

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 21

50 CENTS

JANUARY 26, 2007

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Middle School Student Faces Expulsion After Bringing Phony Gun to School

Three South Plainfield Middle School eighth graders received a 10 day, out-of-school suspension last Friday after Principal Steve Novak confiscated what police say was an "inoperable replica of a handgun" from a student's locker.

School administrators witnessed unusual activity around a particular student's locker over the course of the

day, which led them to have the locker opened by the custodial staff.

South Plainfield Police Department was called at around in 2:30 p.m. to investigate the seizure of a chrome handgun that had been retrieved from inside the locker. According to Police Chief John Ferraro it is not known why the student brought the gun to school or from where he obtained

it. Later in the day, the Middlesex County Sheriff's Dept. K-9 Unit conducted a search of the school to ensure that there were no other weapons, ammunition or dangerous items in the school and found nothing.

The 14 year-old student who was in possession of the replica gun was charged with juvenile delinquency and transported to the Middlesex

County Youth Detention Center.

The 14 year-old also faces expulsion if deemed necessary after a hearing by the Board of Education. The punishment is based on the school district's "zero tolerance" policy under which a student who brings a fake gun to school can be punished as severely as if the gun were real.

Two other 13-year-old students who had knowledge of the gun were released to their parents pending further investigation according to police.

Chief Ferraro said, "This is the first such incident at the school. We credit school principal, Steve Novak's quick, decisive action in controlling the situation."

EPA Outlines Site Demolition

By Jane Dornick

The first of 18 buildings in the former Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (CDE) site at 333 Hamilton Blvd. is slated for demolition during the first week of February. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a public information meeting at Borough Hall on Jan. 18 to inform residents and answer questions about how the project will be handled.

properties adjacent to the property.

Throughout the demolition process a guard booth will be manned 24 hours a day, along with additional security guards, to keep unauthorized people out of the areas where the remediation work is being done. A Health and Safety Program has also been developed for the protection of the community, as well as for on-site workers. Air sensors with alarms will be placed around the buildings to monitor the levels of dust

installed as a temporary measure until the EPA implements a soil remedy plan. The construction of a rail spur in the industrial park will then allow for transportation of contaminated soil off-site by train.

According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Peter Mannino, the entire project should take a year and a half to complete. The cost of repairing the site is approximately \$56,000,000 of which 90% is being paid for by the Federal Government and 10% by the state. An attorney for the EPA commented that the Federal Government has a lien on the property to recover money from those who are responsible. Mannino also said that once completed, it would be at least six years before the property could be redeveloped and that there would be deed restrictions with only commercial or light industrial usage of the property.

Members of the environmental group, Edison Wetlands Association, were on hand to voice their concerns at the meeting. The association had their own studies done which showed an ongoing discharge of PCBs and chlorinated solvents from the site into the Bound Brook. Mannino said that stabilization methods have been in place since 1996. The EPA has continuously monitored the area, from the New Market Ave. area down to the Triple C Ranch on Tyler Rd., and have found higher levels of contaminations than those reported by the association. However, the levels still do not exceed government standards.

The site cleanup plan is a part of the New Market Ave. Extension Project which will connect the intersection of New Market Ave. at Hamilton Blvd. directly to Spicer Ave. The extending of the roadway at New Market through the CDE site is intended to alleviate trucks from having to make the awkward turns at the Hamilton and Spicer intersection. According to Mayor Charlie Butrico, the work on the New Market Extension will coincide with the demolition and should be completed by this time next year.

Mannino, who will be on-site frequently, said members of the community are free to contact him to discuss any issues. He may be reached at (212) 637-4395. The EPA will issue periodic progress updates to the borough. Information on the project can also be found at the South Plainfield Public Library.

24 hours a day to insure that contaminants do not leave the site. If the alarm goes off, work will be shut down until the source is located before continuing. The EPA intends to keep local officials up-to-date on the process. There will be security fencing installed around each building being brought down and storm sewers and catch basins in the vicinity will be covered. PCB laden material will be covered on-site, as well as when it is being removed in trucks. The EPA estimates that 40 trucks a day will enter and exit on Hamilton Blvd. The building debris will be shipped off-site for disposal to an approved landfill based on the contaminant levels. New Jersey does not maintain any commercial landfills, therefore all hazardous material will be transported out of the state. Steel material can be decontaminated using pressure washing techniques and will be sent off for recycling.

The EPA will be using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as its construction manager for the work and the Corps have contracted with Severson Environmental Services, Inc. of Niagara Falls to perform the work.

After each building is demolished and the debris is removed, the area will be graded and asphalt will be



The EPA placed this sign on the Cornell-Dubilier Superfund site to alert residents of the impending demolition.

CDE was operational from 1936 to 1962, manufacturing electronic components including, in particular, capacitors. PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and chlorinated solvents used in the manufacturing process were disposed of directly on the facility soil which covers 26 acres. The activities led to widespread chemical contamination, along with migration of the contaminants to nearby areas.

According to the EPA, PCBs have been detected in the groundwater, soil and in building interiors at the industrial park, at adjacent residential, commercial and municipal properties, and in surface water and sediments of the Bound Brook. The property was declared a Superfund site by the Federal Government and was added to the Dept. of Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List of the most serious hazardous waste sites in July 1998. Since CDE's departure in 1962, it has been operating as a rental property with numerous commercial and industrial companies as tenants.

The EPA has completed the remedial design for the demolition of the buildings with specifications that must be sustained throughout the destruction. They have already begun the cleanup of residential, commercial and municipal



DARE graduations were held at Grant Elementary and Sacred Heart schools this week. See next week's issue for coverage.

SHS Welcomes Visitors to For Catholic Schools Week

Sacred Heart School will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Sunday, Jan. 28 through Friday, Feb. 2. Many activities are planned for this special week and we invite all of our school, parish and local community to come and see all that happens here and to celebrate with us.

The week begins with Mass on

Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m., followed by an open house from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

An open house will also be held on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

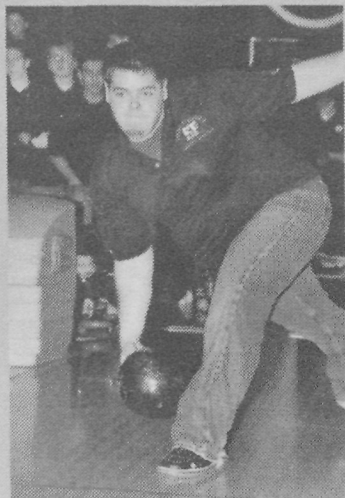
Information on school registration will be available during the open house, or by calling the school office at (908) 756-0632.

Dandola Named GMC Individual Bowling Champion

Congratulations to South Plainfield High School Sophomore Mike Dandola, who put together games of 248-214-249 for a whopping 711 set in the 2007 GMC Individual's second round of qualifying to earn the top seed in the step-ladder final.

Mike won the title when he ousted the third seed Tom Kohutich from Colonia, 221 to 211, in a match that went down to the final frame. Mike averaged 232 over the seven game stretch. Mike is only the second Tiger to win the coveted GMC Individual crown since Melissa Jamieson won the girl's title in 2001.

Congratulations, Mike!



Mike Dandola, 2007 GMC Individual Bowling Champion.



The Borough Council meeting will be aired on Comcast Channel 74 on Mondays at 8 p.m. (Except for Holidays)

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
February 6	7 p.m.	Immediately following
February 20	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
Feb. 13 and 27, Mar. 13 and 27, Apr. 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 12, July 10 and 24, Aug. 14 and 28, Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 11.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Feb. 8 and 22, Mar. 8 and 22, Apr. 12 and 26, May 10 and 24
June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, Sept. 13 and 27, Oct. 11 and 25
Nov. 1 and 29 and Dec. 13.

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.
Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18
Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

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.

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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www.sposobserver.com
(under construction)

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

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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 sposobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

BOE Presents Field Hockey Letters to Players



Amy Haus (above) and Samantha Corvelyn (below), getting Field Hockey Letters from Dr. Rosado.



By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education presented Samantha Corvelyn and Amy Haus with four year field hockey letters at the Jan. 17 meeting.

Samantha Corvelyn and Amy Haus have been members of the field hockey team for four years, but because of failure to play in an unscheduled make-up game they were denied their four year varsity letter.

Corvelyn read a statement at the December meeting explaining that she had initially told the coach that she and teammate, Amy Haus, would not be available to play. However, when a make-up game was scheduled for the time Corvelyn had requested off, the coach treated Corvelyn's absence from the game as an infraction, expelling Corvelyn and Haus from the team. As a result, the girls didn't receive their letters and were not invited to the Athletic Club dinner.

Prior to the presentation, Louise Mruz, president of the South Plainfield Education Association, objected to the way the board handled the issue. She asked why the coach wasn't informed beforehand so she could tell her side of the story. "The board spoke about the matter and apologized without the full story. Having the matter discussed in public was a clear violation of the Sunshine Law," she added.

