

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 21

50 CENTS

MARCH 30, 2007

Global Warming Hot Topic at Grant School

By Libby Barsky

Armed with charts, posters, models and candy, 27 students in the South Plainfield High School AP Environmental Science class of Angela Green visited Carolyn White's Grant School science classes to discuss global warming and explain its effects.

The division of the classes' four distinct student seating arrangements lent itself to creating learning stations set up by the AP students. Each area dealt with aspects causing, or the potential effects of, global warming—ozone layer, weather and the Greenhouse Effect.

Students Samantha Cihandwyz,

Nicole Frietas, Bryan Hunt, Sam Martin and Daria McCall brought print materials to explain the ozone layer. Using volcano models, posters of cloud formations and divisions in the Earth's atmosphere, Charlie Decker, Brianne Howarth, Tara O'Keefe and Lori Sepkowski explained different types of weather and their impact on global warming.

Using a poster she had created, Jennifer Arantes explained how the Greenhouse Effect keeps the temperature of Earth stable. With Arantes' helping in the search for naming items adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere located on worksheets

(Continued on page 22)



The SPHS Wrestling Team was recognized for their achievements by the Borough Council at a recent meeting.

Wrestlers Honored by Council

The South Plainfield Borough Council presented certificates and plaques to members of the South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team during last week's meeting to honor them for their outstanding achievements this year and in the past.

The wrestling team had another impressive season capped off by their third consecutive Group State Championship. The season started with many questions. Starters needed to be replaced and many injuries prevented wrestlers from competing during the season. At the Morris Knolls Tournament, with three starters missing from the line up, the team pulled off a runner-up finish that included seven champions.

Things started to come together when the team traveled to Minnesota to participate in The Clash National Wrestling Duals. Even though starters were missing, the Tigers finished 11th, beating two nationally ranked teams on the way. The rugged competition at The Clash prepared them for the competitive New Jersey schedule.

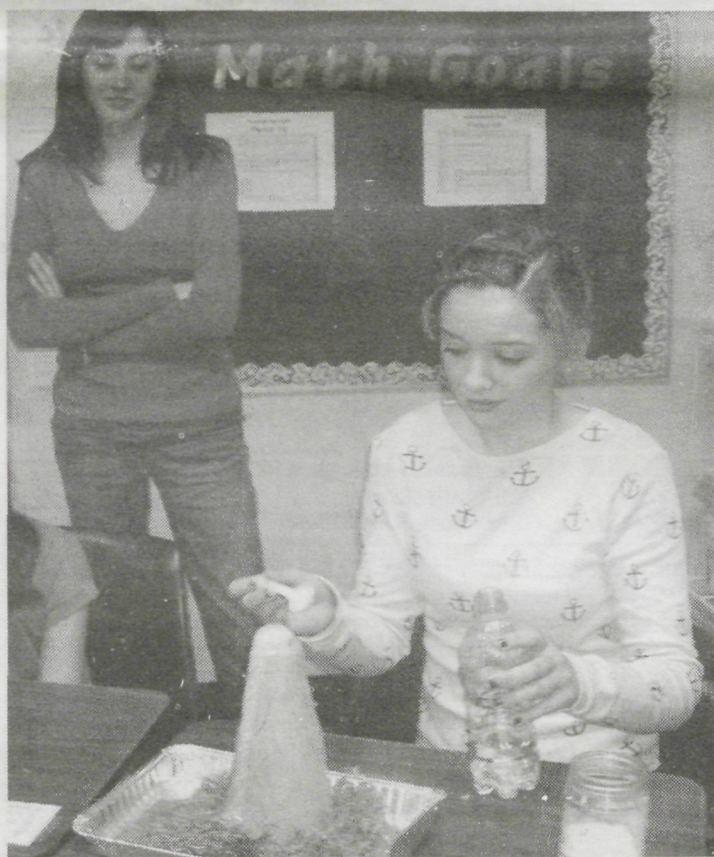
The team remained undefeated for the rest of the season. Highlights of the season included knocking off number two ranked Southern Regional, a nationally ranked team, winning a Greater Middlesex Con-

ference Title, a Red Division Title and a 23rd consecutive District 12 Championship. The Tigers sent 13 out of 14 wrestlers to compete in Region 3. That resulted in one region champion and nine wrestlers advancing to the state tournament in Atlantic City. Two were place winners: Nick Heilmann 103, fourth place and Patrick Hunter 112, runner-up. All of this contributed to South Plainfield's final ranking as the #2 team in the State of New Jersey.

The coaching staff of Kevin Mc-

Cann, Bill Hamilton and Kevin Hajduk were congratulated on a great 2006-2007 season.

Wrestlers honored were: Nick Heilmann, Rich Szeliga, Patrick Hunter, Ryan Sacco, John Wylam, Nick Pauls, Bryan Hunt, Greg Natt, Billy Ashnault, Nick Dorey, Joel Santos, Mike Jakubik, Jake Smithline, Sam Martin, Nick Vallone, Patrick Millard, Mark Wagner, Mike Wagner, Seth Yocum, Dan Pompilio, Jon Conroy, Preston Johnson, Ricky Walton, Brad Martin and Rocco Petriello.



Lori Sepkowski demonstrates how a volcano erupts.



Riley School students honor grandparents at annual program. See page 16 for story and photos.

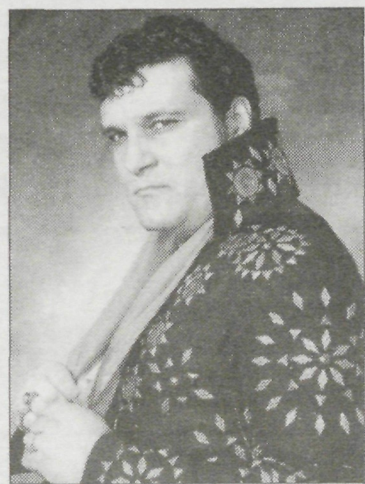
Memories of Elvis Concert to Benefit Library

The South Plainfield Public Library Foundation is sponsoring a benefit concert on Friday, May 11 at 8 p.m. at the high school.

The promoter of this event, Spotlight Music Productions, Inc., has been promoting music performances for fundraisers in South Plainfield for the past 13 years with performances like Beetlemania, Vogue and Memories of Elvis. These events have always been a great success.

For the past 12 years this fundraiser has benefitted South Plainfield Fire Department. This year because the fire department is celebrating its 100th year anniversary, and has many other events planned, it has offered the concert to the library foundation with the proceeds going towards the construction of the new library.

This year's show will be "Memories of Elvis," a live tribute concert featuring Joe Angerosa. Joe has been performing his tribute to the great



Elvis for the past 25 years and was named the "best Elvis impersonator this side of the Mississippi" due to his uncanny ability to bring the sound and image of Elvis to life on stage. "Memories of Elvis" was given

(Continued on page 22)

Historical Society to Dedicate Memorial Stone

The South Plainfield Historical Society invites the public to attend the dedication ceremony of the Civil War Memorial Stone in Monument Park on Saturday, April 14 at 1 p.m. The stone is dedicated to the memory of five men from the villages of Samp-town and New Brooklyn (South Plainfield), who perished during the Civil War. Uniformed reenactors from across the state will be attending,

many of whom will pitch tents across the street in Spring Lake Park.

A display of Civil War memorabilia will be exhibited in the South Plainfield Senior Center next door to the park where a public reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

Guest speakers include Congressman Michael Ferguson, Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblyman Patrick

Diegnan, Mayor Charles Butrico and Frank McGonigle of South Plainfield.

A State National Guard Unit will present the colors and lead the march of reenactors across the new foot-bridge into Monument Park. South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, Frank Rainear (owner/man-nager), has underwritten the cost

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**Borough Council meetings air on
Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m.**
(Except for Holidays)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
April 3	7 p.m.	Immediately following
April 16 (Monday)	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.

planning board

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

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
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.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.—April 4.

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at
Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
Apr. 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18
Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
Apr. 10, May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11
July and August: No scheduled meeting

environmental commission

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

business advisory group

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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

board of education curriculum/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

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110
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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
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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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IN MY OPINION

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

Opinion Editorial:

The 2007-2008 School Budget

On April 17 the school budget will be put before you for your consider-
ation. This year's school budget represents a 2.27% increase from last year's
budget. We are currently ranked 14th in spending in the county out of 23
districts and spend far less than the state and county average.

Three years ago, we were also in the bottom tier of academic performance
in almost every indicator on the state exams. However, there has been a dra-
matic change in our performance at the high school, middle school, and
elementary school levels which has changed the way we are viewed in the
county. On the rigorous State High School Exam, we ranked first in language
arts and fourth in mathematics in the county. At the middle school level, we
have gone from near the bottom of the 23 districts in the county to seventh
in mathematics and second in science. At the elementary level, we are third in
language arts and second in mathematics.

The few districts that rank ahead of us in these categories outspend us by a
significant amount of money. (You can view the details of our performance
on our website at www.spnec.k12.nj.us.) Maintaining our status as one of
the top performing districts in the county will be extremely difficult as fund-
ing for schools continues to be problematic. April 17 gives you an unprec-
edented opportunity to determine if we will be able to maintain our level of
achievement. Thank you for your support.

Dr. Robert Rosado, South Plainfield Superintendent of Schools

by local groups, Sumo wrestling and
a dunk tank. There will also be an el-
ementary school competition, which
will be held on Saturday morning.

A special candle lighting ceremony
will take place on Friday night at mid-
night in honor of family and friends
who have been touched by cancer. You
will be able to purchase a candle for
\$10. The candles will be placed around
the field and a special moment will be
shared by all.

Please look for registration forms,
flyers and other announcements over
the next few weeks. We look forward
to seeing you there. Help us to help
them.

