

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 24

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

TOTAL DOMINATION!

Tiger Wrestlers Cruise To Third Consecutive State Title

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team won its third consecutive group state title in dominating fashion this past weekend at the Ritacco Center in Toms River.

The Tigers, winners of the Group III title the past two year's, won their first Group II title since 2000 when they defeated Hackettstown 42-9 to complete the three-peat.

A packed house of 5,035, with an estimated 500 Tiger faithfuls, watched in amazement as the totally fired up Tigers dominated in their semi-final match against fourth seeded Point Pleasant Borough by a score of 58-6, then handled third seeded Hackettstown, winning 42-9 with relative ease in the finals.

Point Pleasant Borough 21-4 did not have a clue what was about to happen to them when the match started at 145, with Mike Jakubik taking the mat for the Tigers. Jakubik showed them quickly what would be in store for them for the remainder of the match when he pinned Jeffrey Nase in just 39 seconds. That was only the beginning. Sam Martin 152, defeated Joseph Bontempo by major decision 16-3. Mark Wagner 160, then pinned Sean Casey at 1:51.

Point Pleasant Borough thought they had a chance to get on the board when Skyler Engelken 171, with a season record of 28-1, took the mat to face Danny Pompilio. Pompilio fell behind early, but kept it close until the



The South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team won the Group II State Title last weekend.

third period when he put the pressure on to take the lead and go on to win 8-7. Jon Conroy 189, lost by decision to Kyle Coleman. Preston Johnson 215, then majored Gage Bongiovi 10-2. Brad Martin 285, was in a battle with Martin Infante, but came up short losing by decision 10-8. Nick Heilmann 103, and Ryan Sacco 112, each scored falls to put it out of reach

for Point Pleasant Borough. Patrick Hunter 119, scored a major decision over Jordan Beverly 11-1. Nick Pauls 125, came on strong in the third period to take the lead and held on for an 8-7 win. Bryan Hunt 130, won by technical fall 15-0 at 4:31 over Brian Munsie. Billy Ashnault 135, then pinned John Kosequat 1:11. Point Pleasant Borough elected to forfeit to

Nick Dorey 140, to end the match.

As the Tigers watched Hackettstown finish up their match against Kittatiny, they were all quietly rooting for them to win. They wanted to play Hackettstown after their dual meet win earlier in the season. Hackettstown was quoted in a newspaper saying that they should have and could beat South Plainfield. That

quote upset the Tigers and gave them the motivation they needed to prove who really was the better team. They were on a mission. With the Tiger faithful loudly singing, "We are South Plainfield," lead by longtime Tiger wrestling fans Charlie Hoppe and Sal Severini, the crowd responded and the finals got underway.

The match started at 152 with Sam Martin taking control early. He went on to win by decision 6-4 over Owen Vernon. In a move that surprised everyone, Hackettstown decided to forfeit to Mark Wagner at 160. That made the score 9-0 with Dan Pompilio 171, coming out to face JJ Mitchell, who Wagner had defeated in their last three meetings. Pompilio again fell behind early and kept it close going into the third period when he turned it up and scored an escape, then a takedown with 36 seconds left in regulation, for a 5-4 win. The Tigers, now leading 12-0, seemed to take control over the shocked Hackettstown team and fans. Zach Ulm 189, needing a pin to get his team back into the match, was not only unable to pin Jonathan Conroy, but couldn't even get a major decision win, another mistake by Hackettstown.

(Continued on page 8)

Council Endorses Safety Standards for Disabled



Receiving the Borough Council resolution for their effort to have laws enacted to enforce more stringent safety conditions for the disabled are The Family Alliance to Stop Abuse and Neglect members Robin Turner, Ann Brady, Margaret Griscti, Mary Rindosh and Diane Gruskowski.

By Libby Barsky

Mayor Charles Buttrico and members of the Borough Council presented four members of the Family Alliance to Stop Abuse and Neglect with a resolution supporting New Jersey legislation requiring proper installation of safety devices in vehicles used for transporting people with disabilities at the Feb. 6 Council meeting.

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted in 1990 and specified the use of safety mechanisms, including wheelchair tie-down and a lap-shoulder belt for every wheelchair passenger while being transported, the regulation has not been enforced and disabled individuals have suffered as a result, according to Margaret Griscti of Family Alliance.

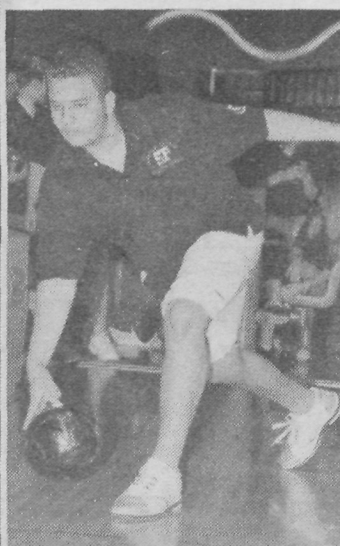
Family Alliance is promoting the passage of two New Jersey Assembly bills introduced in July 2006: A-3459 to require training for the facility staff in the use of properly using the wheelchair tie-down and lap shoulder belt for every wheelchair passenger with the ability to fine if there is non-

(Continued on page 6)

Inside...

Esposito Qualifies for State All-Groups Indiv.

See page 8 for results.



Junior Chris Esposito is going to "The Big Dance"—the NJSIAA State All-Groups Individual Championship.

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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 20	7 p.m.	Immediately following
March 13	7 p.m.	Immediately following

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

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Feb. 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. 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.-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
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
(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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To the Editor,

Wow, talk about damning with faint praise! While praising South Plainfield school officials for swift action in calling the police, suspending the students involved and searching the school when a replica of a handgun was found in the middle school, the *Courier News* consistently harped on their lack of informing parents immediately.

My granddaughter is a seventh grade student at the middle school, and frankly, I am comforted by the fact that Steve Novak is the principal of that school. She informed me that Mr. Novak held an auditorium session with the students and explained in great detail exactly what happened. Perhaps he did not invite the *Courier News* and that is why they were in such a snit.

I personally don't know of a single parent who does not think that he is doing a wonderful job. He is a hands-on principal who patrols the halls himself. He is fair, but demands discipline and excellence. What more could we ask? It seems to me that you just could not bring yourself to praise a South Plainfield school without finding some little fault. Shame on you.

JOANNE O'SULLIVAN

Dear Editor,

For a little over a year now, Councilman Matt Anesh and I have been strong advocates for developing a better relationship between the school board and the council. This includes increasing communication between the two bodies, as well as setting up a shared-services program between the school system and the town. Matt and I both feel the taxpayers will benefit from increased cooperation, as will the students in our schools.

In an effort to achieve these goals, I recently asked Mayor Charlie Butrico to appoint me as a liaison to the Board of Education, and he kindly consented. As a result, I've begun attending board meetings, and, with the help of our borough officials and the board's administration, we are researching ways the two bodies can be more efficient. In addition, we are contacting other towns where shared services have been a success to see how their programs work.

I couldn't be more pleased with the reception I've received by my counterparts on the school board. The board appears anxious to work with the town, and now the important work begins: putting together a program that will generate long-term savings and help control spending.