BOE President Jeff Seider defended the board's position. "This board has nothing to be ashamed of for the action we took tonight. Shame on us if we didn't do something."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosado agreed with the board's action saying he knew the facts and considered Field Hockey Coach Fran Flannery an outstanding coach.

"A mistake has been made and I will correct it," said Rosado. "I've seen staff go out of its way to keep kids involved. I want to err on the part of the child, even if they mistake kindness for weakness to give them a chance, to keep kids involved to stay in school, to be on a team, club, activity."

Student Michael Boyle also brought up the issue of Athletic Letters. He said that even though the high school doesn't have a swim team, athletic letters should be given to seven members of the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks who swim for South Plainfield at GMC meets. The group will be competing at the GMC swimming event on Jan. 27. Two years ago the South Plainfield team won the relay race at this event. The students swim as the Blue Dolphins (at

the PAL) in the summer and as the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks in the winter. Their coaches are Lori Post of the Edison JCC and Sara Blessing. The Tiger Sharks are not a high school team. After the Tiger Sharks won the relay event, the GMC changed its rules and now only high school swim teams can compete in the swim relay race. Tiger Shark swimmers can only compete in one on one events. According to Boyle, Athletic Director Michael Bugey said that participating in one event didn't qualify for a letter.

"I coach these athletes and they have a rigorous schedule—four times a week. These athletes work hard and should be recognized for that work," said Blessing.

Board member Pio Pennisi recalled, "Ten years ago an Athletic letter was given to a swimmer." The board will discuss this matter at February's Committee of the Whole meeting, Seider said.

IN MY OPINION

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

To the Editor,

The Shoot 4 Stokes basketball foul shot contest held on Jan. 19, to benefit the 2007 Stokes Trip for Grant Elementary sixth graders, was a huge success. Special thanks to the following companies for their generous donations: AKA, Inc., Mike Allocco and The Basketball Shooting Academy, Sportworld and James McHugh and Frito Lay.

In addition, thank you to the following restaurants for the generous donations of pizza: Alfonso's, Bruno's, Carmen's, Ciccio's, Domino's, Pizza Stop, Rudolpho's and Tony's.

Special thanks to the following people for donating their time and hard work to make this fundraiser such a wonderful success: Kevin Hughes and the Middle School Girls Basketball Team (Alexis Cargi, Lauren Conrad, Jessica Jazikoff, Taylor Jareemu, Kelly McLaughlin, Lauren Nichuck, Katherine Podlovitz, Sam Pukash, Jamie Quail, Marissa Smith, Allison White and Kerry Yorkanis), Grant School Principal Leo Whalen, Mr. Jeff, Cheryl Papa, Diane Ranger, Debbie Boyle, Lori Cullen, Lisa and Robert Eggert, John Hart, Jamie Hughes, Jennifer Olah, Diane Polizzano, Susan Sutton and Destiny Jazikoff.

We could not have done it without all of you!

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School Board Purchases New Busses

By Libby Barsky

Twelve years ago, the Board of Education purchased five busses for its transportation program. At the Jan. 17 meeting the board accepted bids for three new busses.

The busses included a 2008 NJ Type B 20 Chevrolet for \$49,522, a 2008 N.J. Type B 20 passenger with built-in child restraint seats for \$47,555 and a 2008 N.J. Type B 25 passenger dual rear wheel school van for bid price of \$43,420 with additional options of a dual compressor air conditioning and heated crossover mirrors, bringing the total to \$44,160. All three were purchased from Factory Direct Bus Sales, Inc.

The method of payment for the busses will be lease purchase financing with Commerce Commercial Leasing at a 3.6 percent interest rate.

Former board member Frank Mikorski challenged the method of payment.

"These busses should have been placed in the Capital Outlay portion of the school budget," Mikorski said. "It's so much more expensive to buy them this way."

Business Administrator Donna Tolley was aware of the extra expense, but said the busses were needed and although the need is for five replacement busses, only three were ordered. Funds for the other two busses are already listed as part of the Capital Outlay portion of the School budget for 2007-2008 to be voted on in April.



Kennedy Teachers Make a Difference

Thanks to the generosity of the teachers at John F. Kennedy Elementary School the holiday season was a little brighter for children at the Elizabeth Housing Project in Elizabeth. Teacher Ann Witkowski, who donates her time year-round to New York City Relief which serves the less fortunate in Elizabeth, rallied the rest of the school staff to make their own contribution. The teachers spent hours after school filling 170 stockings with candy, books, toys, mittens and socks for children ranging in age from infants to teenagers. Witkowski was able to deliver the stockings to the children in the project in time for Christmas.

Borough Sells Small Parcels of Land

For as long as Sandra Erb has lived in her home on Highland Ave. she has been tending the vacant lot next to her. At the Borough Council meeting on Jan. 16, the Borough officially sold the 5 ft. by 112 ft. lot to Erb for \$3,300.

The land will increase the size of the Erb lot but not enough to subdivide it and make it into two separate lots, according to Municipal Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri.

When the borough has land that is

large enough to build on then it will advertise the land and hold an auction. However, when the amount of land is too small to sell for a residential lot (less than 100 ft. by 100 ft.) the borough's policy is to sell the small parcels of land to the adjoining owner. The sale often will enable the owner to have a lot large enough to be subdivided into two separate lots.

After Tam H. Nguyen acquired an additional parcel of borough property adjoining his lot at Edgar Ave. and Mellon St., he went to the Planning Board with an application to subdivide the lot into two separate lots. Nguyen proposed that one lot would front Edgar Ave. and the other front Mellon St. The Planning Board ap-

proved the application and Nguyen plans to build a two story home on the lot fronting Edgar Ave.

When Fourth MPPL Realty purchased a piece of borough property and added it to theirs at 437 Spicer Ave., they demolished the home that was on the property. Most recently they applied to the Planning Board to consolidate the lots and subdivide them into two separate lots, a two story colonial style house on each lot. The Planning Board also approved their request at the Jan. 8 meeting.

The Hall of Fame Seeks Nominees

The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee is again holding their search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, candidates must be graduates of South Plainfield High School at least 15 years prior to nomination, and have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community.

Selected candidates will be honored at a luncheon and be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the SPSHS annual Academic Awards Program on June 5. The nominees will also have their photographs and biographies displayed on a "Wall of Fame" at the high school.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form should call Dr. May at (908) 754-4620, ext. 248 or 249. Application deadline is April 20.

Property Tax Bills Mailed

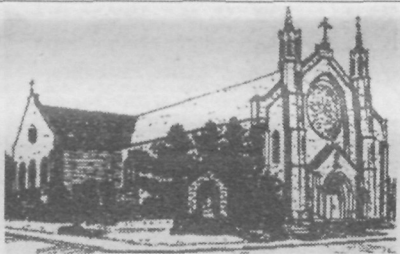
Property Tax Bills were mailed to residents this week. The grace period for the Feb. 1 payment has been extended to Feb. 13.

Reminder: Borough Hall will be closed on Monday, Feb. 12, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday.

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

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 on New Market Ave. Cost is \$15 and includes salad, potato, vegetable and dessert. Cash bar. Advance ticket purchase recommended. Call (908) 668-9750 for information.

Pasta Dinner Stokes Trip Fundraiser

February 2

The 2007 Stokes Pasta Dinner Fundraiser, to benefit the grade Stokes Trip, will be held on Friday, Feb. 2, at the Elks Lodge. Open to senior citizens 65 and over and the public from 5 to 8 p.m. Come and enjoy a delicious Italian meal. Take out available. Cost is seniors/under 11 years old \$5 and adults \$7.

Superbowl "Lucky Football" Breakfast

February 4

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 will host a Lucky Football Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 8-11 a.m. Find the lucky football and win two free breakfasts. The cost is \$5 per person. Public welcome.

Edison Valley Presents Glengarry

February 16

Glengarry Glen Ross begins on Friday, Feb. 16, and runs until Sunday, March 11, at Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. Showtimes are Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Some dates are available for theater party play sales. Reservations can be made by emailing us at reservations@evplayhouse.com.

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

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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
JAN/FEB**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse March 12 St. Patricks Dinner Dance 6-10 PM March 17				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	Aerobics 8:45am 8:45am Computer Classes 10am Tai Chi Class 2pm 11am & 1pm	Pathmark Shopping 9 am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
29	30	31	1	2
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Actor/Writer Saverino to Speak at Library

February 25

Author Angelo Saverino will speak at the South Plainfield Library on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.

In addition to his writing career, Mr. Saverino is also an actor with experience in film, television and theater. Mr. Saverino will speak about his life and career. Copies of his latest book, the autobiography "The Heart of the Order," will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. For more information about Mr. Saverino, visit his website at www.angelo-saverino.com.

Little Treasures Open House

March 10 and 11

Little Treasures Learning Center, located at 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. You 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 to Hunterdon Hills

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 —

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 available the day of performance with current student ID.

Purchase tickets by calling (973) 376-4343.

Blackrose to Perform

January 21

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Tim Kerwins, located on Rt. 28, in Middlesex on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 9:30 p.m. No cover charge.

