change. I will miss meeting with residents, listening to their concerns and asking for their opinions. I will miss responding to alarms to observe, to learn, to help emergency management, the fire department, police department and the rescue squad, to each of you, you will always be in my thoughts, my heart and my prayers. I wish you continued success and safe return after each call. But there are reasons which immediately told me that I needed more time. Reasons I could not debate or reconsider and I tried: my grandsons Daniel, Brian, Jake, Brad; my daughter-in-law, Linda, my son Dan, daughter-in-law Kim and my son, Michael, I thank you for all the help you have given throughout the years.

To Pat and Anita Diegman: words cannot express my feelings of gratitude to you both as mentors, friends and extended family. I sincerely appreciate all you have done.

Mike and Linda Zushma: I thank you for all your services to the borough.

I leave you now and become one of the most cherished, desired and respected individuals known as an American private citizen. I hope and trust that history will be kind in assessing my work. I promise you that at all times I did what I believed to be best for the borough and people of South Plainfield.

I ask that almighty God bless you as he has blessed me, Marion and our family. With a sincere and deep feeling of gratitude, I thank you.

Daniel J. Gallagher

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Install a programmable thermostat to regulate the temperature while you're sleeping or away. Use space heaters in the most-used rooms instead of paying more to heat the entire house. Call me today and let me go to work for you.



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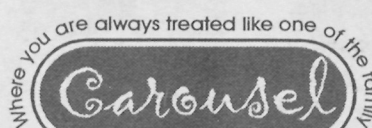
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Thank you for joining us today in this celebration of our American freedoms. Words cannot capture the emotions that I feel upon taking the oath for mayor of the town I was born and raised in. Only in America can a young boy or girl tell his or her playmates, I am going to grow up to be mayor and actually have that dream come true. In South Plainfield when you say "Mayor" you think Dan Gallagher. For sixteen years, the longest tenure of anyone in the history of the borough, Mayor Gallagher made us proud. He never saw a problem that couldn't be solved and the proof of his vision and ability is all around us. Hadley Rd. looked like a moon crater, Dan Gallagher said let's fix it. South Plainfield needed senior housing and a senior center, Mayor Gallagher said let's build them. Our parks and playgrounds were neglected, there was no open space program, debt was accumulating at an alarming rate and tax increases were an annual event with nothing to show for them, Mayor Gallagher didn't throw up his arms in despair, he said let's get to work. Because of Dan Gallagher, South Plainfield is the model of fiscal responsibility with the lowest annual municipal tax increase of any town in Middlesex County for the last decade and our debt has been cut in half. However the thing that has always been closest to Danny's heart has been public safety. Because of the mayor's leadership South Plainfield has the finest and best equipped fire department, police department, rescue squad and emergency management department in the State of New Jersey. Simply stated, every aspect of life in this great borough has been enhanced because we were blessed to have Dan Gallagher at the helm of our borough for 16 years. Mr. Mayor, on behalf of every resident of South Plainfield, I thank you for your leadership. We will be forever grateful.

I also want to thank Councilman Bob Cusick for his six years of service on the Borough Council. Bob embodies the best of a public servant. He has never sought publicity or recognition.

From his first day on the council he always simply said "Just tell me what needs to be done and let's do it." As Chair of Public Works for five years and Administration and Finance last year, Bob is respected by every employee of this borough as a straight talker who only wants to do the right thing for our taxpayers. Bob, thank you for your honesty and hard work. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

Welcome to Councilmember Joe Scrudato and welcome back to Councilmembers Ray Petronko and Kathy Thomas. Today you have achieved the highest title that anyone can obtain in a democracy, that of "public servant." I know that you will always remember that you are a representative of the people and your goal must be to do your best and to never abuse that trust.

Two thousand and six was a year of unparalleled achievement for South Plainfield. Improvements were made in more areas than at any time in our history. Above all the highlights of 2006 was the completion of Phase I of the Hamilton Blvd. project. After years of discussion we have begun to address the daunting problem of traffic in our borough. You can already see the results. With the additional turning lanes and traffic signals at Ryan St. and St. Nicholas Ave. traffic is moving much more efficiently. Equally as important is the positive impact of the beautiful decorative lighting and paving. What a difference coming onto Hamilton Blvd. from the mess it was just over a year ago. The widening of Durham Ave. to four lanes is complete and the additional turning lane on the exit ramp off Route 287 is almost done. When all of these are completed traffic can move smoothly all the way from the 287 ramp up to St. Nicholas Ave. where trucks are required to exit. And speaking

of truck traffic, in November, the New Jersey Department of Transportation approved the truck ban on Hamilton Blvd. and Belmont Ave. and what a difference it has made to those of us who live off the boulevard. Thank you to our hometown Freeholder John Pulomena and our hometown Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan for obtaining county and state funds for these projects which, when finished, will total over 12 million dollars.