To that end, we welcome input from the community about ways we can better serve the residents and be more efficient. Please feel free to share your ideas with us by calling me at (908) 966-1491 or by e-mailing me at robbengivenga@yahoo.com.

School board President Jeff Seider and I agree that shared services are much needed and will be a win-win for everyone. While we still have a long way to go in developing a comprehensive program, the results look

promising. Be on the lookout for further updates as things progress.

COUNCILMAN ROB BENGIVENGA

To the Editor:

This should be posted in all schools. Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this! To anyone with kids of any age, here's some advice.

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a high school about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1: Life is not fair—get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will not make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping, they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

If you can read this—thank a teacher! If you are reading it in English—thank a soldier!

KENNETH E. LA FRIERE

Dear Editor,

Why is it that every time the teachers union is negotiating a contract with the board of education the first thing you hear is, "We are here for the children?" I know that most of the teachers in our district are here because they care about the children, but the

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: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

union leaders don't seem to feel the same way. Every time they are without a contract, all the extra activities that teachers are not getting a stipend for are automatically done away with. Children that are in need of extra help are only allowed in the school for a half hour after the last bell rings, and then they are told they have to leave, even if they still need of help, because the teachers have to leave! What kind of foolishness are we allowing to happen in our schools? The children that wanted to join after school clubs can not because the teachers are not allowed to volunteer their time to run the clubs. It is somewhat sickening when people are told what to do with their free time. Nobody is getting hurt more than the children in this situation. It's very hard for a parent to explain to their children why the extra activities they were looking forward to are no longer being offered. How do you explain that the teachers are not allowed to volunteer their free time? It's not easy, especially when your child looks up to that teacher. Why can't the individual teachers decide if they want to volunteer their time? The teachers obviously volunteered their time before their contract was in negotiations because they wanted to. Why drag the children through things that they do not understand. We, as parents, have no input with the ongoing negotiations between the teacher's union and the Board of Education. We do not vote on accepting or not accepting a contract. That is the Board of Education's job and we as parents can not force them one way or another to settle. Our children certainly do not have any input on negotiations, yet they are the ones that are getting the short end of the stick here.

Case in point: Mr. Murray, the music director at the high school, is in charge of the spring musical this year and he has chosen "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" for his production. Unlike years past, there have always been many teachers that have volunteered their time directing the play; he is in charge of the music, getting the costumes made, the choreography, the sets, the lighting, stage crew, etc. You name it, he has to do it, because nobody is allowed to volunteer to help. Most of us do not even have a clue what it entails to put on a play, nevertheless try to do it all ourselves. The

(Continued on page 10)

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Next Monday is President's Day and the library will be closed. President's Day is one of the Federal holidays that was changed in 1968 to standardize the calendar, making the holiday the third Monday in February. Originally it was to replace Washington's Birthday which was celebrated on Feb. 22 since the late 1700's. However, since our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, was also born in February the day has come to unofficially honor both. For more information on these presidents and others you might be interested in you can stop by the reference desk and we will help you.

Furthermore, should you want to look up any ancestors who were alive when George Washington was president, you can do so on either www.heritagequest.com or www.ancestry.com. Both give you access to United States Census records back to 1790, plus each includes other databases that cover everything from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans to extensive lists of Civil War and World War I and II soldiers and sailors. There are also birth, marriage, and death records. These two sites are wonderful sources for genealogical information and while both can be used inside the library, only Heritage Quest can be accessed from home. If you are using any of our databases from home (and we have a large number including EbscoHost for magazine articles, The New York Times from 1851, Contemporary Authors, Testing and Education Reference Center, Legal Forms, etc.) you will need to have a current library card.

Two other new databases you'll want to check out are "Dear Reader" and "NextReads." Similar to "Novelist," these databases assist patrons in finding new authors and books in the

Churches Lenten Worship/Workshops

The Association of South Plainfield Churches, which is comprised of Sacred Heart Parish, First Baptist, Nativity BVM Orthodox, Pilgrim Covenant, Rescue House of Prayer, St. Stephen Lutheran and Wesley United Methodist, is sponsoring a series of Lenten Worship/Workshops about developing your spiritual life. Each church will bring a topic from their tradition to share with the Christian community. Each gathering will be held Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship, conversation and light refreshments.

Worship/Workshops will be held at the following locations:

February 28: St. Stephen Lutheran Church-Lutheran Hymnody (Hymns and Music).

March 7: First Baptist Church-Scripture Study.

March 14: Pilgrim Covenant Church-Small Group Discipleship.

March 21: Wesley United Methodist Church-Social Action as Spirituality.

March 28: Rescue House of Prayer-Prayer: Your Connection to God.

April 4: Sacred Heart Catholic Church-Praying the Scriptural Rosary.

SPHS Parent/Teacher Conferences

The South Plainfield High School Administration would like to invite the parents of high school students to attend our parent/teacher conference on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the conferences, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Ken May at (908) 754-4620, ext. 248 or 249.

reader's favorite genres. Thus, if you like mysteries, but have read everything your favorite authors have written, you can get some guidance through these databases. And the genres range from Christian fiction to romance, to science fiction, to business to teen and children's titles. These two databases are at the bottom of the second column from the left on our Web page (southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

Also, for all you sports fans, Angelo Saverino will be in the library on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. to discuss his career as an author and sports agent. No preregistration is required.

Finally Miss Linda and Miss Mija are doing all their regular storytime and craft programs. Three-year-olds and up are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. "Time for 2's and 3's" is 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday. "Books 'N' Babies" is Friday mornings at 10:30. All programs are drop-in so no registration is required.

If you have any questions or need to renew materials please feel free to call the library at (908) 754-7885 and someone will help you.



Principal Dr. Ken May, Brittany Hollis, Nicholas Dorey and MaryEllen Martko.

Edison Rotary Student of the Month

Dr. Ken May, principal of South Plainfield High School, has announced the Rotary Students of the Month for February 2007. The awards went to Nicholas Dorey and Brittany Hollis.

Brittany is enrolled in multiple AP courses, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society and South Plainfield Student Leaders. Brittany plans on majoring in bio/chemistry in the fall.

Nick is actively involved in the South Plainfield Student Leaders, Heroes and Cool Kids and Varsity Wrestling. Nick will attend East Stroudsburg University in the fall majoring in special education.

The recipients were honored at a breakfast at the Clarion Hotel in Edison on Feb. 7. Congratulations to our students on achieving this award.

Midco Services Renews Adopt-A-Spot Contract

Joe Vitulli, general manager of Midco Residential Services, has renewed his company's adoption of Harmich and Metuchen roads for the coming year.

Midco's transfer station is located on Harmich Road and their trucks travel on the section of Metuchen Road between Belmont Avenue and Harmich. The company has contracted with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association to keep these stretches of road clean.

Despite tarping, cardboard and other materials occasionally drop onto the roadway from solid waste trucks.

For the past five years, Midco has addressed this problem through the CBA's Adopt-A-Spot program.

In addition to a crew that goes out to pick up debris manually, Midco hires a street sweeping service to sweep the Metuchen Road segment twice a month and a landscaper during the growing season to control weeds.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

A heartfelt message from the "L Team" and Al Perez to you on Valentines Day.