Depression and Bipolar Support Meeting

January 31

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (BDSA) will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7:45 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. Merritt Hubsher, M.D., who is the medical director of the Depression Center of Northern New Jersey will speak. The topic is "Adult Mood Disorder Masquerading as Attention Deficit Disorder."

For information call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearing House at (800) 367-6274.

NAACP Celebrates Black History Month

February 3

The NAACP Metuchen-Edison Area Branch celebrates Black History month with the 31st Annual Freedom Fund Awards on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Graycliff in Moonachie beginning with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and awards ceremony. Tickets for this black-tie affair are \$75. There will

be a silent auction, 50/50 and door prizes. Music will be provided by Diggs & Hill Productions.

For information call Monique Brice at (908) 561-9539, Reggie Johnson at (732) 549-7936 or Teresa Douglas at (908) 208-0176.

Stewardship Symposium

February 3

The Diocese of Metuchen will host a Stewardship Symposium on Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway beginning with morning prayer at 9 a.m., including a hot buffet brunch.

Participants will also have an opportunity to share their challenges and successes in an open discussion forum facilitated by David Mehr from Graham Pelton Consulting, Inc.

There is no fee. To register, call (732) 562-2432.

Paper Mill Auditions

February 3 and 10

Paper Mill Playhouse will hold auditions for the 2007 Summer Musical Theatre programs on Saturday, Feb. 3 and 10, at Millburn Middle School in Millburn. Call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2133, to schedule an appointment. Visit www.papermill.org for audition guidelines and other important information.

MCRCC Workshop

February 6

MCRCC and The College of N.J. Small Business Development Center will present a workshop, "How to Survive When You're Business Faces a Crisis" on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Chamber Office, 1 Distribution Way, Monmouth Junction, N.J.

For more information, call Debbie at (732) 821-1700, ext. 202.

Basket Bingo/Raffle

February 9

Come out for an evening of fun at St. Helena's HSA on Friday, Feb. 9, for a Longaberger Basket Bingo and Raffle night. Doors open at 6 p.m.; bingo starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission fee is \$15.

For tickets call Karen Staggard at (732) 735-2364.

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South Plainfield Observer



Dr. May, Brittanie Wong, Charlie Decker and MaryEllen Martko.

SPHS Edison Rotary Student of the Month

Dr. May, Principal of South Plainfield High School, has announced the Rotary Students of the Month for January 2007. The awards went to Charlie Decker and Brittanie Wong.

Brittanie is enrolled in multiple AP courses, indoor color guard, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society and South Plainfield Student Leaders.

Charlie is actively involved in the South Plainfield Student Leaders, Marching Band, selected to the TCNJ Honors Band and a member of the Varsity Golf Team.

The recipients were honored at a breakfast at the Clarion Hotel in Edison on Jan. 10. Congratulations to our students on achieving this award.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

It's that time of year again when children's mailboxes are filled with loving friendship cards and houses are filled with roses and chocolates. Of course I am talking about the holiday of love, Valentine's Day.

Do you need a different idea from the typical store bought card and heart shaped candy boxes this Valentine's Day? The library has over one hundred items on the theme of Valentine's Day. If you are creative check out "Pop-up Greeting Cards" by Michael Palmer or "Valentine's Day Crafts," a children's book, by Jean Eick. If you are a history buff and want to know about the origin's of Valentine's Day check out "The Valentine and Its Origin" by Frank Staff or "The Story of Valentine's Day," a children's book by

Clyde Robert Bulla. The library also has many romantic music CDs to help put the finishing touches to your candlelight dinner. Check out "Love Songs" by Elton John, "The 50 Greatest Love Songs" by Elvis Presley and "Wedding and Love Songs" by various artists.

The library has two exciting upcoming free events. On Sunday, Feb. 25, from 2 to 3 p.m., meet Angelo Saverino, the New Jersey author of "The Heart of the Order." We will have copies of his book to be signed and purchased. Then on Sunday, March 4, from 2 to 3 p.m., join us for an antiques appraisal program with presenter Alan Snyder. Both programs are free and registration is not required.

Our children's programs are at the regular scheduled times this week. "Books 'N' Babies," for newborns to age two, on Friday at 10:30 a.m. "Time for 2's and 3's" with story and crafts on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evening at 6:30. Story time and craft for children three years old and up on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. If you have any questions, please see Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

To find out more about these programs please check out our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us/ or call the library at (908) 754-7885.

Slim and Tone is Home for the Holidays

The members and staff of Slim and Tone Express Fitness and Weight Loss Studio celebrated this past holiday season with everything from fitness incentives to a cookie exchange. The holiday season started right after Thanksgiving with a fitness incentive that encouraged members to come in three times a week during the holiday season.

Members had the opportunity to fill up more than one pass to have their name entered into a drawing for prizes. Prizes included dinner on the Cornucopia Cruise Line and two personal training packages. All three winners were from South Plainfield. The grand prize winner was Viola Burrell and the second and third prize winners, respectively, were Melodie Pellegrino and Janet Erricho.

The yearly Cookie Exchange became a cookie extravaganza this year. Members and staff came in for their usual workout, got a pass punch on their holiday pass and then exchanged five dozen cookies.

Women ages 12 and up may begin their membership upon registration. Hydraulic circuit training is an exhilarating and effective way to become



Members of Slim and Tone Express Fitness Center celebrate the holidays.

slim and tone. Membership also includes personalized programming, quarterly fitness assessments, instruction in weight management and group fitness classes.

Start your new year off with a free Fitness Assessment and free workout

and be the best you can be in 2007.

Mention this press release when you come into the studio and you can receive a free month if you enroll in our Premier membership program. Call (908) 769-0009 for details.

Edison Wetlands to Fight Cell Tower in Dismal Swamp

The Edison Wetlands Association (EWA) has announced that they will be working with Edison Greenways and other local citizens groups to fight the ill-advised plan to construct a cell tower along the Middlesex Greenway walking trail extension into Edison's Dismal Swamp Conservation Area. The cell tower would be the tallest in Edison, and would be constructed on wetlands behind St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen and Woodbrook Corners in Edison.

The Middlesex Greenway is proposed to run along former rail lines all the way from Perth Amboy to South Plainfield, and all the towns along its path have approved its planned layout. The highlight of the trail will be the trail's entrance to the 660-acre Dismal Swamp Conservation Area in Edison, South Plainfield and Metuchen, the last major remaining open space in northern Middlesex County. This trail is now at risk from the monstrous cell tower.

"At nearly 200 feet tall, the pro-

posed cell tower would destroy the Middlesex Greenway walking trail that so many Edison residents have worked so tirelessly to make a reality," said Bob Spiegel, executive director of EWA. "Edison Wetlands will fight this poorly planned project, just as we fight every negative impact on the Dismal Swamp Conservation Area, a natural oasis for families that have very few other options to get out and enjoy nature."

The Dismal Swamp Conservation Area holds the headwaters for the Bound Brook and provides natural flood control for densely populated Edison, Metuchen and South Plainfield. The Dismal Swamp is home to over 165 species of birds, including osprey and night heron, 25 mammal

species and 24 amphibians and reptiles. While there currently is public access to the Dismal Swamp through EWA's Triple C Ranch and Nature Center, the last remaining farm in the area, the Middlesex Greenway will allow families to enjoy the Dismal Swamp on a much broader basis.

Edison Wetlands Association is a grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment in central New Jersey through conservation and the remediation of toxic waste sites.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the **ENTERTAINMENT BOOK** for \$25. Contact Lou Peralta at 908-756-6406.

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HAWKS

southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Mary and Edward Slicer

Edward A. Slicer Celebrates 90th

January 25 marked the 90th birthday of long-time South Plainfield resident Edward A. Slicer.

Born in Perth Amboy, Slicer and his wife Mary moved to South Plainfield and built their own home here.

A long-time union painter, Ed traveled to Greenland to paint the radar domes there. Ed and wife Mary spent many years traveling and have been long time members of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

Ed is the proud father of Carol Slicer Dripps, a registered nurse in West Chester, Pa; Nancy Slicer, Ph.D., a forensic psychologist in Florida and Keith Slicer of South Plainfield, a research scientist.

In addition, he is grandfather to Carol Lea, Carin, Michael of Pennsylvania and Natalya of South Plainfield. His great-grandchildren include Kelly, Lauren, James, Tyler and Devon of Pennsylvania and Aleks of South Plainfield.

The family will celebrate this joyous occasion with a private dinner.

Share Your Good News... Send your Milestones!

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Fax: 908-668-8819

John Glavasich Joins Delia Associates

Ed Delia, president of Delia Associates, a full service marketing and branding agency in Whitehouse, has announced that John Glavasich has joined the firm as junior art director.

"We're excited to have John on our staff," stated Delia. "He is an extremely talented designer with a lot of enthusiasm and passion for his work. He is an asset to the agency and the clients we serve."

Glavasich is a recent graduate of the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, in West Hartford, Conn., where he majored in visual communication design and minored in art history. Prior to joining Delia Associates in November of 2006, Glavasich freelanced for other top agencies in the New Jersey.