As we enter 2007, I can honestly say the best is yet to come in South Plainfield.

First let's talk about traffic: Hamilton Blvd. Phase I is complete and Phase II is now underway. Of course as with any road project, the prefatory work takes the most time. New storm sewers and relocation of utilities will take several months and the actual road widening and construction will begin in the late spring. When completed Hamilton Blvd. will be four lanes from the intersection with Durham Ave. all the way to Stelton Rd. In addition a traffic light will be installed at the intersection of South Clinton Ave. along with turning lanes. This improvement will greatly enhance traffic flow and encourage trucks to use South Clinton Ave. I also propose that we install a traffic light at the intersection of South Clinton Ave. and St. Nicholas Ave. Now that trucks are required to use St. Nicholas there is a backup at South Clinton. Installing a traffic signal will eliminate this problem. In addition we will be widening the intersection of South Clinton Ave. and New Market Ave. as well as Metuchen Rd. and Belmont Ave. in the spring so that trucks can better navigate these turns. Most importantly we have acquired the three buildings next to the Hamilton Blvd. Industrial Complex which will be demolished in the next couple

of months. We are negotiating with the owner of the Industrial Complex to obtain the property to extend New Market Ave. straight across Hamilton Blvd. By this time next year that project will be completed. I couldn't be prouder of being able to accomplish every part of this detailed traffic plan which was unveiled last year. It has come to be known as "Charlie Butrico's Traffic Plan" but in all honesty it took years to develop and Council members Cerami, Thomas, Cusick and, of course, Mayor Gallagher deserve to share in the credit.

Let's talk about the Helen St. extension. With all humility, no one has worked harder to see this project completed than me. I estimate that I have spent over 1,000 hours working with the experts and the state and Federal agencies to move the project along. It's difficult because of the pristine wetlands that are affected. It's not that the N.J. DEP and DOT don't want to work with us, just the opposite is true. Assembly Diegnan has arranged numerous meetings with the commissioners of both departments. This is a Federally funded project, which requires that every environmental issue be addressed as we proceed. Of course it's frustrating and I know it will come up in every election campaign by those who choose to mistake the facts for political gain. I have never denied that it will take time. It won't be done this year and it may not be completed for another decade but as long as I am your mayor we will not give up on Helen St. I particularly want to thank Debbie Boyle and Jane Dornick for their efforts in garnering citizen support for the project.

Next let's talk about open space. Over the last decade we have permanently preserved over 100 acres from development. We have just acquired the old bus lot on New Market Ave. and will be demolishing the buildings in the spring. I direct Council member Petronko and the Recreation Commission to evaluate adding that parcel to the recreation complex on Pitt St. We will be preserving six acres across from the Elks Lodge on New Market Ave. which will be annexed to the Highland Woods Environmental Preserve. I ask Dr. Temple, our environmental officer, to examine the feasibility of making another entrance to the preserve at that location. I believe it would enhance the facility. Middlesex County is also negotiating with the owners of Halls Trucking to obtain the property they own on Oak Tree Ave. which was formerly the WERA facility. I encourage Halls to work with them to make this open space. We will also be preserving approximately 20 acres on Metuchen Rd. near the Edison border. All of these open space acquisitions were financed through the Middlesex County Open Space Fund with the invaluable assistance of our hometown freeholder, John Pulomena.

Next I want to address infrastructure improvements. Council member Thomas and the library board have done an outstanding job working with the architect to design a state of the art library which will be aesthetically pleasing, functional and within budget. We will be putting the financing in place within the next few months and then going out to bid. Construction will be underway by late summer. We are also working closely with the USEPA to begin the demolition of the buildings at the old Cornell Dubilier site. That project will begin



Mayor Charles Butrico

soon and will dramatically improve the appearance of that area of town. Of course, we will continue to upgrade our parks, recreational facilities and senior services this year and we will again join with the county to mill and top six additional roads on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Now let's talk taxes. Through hard work this governing body has the best record in Middlesex County for keeping the municipal portion of property taxes under control. We just adopted a budget that included a three percent increase in expenses as a result of increased health care costs and pension costs. Just as it's difficult to keep your household expenses flat, it is equally difficult for the borough. But none of us are satisfied. As you may know, we made a campaign promise that there would not be a municipal tax increase this year. I expect to keep that promise. Councilmember Thomas and members of the Administration and Finance Committee get to work. It won't be easy but if we work together we can accomplish this goal.

Finally let's talk ethics. I am proud that we passed the toughest pay-to-play ordinance in the state last year. To expand on that I would like to make it a requirement for every person running for public office to be required to fill out a campaign disclosure form. By state law every elected or appointed official is required to complete a financial disclosure statement each year. This is a very simple one page document that lists the source of income of the individual and spouse, and their financial holdings including real estate. I think the residents of this town have the right to know about potential conflicts before they vote for a candidate for public office. I am directing the borough attorney to draft an ordinance requiring that any candidate for mayor or council must complete the identical disclosure statement that they are required to fill out after election. It will then be posted on the official borough website. This simple step will disclose any potential conflicts of interest. Let's once again have South Plainfield lead the way on setting the standard for ethics in government.