THE SPHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP
STUDENTS

To the Editor:

On April 17 we will be voting for

three new Board of Education mem-
bers. I am writing this letter in sup-
port of Pio Pennisi as a Board of Edu-
cation member. I have known Pio for
nearly thirty years. He is honest, hard
working and devoted to our town.

He has twelve years experience as a
board member. He continually gives
his time to the youth of South
Plainfield. Whether he is coaching soc-
cer or baseball or at Board of Educa-
tion meetings, he always supports the
youth of our town.

He brings with him knowledge of
the education system and balances that
with a work ethic to do what is right
for our town. Support Pio in his
quest to make our school district a
great place to educate your children.

SINCERELY,
CATHY POMPILIO

(Continued on page 24)

HOME TIP:

Refresh up paint on walls and ceilings to help brighten and
lighten your home. If it's been more than 7 years since
you've painted, it's time for a touch up coat. I welcome the
opportunity to handle all your real estate needs.



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Where: South Plainfield High School Cafeteria
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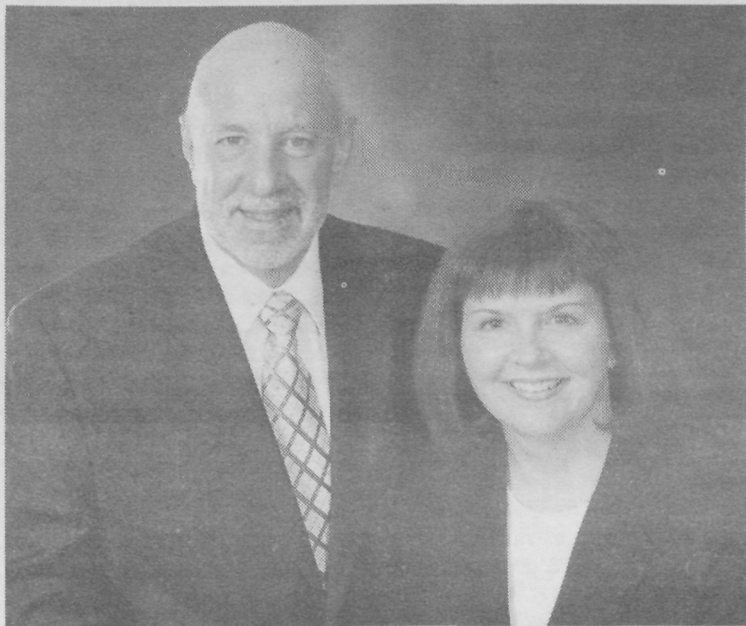
Tickets may be purchased at the Observer office (1110 Hamilton Blvd.), a
Lions member, or at the door.

For information, please call (908) 753-3850.

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Democrats Endorse Dennis Cerami And Kathy Thomas for Reelection

Council President Dennis Cerami and Council member Kathy Thomas have been unanimously endorsed for re-election by the South Plainfield Democratic Committee. Mayor Charlie Butrico summed up the support of the Democrats, "Dennis and Kathy are two of the finest people I know inside or outside of government. They are individuals of outstanding integrity who love their families and work every day for the residents of South Plainfield. We are fortunate to have such able candidates representing the Democratic Party." Council member Ray Petronko echoed the Mayor's comments saying, "We are truly blessed to have honest and hardworking individuals like Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas on the Borough Council. As a volunteer firefighter, I particularly appreciate Dennis' leadership as council liaison to Public Safety. During his 12 years on the Borough Council Dennis has always worked to be certain that our police department, rescue squad, emergency management department and fire department received the support they need to protect our residents. He understands these needs better than anyone else. He would be impossible to replace as an advocate for public safety." Council member Joe Scudato expressed his enthusiasm for the candidates, "One of the reasons I chose last year to run as a Democrat was because of the character and ability of those who serve on the borough council. There are no more qualified people than Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. Kathy has distinguished herself as the go to person concerning the new library which is to be built on Plainfield Avenue. She has guided every aspect of the project from selection of the architect through the design of the actual structure. The Library Board is about to present the final design to the Planning Board and the project will be going out to bid within the next month. Construction of the new, beautiful, state-of-the-art library will begin this fall. It wouldn't have happened without Kathy Thomas. She has done an outstanding job and deserves to be re-elected along with Dennis Cerami."



Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas

Council President Cerami and Council member Thomas thanked the Democratic Committee for their support. Dennis Cerami said, "There is no greater honor than serving the people of this great borough. I promise I will always work my hardest to keep taxes under control and continue to improve the quality of life for all of our residents. I couldn't be happier

than to run with Kathy Thomas who is as honest and dedicated a person as I have ever known." Kathy Thomas also thanked the Democrats and said, "Dennis and I will run an issue oriented campaign which will highlight our vision for the future of South Plainfield. We are proud of what we have accomplished, but we promise to never rest on our laurels."

RECYCLING CENTER

Center Closed for Good Friday

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed on Friday, April 6, for Good Friday. Recycling will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 5. Both the Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 7.

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

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

2007 Yard Waste Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

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

Tiger-24 to be Held at Jost Field

The Tiger-24, a 24-hour extravaganza sponsored by the SPHS Leadership Organization, South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club and Sodexo will be held on Friday, April 27 beginning at 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 28 at 4 p.m. on the track at Jost Field. Come at any time! Come run or walk with us and help raise money for the Harrington Family.

Bring your mom, dad, brother, sister, grandparents, friends and neighbors! There will also be a concert with five bands at the PAL building. There will be face painting for the kids (or kids at heart), volleyball, frisbee, food, a candle lighting ceremony at mid-

night, and much more.

Look for more information at the beginning of April.

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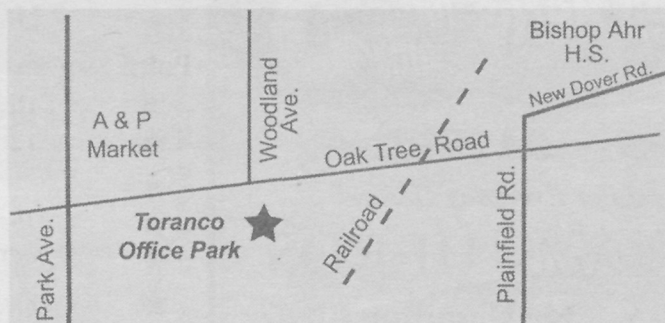
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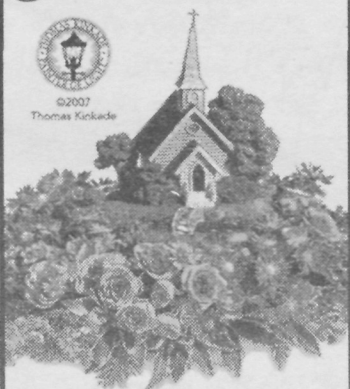
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Easter is Sunday, April 8

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On March 2, the second year Webelos from Kennedy's Cub Scout Pack 324 visited John Westrick Associates in South Plainfield to learn about the engineering field. Westrick showed the scouts actual site plans and discussed how engineers design a lot of the things we use in our everyday lives. Pictured from left to right are: Jimmy Schulkes, John Westrick, Matt Belanger, Ed Schaeffer, Tommy Heim and Christian Wizda.

South Plainfield Fire Department Will be Celebrating 100 Years

By Patricia Abbott

To help celebrate the South Plainfield Fire Department's 100th anniversary the *Observer* will run a series of articles detailing some of the department's past history. The information was obtained from multiple sources.

The fire department provided articles which appeared in past issues of the *Reporter*. The paper included a regular column which ran in the 1980's written by John Thornton and Thomas Scalera. Their goal was to share information pertaining to the fire department from old records dating back to approximately 1906. They noted that, "A good deal of our old information was logged by Edward Ten Eyck, Sr., our Ex-empt Firemen's President in 1948." Information was also derived from other newspaper clippings.

Despite South Plainfield's deep-seated roots, the borough was without a formal volunteer fire department until the early 1900's. At that time a committee was formed to educate the public on the benefits a volunteer fire department could offer and to seek the necessary support. Committee members were Chairmen Patrick E. Kaine, William Norman, Robert Horn, Harry Manning and Connie J. Heenan.

In May of that year they had found 25 people willing to form a local fire department. The new company was organized on May 17, 1907 and was named the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Company of South Plainfield. They

had no helmets, coats or boots, just a handful of dedicated volunteers.

It was January 1908 before they received their first pieces of equipment. It was a meager cache by any standards, consisting of 24 fire buckets, three axes, two crow bars, two pike poles, a 35 foot wooden ladder and 100 feet of rope. This wonderful new equipment presented the department with yet another bigger problem. They had no truck or cart to get the firefighting supplies to a fire. The early stories state, "The following men did manage somehow. They were our charter members: President Harry Manning, Vice President David Bigley, Recording Secretary Charles Brantingham, Financial Secretary Frank Faulks, Treasurer Robert Horn and Steward Monroe Pyatt. Line Officers elected were Chief Foreman William Reilly, Assistant Foreman Mike Day and Second Assistant Foreman A. V. Springer. Board of Directors were the Rev. Charles Atlee, William E. Smith, R. B. Manning, Archie Steengrafe, Patrick McDonough, Tom Linaberry, Frank Miller, Charles Jackson, Michael Day and Pat Kaine. Harry Manning later became South Plainfield's post master and William Hamilton became our first mayor 20 years later.

The South Plainfield Fire Department has big plans for their 100th anniversary, beginning with a huge parade that starts at 11 a.m. After the parade there will be lots of fun, food from Outback Steak House, refresh-

ments, live musical entertainment by the Nerds, a DJ, amusement rides and trophies. Commemorative mugs, shirts and hats will be available to purchase.

There are many families in town who have roots in the early days of our fire department. If you have any special memories, photos, or a brief story about a fellow fireman or family member of the South Plainfield Fire Department you would like to share, please e-mail us at angel_ony@aol.com or ggnan@aol.com.