Glavasich was born in Plainfield and now resides in South Plainfield.

A full service branding and business marketing firm, Delia Associates is a second generation family-owned and operated business. The firm focuses on strategic marketing and brand development, employing a proprietary brand development system that takes clients through a detailed process resulting in the creation of a unique brand identity.

Delia Associates has directly contributed to the success and growth of numerous clients in the following market sectors: packaging, pharmaceuticals, architecture, trade services and manufacturing. The agency has fostered client growth and expanded sales opportunities through the development and implementation of highly successful branding campaigns. To learn more, visit www.delianet.com.



Front row: Mickey Brynne of Princeton Junction, Kelsi Bendinelli of Millington, and Erin Graham of Edison. Back Row: Erica Palma of South Plainfield; Lauren Pagano of Edison; Patricia Bixel, head of guidance; Ariana LoGiudice of Green Brook and Eva Wash of Metuchen.

Mount Saint Mary Bloustein Scholars

Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung is pleased to announce seven Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Bloustein Scholars are eligible for \$1,000 annual scholarships if they attend a New Jersey college or uni-

versity full time. There is no regard for financial need. The N.J. Higher Education Student Assistance Authority offers these scholarships to encourage those high achieving New Jersey students to attend New Jersey colleges and universities.



Margaret Twine of the North Jersey Field Hockey Association, Julianne Bosse and SPHS Field Hockey Coach Fran Flannery

Julianne Bosse Awarded Scholarship

On Sunday Jan. 7, the North Jersey Field Hockey Coaches Association held its annual awards dinner at the Meadow Wood Manor in Randolph. In attendance were over 175 players, coaches, and parents representing their respective high schools as all-star selections from North Jersey Group(s) I, II, III and IV.

Three members of the South Plainfield Varsity Field Hockey squad were chosen for the Group III team. Julianne Bosse (senior) received First Team Offense honors; Kara Thomas

(sophomore) Second Team Offense and Susan Mott (senior) Third Team Defense.

The event concluded with the presentation of two scholarships, the North Jersey Coaches Association and the North Jersey Field Hockey Association scholarships. South Plainfield's Julianne Bosse was awarded the North Jersey Field Hockey Association Scholarship. Julianne is looking forward to continuing field hockey at Fairfield University in September.

Deffler and Dezmin Make Dean's List

Bucknell University has released the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive Dean's List recognition.

Named to the Dean's List was Samantha A. Deffler, daughter of John

and Marie Deffler. Samantha was a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Also named to the Dean's List was Keith R. Dezmin, son of Joseph and Susan Dezmin. Keith was a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Calvin John Smiley Makes Dean's List

Calvin John Smiley, a junior at Lehigh University, earned the honor of being placed on the Dean's List with a 3.92 GPA for the fall 2006 semester.

Calvin John is also a member of the Lehigh University swim team and received the Athletic Department Academic Award. He is the founder and

chairperson of a community based organization, The Righteous Griots. The goal of the organization is to reach young people through political, economic and social awareness. For his academic performance and community service he also received a scholarship from the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity at Lehigh.

SPHS Grad Authors Third Book

Mark Csordos, a 1989 graduate of South Plainfield High School, just had his third business book published. "More Business Lessons for Entrepreneurs: Volume 2" is the sequel to his first book, "Business Lessons for Entrepreneurs: 35 Things I Learned Before the Age of Thirty." Both entrepreneur books deal with the mental and emotional aspects of starting and running a business.

The lessons were learned the hard way from his two previous businesses. One, a mystery shopping company, had gathered national attention in *The New York Times*, *Vogue* and *Entrepreneur* and which he sold in 1999. He moved to North Carolina for two years and started another business,

which he says, "Was on life support from day one" and quietly closed its doors a few years later.

"I feel like I learned more from my failures than my successes because sometimes when you're having success, it can camouflage many of the mistakes you're making," reflects Csordos.

Now living again in Central Jersey, he has started Mark Csordos Unlimited, a consulting company that gives seminars on business topics to companies. This most current venture has started on a more positive note with clients such as the Center for Entrepreneurship in Charlotte, N.C. where he will be speaking in March, and consulting with ITEX on developing their national sales pitch in Bellevue, Wash.

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Willow Grove Welcomes New Parish Associate

On Sunday, Jan. 7, the congregation of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church welcomed the Rev. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney as their first parish associate. We are pleased to announce the beginning of our relationship and ministry with Rev. Cochran-Carney as parish associate of Willow Grove in Scotch Plains.

He is a Presbyterian minister who is married to the full-time pastor of Willow Grove, the Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney. After earning his Master of Divinity from McCormick Seminary in Chicago, he served churches in Virginia, West Virginia, California and Pennsylvania. As a volunteer parish

associate, he will be helping with outreach to new people, technology, adult classes and leading music in worship.

The Cochran-Carneys have been happily married for 16 years and are parents of two sons, Jackson, 12 and Joshua, 8. After moving to Scotch Plains in April 2006, they have become active residents in the community, including being active in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium.

For more information, call the church office at (908) 232-5678, email us at info@willowgrovechurch.org or visit us at www.willowgrovechurch.org. Willow Grove Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is at 1961



Rev. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney

Raritan Rd., across the street from the Scotch Plains Southside Firehouse and near the corner of South Martine Ave. All the facilities are handicap-accessible.



All About Pets....

Dr. Anthony Loomis DVM
Veterinarian, Plainfield
Animal Hospital



Pets are living longer than ever due to the recent advances in veterinary medicine and the increased care offered by their owners. However, with this increased lifespan comes an increased awareness of senior ailments.

When is a dog or cat considered a senior is a common question. Generally, smaller breeds of dogs live longer than larger breeds, and cats live longer than dogs. Beyond that, the life span will vary with each individual pet. Small breed dogs and cats are considered senior pets between seven to 10 years of age, while large to giant breed dogs are seniors between five to seven years of age.

Heart disease is a common senior pet condition. It is often first diagnosed on physical exam as a heart murmur. A heart murmur is an abnormal sound during the heartbeat cycle made by blood moving through the heart and its valves. There are many possible causes of murmurs. An echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart) is needed to find the cause of the murmur to choose the best medication possible.

Kidney disease is another common ailment of aging pets. This is first diagnosed on a urinalysis or blood test. Many pets initially require intravenous fluids, a form of dialysis, to get

the condition under control. This is followed up with at home medication and prescription dietary changes.

Thyroid disease affects both cats and dogs, but in different ways. Cats often produce excessive amounts of the thyroid hormone, while dogs often do not produce enough. Specific blood tests are needed to determine thyroid hormone values. Medication is required for pets to maintain a proper balance.

Liver disease is diagnosed in senior pets on routine blood work. When the liver is not functioning properly, waste products and toxins can build up in the bloodstream making them very ill. This condition is often managed with vitamins, dietary changes and antibiotics as needed.

Arthritis causes pain in many senior animals. This condition is often first discovered at home as our pets slow down and have difficulty getting around. Dietary supplements, prescription anti-inflammatory pain medication and special diets can help manage this condition.

These ailments are all manageable conditions, but require persistent care and follow-up. Remember, pets age more rapidly than we do. Therefore, it is recommended that senior pets have wellness examinations every six months. With routine veterinary care and preventative medicine you can help your pet age gracefully.

Tompkins Named Junior Journalist



Jade Tompkins, middle school student, with teacher Susan Schocklin.

Jade Tompkins, middle school student, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her efforts have earned her 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.

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

By Jade Tompkins

*I am Jade Tompkins
I pretend to be Keyshia Cole
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FROM SOUTH PLAINFIELD OFFICE ON AGING

Property Tax Reimbursement Information for Seniors

As we enter 2007, the South Plainfield Office on Aging would once again like to advise all seniors about the Property Tax Reimbursement Program (PTR) and invite any qualified resident who needs assistance to contact the Office on Aging at (908) 756-4135.

The Property Tax Reimbursement Program, also referred to as "Senior Freeze," reimburses eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for property tax increases. The amount of the reimbursement is the difference between the amount of property taxes that were due and paid in the "base year" (the first year that you met all the eligibility requirements) and the amount due and paid in the current year for which you are claiming the reimbursement, provided the amount paid in the current year was greater. You must meet all the eligibility requirements for the base year and for each succeeding year, up to and including the current year to qualify for the reimbursement.

The eligibility requirements are as follows:

You are age 65 or older or receiving Federal Social Security Disability benefits, you have lived in New Jersey continuously for at least the last 10 years as either a homeowner or a renter; and you have owned and lived in your home (or have leased a site in a mobile home park on which you have placed a manufactured or mobile home that you own) for at least the last three

years; you have paid the full amount of property taxes (or site fees if you are a mobile home owner) that were due on your home for the base year and for each succeeding year, up to and including the year for which you are claiming the reimbursement and you meet the income limits for the base year and for each succeeding year, up to and including the year for which you are claiming the reimbursement.