MARY ANN LISEWSKI & The "L" Team

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Around Town

VFW Chicken Dinner February 16

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a chicken paprikash dinner on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$8. Public is welcome.

Edison Valley Presents Glengarry February 16

Glengarry Glen Ross begins Friday, Feb. 16, and runs until Sunday, March 11, at Edison Valley Playhouse on 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 e-mailing reservations@evplayhouse.com.

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

AARP Defensive Driving Class

February 17 & 24 and March 15 & 22

The AARP will hold defensive driving classes on two consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 17 and 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Muhlenberg Hospital and on two consecutive Thursdays, March 15 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. You must attend both classes of either session to receive a three-year discount on your auto insurance. Registration is required; the cost is \$10.

To register or for more information, call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Dinners

February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on Friday, Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Dinners will be served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave. from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu will feature filet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan), cheese ravioli, manicotti and linguini or pizza; fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, french fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert.

For more information please call the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or Tony Moskal at (732) 727-4841.

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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 FEBRUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS				Bingo 10am-2pm 16
Trip to Claridge in Atlantic City February 22 "Catch Me If You Can" Hunterdon Hills Trip, March 12				
19 CENTER CLOSED Washington's Birthday	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	20 Aerobics 8:45am Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1 pm Crocheting 1 pm Tai Chi 2 pm	21 Pathmark Shopping 9 am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am, 11am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 23
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, Saverino is also an actor with experience in film, television and theater. He will speak about his life and career. Copies of his 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 Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

AARP 4144 Meeting

February 26

AARP Chapter 4144 will hold their next meeting on Monday, Feb. 26, at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m.

The program will be a red, white and blue review by Helen Frenick and the Hi-Steppers Dancers from the Franklin Twp. Senior Center.

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

Ponytail Meeting

February 27

The next Parents' Ponytail Assoc. meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 27, beginning at 7:30 pm. at the PAL building on Maple Ave. Bring your comments, concerns and/or ideas to the table. New faces are always welcomed. You can make a difference, if you just get involved.

You can also visit our Web site at www.spponytail.com.

Spaghetti Dinner

March 4

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., is hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. Dinner includes salad, bread and butter, beverage and dessert. Free-will offering will be taken; suggested donation is adults \$5, children \$2. No reservations necessary.

For more information call (908) 757-4474.

SPHS Project Grad Auction/Raffle

March 10

The South Plainfield High School PTA will be hosting their annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 10, in the SPHS gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. All profits will go towards Project Graduation for the Class of 2007. Tickets are \$12.

For tickets, contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461 or Pat Anderson at (908) 756-6512. This event has sold out in past years so please call as soon as possible to obtain your tickets. This is a great event for a very worthwhile cause. We look forward to you joining us in support of the Class of 2007.

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.

Stress Factory/Rescue Squad Fundraiser

March 25

The Stress Factory Comedy Club Bar and Grill, located at 90 Church St. in New Brunswick, presents a fundraiser to benefit the South Plainfield Rescue Squad featuring Vinnie Brand on Sunday, March 25. Doors open/dinner at 5 p.m.; show at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

For reservations and tickets, please call (908) 754-2343.

— Out of Town —

Willow Grove Mardi Gras Jazz Worship

February 18

Willow Grove Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains invites you to Mardi Gras jazz worship service and brunch in celebration of the beginning of Lent and in remembrance of the religious roots of Mardi Gras, on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 10:30 a.m. Reservations by Feb. 15.

Call the church office at (908) 232-5678, e-mail info@willowgrovechurch.org.

Art Exhibit

February 18-March 16

The Arts Guild of Rahway presents "Out of the East: Recent Artworks Inspired by the Culture and Imagery of the Near and Far East" from Feb. 18 through March 16. A reception with the artists, open to the general public, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

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

Somerset Ostomy Association Meeting

February 20

The Somerset County Ostomy Association will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Somerset Medical Center, Conference Rooms C&D in Somerville. No fee or pre-registration is required. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Ed Wheeler at (908) 534-7897. To learn more about the UOAA, call 1-800-826-0826 or visit www.uoaa.org.

Prayer Gathering at Oak Tree Presbyterian

February 21

The Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, 445 Plainfield Rd. in North Edison is hosting their annual Lenten Soup and Prayer gatherings during the Wednesdays of Lent beginning Wednesday, Feb. 21. Soup is served at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief service of prayer and reflection at 7 p.m.

For more information call (732) 549-4178.

(Continued on next page)

Join us in bringing you more of South Plainfield

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. Make your event more successful by publicizing it in AROUND TOWN. Mail, fax or e-mail.

SEND US YOUR MILESTONES. Share your good news with the community, i.e. promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos if you like.

IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL. Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT. If you have had a great retail

retail, restaurant or service experience in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Electronic photos should be 150 dpi or higher

HOW TO CONTACT US. By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: spobserver@comcast.net.

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Around Town

(Continued from previous page)

Rahway Arts Guild Presents Jazz Series

February 23

The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St. presents jazz trumpet player James Gibbs III on Friday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$14 in advance, \$16 at door.

Call (732) 381-7511 or email artsguild1670@verizon.net.

Charity Ball/Center For Hope Hospice

February 24

Center For Hope Hospice and Palliative Care will host its 21st annual Charity Ball on Saturday, Feb. 24, at L'Affaire on Rt 22 East in Mountainside from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. The center's mission is to provide terminally ill patients with the natural, humane care known as hospice and their families and loved ones with physical, emotional and spiritual support during their time of need.

Cost of \$75 includes full course dinner, wine, beer, soda and dancing to the sounds of the David Aaron Orchestra.

For tickets or information, please call (908) 889-7780.

Winter Art Workshop

February 24-March 10

Registration is open for three winter art workshops at the Arts Guild of Rahway: Printmaking 101 Workshop: Making Multiples (Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.); Encaustic Workshop II: More Advanced Techniques (Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.) and Image Transfer Workshop (Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.).

Fees for the workshops vary; call (732) 381-7511 for information.

Auditions, Bucks County Playhouse

February 24

Adult auditions (18+) at the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Pa. will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24.

This is an open audition; no appointments will be taken and are held on a first come, first served basis. Sign-

up for a time slot in person. Men 10 a.m.; women 1 p.m. All roles are paid positions. Bring a headshot and resume. Be prepared to dance, and sing a 16-bar vocal selection from *Godspell*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *West Side Story*, *Crazy for You*, *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* or *Pippin*. Accompanist will be provided; bring sheet music, no tapes or CDs.

Adoption Support

February 26

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support) will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments.

For more information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or visit their Web site at www.wapc.net.

Wine Tasting

February 27

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce will host a networking event centered around a wine tasting, sponsored by Bottlesmart of Iselin on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, 71 Hamilton St. in New Brunswick.

Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and an assortment of Italian pastries will complement the wine tasting. Members \$45; non-members \$65. Registration required.

For more information call Melanie at (732) 821-1700, ext. 209.

Youth Concussion Syndrome Seminar

March 1

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital presents "Keep Your Head in the Game!" a seminar for coaches, athletic trainers, recreation directors, school nurses and health care providers to heighten awareness of concussions. This seminar will be held on Thursday, March 1, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Level One Trauma Center at RWJ University Hospital in New Brunswick. Registration required by Feb. 23; conference fee \$40.