As you can see, 2007 promises to be a challenging, exciting and fulfilling year. Now it's time to get to work.

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife Sherry and my daughters Dana, Kristie and Michelle, my mom and my brothers, my in-laws, nephews and nieces and the rest of my extended family for joining me today. Nothing is more important to me than my family. There is one person who is not here in body but is definitely here in spirit. I know he is looking down on us and beaming with joy. Thanks Dad for making me the man that I am. I promise I will do my best to make you proud.

Thank you all for coming and may God bless you and your families in the new year.

Republican Response to Mayor's Address

by Councilman Matthew Anesh

The beginning of a new year is a time for optimism. It's a time to reflect on the gains of the past and a time to envision what we can strive for in the days to come. It's a time to celebrate victories, learn from defeats, and move forward together.

It's fitting that we swear in a new mayor in the beginning of a new year, a time when people typically look forward. I know for myself and for Councilman Bengivenga, we are both optimistic about working with Mayor Butrico, someone we hope will see the benefits that bipartisan teamwork can bring the council.

In working with the new mayor and the council majority, there will be times when we disagree, but as elected officials we should never shy away from sincere disagreement. It is open discussion and honest differences that make our governing body stronger, not weaker. It's when we sacrifice our opinions and beliefs that we do a disservice to those who elected us.

In looking forward, Councilman Bengivenga and I are optimistic about what can be accomplished. Yet reality must temper that optimism. There's much that needs mending due to years of neglect. The Republican members of the council join our counterparts in celebrating all that makes South Plainfield a special place: its sense of community, its fine schools, and its abundant tireless volunteers. South Plainfield has much to be proud of.

But at the same time, we should not overlook our challenges. Our town still faces increasingly difficult issues, issues like overdevelopment, the need for ethics reform, increased spending, and most importantly, ever-climbing taxes.

Overdevelopment is the single-biggest problem we face. South Plainfield needs a plan to tackle overdevelopment, something other towns have already started doing. For instance, an article in last week's *Courier News* explained how some towns are using lot width as a means of controlling overbuilding. Still others are using floor area ratio to achieve the same end. Let's make this the year that South Plainfield finally faces overdevelopment head on.

In the same vein, we need to ensure confidence in municipal government by reforming ethical standards and eliminating conflicts of interest. These include things like enacting a developer disclosure ordinance and by enacting real pay-to-play reform. Experience has shown that the measure enacted by the Democrats last year is woefully inadequate. The same contractors who donate to the Democratic Party are receiving the same contracts in return.



Rob Bengivenga & Matthew Anesh

Finally, we need to be sure we are on solid fiscal footing. Over the past two years taxes, spending, and borrowing all have risen. In fact, in just two years, the municipal part of the tax bill has climbed 16%, which is more than three times the rate of inflation. While bringing back fiscal integrity is our most daunting challenge, it's one we must address. Controlling costs through increased competition for contracts is one method for dealing with escalating costs for professional services. Controlling administrative costs by eliminating patronage jobs is another.

Republicans, just like Democrats, don't have all the answers. But we hope the mayor and the entire council can find a way to work together to ensure all ideas, critiques, and suggestions can be examined so that both parties, together, can seek to build a better South Plainfield.

In closing, I want to wish our new mayor and the two new members of the council well. Both Rob and I look forward to working with the entire council in 2007. As members of the minority party, we hope we can challenge this body to better serve us all.

Here's to 2007 being a year of health, happiness and progress for the people of South Plainfield.

**For Profiles of Borough Council members
and appointments, see the January 19 issue.**

Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

SPHS Tigers Handle Perth Amboy

After the trip to the Clash, the Tigers did not have much time to mend their wounds with the start of the GMC Red Division schedule.

Upon arriving to a packed Perth Amboy gym, the Tigers did not seem phased by the loud and vocal crowd. With the match starting at heavyweight with Rocco Petriello, who was hanging tough before getting caught and pinned as the home crowd went wild. But that was short lived after Nick Heilmann 103 pinned Herberto Quintana at 3:33.

Patrick Hunter 112 wasted little time putting Westly Mullins-Fredrick to his back and in the course of the move he was injured and could not

continue.

After giving up a fall at 119, Nick Pauls 125 fell behind early but battled back and with 10 seconds left he scored a takedown and pulled out an 8-7 decision.