Residents applying for the 2006 reimbursement must have total income for 2005 that is less than \$41,972 for single applicants and \$51,466 (combined income) for married couples, and total income for 2006 that is less than \$43,693 for single applicants and \$53,576 (combined income) for married couples.

The PTR program should not be confused with the Fair Rebate program (formerly called the Homestead Rebate). The Fair Rebate program provides rebates for homeowners and

tenants who occupied their principal residence in New Jersey on Oct. 1, paid property taxes on that dwelling either directly or through rent, and whose gross income for the entire year does not exceed certain limits. The rebate amount is determined by income, filing status, and whether the applicant was age 65 or older or eligible to claim an exemption as blind or disabled for tax year 2006. The amount ranges from \$250 to \$1200 depending on each person's eligibility status.

Rebate forms are mailed to homeowners while renters may use Form TR-1040 in the resident income tax return packet to file for the rebate.

Applications for tax year 2006 are expected to be mailed to qualified residents in mid to late February 2007.

For further information and assistance, please contact the Office on Aging at (908) 756-4135 or stop by the Senior Center.

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Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Tigers Take Three at Kittatinny Quad

By Bob Hunter

The Tigers hit the road again this past Saturday morning to face 12th ranked Kittatinny and 2nd ranked Southern Regional along with defending Group I champion North Warren.

The morning began with Kittatinny and the first match started at 152 with Sam Martin winning a 1-0 decision over Russell Van Gordon. Mark Wagner 160 kept things rolling with a decision win over Justin Junior 6-1. Danny Pompilio 171, who has been wrestling very good as of late, pinned Eric Bach at 3:01. The Tigers then forfeited to Tom Spellman at 189. Jon Conroy bumped up to 215 and gave all he had, but came up short dropping a 8-7 decision. Rocco Petriello, heavyweight, also wrestling tough lost a 5-4 decision. The Tigers needed to get back on track and did so when Nick Heilmann 103 defeated Chris Burdge 4-0. Patrick Hunter 119 added some bonus points with a technical fall over Justin Zieba 18-3. Ryan Sacco 119 who was filling in for the injured John Wylam, came through with a huge decision win over Zach Voris 6-4. Nick Pauls 125 was in a

battle with Derek Valenti before getting pinned. Brian Hunt 130 then dropped a close 4-3 decision to Brian Bollette. Billy Ashnault 135 then beat Troy Hernandez 3-0. Nick Dorey 140 turned up the heat and rolled past Zach Virga 10-3. Mike Jakubik 145 ended the match with a 5-3 decision over Troy Branham. Final score South Plainfield 32, Kittatinny 21

North Warren, the defending North I Group I champions, were up next and the Tigers cruised to a 53-10 victory. Winning for the Tigers were Nick Heilmann 103, Ryan Sacco 112, Patrick Hunter 119, Nick Pauls 125, Billy Ashnault 135, Nick Dorey 140, Mike Jakubik 145, Sam Martin 152, Mark Wagner 160, Dan Pompilio 171 and Rocco Petriello at heavyweight. Final score South Plainfield 53, North Warren 10.

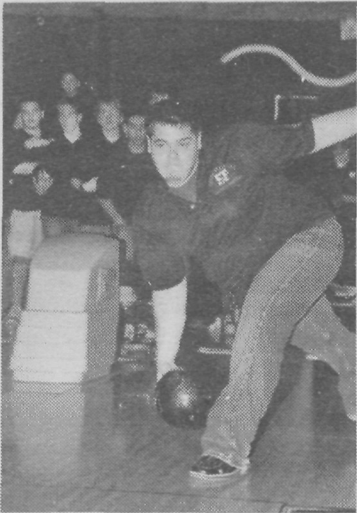
In the final match of the day the Tigers faced number two ranked Southern Regional. The Tigers, who were pumped up, took it to them when Mark Wagner 160 pinned Aaron Williams at 4:34. Danny Pompilio 171 then dropped a 5-2 to Ed Broderick. Jonathan Conroy 189 lost by major decision 12-4. Rocco Petriello heavyweight, was out

matched and pinned. Trailing 17-6 the Tigers began the come back when Nick Heilmann 103 pinned Rich Tiele at 1:51. Patrick Hunter 112 took a 14-3 lead before pinning Jason Walters at 4:56 to put the Tigers back in the lead 18-17. Nick Pauls, 125, was trailing 4-1 heading into the final period, took the top position and quickly got in a cradle, tying the score at 4-4, but Pauls was not done yet. He locked up another cradle tighter then the first one and pinned Brian Boderick at 5:14. Bryan Hunt, 130, who lost two close matches earlier in the day, was determined not to lose another. He got a takedown in the first period, then an escape in the second and led 3-0. Then with 12 seconds left, he got hit by a headlock, but as time ran out Hunt was awarded another point for an illegal hold and won by decision 4-2 over state ranked Nick Maugeri. Billy Ashnault, 135, also had to wrestle a state ranked wrestler, Frank Miele. After a scoreless first period, Ashnault took down in the second and quickly escaped for a 1-0 lead. In the third period Ashnault rode him to victory and that put the Tigers up 33-17. Southern was in a position to close the match with their top three wrestlers, but needed bonus points in each to win. Nick Dorey, 140, had to face two-time state champ Frank Molinaro. Dorey hung tough losing by decision 8-2. Mike Jakubik, 145, also facing a state place winner in Luke Lanno. Lanno, needing a pin, never came close, but did score a major decision 10-2. Technically the match was over with one bout to go as Sam Martin, 152, took on Keith Dillard another state ranked wrestler and dropped a 7-4 decision. Final score South Plainfield 33, Southern 27

The trip to the Clash earlier in the season helped, as the Tigers seemed more composed and confident at having to wrestle three tough matches in a day. Nice job boys and coaches.

SPHS BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Senior Rob Parillo (246 high game, 680 set, 191 avg.)



Sophomore Jackie Kukuch (240 high game, 535 high set, 161 avg.)

Tigers Pummel Perth Amboy Extend Streak to Five, All Shutouts

The boys bowling team continues to steamroll into opponents as it caged the Panthers of Perth Amboy. Ryan Pauls took scoring honors with games of 235-208-224 for a high 667 set. Teammate Rob Parillo posted games of 212-236 for a solid 623 set. Also adding to the Tiger scoring were Chris Esposito with games of 206-195 and 191, Mike Dandola 187-206-194 and Trevor Rastelli with a 194. The boys raised their record to 8-4-1.

SPHS	1,008	923	1,039-2,970
Perth Amboy	809	739	673-2,221

Lady Tigers Romp Over Perth Amboy, Improve Record to 9-4

The girls bowling team won its fifth of six matches as they polished off a spirited Perth Amboy squad. After losing the first game, the Tigers poured it on to out distance the Panthers.

Jackie Kukuch's 198 high game and 493 set paced the Tigers teammates. Gina Curcio 168-469 and Lyndsey Murtagh 185-461 also added to the Tiger cause. Jessica Vasquez chipped in with games of 159 and 160.

SPHS	706	819	778-2,303
Perth Amboy	741	663	733-2,137



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Teams Sought for Freeholders' Basketball Tournament

The Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking teams for its annual Board of Chosen Freeholders Basketball Tournament starting March 5.

This year's tournament will be held at the Middlesex County Vocational School, 21 Sutton Ln. in Piscataway. This single elimination tournament will consist of four divisions:

Youth Division No. 1 (boys and girls age 10 and under); Youth Division No. 2 (boys and girls age 12 and under); Youth Division No. 3 (boys

and girls ages 13 and 14); Youth Division No. 4 (boys and girls ages 15 to 17).

Registration is \$50 per team entry fee and team rosters are due Feb. 16.

Make checks payable to Treasurer, Middlesex Co. and mail to Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Dept., Attn: Erin Drakoulis, P.O. Box 661, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

For information, call Erin Drakoulis at (732) 745-4222 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or email erin.carroll@co.middlesex.nj.us.

LEGAL NOTICES

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY**
ORDINANCE No. 1764

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

Ordinance #1764 entitled: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 308, LOT 4 TO SANDRA ERB IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,300.00 was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 26, 2007 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately after the 7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1764

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 308, LOT 4 IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY TO SANDRA ERB IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,300.00.

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield is the owner of property known as Block 308, Lot 4, said property being situated on Highland Avenue, in the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS Sandra Erb are the owners of a contiguous parcel, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield by and through its governing body and the Economic Development Sub-Committee has deemed that Block 308 Lot 4 is not needed for public purpose or use, and

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WHEREAS, New Jersey Statute provides for the sale of said parcel to a contiguous owner without the need for public sale;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, that the said property shall be sold to said contiguous owner on February 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building of the Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey and will be made subject to the following conditions;

1. That conveyance by the Borough of South Plainfield shall be by Bargain and Sale deed without covenants and without representations as to the marketability of title. In the event that the purchaser shall determine that title of the property in question shall not be good and marketable, and questions as to the marketability of title shall be submitted to the Borough Clerk's Office within forty-five (45) days of the date of sale. In the event said questions have not been raised within said forty-five (45) day period, then and in that event all questions relating to the marketability of title shall be deemed waived and this matter shall proceed to closing of title within ninety (90) days of the date of sale.
2. Easements, both of record and not of record.
3. Restrictions of record.
4. Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield as presently constituted without representations as to the use to which said property can be put.
5. In the event that the purchaser is unable to close title within ninety (90) days of the date of sale, they shall forward to the Borough of South Plainfield a check representing the balance of the purchase price to be placed in the general fund of the Borough.
6. In the event that the purchaser fails or refuses to close title and/or pay the consideration therefore within the ninety (90) day period, then in the event, the Borough of South Plainfield, may, by resolution of the Mayor and Council, declare the transaction null and void and the purchaser's deposit shall be retained by the Borough of South Plainfield as liquidated damages.