For information and to register, call

(732) 418-8026.

Bereavement Series

March 6, 13, 20 & 27

Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care will offer a four week lecture series titled "Journey Through Grief" on Tuesday nights March 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. The lecture series will be held at Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Rd. in Roselle.

This non-denominational program is designed to assist those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

The series is free and opened to the public; no registration required. Refreshments and fellowship after the lecture. For information or directions, call Acadia House, the Center's bereavement center at (908) 654-3711.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

March 11

The Woodbridge Township Arts Council is sponsoring a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to benefit the Barron Arts Center on Sunday, March 11, from 4-6 p.m. at the Trinity Church Hall in Woodbridge. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children. Tickets are available by calling (732) 634-0413.

NJPAC Talent Search

March 24 and 25

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's "Young Artist Talent Search" (YATS), a weekend for young tri-state performers to audition for spots in NJPAC's arts training and scholarship programs. Audition applications may be obtained online at www.njpac.org or by calling the Talent Search Hotline at (973) 353-8009.

Auditions will take place Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, at the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education, 24 Rector St. on the NJPAC site.



Knights of Columbus Boy Scouts from Pack 207 James Setnick, Edward Setnick, Ryan Rhoads and Michael Morcharki recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of last week's Borough Council meeting. Attending a council meeting is one of the requirements to earn their Citizenship Badge.

Rutgers Offering 2007 Master Gardener Program

If you have ever wanted to take part in the Middlesex County Master Gardeners program, but couldn't because of daytime availability, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County wants to hear from you. Plans are in the works for a master gardener class that will take place on Tuesday nights, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The Master Gardener Environmental and Community Stewardship program will be offered at Davidson Mill Pond Park's EARTH Center in South Brunswick.

As a master gardener, you will be a community volunteer trained in earth-friendly gardening and environmental principles. There are 60-70 hours of classroom instruction including practical field experiences and field trips. Topics covered include: sound gardening techniques; composting; creative methods of conserving resources and horticultural therapy. The program also requires participants to volunteer a minimum of 60 hours of service in county extension projects, activities and events. In addition to classroom instruction, there will be some mandatory gardening days and events a few Saturdays during the year to fulfill the educational requirements of the program. Classes are held once

a week throughout most of the gardening season. The program fee is \$550 to cover the cost of supplies, instructional materials and speakers.

An orientation session is forthcoming based on interest and pre-registration for the course will be required. If you are interested, please call the EARTH Center if you have questions or would like to sign-up at (732) 398-5262.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, age, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

SPHS Class of 1987 Reunion

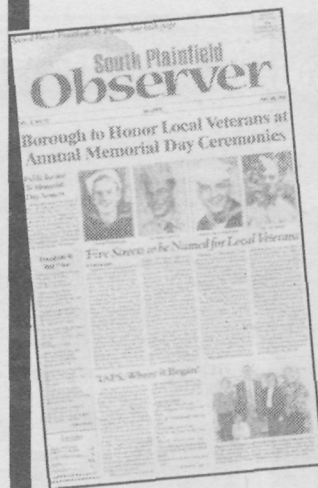
Calling all classmates from the South Plainfield High School Class of 1987!

We are planning the 20th Reunion for the Fall of 2007 and are trying to locate any and all members from our graduating class. Information will be sent early summer.

Send your contact information (name, address, phone and e-mail address) to michele.raber@ey.com or call (908) 397-8613 for more information.

The Facts:

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



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Courier News	1,886
Star Ledger	2,600
The Observer	3,000

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OPEN SUNDAY

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Kevin Boyles Named to Dean's List

Kevin C. Boyles of South Plainfield was named to the Dean's List at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania for the Fall 2006 semester according to Dr. Kenneth W. Borland, Jr., provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Students eligible for the Dean's List are those who have attained a 3.50 quality point average or better. The letter grade "B" earns three quality points per credit, and the grade "A" earns four quality points per credit.

Transportation Secretary Kirchner Retires

Doris Kirchner has recently retired as the transportation secretary for the South Plainfield School District. She served in that capacity, in the Transportation Department at the Administration Building for the past 10 years. Prior to that, she worked as a school secretary at Grant and John E. Riley

schools, assisting the principal, Leonard Tobias. In addition to 17 years as a full-time secretary, Kirchner spent five years as a substitute.

Her colleagues, friends and family recently celebrated her retirement at a buffet brunch in her honor.

Former Teacher Embarks on New Career

The January 2007 issue of *Pension News* reports that former South Plainfield High School teacher Ray Swidersky has become involved in a new career.

Shortly after retiring from the South Plainfield School District in 1989, Swidersky began to breed championship Yorkshire Terriers. This endeavor expanded into dog judging. Upon receiving approval from the American

Kennel Club to judge toy and non-sporting groups of dogs, Swidersky embarked on a new challenge as a show judge, a role he continues to enjoy. Many of his dogs have also become prize-winners.

Swidersky's assignments have allowed him to travel throughout the United States and to Japan, New Zealand and Ireland.

Sacred Heart Principal's List/Honor Roll

Grade 4: Principal's List—Samantha Dimaano. **Honor Roll**—Morgan Miller, Savannah Miller, Giovanna Nolan, Virginia Novak and Elizah Rodriguez.

Grade 5—Principals List—Rose Bach, Idris Erinjogunola, Catherine Gbogi, Alexander LeGrand, Brandon Ozbalik, Kerri Salvatore and Jessica Thomas. **Honor Roll**—Patrick Bogart, Juliana Degutis, Sabrina Inigo, Mia Mathis, Dylan Thompson, Arthur Wright and Aryanna Torres.

Grade 6: Principals List—Julia Soete. **Honor Roll**—Jordana Approvato, Imani Delk, Jance Edwards, Leah Hansford, Khyllah Jean, Nicholas Muglia, Devynn Nolan, Maia Plummer and Jacqueline Stenersen. **Most Improved**—Isabel Buckley and Marissa Terrieri.

Grade 7A: Principals List—Carla Palma. **Honor Roll**—Kavanaugh Charles, Taylor David, Christina Pokorny and Kyle Whitaker.

Grade 7B: Principals List—Rhel Lapitan and Andrea Muglia. **Honor Roll**—Amanda Caruso.

Grade 8A: Principals List—Caresse Simmonds. **Honor Roll**—Daria Approvato, Siobhan Barrington, Joseph Landry, Allyson Ricarte and Karla Rodriguez. **Most Improved**—Najah Artis.

Council Endorses Enforcing Safety Standards for Disabled

(Continued from page 1)
compliance and A-3538 to empower police to ticket drivers who don't secure wheelchair passengers.

"It's hard to believe we would need to pass two new state laws to enforce Federal regulations that have been in existence for over 15 years but apparently we do," said Marge Gristi of Family Alliance.

The group has been effective in their mission to create positive changes and promote best practices to guarantee the human rights of people with disabilities of all ages.