Anyone who would like to participate in the parade or for questions of information, call (908) 412-8868 or e-mail Tomesca@aol.com.

In next week's issue: the department's first building.

Easter Egg Hunt at PAL

The South Plainfield Recreation Department has announced that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 7 at 1 p.m. behind at the PAL.

All residents ages 1-10 are welcome to join in the fun.

Residents are asked to bring a bag for children to collect the eggs and a camera to take a picture with the Easter Bunny.

Call (908) 226-7657 after 9 a.m. in case of inclement weather.

Pender, Moore Families, Pender Trucking Renew Adopt-a-spot

Diane Pender, representing both Pender and Sons Trucking and the Pender and Moore families, has renewed two Adopt-A-Spot contracts for the coming year. Pender and Sons Trucking has been cleaning litter from the Willow Avenue Skate Park behind Borough Hall. The Pender and Moore families have been picking up around the PAL Building on Maple Avenue.

As many as eight people work on the two sites at least monthly, and Pender usually checks on the PAL every day to monitor the situation. She has found that keeping the litter picked up as it appears prevents large

accumulations that seem to attract even more trash. Both areas are heavily-used recreational areas that demand a lot of attention. Pender is a committed environmentalist. Her children are members of the Glitterbug Club an award-winning youth group dedicated to improving the Borough's environment.

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

BOE Organizational Meeting Announced

The South Plainfield Board of Education Organization Meeting will be held on Monday, April 23 at 8 p.m.

Formal action will be taken. The meeting will be held in the gymnasium of the Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Avenue.

EASTER
at
Our Lady Of Czestochowa
807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

April 7 - Holy Saturday
8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

April 8 - Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord
7:30am Procession & Mass of the Resurrection
11:00am Mass of the Resurrection

****The blessing of Easter baskets will take place on Holy Saturday, April 7th, at 11:00am and 12:00pm at the Parish Hall.**

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NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

The center is open Monday through Saturday to local residents age 55 and older. Currently, we have over 800 active members who participate in a variety of classes, activities and events including: computer classes, line dancing, aerobics, yoga, Tai Chi, drawing and painting classes, exercise equipment, practical crafts, bingo, billiards, cards and board games, monthly speaker program, knitting and crocheting groups, dinner dances, ladies' social group, Red Hat Society, monthly AARP meetings, weekly movies, theatre trips, Atlantic City trips, weekly shopping trips, overnight trips and more.

We have a staff of five, including Director Joann Graf; Assistant to the Director Sandi Connelly; Community Outreach/Meals on Wheels Coordinator Linda Fiore and two full-time bus drivers, Angelo Paradiso and Michael Kurilew. We have an Advisory Board comprised of eight local senior citizens and the liaison from the Borough Council who meet monthly to review center activities and consult with and advise the director on all matters pertaining to the operation of the Senior Center.

Community Outreach Programs—In response to concerns for the needs of South Plainfield's growing senior population, the Office on Aging has established a Senior Outreach program with the goal of assisting our older residents in combating

loneliness, increasing their personal independence and aiding them in receiving needed services and referrals. By calling the Office on Aging, seniors and their family and caregivers can receive information and assistance about various federal, state and local programs.

Outreach Programs include:
Friendly Visitors—for those who are homebound and have little social contact;

Friendly Shopper—for our elderly, home-bound residents who are no longer able to go shopping on their own we can provide a Friendly Shopper to help with shopping.

Telephone Reassurance—We offer a daily telephone visit for older adults who live alone and are at risk of sudden illness, falls, accidents and social isolation, to check on their health and safety, and to provide companionship.

Insurance Counseling—Assistance in understanding medical insurance policies and Medicare/Medicaid forms is available through SHIP (State Health Insurance Program). We provide confidential one-to-one counseling on all health insurance matters. Please call the Office on Aging for an appointment with one of our counselors.

Convalescent Equipment—

Although some purchased medical equipment may be covered by Medicare with a doctor's prescription, we recognize that many items are not covered and may be costly. Medical equipment such as canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, etc. are available for senior citizens for short term use. Just stop in the Senior Center for assistance.

Home Maintenance Assistance—Senior citizens who are in need of assistance with small household chores, snow removal, property maintenance, etc. may call the Office on Aging to obtain referrals in finding help. We work with the "Mr. Fixit" program of Middlesex County, as well as the high school guidance department and a variety of local contractors. Please call the Office on Aging for a list of participating handymen.

Transportation Program—The Borough offers a Dial-A-Ride transportation program to our seniors. This is an outreach program that provides free door-to-door transportation for essential services such as medical appointments, physical therapy, banking, hairdressers, etc. We also provide a weekly shopping trip every Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

We operate two 14 passenger mini

buses with wheelchair access and provide transportation throughout South Plainfield and the surrounding towns of Edison, Plainfield, North Plainfield, Piscataway, Dunellen, Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

Rides are provided weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Rides should be scheduled at least 48 hours to one week in advance. Medical appointments are given schedule priority. For more information or to make a reservation for a ride, please call the South Plainfield Office on Aging.

Meals On Wheels—A person age 60 or older who is homebound by reason of illness, incapacitating disability or is otherwise isolated and does not have the opportunity to consume at least one full meal per day is eligible for Meals on Wheels.

As part of the County Meal Program, we provide a nutritious meal to frail/disabled and homebound seniors on either a weekday or seven day program. We deliver a hot entree plus milk, juice, bread and butter and fruit. We also offer a special "Ensure Seniors Are Nourished" program, which provides Ensure Plus to eligible seniors who are not able to partake in regular food diets due to certain health conditions. A doctor's referral is required to qualify. The cost is \$2.75

per day, which helps defray the cost of the program. To participate, please contact the Office on Aging.

Information And Assistance—Accessing services and programs that assist older adults can be confusing. The goal of our Information and Assistance program is to provide guidance and direction with the most up to date information on local, state and federal programs. This resource is available to all individuals, seniors, professionals, children of seniors, those assisting seniors and those concerned with seniors.

Resource information is available for all senior issues including: assisted living, counseling and mental health assistance, elder abuse, elder law, financial assistance, health insurance, home health care, housing options, income tax preparation, long term care facilities, Medicare and Medicaid, nutrition, pharmaceutical assistance, property tax relief, reverse mortgages, Social Security, transportation and many more issues.

For questions or more information or to make reservations for any of these programs, please contact the Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047.

Submitted by Joann Graff

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Around Town

Lenten Fish Dinner

March 30

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a Lenten Fish dinner on Friday, March 30 in the school cafeteria from 5 to 7 p.m.

For information, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

Rock Darfur Concert

March 30

Support the South Plainfield High School chapter of Help Darfur Now and spread awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan on Friday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the PAL. Tickets are \$5.

Concert will feature Level Zero, The Command Radio, Horseshoes and Handgrenades, Divert from Destiny and Skill Company. All profits benefit Help Darfur Now and the Darfur Rehabilitation Project! Merchandise and refreshments will be available.

Sons of Union Veterans Meeting

March 31

The SUVCW-Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will hold a meeting at the American Legion Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave. on Saturday, March 31 beginning at noon.

Annual Lions Pancake Breakfast

April 1

The annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club, will be held on Sunday, April 1 from 8 a.m. to noon in the high school cafeteria. Donation is \$6. All are welcome.

Tickets can be purchased at the Observer office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. or from any Lions member.

VFW Country Breakfast

April 1

The South Plainfield VFW located on Front Street will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, April 1 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Lucky Easter egg gets breakfast at half price. Public welcome.

American Legion Woman's Auxiliary

April 3

Come join the fun! The Woman's Auxiliary American Legion Post 243 is looking for new members. Monthly meeting is held on Tuesday, April 3 at 8 p.m. at 243 Oak Tree Ave.

Anyone wishing to join the Woman's Auxiliary should call Tara Aliceo at (732) 763-2111 or attend the upcoming meeting.

Music Boosters Monthly Meeting

April 4

The SPHS Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 4. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in Room 559. All chorus, band and orchestra parents are welcome to attend. We are accepting nominations for next year's executive board. Last minute questions on the Disney trip will be answered. Plan to join us.

Rescue Squad Annual Flower Sale

April 6 and 7

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad's 18th annual flower sale will be held on Friday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 7 a.m. until sold out. Come early for best selection. We have daffodils, hanging baskets, hyacinth, hydrangea, lilies, mums, New Guinea impatiens and tulips.

Historical Society Lecture

April 15

The South Plainfield Historical Society presents a lecture, "Ellis Island: Myth and Reality Presenter," on Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Speaker will be Nancy C. Carnevale, Ph.D., assistant professor of history at Montclair State University. Free to the public.

For information call (908) 754-7268 or e-mail sphistoricalsoc@cs.com.

Parking Lot Sale

April 21

Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, Inc., located at 3121 Park Ave., is having a parking lot sale on Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain date is April 28.

Those interested in selling items may purchase table-sized spaces in the parking lot for \$20, or 15% of their sales whichever is more. Sellers must provide their own tables.

For details or to reserve a space, please call Jane at (908) 753-9585.

Little Treasures Registration

April 21

Little Treasures Learning Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will be registering for full-day kindergarten on Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. By appointment only.

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

Those interested are also invited to meet the staff and visit the center for a tour during normal operating hours. For an information, call (908) 769-3224 or visit us at www.LTLC.net.

Spring into Dance

April 22

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission proudly presents "Spring into Dance 2007" on Sunday, April 22 at 2:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Senior Center auditorium. Spring into Dance with us as you learn line dances with Ruth Hardy, champion line dancer, and then watch a fantastic dance show! Featured dancers from Absolute Dance Studio and Jo-Ann's Dance Studio. Come and join us, admission is free. For more information please call (908) 753-0327.