The Tigers then reeled off four straight wins. Bryan Hunt 130 pinned Edwin Arocho at 1:57, and Billy Ashnault 135 scored a technical fall over Josey Morales 17-0. Nick Dorey 140 followed suit with a tech fall 6-1

over Jonathan Soto. Mike Jakubik 145 then pinned Danny Dominguez at 0:42. Nick Vallone 152 then dropped a decision 10-5. Mark Wagner 160 got the Tigers going again with a tech fall 22-6 over Tom Skibo. Danny Pomplilio 171 won by decision 3-1 over Shaun Lockwood. Jonathan Conroy 189 ended the Tiger scoring with a fall at 3:23 over Billy Rodriguez. Final score: South Plainfield 51, Perth Amboy 19.

Rec Wrestlers Young, But Tough

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team has a blend of experience and inexperience this year, which should provide fans with some very

exciting matches.

In the opening match of the year, the Junior Tigers squared off against league rival, Bridgewater. After losing the first six bouts of the match, it did not look good for the young Tigers until Joe Jakubik 70 got things going when he scored a major decision over Bryan Mutie 8-0. Anthony Ashnault 73 kept things going with a fall at 1:14 over Billy Murphy. Joe Pellegrino 77 took early control and cruised to a 10-0 major decision over Brad Meyers. Dylan Painton 80 then won by decision over Ed Diaz 7-0.

With the score 22-17 the Tigers continued the comeback when Troy Heilmann 85 pinned Jon Eobich in 0:17 to give the Tigers the first lead of the match 23-22. Ray Jazikoff 90 then won by forfeit. Corey Strassenko 102 scored the last team points of the evening when he scored a major decision 13-0.

Also wrestling were Jacob Painton 50, Mike Marrero 53, Troy Davisson 57, Joe Penyak 60, Ryan Walsh 63, Dan Hedden 67, Nick Graves 95 and Steven Vincent 110. The final score was Bridgewater 34, Tigers 33.

Next up for the Tigers was the Flemington Elks. The Tigers got on the board early when Jake Hoffman 53 pinned Ryan Cathcent at 0:41. Troy Davisson 57 followed with another fall at 0:48 over Kevin Cook. Ryan Walsh 63 won by forfeit.

The Tigers dropped the next two bouts and trailed 19-18 until Anthony Ashnault 73 pinned Brian Cook at 0:21 to regain the lead.

The Tigers then turned it on with Joe Pellegrino 77 and Dylan Painton 80 each scoring falls. Troy Heilmann 85 then won by major decision 10-1, but that was the bout the Tigers would win.

Also wrestling tough were Jacob Painton 50, Joe Penyak 60, Dan Hedden 67, Joe Jakubik 70, Ray Jazikoff 90, Nick Graves 95, Steven Vincent 102 and Dan Grover 110. Final score: Flemington 42, Tigers 40.



(Bottom left to right) John Sottiriou, Phil Longo, Nicole Sottiriou, Danielle DeVizio, Gianna Marcovecchio, Gina Longo and Alexis Alba.

Local Gymnasts "Impress" Judges in Virginia!

The girls and boys competitive teams from Henderson's Gymnastics Academy in Edison attended the third annual gymnastics meet held at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. This event hosts 350 girls and boys competing and approximately 600-800 spectators.

The meet is held in honor of Astronaut Dave Brown who was a gymnast at the college, but was among one of the heroes who tragically perished in the Columbia Shuttle disaster.

This all day multi-level event was held the weekend of Dec. 15 at the Campus Hall in Williamsburg, Va.

Seven of the competitors were from South Plainfield. The boys' team (Henderson's Eagles) and the girls' team (La Gymnastique) were able to watch each other as it is one of the few meets that combine girls and boys. It was a nice change for the teams. The support they gave to one another from as early as 8 a.m. up until the last competition at 9 p.m. led to a great accomplishment.

Competing for the Henderson Eagles boys' team from South Plainfield were John Sottiriou, a level 6 gymnast, and Phil Longo, a level 8 gymnast. John Sottiriou finished fifth place in the all-around competition for level 6 in his age group, and Philip Longo finished fourth place in the all-around competition for the level 8 team in his age group.

Competing for the girls from South Plainfield were Danielle DeVizio, Gianna Marcovecchio and Nicole Sottiriou. Level 5 gymnast Danielle DeVizio received first place in the all-around competition, followed by friend and teammate Gianna Marcovecchio, who received second place in the all-around for her age group. Nicole Sottiriou, a level 6 gymnast, also received first place in the all-around competition for her age group. Each of the level 5 and 6 teams total scores won them both second place team trophies!

Last to compete that night from South Plainfield were the level 8 gymnasts.

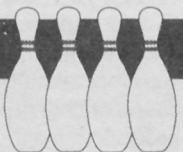
Alexis Alba and Gina Longo were able to keep the winning streak going. Alexis Alba received first place in the all-around competition followed by friend and teammate Gina Longo, who took second place in the all-around, respectively for their age groups. The night ended with another second place team trophy for the level 8 team!

All trophies are proudly displayed at their gym. The girls and boys had nearly flawless routines on every event. The Henderson's group left such a great impression on the judges that they expressed it to their coaches, congratulating them for outstanding performances—not only well done—but well deserving of their titles! Congratulations to all gymnasts!