7. The purchaser shall make application for any required approvals, including but not limited to subdivision approval, on site and site improvements as required by appropriate Borough Boards, Agencies and Officers, and all costs shall be paid by the purchaser.
8. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that if the subject parcel does not require Planning Board or Board of Adjustment review, then in that event, the purchaser will make all required improvements as determined by the Borough Engineer. The necessary performance guarantees shall be posted for same prior to the issuance of any building permits.
9. Purchaser recognizes that the sale is subject to development standards to be set by the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and/or the Borough Engineer in addition of the Middlesex County Planning Board, if applicable. This sale is made without representation as to same and is subject to same.
10. The subject parcel shall merge with and become a part of the contiguous parcel owned by the purchaser and shall not be subdivided at any future date.
11. Purchaser will take any action required by the Borough Engineer and/or the Borough Environmental Officer to protect any designated wetlands or flood plane existing on the subject parcel.
12. Certain properties within the Borough of South Plainfield may be designated as contaminated sites by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Department of Environmental Protection. One such property is the "Cornell Dubilier" facility now known as the Market Avenue which has been designated as a Super Fund site. The purchaser acknowledges knowledge of such locations and the existence of same will not be a basis for avoidance of buyer's obligations.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication and adoption in accordance with New Jersey Law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk

\$161.50 January 26, 2007

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY;I**
ORDINANCE 1765

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

Ord. 1765 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEES FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR THE YEAR 2007 was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, January 26, 2007 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately after the 7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1765

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR 2007.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the following rates shall be established for use of the South Plainfield Community Pool for 2007:

Individual	Resident of South Plainfield age 12 or over (Applicants under 18 years of age must have parental consent):			
Fees:	Resident on or before 4/17/07	\$150 plus 10 free passes		
	Resident after 4/17/07	\$200 plus 10 free passes		
	Non-Resident on or before 4/17/07	\$240 plus 10 free passes		
	Non-Resident after 4/17/07	\$240 plus no free passes		
Family	A husband and wife and their children (if any) residing at the family home in South Plainfield. Children included under this membership are those born after September 1, 1988 or who are a full time college student (valid college ID required) or fully dependent (severe physical/mental disability)			
Fees:	Resident on or before 4/17/07	\$275 plus 10 free passes		
	Resident after 4/17/07	\$325 plus 10 free passes		
	Non-Resident on or before 4/17/07	\$500 plus 10 free passes		
	Non-Resident after 4/17/07	\$500 with no free passes		
Senior Citizen	62 years of age or older who reside in South Plainfield			
Fees:	Resident on or before 4/17/07	\$50 plus 10 free passes		
	Resident after 4/17/07	\$70 plus 10 free passes		
	Non-Resident on or before 4/17/07	\$100 plus 10 free passes		
	Non-resident after 4/17/07	\$100 with no free passes		
DAILY ADMISSION PASSES (proper identification required)				
	Monday - Friday		Weekends and Holidays	
	Resident Non-Resident		Resident Non-Resident	
All ages before 5:00 p.m.	\$8 \$15		\$10 \$20	
All ages after 5:00 p.m.	\$5 \$8		\$5 \$8	
Groups - 20 or more*	\$5 \$5			

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Ordinance shall become effective immediately after final adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC,CMC
Municipal Clerk

\$119.70 January 26, 2007

Peer to Peer Leadership Helps Build a House

By Debbie Boyle

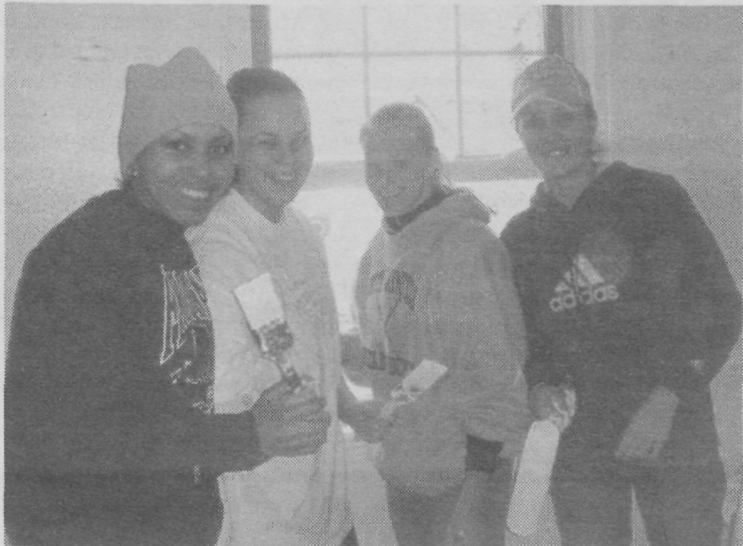
Peer to Peer and Student Leadership Program students and directors are helping build a house for the Bailey Family in Plainfield, with guidance from Habitat for Humanity.

Program directors from the high school, Mrs. Martko and Mr. Encinas and middle school directors, Mr. Scalzo and Ms. Schwarts, along with Ms. Marconi, Mrs. Adams, Ms. Schocklin, Mr. Pennisi, Mr. Giannakis, Mr. Miglis, and Debbie Boyle along with student participants Nick Giannikas, Michael Boyle, Brandon Ullom, Charlie Decker, Chris Pennisi, Scott Barton, Garret Kelly, Keith Heckel, Taylor Mandell, Ashleigh Gaspari, Katie Hardy, Brittany Hollis, Geraldine Vallaradares, Tara Goitandia, Liz Valentino, Nicole Miglis, Alex Petronko, Leyroy Peeples, Kristen and Steve Partesi and Beckey Deffler worked along side several members of the Bailey Family.

The students painted, spackled, learned how to lay a tile floor and put up doors. It was very exciting for these student workers to jump right in and provide non-stop help. What a great way for the leadership program to tirelessly give of themselves to help others in need.

Thank you to Teri Pileggi for bringing refreshments to the volunteers and thank you to Brittany DeNitzio, former SPHS student attending The College of New Jersey, who is involved with Habitat for Humanity, for coming to speak to the Student Leadership program.

The Student Leadership participants in the middle and high school are continually trained to help elementary students deal with issues involving an unhealthy lifestyle, such as bullying, drinking of alcohol, smoking, harassment and the use of drugs. Ninety-eight percent of these student leaders are involved in living and creating a healthy lifestyle. Younger children



(L to R) Teacher Mrs. Adams with students Alexandra Petronko, Tara Goitandia and Kristen Partesi do some painting.



(L to R) Habitat for Humanity project manager and student Scott Barton, BOE member Jim Giannakis and student Michael Boyle learn to speckle.

look to their peers for guidance and many of these young children involved in the program are learning to bring their situations to the surface and have the courage to discuss their thoughts and feelings when there is no one else that they feel comfortable

discussing them with. This program has been in effect for more than five years and the Board of Education and the directors should be commended for supporting and encouraging this Student Leadership Peer to Peer program.

Home Sales Down 25% in 2006

Home sales were falling, but Century 21 Moretti Realty's CEO says his house is in order.

Guy Moretti, broker of Century 21 Moretti Realty, estimates that the number of homes sold in 2006 to be off the 2005 pace by about 25% this year. The fourth quarter of 2006 saw a strong sales activity reducing inventory of homes currently on the market as buyers took advantage of a large selection of properties being offered for sale at lower prices. This sales activity could mean a leveling of prices as interest rates, inventory supplies and buyer demand settle into a healthy combination. According to Moretti, "This buyer demand to housing availability today is much healthier and sustainable today than the run away prices we have seen in the last four years. Residential real estate is not meant to be a short term investment but rather a long term investment, with slow, consistent growth."

Also noteworthy is the fact that unsold inventory of homes on the market has decreased in December by almost 18%, as compared to a 47% increase over the first six months of 2006, according to Moretti. Contributing to the fourth quarter sales performance are declining mortgage rates and unemployment rates as the economy continues to create new jobs. He stated we still have a fairly strong local real estate market. Jobs, income and interest rates are in great shape. Home inventory in 2006 have grown from 2005 levels which means successful real estate agents now need to properly price a home, market a home, and know how to make it stand out from the others. When buyers have multiple homes to choose from it comes down to how you position a property in the market.