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Tiger-24 Fundraiser

April 27 and 28

Tiger-24, a 24-hour extravaganza, will be held on Friday, April 27 beginning at 4 p.m. until Saturday, April 28 at 4 p.m. on the track at Jost Field. Come run or walk and help raise money for the Harrington Family.

There will be a concert with five bands at the PAL, face painting, kids, volleyball, Frisbee, food, a candle lighting ceremony at midnight and more.

Trip to Papermill Playhouse

April 28

The Senior Center has scheduled a trip to Paper Mill Playhouse on Saturday, April 28 for a matinee performance of the Broadway hit, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." The cost is \$55 per person and includes transportation and orchestra seats. Reservations are limited to 40 people.

For reservations, stop by the senior center or call (908) 754-1047. This trip is open to all residents.

"Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway

April 29

The Recreation Department has a few tickets left for "Beauty and the Beast" on Sunday, April 29. Register at the PAL Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$80. Bus leaves from the PAL at 11:30 a.m. for the 3 p.m. show.



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Around Town

— Out of Town —

Filipino Palm Weaving

March 31

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey present "Palaspas: Traditional Filipino Palm Weaving Workshop" on Saturday, March 31 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Piscataway. Free, but registration is required.

For information or to register call (732) 745-4489.

Young Sierrans 20/30s

March 31

Young Sierrans 20/30s will host bowling at Strike 'N Spare Lanes in Green Brook on Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 per game, \$4.75 for shoes plus \$1 non member donation.

RSVP to Misty Angel22@aol.com or (732) 764-9073.

A Salute to Veterans

April 2

The Monday Afternoon Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, April 2 at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield at 2 p.m. The program will honor our female veterans and those on leave. Refreshments will be served following the entertainment, "A Salute to Veterans."

Reservations required. Please call Margie Messemer at (908) 322-9504.

WOWs Meeting

April 2

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center in Carteret. Light refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers invited to attend. For more information, contact Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Metuchen Edison Women's Club

April 4

The Metuchen Edison Women's club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave., Edison. The program will be Jin Shin Iyutsu, presented by Cara Krafchik. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

For additional information please contact Diana at (732) 548-0925.

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

April 11-May 13

Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn presents "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" beginning Wednesday, April 11. Tickets range in price from \$19 to \$68; student rush tickets are \$16.25 and available the day of performance with current student ID.

For tickets or more information, call (973) 376-4343.

Godspell

April 12, 13 and 14

Godspell will be produced at Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield on April 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance by April 1, \$10 after and at the door

Bob DeVos' Trio at Rahway Arts Guild

April 13

The 9th Season Jazz Series continues on April 13 at 8 p.m. with guitarist Bob DeVos and trio. Tickets are available at The Arts Guild of Rahway between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Advanced sale tickets are \$14 or \$16 at the door. Call (732) 381-7511 or e-mail us with your request at artsguild1670@verizon.net.

March For Global Warming Solutions

April 13-16

The New Jersey Climate March will be held on Friday, April 13 through Monday, April 16. The four-day march will feature rallies, demonstrations, and petition drives throughout the state.

Visit the New Jersey Climate March Web site at www.njclimatemarch.org.

Grant Writing Course

April 16-18

The Grant Institute's "Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop" will be held at St. John's University, Manhattan Campus, April 16-18. Registration required; tuition is \$597 and includes all materials.

For information and to register call 1 (888) 824-4424, visit our Web site at www.thegrantinstitute.com or email info@thegrantinstitute.com.



On March 1, the South Plainfield ELKS Lodge #2298 inducted six new members into their order. Inductees included Rick McCrskin, Jim Gustafson, Frank Rainear, Cynthia Frank, Russell Frank and George Zereconski. (L-R) Esteemed Leading Knight Debra Czech, new members Rick McCrskin, Jim Gustafson and Exalted Ruler Arthur Sabino, Sr.

Meet the Candidates.

Meet the candidates in the upcoming BOE Elections on Thursday evening, April 5. Roosevelt Administration Bldg. 7 p.m. Bring your questions.

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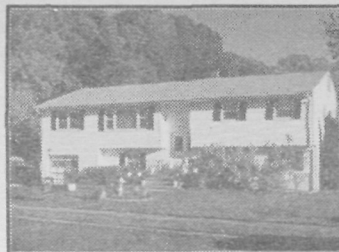
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SPHS Math Team Off to a Slow Start

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Math team started off the season in 19th place. Considering there are 21 teams in the area, this was not a very good showing. The team has worked hard to raise that figure and last month made the top 10 taking seventh place. It was the first time they had made the top 10 in the past three years. The team advisor is teacher Dave Knarr. This is his first year in the position.

The Math Team is open to any student. At present the team has 15 members, all from either the college prep/academic or the honors/advanced placement track. Students compete monthly from September to April. Knarr described the competition as a "math quiz" that consists of 10 difficult and tricky questions, testing their knowledge of algebra I, II and geometry. Ten students per team are allowed to compete.

Knarr is extremely proud of their accomplishments and is looking forward to the April 25 competition, which will be hosted by SPHS. He said, "We are competing and beating schools that have double the student population of SPHS. Last month, the only two schools that have a student



SPHS Math Team students prepare for competition.

population of less than 2,000 that we didn't beat were Highland Park and the Union County Magnet High School for math and science." The team works very hard, attending practices each week and working on problems that involve one specific skill which they need to do well on the tests. They are a great bunch of students who all have a great commitment to their personal and team success and want to keep improving. I think that at the rate we are going, SPHS will be in the top five when we host the math competition in April."

Team member Jonathan Cursi said, "Though most students have been deterred from the math team because it is centered around a one-hour mathematics test taken after a long school day, the Math Team and its competitions are much more enjoyable than they appear. The tests provide an opportunity for me to demonstrate my knowledge on all sorts of math problems, allow me to expand this knowledge and make new friends in the process. However, the most important part is that I am given the opportunity to represent South Plainfield."

Suburban Woman's Club News

Our March 1 meeting was a complete success. The corned beef was delicious, the cabbage so flavorful and these were just a few of the compliments for our friend "J" the chef. We all enjoyed the meal and also his story of just how he got to be a master chef with his own kitchen. He told us of his education and experience working in various kitchens in the area. We are all looking forward to dining in his restaurant in the future.

Our next meeting will be held on April 5. Since most of us will be getting our homes ready for the spring—we will have a White Elephant Sale to help each other out. One person's trash is another's treasure—so we are looking forward to finding many treasures.

Refreshments will be served after the sale. Our hostesses will provide us with luscious sweets and beverages.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning,
Publicity Chairman

SPHS Hosts Opera Fest

On March 3, the South Plainfield High School Chorus, under the direction of Tracy Glenn Murray, hosted the NJMEA All State Opera Festival.

The Opera Festival ran from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There were workshops for the students throughout the day, and at 3 p.m., the parents were treated to wonderful performances from 11 different schools. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments were provided during the day by the SPHS Music Boosters.

Participating schools were Hanover Park, Indian Hills, Livingston, Nutley, Paramus, Red Bank, Ridgewood, River Dell, Saddle River, South Plainfield and Cecily Tyson Performing Arts

School.

The South Plainfield Choral Ensemble won the Madame Paunova Ensemble Award. The ensemble consisted of Noelle Aguilar, Davonna Approvato, Paul Assad, Derirae Davis, Chris Delaney, Chris DeOlivera, Chris Fulton, Trevor Hankins, Kelsey Hoffman, Darren Kaczowski, Alan Kasmer, Diana Nasar, Gabrielle Nilla, Justin Pauls, Brittany Penevolpe, Daniel Sambat, Sarah Schulte, Nicole Scott, Nora Stasio, Stephen Wagner and Tiffany Washington. Paul Assad, Christopher DeOlivera and Darren Kaczowski also entered the festival performing Houna Casa from Turandot.

Grant PTO Meeting Location Changed

The location of the Grant Elementary PTO meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 3 at 7 p.m., has been moved to 209 Van Fleet Ave.

Dr. Robert Rosado will be giving a presentation of the 2007-2008 South Plainfield Board of Education Budget.

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Discipline Policy Expanded

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education has expanded the guidelines for students who receive out-of-school suspension by adding to its discipline policy.

A student who receives out-of-school suspension for five or more days will automatically be removed from a sports team, club or activity for the season.

"The way it works now is if a student does a day of in-school suspension they are suspended from everything that day including after school athletics. However, the next day, he is able to play," said SPHS Disciplinarian Robert Diehl. However if the student receives out-of-school suspension for five or more days, he or she can't participate in the sport for the season and if the student receives an additional out-of-school suspension during the next [sport] season, they are automatically removed for the rest of the season. "Most kids shouldn't be concerned," said Diehl. "Very few kids get out-of-school suspension at all," he added.

According to Diehl, a student would

receive out-of-school suspension for fighting in or outside of school. Fights outside are considered to be initially in the school no matter where it plays out. Depending on how the fight was conducted, a student could receive five to 10 days of out-of-school suspension. "Students with a history of fighting have to watch themselves, because they're going home if someone is touched in an aggressive manner and they won't be playing sports anymore," he added.

Students and their parents sign a code of conduct before they join any sports team or club stressing good sportsmanship, including no physical confrontations with teammates or others, no smoking, drugs or alcohol, attending all games and practices and abiding by all the requirements of the school attendance policy.

The board's policy committee is also reviewing the current pupil dress code policy, comparing it to other districts and is considering implementing changes to the substance abuse policy dealing with student random alcohol and drug testing.



Snow and sleet couldn't stop the Father McGuire Cheerleading competition held on March 17 at Sacred Heart School. Scores of cheerleaders from local Catholic elementary schools heated up the crowd with a variety of routines. Here, contestants wait anxiously as judges begin awarding trophies.