—Submitted by Bettina DeVizio

SPHS BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Lady Tigers Trounce Sayreville and Sweep New Brunswick, Kukuch (214)

SPHS	672	794	791-2,257
Sayreville	712	619	672-2,003

A solid team effort enabled the girls bowling team to trounce Sayreville and boots its record to 5 wins against 3 losses. The Tigers were led by Jackie Kukuch's 214 high game and 526 set. Also scoring well for the green and white with solid sets were Katie Yon 481 and Gina Curcio 478. Lyndsey Murtagh added a 164 game and 442 set.

SPHS	643	644	809-2,076
New Brunswick	538	635	597-1,776

After a slow start the girls bowling team racked up a shutout victory over New Brunswick. The Lady Tigers were led by Jackie Kukuch's solid 165-152-169 games for a 486 set and Katie Yon's high 210 game and 480 set. Gina Curcio chipped in with a 167 game. The record now stands at 6 and 3.

Tigers Pummel New Brunswick But Edged By Unbeaten Sayreville

SPHS	886	973	1,047-2,906
Sayreville	1,058	1,070	872-3,000

Unbeaten Sayreville held on as they defeated the boys bowling team withstanding a fierce rally the Tigers. Mike Dandola's 230 game and 610 set paced the spirited Tigers. Ryan Pauls added 229-601. Also scoring well were Chris Esposito 203-220, Robert Parillo 205-202 and Tim Moskal 209.

SPHS	917	856	844-2,617
New Brunswick	731	695	752-2,178

The Tigers never looked back as Mike Dandola powered the boys bowling team to a three-game sweep over New Brunswick as he fired games of 222-235-203 for a high 649 set. The Tigers evened their record at 4 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties.

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Congratulations!



Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Pablo Gonzalez, pictured here with brothers Jesus and Milton Jr., and his mom, Georginna, and father, Milton.

WRESTLING SCHEDULE

See next week's issue for SPHS, Middle School and Rec Wrestling.

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Our Lady Of Czestochowa
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Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass
Weekend Schedule: Saturday evenings 4:30pm
Sunday mornings 8am and 11am

THE END OF AN ERA

(Continued from page 1)

will miss such as daily contact with residents, hearing their concerns and opinions, input to the future of the borough's development, finance and management and performing weddings.

Municipal Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri said, "I have had the immense honor of working with and for Dan Gallagher for the past 12 years and I can unequivocally say that improving the lives of the residents and businesses of the borough has been Dan's only motivation. With no disrespect to all those who have come before him or who will come after him, when the history of South Plainfield is complete, I believe that Dan Gallagher will be remembered as South Plainfield's greatest Mayor."

Another long time friend and associate, Court Administrator Pat Vargo, said, "Dan Gallagher, a man I am proud to call mayor; a mayor who has always respected and been supportive of our court system."

Noting his proudest accomplishments was difficult for Dan. After much consideration he listed the senior housing and Senior Center, enhancements of all of the borough parks, the road program, open space program, and the financial management of the borough. One of his most memorable moments was the decision to preserve open space. He is also extremely proud of our great police department, volunteer fire department and rescue squad.

The praise was returned by Police

Chief John Ferarro: "Mayor Dan Gallagher has served the borough on the foundation of doing what is best for the town. He has respected the police department and the authority and decisions of the chief's office. He has always been a man of his word. He has set the mark high for all who succeed him. Whenever I have advised him of a serious incident, crime or situation, he has provided the support and resources to get the job done. His leadership encourages a true team approach in dealing with the issues. Mayor Gallagher has served the borough well with no personal agenda other than to improve the quality of life in this town."

In addition to retiring as mayor, Dan also recently retired from Verizon where he served as an account executive. He had 37 years of experience in telecommunications and was personally responsible for interacting with various levels of state, county and local government. The last three years he has served as a Traffic Specialist for the N.J. Turnpike and Garden State Parkway. Son Michael said, "For more than half of my life I've had the opportunity to watch my father serve the people of South Plainfield. It's good to have him home!"

Dan may no longer be in office, but the town has not seen the last of him. Dan said, "The people and the borough have done so much for me and my family I cannot just say thank you and leave. I have requested to be appointed to the Borough Planning Board and Mayor-elect [Butrico] has

agreed. I have also requested an appointment as a [volunteer] Deputy Coordinator for Emergency Management with Mike Zushma. I would like some involvement with the Public Celebrations Committee for the Labor Day parade. My wife will continue as a member of the Rescue Squad Ladies Auxiliary and as a long time member of the Public Celebrations Committee. My son, Michael, serves as a member of the volunteer fire department [currently holding the rank of lieutenant]. As for me, wherever I can be of service."

State Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan summed up the man, the job and the mark he has left on South Plainfield with these words:

"In the entire history of South Plainfield, no single individual has had more of a positive impact than Mayor Gallagher. To paraphrase a poet: 'others see things as they are and say why, others dream dreams that never were and say why not?' Danny never saw a problem that couldn't be solved. Whether it was building senior housing, or the senior recreation center, or improving the PAL and our recreational facilities, or preserving open space, Dan Gallagher was never intimidated from completing the task. When shortsighted people said it couldn't be done, he replied 'Why not?' and got to work. It has been an honor to work with him over the last 23 years and it is a privilege to be his friend. Mayor Gallagher will be missed."



Above, former Mayor Dan Gallagher holds one of his grandsons on his lap. Below, members of Gallagher's family say "The Pledge of Allegiance" during the Reorganization meeting held on Jan. 7.



LEGAL NOTICES

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield requires the services of a licensed appraisal company for the year 2007; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. This Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Fleming White Appraisals.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.95 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT:

WHEREAS there exists a need for the services of a Registered Municipal Auditor to conduct an audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Andrew Hodulik of the firm Hodulik & Morrison, P.A.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by Law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$39.90 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining a construction manager to oversee the construction of the new public library for the year 1007; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Tri-Form Construction, Inc.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation package for this position.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$41.80 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining a professional planner to review land use and land development, preparation of master plan, housing element and fair share plan and to represent the Borough before the Council on Affordable Housing for the year 2007; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with THP, Inc.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.75 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE[

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

EDWARD SANTORO, ESQ.

is hereby appointed Public Defender for a one (1) year term expiring on December 31, 2007 at a salary as set forth in the Borough salary ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that health benefits are not being provided as part of the compensation for this position.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$25.00 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT:

WHEREAS in conformance with public laws of the state of New Jersey, 1996, c.95, sect. 14, **THOMAS LANZA**, an attorney at law of the State of New Jersey, is hereby appointed **MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR** for the year 2006 under the supervision of the Attorney General or the County Prosecutor who may represent the State, County or Municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Central Municipal Court or any other Municipal Court;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Thomas Lanza, Esq.,
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefit coverage will not be provided as part of the compensation package for the position of Municipal Prosecutor.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that in the absence of Thomas Lanza, another attorney from the firm of Thatcher & Lanza may act as Municipal Prosecutor.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$47.50 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for the services of bond counsel for the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer, Attorneys for the year 2007.
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Bond Counsel.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$44.65 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm to act as Borough Engineer for the year 2007; and

WHEREAS the Borough is currently using CME Associates as the Borough Engineer since July 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with CME Associates.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.75 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE[

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm for matters dealing with site assessments, site remediation and brownfields development and for all matters regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with PMK Group.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.75 January 12, 2007

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield for the year 2007, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Esq.
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Borough Attorney.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$42.75 January 12, 2007

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FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

The Helen Street Project is continuing on a forward path. Residents and businesses need to continue to speak out in a positive effort to support this project. Continue to sign letters and let the DEP know that we all support re-directing the truck traffic away from our main roads.

Congratulations to Denise DiMeglio, a senior at Villanova, for her involvement with Habitat for Humanity. Denise began her involvement with Habitat for Humanity in her freshman year at Villanova when she joined forces with her fellow students to go to six different towns near Philadelphia to build homes for those in need. She continued the work through her sophomore year. In December 2005, Denise and fellow students began Villanova House, which involved only Villanova students. Denise and her group decided to fundraise. The president of Villanova, along with the

board of trustees, and alumni became involved in this plight. A contract was signed and building began in the spring. In the fall of 2005 the group went to Colorado to build, and in the fall of 2006 they went to Arkansas. In the spring of 2007 they plan to go to Louisiana to begin another build. Denise, we commend you and your fellow Habitat for Humanity Villanova students on having the heart to reach out to others.

The SPHS Student Leadership program, under the direction of Mary Ellen Martko, Mr. Baker, Ms. Vandermark, Ms. Zurka, Mr. Hajduk, Ms. Raimondo and Mr. Encinas, will become involved in Habitat for Humanity for the first time by joining forces to perform a build in Plainfield during this month. The students are so excited to become a part of this program. These students, who are involved in music, band, performing

arts and sports, will enhance their lives with further knowledge that will benefit the less fortunate families of our neighboring towns. Denise DiMeglio will be attending a January 2007 meeting of the Student Leadership program to discuss her involvement in Habitat for Humanity. These students are encouraged and commended for participating in this rewarding program.

The atrocities that occur in Darfur on a daily basis are a disgusting disgrace. We take our quality of life for granted, but the innocent victims of Darfur, down to the youngest ones, do not know from day to day where and if they will have food or a place to lay their heads from night to night. They live in constant fear, roaming the lands looking for shelter. I commend SPHS Social Studies teacher Fran Flannery and her students who work so diligently to fundraise for this effort.