On Nov. 5, 2002, Diane Gruskowski's daughter, Danielle, disabled with the neurological disorder Rett Syndrome that left her unable to talk, died when emergency personnel were not summoned by her caretakers when she was in distress. Through the efforts of Family Alliance, on Oct. 26, 2003, Governor James McGreevey signed into law A-3458 and S2572, Danielle's Law which requires staff working with persons with disabilities or traumatic brain injury to call 911 in life threatening emergencies.

Currently New Jersey legislators



How the passenger who is in a wheel chair should be safely secured in the four-point tie-down system, with two belts in front and two belts in rear of wheelchair, is seen in this Barbie model.

Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg in the Senate and Rush Holt in the House have offered bills—H.R. 1649 and S3704—to amend title 19 of the Social Security Act to require staff working with those developmentally disabled to call emergency service 911 in the event of life threatening situation making Danielle's Law for the nation a Federal Law.

NEWS FROM THE Suburban Woman's Club

Members of the South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club attended the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, Conference on Council and Program Assistance which was held at headquarters in New Brunswick.

Marge Reidy reported on the successful guest speaker program for which she has been responsible. We have had very varied and entertaining speakers. We had legislators, community workers, doctors, and even a purveyor of the fourth dimension of the mind. All were both educational and entertaining. Mary Ann Iannitto, Frieda Walker, Rose Cucurella, and Marge Reidy attended the meeting.

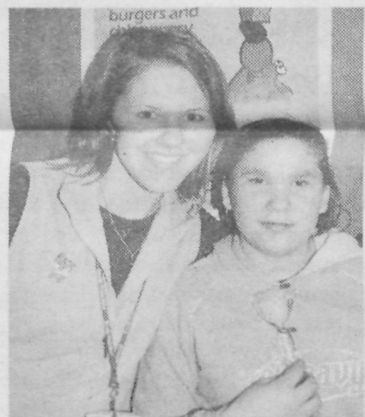
We welcomed Paul Smith, the director of landscaping and horticulture at the Duke Farm in Somerville at our February meeting. Smith gave an ex-

cellent talk on the history of the Duke Farm from the time of Buck Duke, the purchaser of the land along the Raritan River, to the late owner Doris Duke, whom he had the pleasure of knowing. Smith showed slides of the buildings, fountains and gardens taking us on a pictorial tour of the park like estate.

March is not only known as the windy month, but it is also called the "Erin Go Brach" month so the members of the Woman's Club will celebrate with an Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage at their next meeting.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning

Caputo Named Junior Journalist



Danielle Caputo, seventh grade middle school student, with Language Arts teacher Susan Schocklin.

Danielle Caputo, middle school seventh grader, 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

#1 Who am I?
By Danielle Caputo
I am great with kids
I am shy
I am a good singer
I am good at playing the violin
I am good at school
I am great at soccer
I am good in math
I am scared of spiders
I am great with animals
I am the youngest out of 3
I am nice

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2007 JUNIOR JOURNALIST
#1
Charlie and Debbie Kurland with junior journalist winner Jessica Ortiz, her mother, Phyllis, dad Jim, sister Rebecca, Nanny Cookie, Grandma Phyllis and cousin Samantha.

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Middle School Students Annual 'Battle' Fosters School Spirit

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Middle School Spirit Week 2007 featured a different way to show school spirit every day. The festivities began on Jan. 29. Monday was Green and White Day; Tuesday, Student Dress Up Day; Wednesday, Patriotism Day; Thursday was Hat Day and Friday, battle day, was Team Color Day.

The week long event culminated in the exciting annual Battle of the Teams. The six teams (three per grade)—seventh grade—Avalanche, white; Cyclone, red; and Monsoon, gray; eighth grade—Lightning, yellow; Thunder, black and Tsunami, blue, faced off in battle against their own grade.

The students filled the gym bleachers anxious to get started. Heading up the afternoon were teacher and master of ceremonies, Jim Makowski, and teacher and deejay, John Limyansky.

The walls above the bleachers held colorful banners created by team members two days before the big event. After the formalities were concluded the games began. Assistant Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys noted that every staff/faculty member participated in some way. Mr. Mosca, Mr. Panzarella and Mr. Scalzo were team captains responsible for maintaining order of the events and ensuring that the judges received the correct scores.

The battle consisted of six events: Over and Under, Alligator Crawl, Hula Hoop Circle, Foul Shots, Baton/Hoop Relay and Tug of War.

All students were encouraged to participate in the games. They practiced the events in their gym classes two weeks prior to the battle. Six PTO members served as judges, tabulating the points at the end of each round of games. First place teams were awarded



10 points, second place seven points and third place three points. PTO members also offered water to thirsty students during the afternoon.

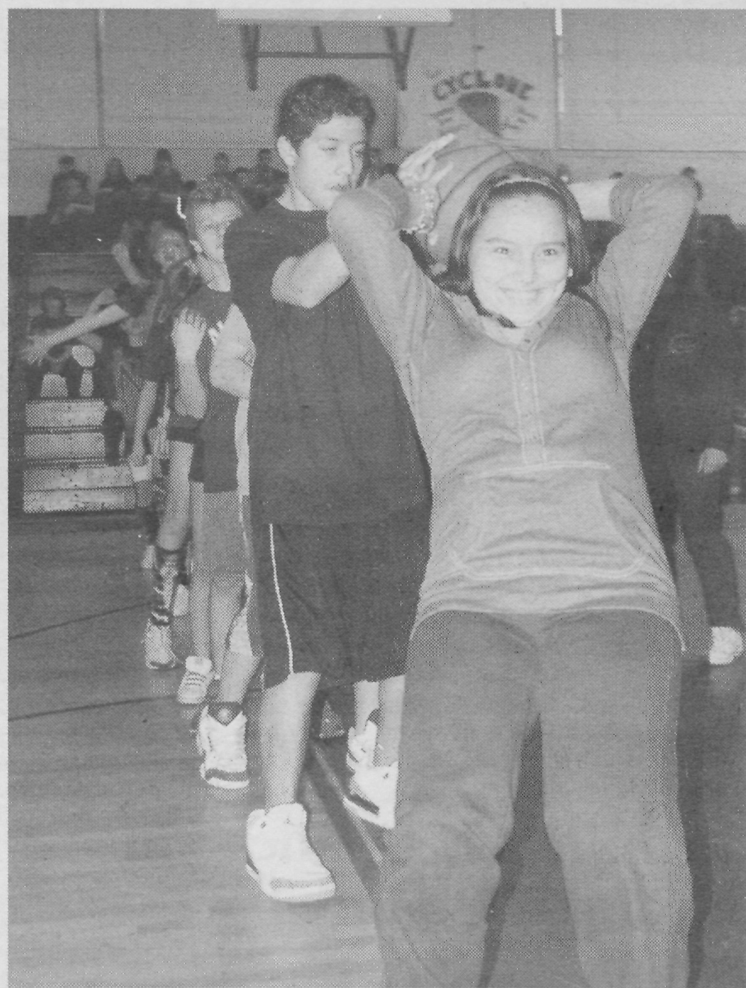
The battle of the teams is a 14-year tradition started by Makowski and Lymyansky. It was originally an evening fundraiser, but was changed to a daytime event so that more students would benefit from the positive school spirit it promotes.