Two Senior Center Trips Planned

The South Plainfield Senior Center is running a theatre trip to Paper-Mill Playhouse to see the award winning musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. The Wild West explodes on stage in this rollicking adaptation of the MGM movie musical. Beloved for its rousing songs and show-stopping dance numbers, this production authentically evokes the 1850's Oregon wilderness. Filled with eye-popping choreography and unbridled athleticism, this is a lively production you won't want to miss! We have orches-

tra seats reserved for Saturday, April 28 at the 2 p.m. matinee. The cost is \$55 per person and includes motor coach transportation from the Senior Center.

The Senior Center is also sponsoring a trip to Wildwood Crest, Cape May, Atlantic City, Smithville and the Renault Winery from Sunday, June 10 to Wednesday, June 13. The trip includes three nights oceanfront accommodations in Wildwood Crest, three breakfasts, dinner and show at Elaines, dinner at Garfields and a buffet din-

ner in Atlantic City, lunch at the Renault Winery, a day trip to Atlantic City, a day trip to Cape May, a visit to Smithville Village, applicable taxes, and all transportation. The cost is \$359 per person double occupancy. Reservation cut-off date is May 1 and space is limited to 40 passengers.

Tickets are limited, so contact the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047 or stop in at the center. As with all Senior Center trips, this trip is open to the public. You do not need to be a senior to attend.

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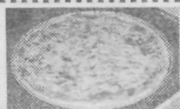
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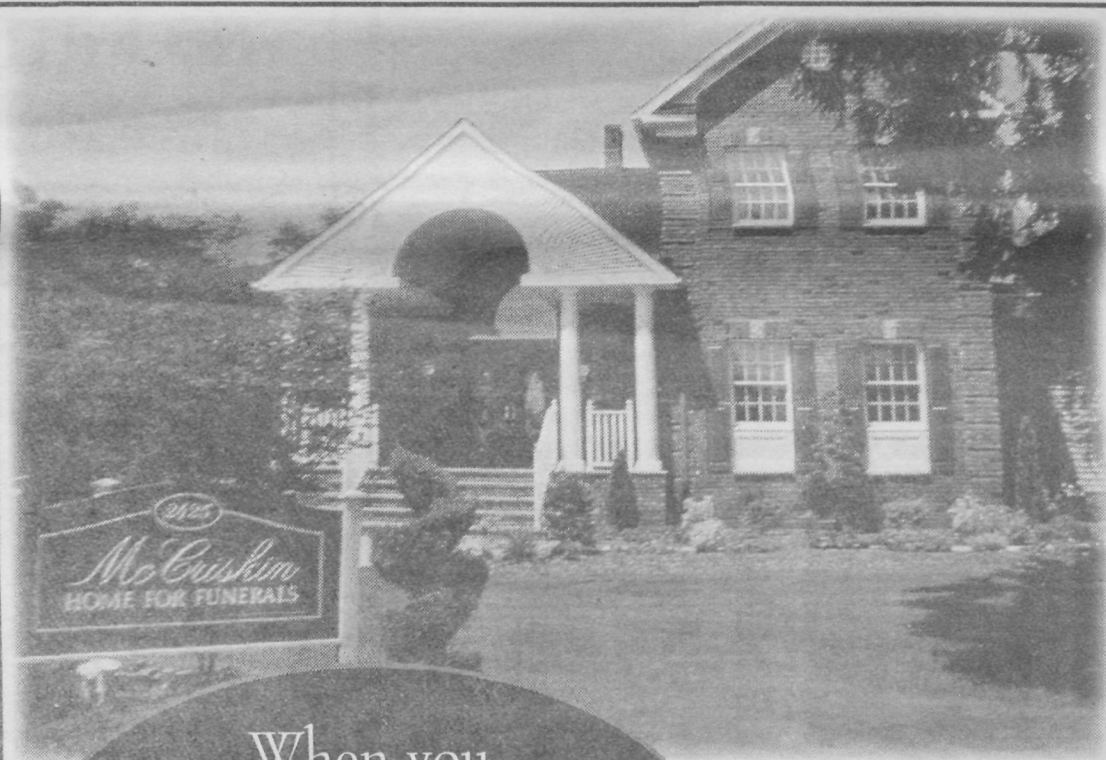
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Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop 489 planned and cooked a dinner for their fathers on Feb. 23. The girls chose to spend an evening with their fathers over the Winter Dance held at the Middle School.

Volunteers Needed at Conservation Corps

Individuals are being sought for the Middlesex County Conservation Corps, whose mission is "to protect and preserve natural areas from misuse, polluters and the forces of nature" at the more than 6,000 acres of open space owned and maintained by Middlesex County.

The Corps was proposed by Freeholder Director David B. Crabel and is administered by the Middlesex County Department of Parks and Rec-

reation. They began work this past fall and experienced tremendous success with several projects throughout the County.

Volunteer work will continue this spring, primarily at the 1,700-acre John A. Phillips Preserve in Old Bridge. Several weekend projects are planned including a reforestation and native plant restoration, clean-ups, trail building and plant and animal inventories. No special skills are required,

although volunteer candidates should enjoy physical work and have an interest in being outdoors. Individuals and groups are welcome.

A full list of events can be found at the Middlesex County Web site at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/parks_recreation/conservcorp.asp. For more information or to obtain a volunteer application, contact Rick Lear at the Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department, (732) 745-5988.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

And here's the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

The library will be closed on Friday, April 6 in observance of Good Friday, and on Sunday, April 8 in observance of Easter Sunday.

Next week, we'll have a slightly abbreviated schedule of children's programming. "Slightly abbreviated" means the following: Storytime programs for children age 3 and over will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Time for 2's & 3's, for children age 2 and 3, will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and twice on Thursday, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. However, due to the Good Friday closing, the "Books 'n Babies" program has been cancelled. Each program lasts about an hour; no pre-registration is required. For further details, please call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

You now have only a couple more weeks in which to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. (Or, rather,

to President Bush and Governor Corzine that which is theirs.) We still have a number of tax forms and booklets, both Federal and N.J. State, available. If you're looking for a form we don't have, we can help you locate it via the IRS and Division of Taxation Web sites, respectively. Our collection also includes a number of books explaining current tax laws and, theoretically, how you can submit a more self-advantageous return. However, be advised that we at the library are not tax experts, nor are we familiar with your personal financial situation. We are strictly prohibited from offering specific tax advice or recommendations, or providing interpretations of tax laws. Such questions are best addressed to qualified personnel in those respective fields. (But, if you'd like to contribute your refund towards the new library project, feel free.)

We've got room this week for another financially-themed note: there are times, particularly on weekends, that our supply of ready cash may be limited. As a result, we may not be able to offer change for large bills. So, we ask that you pay your fines and charges with the smallest bills you can handle, especially singles. And while exact change is not necessary, it is always appreciated.

Recently, we received a whole bunch of new DVDs for our collection. Newly-added titles in the adult section include new copies of the classic musicals "The King & I," "South Pacific," "Carousel" and "Cabaret," "Casino Royale" (with Daniel Craig as 007), Best Picture winner "The Departed," "Flags of Our Fathers," "Rocky Balboa" and "Babel." In the juvenile section, we now have "Flushed Away" and new discs featuring Dora the Explorer, Barbie, Max & Ruby, Charlie & Lola, Bob the Builder, and Thomas the Tank Engine. These DVDs are now being processed and should be available for borrowing very soon.

Sticking with the A/V collection for another moment, Monday is the last day of availability for the current group from the Audiobook Circuit. This group includes titles by Rex Stout, Clive Cussler, Danielle Steel, Lillian Jackson Braun, and Nicholas Sparks. Get 'em before they're gone.

That'll do it for this week. For more information, please call (908) 754-7885 or visit our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

BAAAA!!

What was that? Oh, that's just March leaving like a lamb. See you in April.

Riley P.T.S.O. Offering College Scholarships

John E. Riley P.T.S.O. is accepting applications for its annual college scholarships. Applications are available at South Plainfield High School Guidance Department, Riley School or the SPHS main office.

The P.T.S.O. offers two scholarships for \$500 each. Applicants must be residents of South Plainfield graduating from South Plainfield High School in June 2007 and must have been promoted from John E. Riley School.

The filing deadline for these scholarships is April 27.

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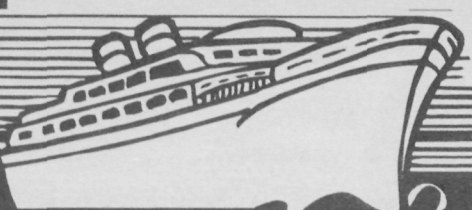
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Fate of Middle School Sports Rests On Retiring Teachers

By Libby Barsky

The return of Middle School Sports to the district relies on the number of teachers and staff who will be retiring this year, said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado.

The money to fund the sports program will come from "breakage"—the difference between the higher salary paid retirees and the beginning salaries of new staff members taking their place.

Using this "breakage" for the middle school sports program will only occur if the public endorses this year's \$51M budget when they vote on April 17.

Since January the following 12 staff members have officially submitted their resignations:

Anthony Barca—taught high school social studies for 38 years and held the position of team leader for 18 years.

Connie Barca—taught for 37 years at Kennedy and is test coordinator and computer teacher for Roosevelt and Kennedy.

William Beegle—district director of guidance has been in the district for

20 years as high school director of guidance, assistant middle school principal and principal of Riley School.

Nina Kelty Bielawski—taught for 13 years high school business education;

Christina Bloch—Roosevelt Kindergarten teacher for five years;

Virginia Cocco—Middle School reading teacher for 15 years;

Virginia Irwin—Kennedy reading teacher;

Doris Kirshner—secretary in the transportation office;

Diane Mandel—student assistance counselor at Kennedy for seven years;

Lydia Svoboda—special education teacher at Riley for 22 years;

Carleen Tedeschi—Riley/Kennedy/Middle School music teacher for 33 years;

Janice Uricoli—Kennedy School fourth and fifth grade teacher for 32 years.