According to Moretti, "We also have worked with our mortgage partners to create more attractive finance

options for potential buyers." Sellers are now having to deal with the reality that their home is not worth quite what it would have sold for a year ago. According to Moretti, prices in our area have adjusted 5%-7% downward in the last 12 months. Some homeowners will look at this information and say, I'm losing all this money, but until you sell the property you haven't lost anything, even though you see a paper equity decrease. A home seller will have to understand the price of their home will be established by the market at the time they want to sell it. What a home owner paid for the property has no impact on the market value. When asked how high the housing market can go, Moretti commented, "As compared to most European countries the USA is inexpensive." For more information you can call Guy Moretti at Century 21 Moretti Realty (908) 755-5300.

South Plainfield Adult High School Upcoming Trips

The adult school has tickets available for the following Broadway shows: *Mary Poppins*-Tuesday, March 27, bus leaves at 5:30 p.m. Price \$135. *Tarzan*-Matinee-Saturday, July 7, bus leaves at 12 noon. Price \$115.

There is also space on the following day trips: *Peddler's Village Strawberry Festival and Shopping in Flemington*-Sunday, May 6. Price \$65.

West Side Story-Saturday, June 2. Price \$46.

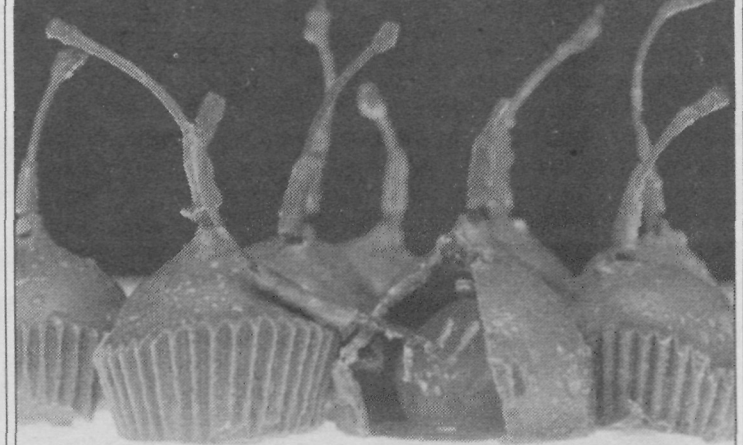
Walking Tour of a New York City-A walking tour of a New York City district highlighting the fashionable Upper Westside from San Juan Hill to Lincoln Square and beyond. With visits to Central Park, Forbes Galleries and the Salmagundi Club, the oldest club for artists in America. Lunch on your own in the Upper West Side. Led by licensed NYC guide Tony Grifa.

In the Beginning-At Sight & Sound's Millennium Theater in Lancaster, Pa. A spectacular musical drama. Thursday, Aug. 16. Price \$120 (includes buffet dinner).

To sign-up for any of the above trips or to be added to our mailing list, please call the South Plainfield Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

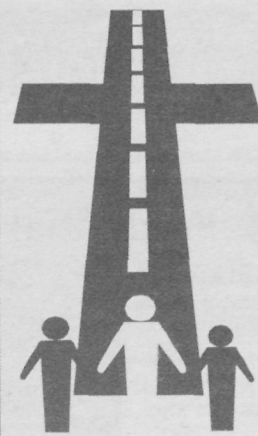


HOW SWEET IT IS! Reach every household in South Plainfield in the March 30 Observer.



For rates or to reserve space, call 908-668-0010. Deadline to reserve space is March 12. Ad copy must be submitted by March 19.

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At Pilgrim Covenant Church, we are passionate about our relationship with God, committed to loving people as Jesus did, and serving God with a purpose. If you do not currently have a church home, we warmly invite you to join us every Sunday. 9:30 am Christian Formation Hour 11:00 am Worship Celebration

For more information, please contact us at 908-756-2474.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on February 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Dept. through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same. The motor vehicles may be examined by contacting Traffic Safety.

YEAR	MAKE	VIN#	STATUS	DESC	MIN. BID
1995	Chevy	1GNCT18W8SKZ30936	Resale	Blazer	\$3200
1994	Cadillac	1GGET1294RU610958	Junk	El Dorado	\$2800
1990	Chevy	2CNBJ18U0L6217333	Resale	Tracker	\$1100
1990	Nissan	JNIHJ01P2LT373185	Resale	Maxima	\$2000
1992	Mercury	1MEPM36X3NK61893	Resale	Topaz	\$1000
1996	Ford	1FALP52U9TA110085	Resale	Contour	\$2000
1993	Ford	2FTJW36G9PCA51833	Resale	F350	\$2900
1988	Chrysler	1C38F66P8JW121716	Resale	5th Ave.	\$1500
1996	Nissan	JN1CAZ1D1TT720128	Resale	Maxima	\$3500

South Plainfield Police Department Off. Karl Schuetz Traffic Safety Officer

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

January 9, 2007

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on January 8, 2007.

A. Case #702/Site/V-McDonald's USA, LLC. Block 222; Lot 1; Oak Tree Road. The applicant's request for a waiver, (2) variances and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Beth Khidre Planning Board Secretary

\$28.00

January 26, 2007

Get Noticed.

Advertise in the Observer, Call 908-668-0010.



Assistant Superintendent Kaye Crown giving tenure certificate to Sophia Domogala adult high school administrator

FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

Congratulations to Tina Bijlani, Amit Chandler, Kimberly Galinsky, Samantha Granski, Daniel Hubner, Wael Kanj, Meshva Patel, Kate Riechert and Karla Reyes for receiving the Bloustein Scholars Award.

The Grant Elementary Basketball Shoot for Stokes 2007 competition took place on Jan. 19 at the school with a turnout of over 80 participants and their families. Thank you to Angel Jazikoff, chairperson of the 2007 Stokes committee, Recreation Director Kevin Hughes for all your help, Raymond Jazikoff, the vendors who donated food and the parents who baked and put together baskets that were auctioned; Cheryl Papa for ticket and organization sales; Princi-

pal Whalen and Assistant Principal Richkus for their support, and to all those peoples who helped in the kitchen. Thank you to Jane Dornick for your photo coverage for the *Observer* and the Grant yearbook.

Thank you to Michael George, Lauren Fry, Samantha Barthel, Michael Boyle, Tony Joe, Simali Patel, Allison Clawans, Alyssa Sutherland, Ryan Harrington, and those student council representatives who were involved in the eighth grade parent orientation at the high school held on Jan. 17.

Thanks to SPSHS student Danny McCreech for taking the initiative to write a letter to Assemblyman Diegnan with reference to obtaining a grant for the computer program for the elementary schools.

Dr. Rosado, superintendent of schools, will begin to present the 2007/2008 budget. Residents, please plan to attend one of the 20 presentations so that you can ask questions and understand the proposed budget. Once again, the Board of Education does not defeat the budget. The registered voters in South Plainfield determine the passage or failure of the budget. There

were only 1,600 voters who voted in the last school budget election when there are 11,000 registered voters. A large amount of residents were upset with the cuts that were proposed and made to the budget, yet they did not come out to vote. The budget presentations last approximately one half hour and Dr. Rosado will answer all questions. Please keep in mind that residents do not vote on teachers' contracts during the budget election and have no effect on these contracts, whether or not the budget passes.

Watch for an upcoming used clothing drive that will take place in February to benefit the indoor high school bleachers and another used clothing drive in the spring to benefit the 2007 Stokes Trip.

Thank you to Michael Boyle, Emily and Gracie Piekarski, Maggie Valentino, Katie O'Brien, Coach Sarah Blessing, Ed Piekarski, Mike O'Brien, Janet McDermott, Barbara Valentino, Michelle and Theresa Gustafson for appearing before the Board of Education to discuss the efforts of the Tiger Sharks Swim Team.

police report

• On Jan. 5, Jeffrey Catalini of South Plainfield was arrested for wrongful impersonation.

• On Jan. 16, Aliyah A. Shabazz, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to observe a traffic signal, no insurance, failure to exhibit a valid registration and an outstanding warrant.

• Hakim S. Stevens, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested for improper

passing, failure to wear a seat belt and an outstanding warrant.

• The high school reported that the front panel of glass had been broken on a Dasani beverage machine. No items were taken.

• On Jan. 17, Franklin Daniel Fox, 49, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to wear a seat belt and an outstanding warrant.

• Pizza Hut reported that four

males had left the restaurant without paying for \$40 worth of food and soda.

• On Jan. 20, a Fulton St. resident reported that a basement window had been broken and the screen ripped. No entry was gained.

• On Jan. 21, Stephen Anthony Brown, 18, of Piscataway was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting a bottle of Robitussin.

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This piece was written for Mr. Salisbury, who died of lung cancer on January 11. We all miss him. The poem is about the Drama Club play that he directed for the last time last year, written by SPHS freshman Holly McDede.

Dinner at a Salisbury Steakhouse

(and I don't even eat meat!)