Congratulations to the SPHS boys and girls basketball teams on their Old Bridge games; the wrestling team on their matches at Perth Amboy. Continued success to the bowling teams, winter track and cheerleaders who

support our home games. Continue to play together as a team and let your sportsmanship shine through, while continuing to support each other.

The Grant Elementary Stokes Basketball Shoot fundraiser will take place on Jan. 19. Time is running short for sign-ups for this event. Please contact Angel Jazikoff, chairwoman for Stokes, for parental help with this fundraiser and for entry forms, which can also be obtained at Grant School. The Stokes fundraiser pasta dinner will take place on Feb. 2 at Grant School. Chairwomen Linda and Rosanne need the help of the fifth grade parents at this fundraiser and also need the donation of baked goods.

All are welcome to join them for dinner. If you can not stay, then get dinner to go! Grant School yearbook orders are due now at a cost of \$12 per book. Please send in your orders with your children in an envelope marked "yearbook." If you have any questions regarding the yearbook, please contact yearbook chairwoman, Jane Dornick.

Nancy Grennier, our thoughts and prayers continue to reach out to you as you continue to heal. Your staff at

the *Observer* is doing a great job completing the task of getting the paper out each week and providing coverage of news items; be proud of them all on a job well done. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Kathy Downes as she continues to heal.

Mid-term testing is upcoming. Please continue to read the marquee in front of the various schools for dates of events, and check the "Around Town" news in the *Observer*.

The Haus New Year celebration was a wonderful kick-off to the start of 2007.

The Reorganization meeting of the Borough Council took place on Jan. 7, at a very packed town hall. Best wishes to all the 2007 officials and appointees of the various committees. You can view this meeting and all public meetings on Comcast Channel 74 on Mondays at 8 p.m.

Once again, thank you to Stephanie Kelly, intern and student at SPHS, for volunteering to attend and tape these meetings and Rich D'Urso, SPHS graphic arts teacher, for his guidance in preparing the DVD.

HOT OFF THE PRESS! 2007 South Plainfield Historical Society calendars for sale to benefit the Historical Society. Cost is \$10 - Mail checks to the SP Historical Society, P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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Obituaries

Elizabeth Angersbach, 97

Elizabeth Shea Angersbach passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 2, in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born on Dec. 7, 1909, Mrs. Angersbach was raised in Barnesboro, Pa. and was a 1927 graduate of Barnesboro High School. She came to New Jersey and later married Earl Angersbach in 1933. They resided in New Brunswick and South River before moving to the former Raritan Twp., now known as Edison Twp., over 60 years ago.

She was a member of the Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick since 1948.

Elizabeth was predeceased by her parents, Andrew Shea Sr. and Elizabeth Domonkos Shea, her husband Earl and by 11 siblings.

Surviving are her daughter, Elizabeth Scalera and husband Dr. John E. of South Plainfield and a granddaughter, Elizabeth J. Taylor and husband John of Edison. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Presbyterian Church, 100 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08902 or to the Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.

Felix J. Malecki, 91

Felix J. Malecki died on Thursday, Jan. 4, at his home surrounded by his family.

Born in Old Forge, Pa., he came to South Plainfield as a young man in the early 1920's and has been an active resident ever since.

He served in the United States Army's 4th Infantry Division during WWII. He was a part of the D-Day invasion and was awarded two purple hearts, a bronze star and a number of citations for his actions during combat.

Felix began his employment as a teenager with the Civilian Conservation Corps. He later worked for Cornell-Dubilier as a supervisor before working for General Motors in Linden where he worked for 35 years in various departments, most recently as the relief man on the dash line, retiring in 1975. Eager to keep active, he continued to work for a family dairy farm in Piscataway and then became an equipment maintenance man with the Fitzpatrick Company before finally retiring.

Being an active resident of South Plainfield, he was a former special police officer of the South Plainfield Police Department and a volunteer fireman with the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. He was a member of the South Plainfield Exempt and the N.J. State Exempt Firemen's Associations. Felix was a long time communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church where he served as an usher and was active with the feast of St. Anthony and selling 50/50's. Most recently, he was assisting the ladies in the cooking of food for the fair. In addition, he was a charter member and has served as past president of the South Plainfield Polish National Home and was a member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post # 6763.

He was predeceased by his wife, Anna S. (Aniunas) who died in January of 2005.

Surviving are a daughter, Judy Taber and husband Charles of South Plainfield; two sons, Felix D. of South Carolina and Jerry and wife Donna of Clinton; a sister, Helen Oschansky of Edison; two brothers, Stanley and Teddy both of South Plainfield; a brother-in-law, Kip Aniunas of South

Plainfield and five grandchildren, Gina, Craig, Kimberly, Kelly and Krista. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren, Shane and Kyle and a third great-grandson is on the way.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 120 Kosciuszko Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Arline K. Cathcart, 89

Arline E. (Kelsey) Cathcart died on Sunday, Jan. 7, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Hospice Unit in Plainfield.