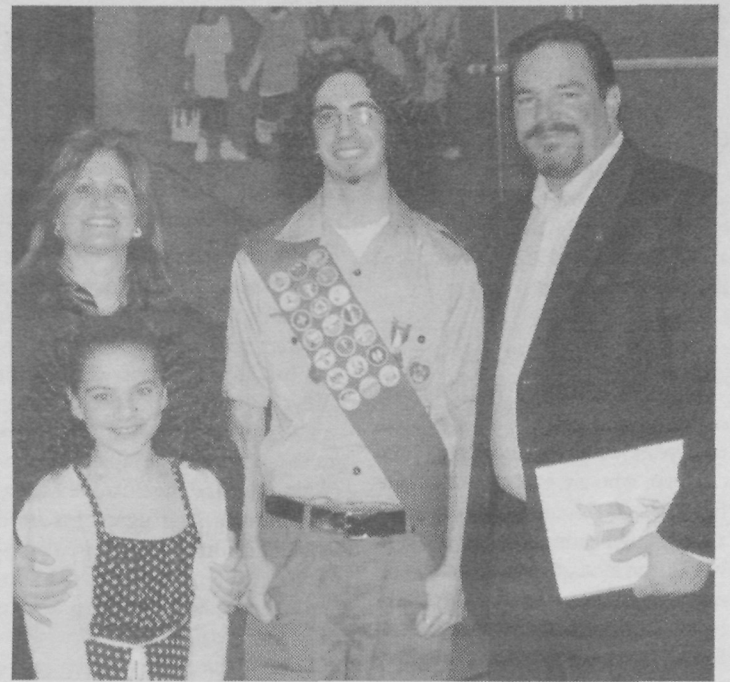
Rosado is urging residents to contact their state legislators, just as he himself did recently. He visited the State Assembly to urge them to establish a school funding policy more equitable than the present one for all districts in New Jersey. In his statements

to senators and assemblymen, Rosado compared the local school budgets to the state budget and told the legislators, "By law, school districts can't run deficits. All 600 school districts in New Jersey are in the black compared to the state's record of having a 4½ billion dollar deficit in its budget." When the state took over the financials for the city of Camden, \$13M was missing under its watch.

"You know why it was missing? The salaries of 10 dead people and they overpaid 986 vendors. Would you hire them as financial advisors?" he asked.

Rosado noted South Plainfield was 14th out of 23 districts in Middlesex County with a \$11,274 per pupil cost, while still bringing in some of the highest test scores of all Middlesex County districts.

Rosado warned that those results will not continue if the budget is voted down. It will be up to the Borough Council to reduce the budget. He noted that only 770 people voted last year for the budget. Rosado is asking those concerned about keeping services and programs to come out and vote yes for the budget.



Colin Michael Slattery received his Eagle Scout Award in a ceremony at John E. Riley School on Monday, March 12. Shown here with his sister, Kara, and parents, Kathi and John, Colin is a member of Boy Scout Troop 124. A communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a senior at Bishop George Ahr High School, Colin oversaw the design and completion of a playground at Sacred Heart School as one of his service projects. Colin has also participated in South Plainfield's Summer Drama Workshop stage crew since 2000. A number of dignitaries, including Mayor Charles Butrico and Council President Dennis Cerami, spoke. Colin also received various awards and certificates marking his accomplishment. Colin will be majoring in mechanical engineering at Rutgers College of Engineering this fall.

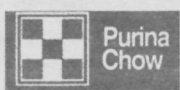
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Who are the Board of Education Candidates?

To better inform our readers the *Observer* asked the six Board of Education candidates to submit a short bio about themselves and answer three questions. Five of the six responded and their bios and answers are listed in alphabetical order.

DEBBIE BOYLE

Deborah (Debbie) Boyle has resided in South Plainfield for the past nine years with husband Robert and children, who are in the South Plainfield School System. She worked for a large engineering firm involved in working in local government and writing a monthly newsletter. Her husband, Robert, is a vice president at Roma Foods Enterprises and volunteers as an open gym supervisor at the PAL.

Her children are involved in student government, leadership programs and sport activities and have learned to be extremely generous in donating their time for volunteer work.

Since moving to South Plainfield, Debbie has become involved in some of the following activities:

She initiated and chaired various PTO committees for Riley School, chaired the teacher appreciation lun-

cheons at Riley and Grant schools, taught and chaired the Riley School drama program for five years, donated the funds for the South Plainfield Middle School center court pond, facilitated the use of the Roma Foods truck to raise funds to support high school athletic boosters, music boosters and the Gold Card lunch. Debbie submitted articles to the *Observer* informing residents of various school and town activities; promoted and began the taping of council meetings and the Board of Education budget hearings; presented scholarships from the Boyle Memorial Foundation for seven years; donated funds and supplies to various clubs and organizations.

Debbie was named citizen of the year in 2004 and 2007 by the South Plainfield Elks.

BOB JONES

Bob Jones was raised in South Plainfield and graduated from South Plainfield High School.

He earned J.D., Rutgers Law School, and earned a B.A. Rutgers College, graduating with honors and named to the Dean's List.

Bob is an attorney and a part-time

instructor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and serves on the Board of Advisors ED.U. Paralegal Studies Program

Bob was a former board member of the Board of Trustees of the Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch as well as a former chair, PR Committee. He received the Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1991.

He is a trustee with the South Plainfield Education Foundation, and served on the South Plainfield Land Management Commission in the mid 1980s.

DANIELLE HARRIS-LACASALE

Danielle Harris-Lacasale is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield. She is educated in early childhood, elementary and special education. She has an advanced degree in educational leadership and is currently completing a doctorate in administration and curriculum development.

Danielle is currently employed as an assistant principal of an elementary special education school and had previously served as a teacher and special education supervisor. She feels that the different positions she has held have made her stronger and more knowl-

edgeable in all areas of education and will hopefully be a positive if voted to the Board of Education.

Besides her professional responsibilities, she is the mother of five children who attend Franklin Elementary School.

Because of the diversity her children present, her professional background in elementary and special education has lent itself positively to ensuring that her children receive the challenges necessary to be on grade level in all areas of their education. She feels that the power of the home to school connection is still one of the significant ways to keep parents and teachers on board for a child's best interest.

Danielle feels that she can make a positive contribution to the board by using her professional experiences and advanced degrees to present educated responses, accountability, insight and understanding needed to implement the ideas. She states that she is not running for any special interest groups, is not a member or part of organized labor groups and is an independent candidate running with new ideas.

SHARON MILLER

Sharon Miller has lived in South Plainfield for 27 years. She graduated college with a B.A. degree. After college she worked for a major pharmaceutical/health care company for 23 years in purchasing and special marketing. Her husband was born and raised in South Plainfield and graduated from SPHS. Their two daughters began their education in Future Stars Preschool program and have continued through the South Plainfield School System; her older daughter graduated from SPHS two years ago and currently attends college. The younger will be graduating this year.

For the past 15 years, Sharon has been an active volunteer in our schools and community and learned how the school system functions at each level. As president of the SPHS PTA, she took on the responsibility of fundraising for the Project Graduation celebration for the senior class. This is a huge undertaking, which took six months to plan, organize and execute.

This year over \$20,000 was raised. The past two years she has also been responsible for coordinating and running the Project Graduation Celebration event for the senior class.

Sharon was also an eight year volunteer with the Ponytail Parents Association and helped establish the Field Hockey Association while serving on the executive board.

PIO PENNISI

Pio Pennisi lives at 1401 Cherry St. with his wife, Lynn, daughter Kelly (a junior at Kean University) and son, Christopher (a junior at SPHS).

He has been a resident of South Plainfield for 46 years, going through the South Plainfield School System and graduating from SPHS in 1974. He received a bachelor's degree from Montclair University, majoring in biology and a masters degree from Kean University in administration and supervision.

In 1980 Pio began his career in education at Dunellen High School, teaching science and coaching a variety of sports. In 1996, he began his administrative career as an assistant principal at Dunellen High School. While serving as assistant principal, he also held the positions of director of athletics and supervisor of technology. He became principal of Dunellen High School in 2001. He currently holds the position of superintendent.

Throughout the past 20 years, Pio has been involved in many community activities. In addition to serving on the South Plainfield Board of Education for 12 years, he was a member of the South Plainfield Soccer Club, and is currently an active member of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, the SPHS Athletic Boosters and Dunellen/Green Brook Rotary.

In 2001, Pio was inducted into the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame.

"I truly believe South Plainfield is a wonderful town and has an excellent school district. I believe my background and experience would continue to be an asset to the board," explained Pennisi.

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VIEWPOINT

The Observer asked BOE candidates for their views on the following. Here's what they had to say.

DEBBIE BOYLE

Question 1—I support the 2007/2008 South Plainfield Board of Education Budget as I have in the past. The proposed budget supports teachers, academics and activities, all which benefit the children of South Plainfield. All residents want the best education possible for their children and by supporting and passing the budget those interests can be achieved.

Question 2—I am running because I want to be a part of an energetic team, working along with our highly talented educators that will pursue the best interest of our children. I am a team player, a leader and give 110% to all things that I am involved in and I will support the academics, arts, music and sports that will continually benefit the students.

Question 3—I am and have always been in favor of the middle school and freshman sport programs. While academics are the main ingredient for success so are the music, art and sport programs. They are an intricate part of the college application. The sports programs are continually threatened for elimination in the South Plainfield School system. These programs are feeder programs that prepare students for high school and college programs. Perception vs. reality—they involve the children as team sport participants teaching them skills, sportsmanship and reinforce the ethic of being a team player. Parents continually voice their opinions in support of the sport programs. I would like to become a committee member investigating shared services, which would ascertain monies to become available not only for academic programs but to keep the sports in the Middle School and high school freshmen programs.