The audience needed no encouragement to cheer on their favorite team. Booing a team was not allowed. First place winners were: seventh grade, Monsoon with 47 points; eighth grade, Thunder 45.5; second place, seventh grade, Avalanche 45; eighth grade, Lightning 41.5; third place, seventh grade, Cyclone 25 and eighth grade, Tsunami 33 points. The team with the highest points, Monsoon, won a free breakfast provided by Principal Steve Novak and Decker-Lorys. Students in attendance received certificates for free meals at Red Robin Restaurant, compliments of the PTO.

Decker-Lorys said, "The battle of the teams emerged as 'something special.' It involves all grades in competi-

tion against each other as well as the clock in many of the events. It provides opportunities for team unity, for common goals and a sense of belonging."

The students support of each other was amazing. Proud of their school, classmates and teams, it was a display of school spirit that could be seen and heard. The deafening noise that can only be defined as school spirit at its best was reminiscent of SPHS spirit in the seventies. Hopefully these youths will carry their pride in their school with them when they enter high school in the upcoming years.



The Big Issue hits the newsstands March 30.

Reserve your space now!

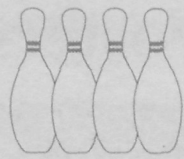
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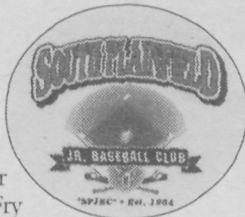
To reserve space call (908) 668-0010.



Sports

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Baseball try-outs for the Small Fry Leagues are scheduled for March 3 at the PAL. Try-out notification cards listing try-out times will be sent out at the end of February.

League structures have already been selected. There will be ten teams in Small Fry C, nine teams in Small Fry B and five teams in Small Fry A. There will be four teams in Pony B and six teams in Pony A. Small Fry A is scheduled to be played at a modified distance of 50/70 on Field #3.

Anyone interested in placing an ad in this year's opening day program should call Tom Scalera at (908) 561-0565 or e-mail him at tomesca@aol.com. The next SPJBC Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. course will be held on March 22 at the clubhouse. Call (908) 754-2090 to register.

The SPJBC is looking for volunteers for the 2007 season. In particular, they need snack stand captains. Anyone interested in being a snack stand captain is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail the club at www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com.

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Tigers Cruise to Third Title

(Continued from page 1)

town. Preston Johnson 215, then won by decision over Pat Bourland 3-0 to make it 15-3. Brad Martin 285, once again did a great job even in defeat when he wrestled Nick Souders, who prevailed 5-3.

At this point the Tigers really turned it up with Nick Heilmann 103, pinning Cory Kozimor in 36 seconds to give the Tigers a 21-6 lead. Ryan Sacco 112, avenged a loss he suffered in his first meeting with Travis Tjong, winning by decision 5-3. Patrick Hunter 119, continued the assault when he scored a technical fall 18-3 over Lukson Etienne. Nick Pauls 125, who pinned Chris Morris in their first meeting, could not come through again and lost by major decision 12-1. With the score now 29-10, Bryan Hunt 130, put the icing on the cake when he scored a major decision over Keith Swanson 11-2. With the victory in hand, the Tigers could have forfeited the last three matches, but the kids wanted to wrestle.

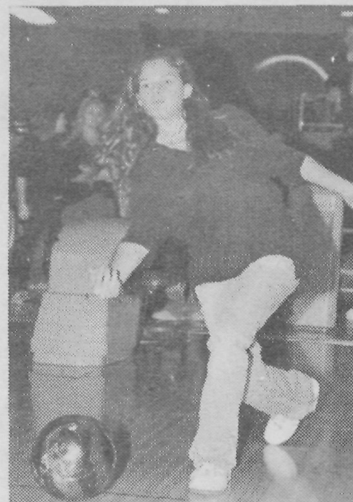
Billy Ashnault 135, who lost to Taylor Ulm last time they met, wanted revenge and got it when he escaped in the fourth OT to win an exciting 6-5 decision, but more drama followed when Ulm, mad that he lost threw his headgear and was hit with an unsportsman-like conduct foul and a team point was deducted. Nick Dorey then won a solid 4-3 decision over Billy Strathern. Mike Jakubik 145, who lost to Cory Vernon (#2 state ranked at 145) in their first meeting, took it to Vernon from the opening whistle and went on to win 5-3 to end the match.

South Plainfield was dominant from the first sectional match to the group finals outscoring their opponents 190-47. The Tigers, who will end up as the #2 team in the State of New Jersey are looking to win their 23rd consecutive District 12 team title starting Friday night at the high school.

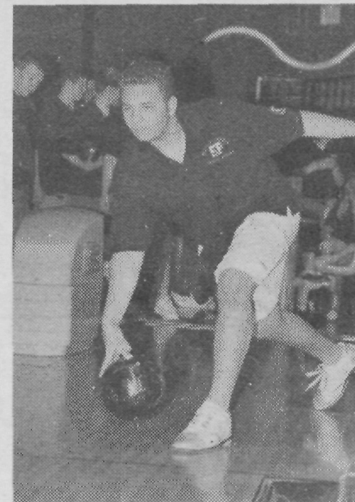
Congratulations to the wrestlers and coaches for once again making South Plainfield proud.

SPHS BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Sophomore Kaitlyn Salvatore bowled her high game of 178 in the GMC Individual Qualifying.



SPHS Junior Chris Esposito is going to "The Big Dance"—the NJSIAA State All-Groups Individual Championship.

Lady Tigers Bounced in Group II Qualifying

SPHS	661	668	779	2,128
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The girls bowling team found themselves trailing the pack after a sub-par start in the first two games. A good third game, fueled by Katie Yon's 197 game, enabled the Tigers to pick up some ground as they finished in fifth place for the Group II event.

Katie Yon took scoring honors as she paced the Tigers with games of 170-160-197 for a solid 527 set. Teammate Gina Curcio added a 157 game and Jackie Kukuch chipped in with a 151.

The Group II event was won by Manasquan, with Monroe taking runners-honors. The Lady Tigers completed their season with a record of 11-7-1 and a third place finish in the White Division trailing state ranked Carteret and Colonia.

Tiger Bowlers Squeezed Out Of Group II Championship

SPHS	1,010	884	885	2,779
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The boys bowling team could not hold on to the edge they had after an excellent showing in the first game. With the lane conditions drying out, the Tigers consistently came up high on the pocket and struggled in the second and third games.

Although the team finished in third place, they failed to qualify in the team event as only the top two teams advance.

Ryan Pauls 210-246 and 622 set, coupled with Robert Parillo's 221 game were the only bright spots for the young Tigers besides Esposito's brilliant 685 posting. Ewing finished first, followed by Wall Township, as they will represent Central Jersey in the Group II Finals.