She was born Jan. 28, 1917, in Stamford, Conn. to Arthur B. and Eva Thomas Kelsey. She had resided in the New Market section of Piscataway most of her life.

Mrs. Cathcart had worked as a secretary with the Piscataway Township Board of Education for 24 years, retiring in 1982. She also was a gifted piano teacher and taught many students for a number of years until several years ago.

She was a long time member of the First Baptist Church of New Market, where she served on the Board of Trustees and also played the piano on many occasions. In her earlier years she was active with the New Market School P.T.A. She had also attended the New Market School and was a 1934 graduate of Bound Brook High School where she was an active basketball player. Mrs. Cathcart had been active with FISH, Inc., Dunellen area and for many years enjoyed her shore home at Shore Acres in Brick.

She was the wife of the late George E.M. Cathcart who died Sept. 19, 1983, whom she married on Oct. 25, 1936.

She is survived by a daughter, Bar-

bara A. Rothweiler and husband Neil of South Plainfield; four sons, William K. Cathcart and wife Barbara of Green Brook, Arthur G. Cathcart and wife Beatrice of High Bridge, Bruce D. Cathcart of Magalia, Calif. and Kenneth P. Cathcart and wife Christine of Townsend, Vt.; a sister, Beatrice Pehrson of Bernardsville; 13 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at The Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen.

Memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church, 201 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Stella B. Cybowski, 84

Stella B. Cybowski passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at The Woodland Care Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Cybowski was born in South Plainfield and resided there all her life.

Stella was one of the founding families and a member of The Altar Rosary Society at Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church in South Plainfield and AARP.

Mrs. Cybowski will be sadly missed by her family and friends and all those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Stella was predeceased by her beloved husband of 63 wonderful years, Adolph Cybowski, and a brother, Raymond Olencki.

Mrs. Cybowski is survived by her loving family consisting of three daughters, Barbara and husband Bob Farley of the Villages, Fla., Jane and Paul Fusco of Jackson and Linda and Bob Kissell of South Plainfield; a brother, Stanley Olencki of Maine; a sister, Anne Sheld of Brea, Calif.; six grandchildren, Debra Fusco, Sandra Healey, Ken Farley, Mark Malecki, David Fusco and Christopher Malecki and three great-grandchildren, Chelsie Castronuovo, Deidre Healey and

Stephen Farley, all of whom she loved more than words can say.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

The family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made in Mrs. Cybowski's name to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, 123 Maple Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Michael Bergo, 59

Michael Bergo died on Friday, Jan. 5, in Frisbie Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.H.

Born in London, England, Michael was raised in Croton Falls, N.Y. and lived in Brooklyn and Englewood before moving to Paterson.

A 1966 graduate of North Salem High School, Mike attended the New York Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

Mr. Bergo was a self employed cabinet maker and furniture builder and was the owner and operator of Micheal Bergo Building and Design in Paterson.

An avid Yankee fan, Mike loved architecture, model trains and cars. He enjoyed listening to music mostly rock and roll and he was also very fond of the outdoors, particularly fishing and hiking.

He was predeceased by his parents.

Surviving are two sons, Jeffrey and Adam Bergo both of Plainfield; a sister, Adriana Shean and husband Timothy of Rochester, N.H.; a niece, Arianne Shean Wert and husband Hans Wert of Queens, N.Y. and a nephew, Jonathan Shean and wife Colleen of New York City.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

policereport

• On Dec. 25 a Calderone St. resident reported that the drivers side of their vehicle had been keyed.

• A Maple Ave. resident reported a brick had been used to remove the chrome "H" for Honda insignia from their vehicle.

• On Dec. 29 an Eleanor St. resident reported that 10 car tires had been dumped on their property.

• An Edison resident reported the theft of a gas leaf blower from the rear of their pickup truck.

• On Dec. 30 Rayneil Alex Anaya, 22, of Keyport was arrested for receiving stolen property, driving on a suspended license, no insurance, no registration and outstanding warrants.

• A Calderone St. resident reported that the hood of one car and the driver's door of another had been scratched.

• A Whispering Hills Rd. resident reported that there was a large dent on the roof of their vehicle.

• On Dec. 31 Angel Viveros-Jimenez, 24, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension and possession of a controlled substance.

• On Jan. 2 Audrey L. Brown, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

• A Michael St. resident reported the driver's side window of their vehicle had been stuck and cracked.

• A Vakarich Pl. resident reported that the windshield of their vehicle had been struck with an object and cracked.

• An employee of Penske Truck Leasing on So. Clinton Ave. reported the theft of a N.J. diesel emission inspection stickers from an office locker.

• On Jan. 3 Eric M. Dobie, 20, of South Plainfield was arrested for eluding an officer and driving on an expired license.

• On Jan. 7 Frank A. Irber, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

• Atia M. Dismuke, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license, no insurance and failure to exhibit a valid registration.

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