BOB JONES

Question 1—I support it with some reservations. I'm not happy about another tax increase, especially following the tax increases over the past few years. If elected to the board I would work to control spending. I'd like to see shared services with the town, something I've been talking about since I ran for town council in 2004. Shared costs with other districts could also save our district money. These are example of ways to trim costs without affecting the quality of education.

Question 2—I went through our school system—attending Franklin School, the middle school and the high school. I felt I received a great education that served me well when I went to college and law school. I'm running, in part, because I'd like today's kids to get that same top-flight education. Another reason I'm running is my longstanding commitment to issues involving children and education.

If elected, I have three top goals. The first is to focus on basic skills. From teaching part-time at the college level, I know how important it is that our students have a solid foundation in basic skills before they go to college. I also want to advocate on behalf of our kids for their fair share of state funding. We're not getting that now and we need to make voices heard. Finally, I want to work to control costs. Controlling taxes is vital, because families and seniors cannot afford the increases over the past few years.

Question 3—While education

QUESTION 1. — Do you support this year's budget? If not, why.

QUESTION 2. — Why are you running for the School Board, and what do you think your becoming a board member will mean to the community?

QUESTION 3. — Do you support Grant and Middle School sports. If so, how would you tackle funding them in the future?

should be our top goal, sports and extracurricular activities are also an important part of what we provide in our school system. Rather than cut programs like sports and extracurricular (music, drama, etc.) I'd like to control costs in other ways (which I've mentioned above.) Pay-to-participate plans are also an option. But unless we make our voices heard about fair funding from the state, our kids are going to get shortchanged. Billions of dollars go to the Abbott Districts, while districts like South Plainfield don't get their fair share. We've got to work together to change that.

DANIELLE HARRIS-LACASALE

Question 1 and 3—I hope you have all had an opportunity to review the budget approved by our board. I support the budget that has been presented to the public. I believe with the changes in the fiscal formulas, the state aid provided and the balances made by the board, they did a very good job with what they had to work with. I was very happy to see that the board did not present a second question to

voters. If the budget passes, the board will have the opportunity to include other items in the plan for 2007-2008 (like sports at the middle school) if breakage occurs. If the second question was placed on the ballot, it could have played out an intricate situation had the second question passed and the budget went down and then again if it failed.

Question 2—I have had the opportunity to speak to many people in town over the last several weeks and have interviewed them as the stakeholders to the future. One consistent answer is that the people of South Plainfield want change—new faces with new viewpoints. I hope on April 17 voters can vote for me as a new face on the board with a sound background and many positive ideas for the future.

SHARON MILLER

Question 1 and 3—I was thankful that the 2007-2008 budget didn't make any cuts in our educational staff, but I was disappointed that some of our sports programs were being cut.

Our teachers, academics, athletics, arts and activities are all vital to our children receiving a well-rounded education, which is also extremely important when applying to colleges. I know there are pros and cons regarding the issue of sports and that there have been numerous debates over the past few years as to whether or not cuts should be made in our sports programs, but I am concerned about the future of our nonacademic programs. Today it is sports being cut. What will tomorrow be... music and arts? Where does it end?

Question 2—One of the things I want to do is to become more involved with what is happening at the state level, so two weeks ago I attended a Community Dialogue with Governor Corzine held in Piscataway. Currently, the state is using a funding formula that dates back to Governor Whitman's term. I do not believe that South Plainfield gets its fair share of state funding. Corzine is planning this year to redo the school funding formula. It is extremely important that the voices of South Plainfield's school children be heard in Trenton. Although we have our state representatives to help out, they are responsible for many other school districts in addition to ours. It is up to the BOE to make sure that Corzine and his administration know that South Plainfield is in need of additional funding and to get this

message out to our community. We need additional funding so we don't have to cut programs and we can minimize tax increases.

PIO PENNISI

Question 1—Yes, I support the budget.

Question 2—I am running for re-election because I truly believe that we are at a critical juncture with our schools. Year after year we are forced to chip away because of the lack of state funding and failed budgets. More than ever, we need to work hard to ensure that programs and activities that we currently have are maintained and ones that were lost are brought back. I live with this challenge every day and the insight I can give, will be an asset to South Plainfield.

Question 3—As an educator, I more than anyone know the importance of sports and other co-curricular activities. Studies have proven that students that are involved in activities do much better in school and develop skills that can not be taught in a classroom. As a matter of fact, six years ago, I was the catalyst in the expansion of the middle school sports program so that more students had the chance to participate. I have always and will continue to support the return of sports to Grant and the middle school.

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Webelos Den #5 of John E. Riley School Pack #224 celebrate at the Blue and Gold dinner at the American Legion. From left to right, scouts are Brandon Rickert, Andrew Akpan, Brett Temple, Anthony Santone and John O'Sullivan.

PROFILE SOUTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESSES

Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.

100 Front Street
Corner of Maple and Front Street
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Telephone: (908) 756-2173
Fax: (908) 756-2178

Education

Seton Hall University, Bachelor of Science, Marketing
W. Paul Stillman School of Business, Martin Luther King
Scholar, Rutgers The State University-School of Law,
Camden, Juris Doctor

Jurisdictions admitted to practice: New Jersey, 1995

Areas of Practice Include: Real Estate Transactions, Business Formation, Purchase/Sale
Municipal Court, Tickets, Drug Related Offenses, Juvenile Delinquency Matters, Matrimonial, Child Support,
Wills & Estates Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation



Brenda Vallecilla

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Kristen Gualano named to Dean's List

Kristen Gualano of South Plainfield was named to the Dean's List at Seton Hall University for the Fall 2006 semester according to Joseph R. Marback, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

This distinction is earned by students who achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or better during the semester.

Miss Gualano has also recently been selected as a new member into the sorority, Sigma, Sigma, Sigma, also known as Tri Sigma, which is a nationally recognized sorority with more than 92,000 members. They host chapters on more than 107 college campuses and have 88 alumnae chapters all over the world.

Brenda Vallecilla grew up in the Bronx, New York, the daughter of Iris and James Vallecilla. She graduated from St. Raymond Academy for Girls at the top of her class and attended Seton Hall University on a four year academic scholarship and became a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar.

She went on to work for major corporations like Xerox and Aetna and excelled in sales and marketing positions. She enrolled in law school at Rutgers University in Camden, and went on to work at Tomar, Simonoff, Adourian and O'Brien in Cherry Hill. She assisted the firm with their satellite office in Camden, primarily serving the Hispanic community. She also served on the board of the Hispanic Women's Task Force of N.J. that closely monitored legislation affecting Hispanic women throughout the state. This organization was respon-

sible for establishing the first Hispanic Women's Resource Centers in the State.

Her career took a slight detour when she went to work for an entertainment company, now known as Live Nation, formerly Clear Channel Entertainment, that produced music tours, Broadway shows and owned entertainment venues like the PNC Bank Arts Center. As a Regional Vice President of Marketing-Northeast Vallecilla managed sales teams, reviewed and negotiated artist and sponsorship contracts and was an integral part of the live music marketing scene from New York City to Boston. In her last position with the company she served as vice president for the Latin music marketing division.

Vallecilla moved to South Plainfield in 1996 as a newly single mom with her daughter, Maricela, where she resided until 2005 when she moved with her second husband and daughter to Hillsborough.

She remained passionate about the

Hispanic community and its access to reasonably priced, compassionate, respectful legal representation. She opened her office in South Plainfield in July of 2005 and has served a multitude of clients from the purchase and sale of real estate to identity fraud. By word of mouth her practice has gone beyond the Spanish speaking community because of her accessibility and personal hands on approach with clients.

"I am available by appointment for the most part when my clients are available, before or after work or Saturdays. I provide advice on a variety of different areas of law. To my Spanish speaking clients I say, "Es mejor precaber que tener que remediar," to my English speaking clients I say, "It is better to be informed and avoid consequences than to react after the fact."

Vallecilla offers free initial consultations, reasonable retainer fees and payment plans, as well as evening and Saturday hours by appointment.

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- So Plfd Middle School Student Council
- Easter Seals
- So Plfd Fire Dept
- St Jude's Children's Research Hospital
- So Plfd Rescue Squad
- Inst for Children w/Blood Disorders
- So Plfd Business Assn
- Catholic War Veterans of US
- So Plfd Soccer Club
- James Beard Foundation
- So Plfd Local PBA
- Metuchen Youth Development
- Sacred Heart Church
- National Parkinson Foundation
- Our Lady of Czestochowa
- Dunellen-GreenBrook Rotary Club
- St Helena Church
- Robert Wood Johnson Hospital
- So Plfd Football Eagles
- So Plfd Lions Club
- So Plfd Vision 2000
- So Plfd ELKS
- So Plfd Music Boosters
- Wardlaw Hartridge School
- HS Mount St Marys
- So Plfd HS PTA
- Coaches C.A.R.E.
- Simon Youth Foundation
- So Plfd HS Soccer
- So Plfd Jr Baseball Club
- So Plfd Recreation Dept
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South Plainfield Board of Education Total Increase in Budget from 2006-07 to 2007-08 2.27% or \$1,140,267

The Board of Education has cut over \$500,000 in staff,
programs, equipment and supplies to remain under cap.