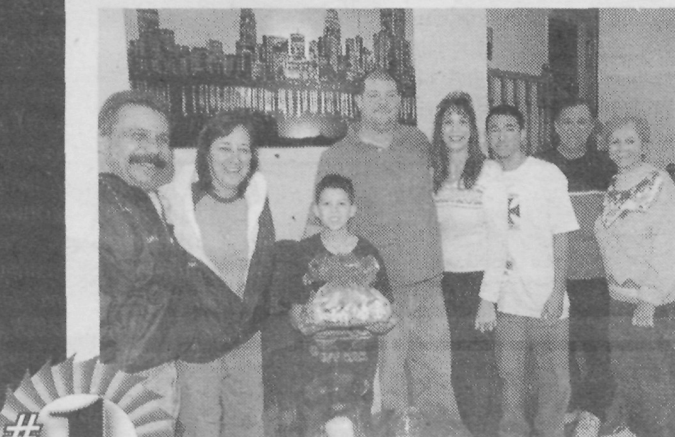
The Tigers posted a winning season with a 9-8-2 record in the rugged White Division behind state ranked Sayreville and Colonia.

Esposito Qualifies For State All-Groups Individual Bowling Championship

Congratulations to Junior Chris Esposito who placed sixth in the Individual Qualifying for the NJSIAA Bowling Crown to be held at Brunswick Zone Caroler Lanes on Monday, Feb. 19, at 9 a.m.

Chris fired games of 259-280-246 for a booming 685 set in a field of 41 teams and approximately 300 bowlers.

2007 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Mike Schroeder, pictured with mother Carol Ann, dad Bill, brother Kyle and grandparents, Bart and Marianne Fellin.

Adopt Beautiful Minca This Weekend

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor cat and kit-

ten adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24 and 25, from noon until 4 p.m. at the PETSMART store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, located at the intersection of Route 28 and Route 287.

Among the many cats for adoption will be Minca, a sweet six-year old female with a long-haired black and white coat. Minca is a mellow cat that loves people and is fine with other cats. She was a family pet that was surrendered to People for Animals due to allergies. She has tested negative for FIV and feline leukemia; is spayed, current with her vaccinations and litter box trained. To adopt or for other information, call (973) 282-0890, ext. 306 for dogs and 327 for cats. Other pets for adoption can be seen on the Internet at www.pfa.petfinder.com.

Stop the cycle of homeless pets now! Alter your pets and any outside cats that you may be feeding. For low cost spay/neuter information, call the People for Animals Clinic at (908) 964-6887. Spay/neuter surgery costs range from \$40 to \$60 and include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

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IRS REMINDER**Request Telephone Tax Refund**

The Internal Revenue Service wants to remind taxpayers that they may be eligible for a one-time tax refund. This one-time refund of previously collected federal telephone excise taxes may be requested on the 2006 Federal Income Tax return.

Anyone who paid long-distance excise taxes on landline, cell phone, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), or bundled service that was billed for the period after Feb. 28, 2003 and before Aug. 1, 2006 is eligible for this refund. (Bundled service is local and long-distance service provided under a plan that does not separately list the charge for local service.)

Taxpayers can request a refund of the actual federal excise tax paid based upon their telephone bills for this period. Or they can request the standard refund amount ranging from \$30-\$60 based upon the number of exemptions reflected on their individual income tax return. Using the standard amount to figure the refund is easy, with only one line to complete on the tax return.

Choosing the standard amount is optional. Using this option is the easiest way to get your refund and avoid gathering 41 months (from March 2003 through July 2006) of old phone records. The standard amount is based on actual telephone usage data and reflects the long-distance phone tax paid by similarly sized families or households.

Choosing to request the actual amount paid may be more beneficial for some taxpayers. To request a refund based upon the actual amount paid, taxpayers must determine the amounts paid based on their phone bills. Figure the refund on Form 8913, *Credit for Federal Telephone Excise Tax Paid*, and attach this form to the 2006 income tax return.

If a taxpayer is not normally required to file a tax return, there is a new form (Form 1040EZ-T) that can be used to request this refund. Form 1040EZ-T can be mailed to the IRS or it can be prepared and filed electronically at no cost by using Free File at www.irs.gov.

"The IRS encourages taxpayers to e-file their tax returns in lieu of paper filing. IRS e-file is the most efficient way to prepare your taxes, particularly taking into consideration the latest tax changes including the telephone tax refund," said Semanick. "E-filing will ensure you do not miss out on any tax breaks. Also, taxpayers who earn \$52,000 or less can file for free and online at the IRS.gov Web site using the Free File Program."

Businesses and tax-exempt organizations are also eligible for the telephone excise tax refund. These organizations must use Form 8913. Businesses and tax-exempt organizations may report the actual amount of refundable phone taxes they paid for the 41-month billing period from March 2003 through July 2006. Or they may use a formula established to estimate the refund. Businesses should attach Form 8913 to their regular 2006 income tax returns. Tax-exempt organizations must attach it to Form 990-T.

The government stopped collecting the long-distance excise tax last August after several federal court decisions held that the tax does not apply to long-distance service as it is billed today. Federal officials also authorized a one-time refund of the federal excise tax collected on service billed during the previous 41 months, stretching from the beginning of March 2003 to the end of July 2006.

If a taxpayer is entitled to receive the refund and did not request it on the original filed 2006 tax return submit an amended return, Form 1040X, and complete line 15.

For more information, visit www.irs.gov. Select the link: Telephone Excise Tax Refund.

Elma Mary Ventura, 76

Elma Mary Ventura passed away on Sunday, Feb. 4, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Irvington, she resided in South Plainfield most of her life.

Mrs. Ventura worked for several years at Sacred Heart Church, St. Joseph's Church in Raritan and St. Mary's Church in Watchung.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 19 years, Louis J. Ventura and a sister, Helen Hollywood.

Surviving are two sons, Anthony A. Ventura and wife Jeanne of Easton, Pa. and Louis J. Ventura and wife Fran of Point Pleasant; a daughter, Roseann L. Ventura of South Plainfield; seven grandchildren, Ryan, Erica, Kelly, Jesse, Anthony, Abby and Katy; a sister, Maryann Biank of Cedar Knolls and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Mario "Marty" A. Mazza, 90

Mario "Marty" A. Mazza passed away on Sunday, Feb. 4, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Born in New York City, he was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

Mr. Mazza was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII in the Pacific. He was a maintenance supervisor for 32 years with Union Carbide in Bound Brook. Marty enjoyed playing golf and bowling. He was a loving husband, father and friend who will be sadly missed.

Mr. Mazza was preceded in death by his loving wife of 63 years, Sophie M. Mazza; daughter Margaret Berry and two brothers, John Mazza and Michael Mazza.

Surviving are a dear daughter, Susan M. Romeri and husband Gary of South Plainfield; a sister, Catherine

Morton of Warren and several nephews. Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Dorothy Ann White, 72

Dorothy Ann White passed away on Friday, Feb. 9, at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Va.

Dorothy was born in Nutley and resided in Orange before moving to Falls Church more than 30 years ago.

She was a corporate secretary in the private sector for more than 35 years. Dorothy enjoyed watching the Washington Redskins and was also an avid bowler.

Dorothy was predeceased by her parents, Wilbur and Louise Jowett White; a brother, Richard White and a sister, Shirley Wells.

She is survived by a brother, John and wife Eva of Indiana; a sister, Lois Lang of Piscataway and numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Felix "Pat" J. Ferrante, 88

Felix "Pat" J. Ferrante died suddenly at home on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Born in New York City he had resided in South Bound Brook and Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 50 years ago.