Mr. Fred Douglas was a civil rights leader
But now he sips his black tea alone
Looking around with his poster face down
The movie star, the skipper, the hoochie mamas too
It's like Gilligan's Island-but not
He tries to remember but hasn't a clue

So he drew out clothing from a basket of that
which was lost but never found again
Blonde hair and a boa that flew through the air
Revealing a moustache scented of the stage, the lights, and the fear
He swallowed his own; it tasted like cranberry juice
But he pretended it was free beer

As if on cue, James Brown entered the steakhouse room
Gerald Ford followed behind him
James Brown tried to feel good, so good!! but he couldn't provide
The lyrics are still written all over the concrete floor
Lost "Hot-cha-chas" and "Razz-ma-tazz's" wander around
And all the actors don't know their places anymore

As Fredrick tried on a flapper dresses from the box
An old woman turned pages of her life
Let her eyes explore, looking for her name like the day before
She was reading of course the obituary page
Just in case she were dead and we all know we don't want
That Bruce Willis incident again on this stage

Looking lost, she went over towards the corner
"Didn't you help end slavery once?"
She asked, her face aglow, and Fred said he didn't know
So together they searched for themselves in the box of despair
But all they found was a middle school play script
And an oddly caged pink care bear

Someone new enters the Salisbury steakhouse today
He yells, "My hair! I found my hair!" and laughs
Because, grins masking lips, that's how they'll remember him
Read that script, rehearse, and memorize a lost friend
Tell the tale your director wrote and tell it well
Because you can never go back to the days of Broadway again



Dale E. Salisbury

Students Remember Salisbury as Friend, Motivator

By Patricia Abbott

Middle School teacher Dale E. Salisbury passed away on Jan. 11, at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch. Dale was born in Welland, Ontario, Canada. He served in the U.S. Army. His dream was to become a teacher and there are many South Plainfield youths and former students who are very glad he did.

Dale taught Language Arts at South Plainfield Middle School for six years. He liked hysterical comedic plays, such as "Who Dunnit," "Holder Posey" and "Yearbook." He was also a soccer coach. In 2003, Dale received the "My Hero" award from *The Star Ledger*. The award stemmed from a poem about him written by one of his former students.

Although he had been ill for some-time, Dale rarely missed school. Plans for the 2007 Middle School Players production were well underway, and the students were excited and anxious to begin. It was a shock to them to learn of his passing. Several of them shared memories of their favorite teacher. The common thread in all the memories was his sense of humor and the fact that he was a friend who listened to the students, who supported and encouraged them. Several of the memories are from former students, some in high school, some in college.

SPHS Sophomore Rocco Severini said, "Mr. Salisbury always had a sense of humor for everything and always had the perfect joke for anything. He never judged a person by the way they looked, and in drama he always gave a person a chance to shine."

Alexa and Audrey, SPHS students, had this to say. "He knew when we were doing something wrong from across the room. He could always make us laugh at something. He really pushed us all to do our best in class. He knew our potential and tried to get us to reach it. He really did care about us. We can see how much easier things were and how much better we did because he pushed us and he wanted us to be proud of ourselves. He taught us more than any other teacher we've ever had and we've learned so many things from him."

Jessica Muselino, a student at Middlesex County College, said, "I had

Mr. Salisbury for first period in eighth grade. We were the first class he had at the middle school. He was very new. Off the bat I liked him a lot. He was so funny and nice. Every time I have to do something with Edgar Allen Poe, I think of him. There are not many teachers you connect with. He was a friend, as a well as an excellent teacher. He really made me enjoy English a lot, which I normally really don't like. Once or twice while I was in high school, I went to the middle school and visited some teachers, including him. We had nice talks and once I watched him rehearsing with some of the drama students. I knew he was sick for while, but I thought he was better. He's no longer suffering now, he is at peace. He was a great man who touched so many students."

SPHS senior Nadine Yon wrote, "I never had Mr. Salisbury as a teacher, but he was our Middle School Drama director. He could always make me laugh. And he was able to make the

Dale E. Salisbury, 47

Beloved Middle School Teacher

Dale E. Salisbury of Long Branch died on Jan. 11, at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch.

Following his dream to become a teacher, he taught in Irvington and at the South Plainfield Middle School, where he loved what he did. He was also a soccer and drama coach. In 2003, Dale received the "My Hero" award from *The Star Ledger*. It was a poem about him as written by one of his former students.

He served honorably in the U.S. Army. Born in Welland, Ontario, Canada, he lived in Sea Bright before moving to Long Branch 12 years ago.

Dale, my loving husband, I will miss you every day of my life. As well as our "kids," we loved you so.

Dearest father, I didn't raise you, or grow up with you as a sibling, nor did I live my 16 years with you. But I loved you so much. I'm sorry this ended so soon, but you will always live on in my heart. Love your daughter, Erika.

Surviving are his wife of 16 years, Judi Casale; a daughter, Erika Klees of Mooresville, S.C.; a step-daughter, Jody Anne Van Brunt of Wall; his parents, Harold and Kathleen Salisbury of Mooresville, S.C.; a brother, Lee Salisbury of Kendall Park; two sisters, Dawn Sobiech of Mooresville, S.C. and Leslie Maison of Pahrump, Nev.; one grandchild, Brandi Lynne; three nephews and two nieces.

Funeral services were held at the Damiano Funeral Home in Long Branch. Letters of condolence may be sent through our website at www.damianofuneralhome.com.

best out of a bad situation, like when the lights in the middle school randomly shut off because it was too hot outside. Mr. Salisbury was an amazing teacher and friend. R.I.P. You will be missed, but never forgotten."

Some who never had him as a teacher, and were not in any of his clubs, shared their thoughts. Valeria Rivera said, "I never had Mr. Salisbury as a teacher, but I would always see him. He always seemed so nice. He would always make me laugh in the hallways when I was down. I wish I thanked him for that. I hope you rest in peace, Mr. Salisbury."

The memories of Dale Salisbury could fill pages, so Almost Famous Players are collecting "Letters to Heaven," letters from students, former students or anyone who wishes to contribute. They can be written to Dale or to his family. They will be compiled and put in a book to be sent to his family.

Obituaries

George L. Albertocki, 88

George L. Albertocki died on Saturday, Jan. 20, in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Newark, George moved with his family to South Plainfield in 1955.

He joined the Newark Police Department in 1947 as one of the first class of new police officers after World War II. He served as a detective, retiring after 25 years in 1973. He then became a principal investigator for the New Jersey Public Advocates Office, retiring in 1987.

George proudly served during World War II as a platoon sergeant in the U.S. Army. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded a number of medals for his efforts including the European African Middle Eastern Service Award, World War II Victory Medal, American Service Medal, and the Combat Infantry Medal. He was also bestowed with a Bronze Star for his actions. Before engaging in combat, George was an instructor at the Officers Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., where he trained young soldiers.

In addition, George was a member of the Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 3, the Police Honor

Legion, the N.J. State Retired Police and Firemen's Association Local 1 and the VFW Police Post #1439.

Mr. Albertocki was predeceased by his wife Mary (Haladun) and three sisters, Pauline Albertocki, Mary Brescher and Lucille Zanelli.

Surviving are two sons, George and wife Elaine and Mark and girlfriend Gail Sulinski, all of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers donations in George's name can be made to the Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.

Joseph W. Nowakowski, Jr., 55

Joseph W. Nowakowski Jr. died suddenly on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the home of a friend in Lagro, Fla.

Born in Plainfield, Joe had been a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, graduating from South Plainfield High School in 1969.

Joseph was predeceased by his parents, Elizabeth in 2003 and Joseph W. Sr. in 2004.

Surviving are several cousins. Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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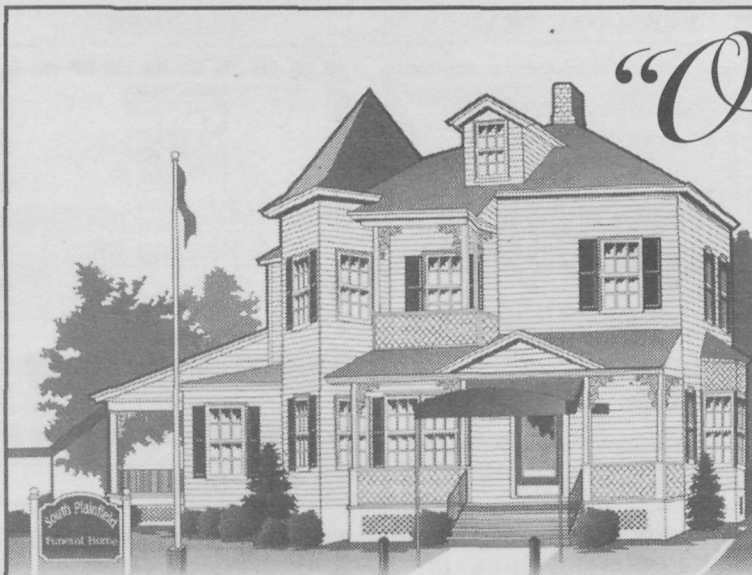
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