He was a WWII veteran of the United States Army, proudly participating in the Battle of the Bulge serving with the 78th Lightning Division. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the South Plainfield Veteran of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 and a charter member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge of Arlington, Va.

Employed as a quality control supervisor for Ford Motor Company, Pat was the fourth employee hired at

the Edison Plant and retired in 1978.

In addition to being a proud veteran, Pat was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church and enjoyed gardening, photography and sports.

He was predeceased by a sister, Theresa Caslow and a brother, Anthony.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Joan (Schwindinger); a daughter, Susan and husband Paul Anderson of Hillsborough; a son, Robert and wife Rachael of Howell; two brothers, Theodore of South Plainfield and Nicholas of Bedminster. Also surviving are four adored grandchildren, Kara, Kelly, Ryan and Mark.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to The ARC of Somerset County, 141 South Main St., Manville, N.J. 08835 or Alzheimer's Association, Northern N.J. Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Edgar E. Dorrier, Jr., 70

Edgar E. Dorrier, Jr. died on Saturday, Feb. 10, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Queens, N.Y., Edgar grew up in Astoria and resided in Brooklyn before moving to Piscataway three years ago.

He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during the Korean Conflict with General Curtis LeMay's strategic air command before being honorably discharged in 1957.

He was a former member of the Knights of Columbus Colon Council #309 of Astoria and enjoyed collecting various memorabilia.

Surviving are his wife, Diane M. (Griffin); a daughter, Marie Andrews and husband Ian of South Plainfield; two sisters, Dorothy Miller and Phyllis Gallela and a brother, Nicholas. Also surviving are two grandsons, Justin and Liam.

Funeral services were held at

McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Specialized Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Elaine (D'Ottavio) Moore, 52

Elaine (D'Ottavio) Moore, 52, died on Sunday, Feb. 11, at New York University Medical Center in Manhattan.

Born and raised in Aliquippa, Pa., Elaine lived in Pittsburgh, Reading, Pa. and Bridgewater before settling in South Plainfield in 1983.

Mrs. Moore received her B.S.N. degree from Duquesne University in 1976.

She was employed as a nursing supervisor at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights. Prior to that Elaine worked as an R.N. at both JFK Hartwyck at Cedarbrook in Plainfield and ManorCare in Mountainside.

She was pre-deceased by her father, Lucio D'Ottavio, who died in 1996.

Surviving is her husband, John; three sons, Zachary, Gregory, and Christopher, all of South Plainfield; her mother Mary (Tselepis) D'Ottavio and a sister, Denise Francani and husband Enrico, all of Buffalo.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Runnells Specialized Hospital, 41 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights, N.J. 07922.

Louise M. Del Galdo, 89

Louise M. Del Galdo of South Plainfield passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

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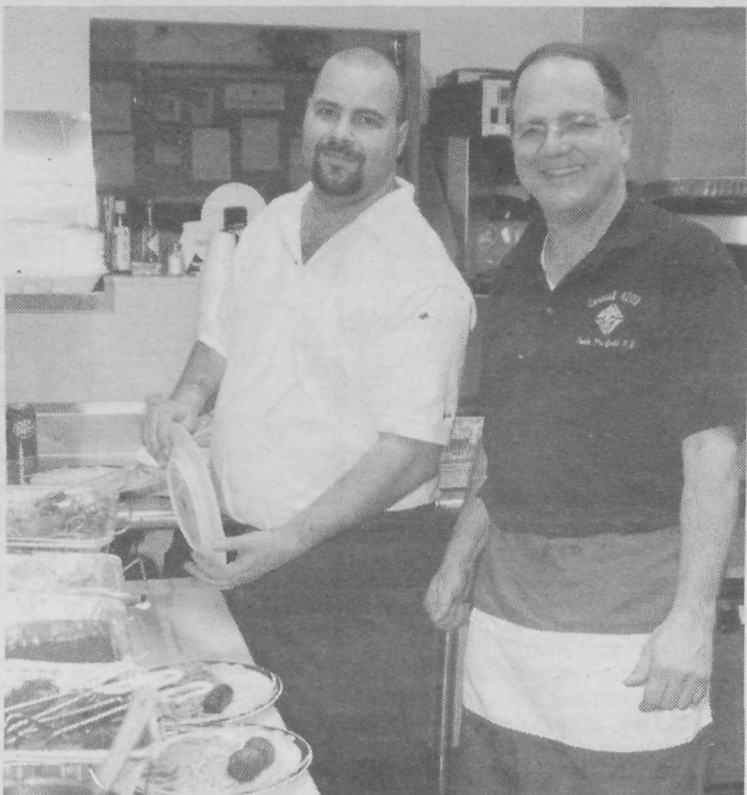
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Joe McGeehan and Mayor Charlie Butrico volunteer at the Knights of Columbus, "Don't Cook Dinner."

Knights "Don't Cook Dinner On Friday" Successful

The Knights of Columbus annual "Don't Cook on Friday" Italian Dinner was held on Feb. 9. The Knights run this event several times a year with all proceeds going towards their general charity fund.

Helping to make the dinner a success were many members of the Knights. The maitre'd was Deputy Grand Knight Billy Butrico. The kitchen was run by head chef Joe McGeehan, Charlie Butrico and Gerry Butrico. The hard task of washing the dishes was Kevin Keane.

Servers were Sherry Butrico, Bob Barone, Steve Belanger, Grand Knight Tony Moskal, Joe Scrudato, Alexis Cargill, Nicole Daubert and James Butrico. Serving drinks were Lenny Kleczkowski and Walter Smialowicz. Selling tickets at the door was Ted Rubino. The 50/50 ticket sellers

were Ron Cuttic and Bill Tuthill. Salad prep was headed by Tony Costantino and Nicole Daubert. Bread prep was run by Bill and Willie Hartmann.

We would also like to thank fellow Knight Bill Kelly for helping set up the hall and baking cakes, and also Irene Butrico for baking cookies.

Also in attendance were Councilwoman Kathy Thomas and husband Bill, as well as Councilman Matt Anesh and his family. A surprise visit by Congressman Mike Ferguson was one of the highlights of the evening.

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all the residents of South Plainfield and all who attended the Italian dinner. Without your support this event would not have been as successful as it was. Please look for more "Don't Cook on Friday" Italian dinners in the future.

SPHS Announces Second Quarter Honor Roll

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LEGAL NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
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Alcoholic Beverage Notice

Take notice that WC South Plainfield LLC has applied to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield to transfer plenary retail distribution license #1222-011-003 (Bill, Diane & Amanda Inc. to WC South Plainfield LLC), (115 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield to 5016 Hadley Center Drive, Hadley Center, South Plainfield) heretofore issued to Bill, Diane & Amanda Inc., trading as South Plainfield Liquors for the premises located at 115 Hamilton Blvd, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The person holding an interest in this license is (WC South Plainfield LLC) Residing at

1. Ronda Maybaum-134 East 93rd Street, APT #7C New York, NY 10128.

Objections, if any, should be made immediately, in writing, to Vincent Buttiglieri, Borough Clerk of the Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

WC South Plainfield LLC
519 Route 46 East
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