Money To Be Raised Through Local Taxation 2007-2008

GENERAL FUND	\$	40,097,815
DEBT SERVICE	\$	1,015,477
TOTAL TAXES	\$	41,113,292

Fiscal Year Calculations – Calendar Year 2007

Half for 2006-2007	\$38,987,343 / 2	\$	19,493,672
Half for 2007-2008	\$41,113,292 / 2	\$	20,556,646

Total To Be Raised By Taxes \$ 40,050,318

ASSESSED VALUATIONS 2006	\$ 1,418,770,363
ASSESSED VALUATIONS 2007	\$ 1,435,804,761

Difference = 17,034,398

TAX RATE 2007	\$ 2.79 Per \$100
TAX RATE 2006	\$ 2.69 Per \$100

INCREASE IN TAX IS \$.10 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION

AVERAGE HOME 2006	\$ 117,300
AVERAGE HOME 2007	\$ 120,700

SCHOOL TAX LEVY FOR AN AVERAGE HOME

SCHOOL TAX LEVY 2006	\$ 3,155.37
SCHOOL TAX LEVY 2007	\$ 3,367.53

ANNUAL INCREASE IN TAX LEVY	\$ 212.16
MONTHLY INCREASE IN TAX LEVY	\$ 17.68
DAILY INCREASE IN TAX LEVY	\$ 0.58
1 Tax Point =	\$143,580

**We thank you for your continued support of our children.
South Plainfield Board of Education**

Grandparents Celebrated at Riley School Annual Breakfast



The annual Grandparents Day Breakfast held at Riley School was an enormous success. Neither the snow, rain or sleet stopped the proud grandparents from attending the affair.

The doors opened at 9 a.m. and the

grandparents entered a delightfully decorated room that took 15 volunteers three hours to set up the night before. The tables were decorated with green flowers that were donated by Mohn's Florist. Each guest had a choice of bagels, cookies, mini muffins, cinnabons, fruit and either juice coffee or tea.

The energy in the room was so high that Principal Al Czech was quoted as saying that he felt like he was at a revival. He began the morning program off with three wise quotes that could be understood from ages five to 105.

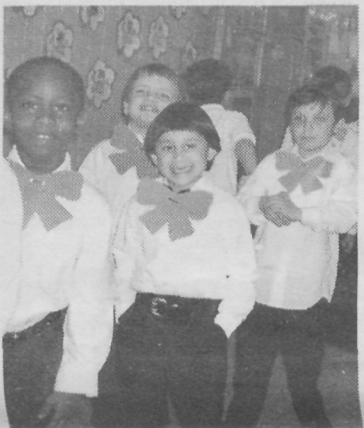
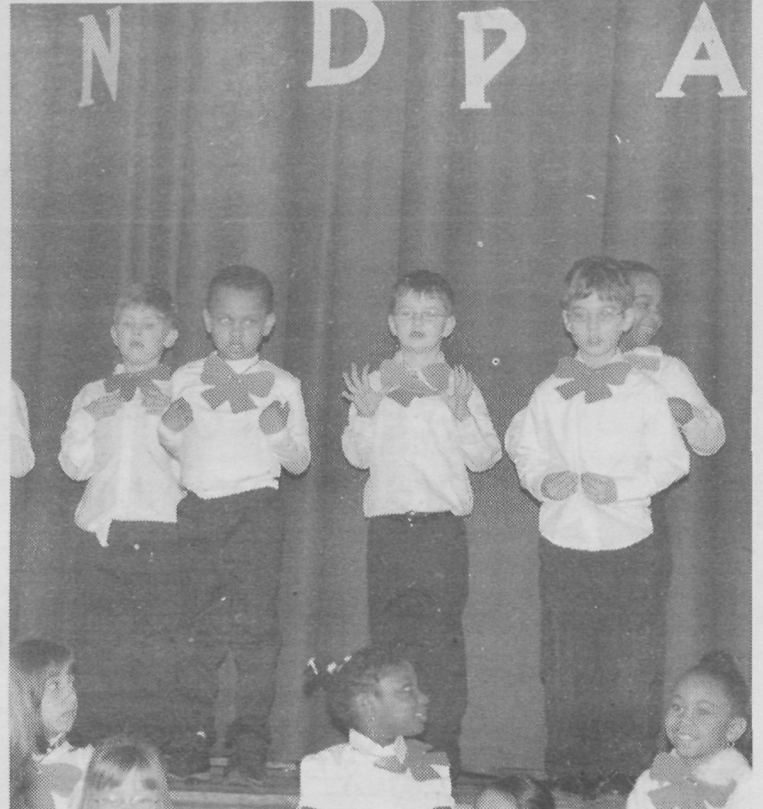
Stasey Pace, with the help of the third and fourth grade Student Council, pulled numbers out of a hat and gave away over 30 baskets that were put together by Sue and Chris Piro and Dana Milane. They also gave away

fifty certificates, which were donated by Mohn's Florist and Tarantellas Restaurant in Clark.

One of the highlights of the morning went to the winner of the scratch off hat, Grandma Timmerman. Six moms volunteered to run the 50/50. The winning amount was \$390 won by Stella Schoonover. Kelly Dunn, the president of the PTSO, called the winning number.

That was just the beginning. After the giveaways and prizes the children in grades K thru second preformed St. Patrick's Day tunes which honored their grandparents.

Mr. Gurske, with the help of the teachers, always works very hard and everyone did a fantastic job making John E. Riley's traditional Grandparents Day a success.



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- BOCA BURGER-Original Soy Burger, alfalfa sprouts, tomato..... \$4.99
- CAESAR CHICKEN - Grilled chicken layered in Caesar salad..... \$5.29
- EGGPLANT ROMANO-Breaded eggplant, marinara sauce, sun-dried tomato, fresh mozzarella, parmesan cheese & balsamic vinegar..... \$4.49
- HONEY CHICKEN-Grilled chicken, lettuce, tomato, honey mustard sauce..... \$5.29
- ITALIAN VEGGIE - Fresh mozzarella, roasted peppers, sun dried tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and balsamic vinegar..... \$4.19
- PEPPERCORN BURGER-Two all beef patties grilled in crushed pepper, Worcestershire sauce, mushrooms, Swiss cheese, lettuce & tomato..... \$5.49
- TURKEY SLAW-Sliced turkey, American cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato and mayo..... \$4.29

- PHILLY STEAK & CHEESE-Strips of beef or chicken grilled with onions and peppers, cheese, ketchup and mayo..... \$5.49
- POMPEII CHICKEN-Breaded chicken breast, fresh mozzarella, lettuce, sun dried tomato and a pesto dressing..... \$5.29
- PORTABELLA DELIGHT - Portabella mushrooms, onions, zucchini, roasted pepper, grilled in a balsamic vinegar sauce sprinkled with gorgonzola cheese..... \$4.29
- ROAST BEEF SUPREME - Sliced roast beef, Swiss, roasted pepper, spinach and mayo..... \$5.29
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- SPANISH PHILLY STEAK-Strips of beef or chicken grilled with onions, peppers, cheddar cheese and black olives topped with a cilantro hot sauce..... \$5.49

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- SICILIAN CHICKEN-Grilled chicken, fresh mozzarella, sun dried tomato, roasted pepper, baby spinach and pesto spread..... \$5.49
- CLASSIC TUNA MELT-The Pantry's famous tuna and American cheese pressed between a warm toasted focaccia..... \$5.49
- HOT CORNED BEEF REUBEN-Corned beef and Swiss thinly sliced with coleslaw and Russian dressing..... \$5.49
- ITALIAN ROASTED VEGETABLES-Roasted zucchini, onion and mushrooms in balsamic vinegar pressed between fresh mozzarella..... \$5.49
- DELI MELT-Choice of deli meat, American cheese, mustard pressed in a crisp focaccia..... \$5.49

- PHILLY PANINI-Beef or chicken strips, onions, peppers smothered in American cheese..... \$5.49
- PESTO LOAF-Portabella mushrooms, roasted peppers, black olives, capers, parmesan cheese and pesto spread..... \$5.49
- BRUSCHETTA MELT-Thick sliced tomatoes and mozzarella..... \$5.49
- EGGPLANT GRILL-Breaded eggplant, fresh mozzarella, olives, roasted pepper, parmesan cheese and balsamic vinegar..... \$5.49
- SAUER TURKEY-Sliced turkey, Swiss, sauerkraut and Russian dressing..... \$5.49
- ROAST BEEF SWISS MELT-Thinly sliced roast beef layered in Swiss with baby spinach and pesto spread..... \$5.49

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Diocese of Metuchen to Honor Banker; Religious Brother

A retired banking executive and religious brother will be honored at the Diocese of Metuchen's fifth annual Spotlight on Catholic Education Dinner to be held Tuesday, April 17 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Somerset.

For his contribution to Catholic education, Leonard Hill, long-time benefactor of St. Francis Cathedral School in Metuchen, will receive "The Theodore Cardinal McCarrick Distinguished Partner in Catholic Education Award." Brother of the Sacred Heart Ronald Cairns, a teacher at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, will be presented with the "Edward T. Hughes Leadership in Catholic Education Award." Funds from the dinner will benefit St. Francis Cathedral School in Metuchen, this year's school in the spotlight, as well as the Diocese's Foundation for Catholic Education.

Hill, 87, first developed his strong devotion to Catholic education as a student of Sacred Heart Elementary School and St. Peter the Apostle High School, both in New Brunswick.

Upon completion of his graduate studies in business at New York University, Hill embarked on a career in banking, during which he served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for the National Bank of New Jersey. He also served as president of Middlesex General Hospital and, after developing a friendship with Robert Wood Johnson in the 1960's, became a trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Hill set a goal of continuously increasing the principle balance of the fund in order to offer scholarships derived entirely from interest. After having helped numerous families who otherwise could not afford to send

their children to the school, Hill has now come forward to be honored for his efforts.

Brother Ronald, 73, a former teacher at St. Francis Cathedral, grew up outside of Montreal, Canada, where he was taught by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. He resolved at an early age to join the Brothers and began his formation in 1948, culminating with his final vows taking place in 1958 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Metuchen.

Since becoming a teacher at St. Joseph High in 1963, Brother Ronald has spent over 40 years working to enrich the lives of every student he has encountered.

He served as a faculty member at St. Francis School from 1974-79, teaching seventh and eighth grade math and history classes. Brother Ronald's work extended beyond the classroom, as he created a ski club to take students on skiing trips and organized educational trips to New York City. He has also helped students in the role of guidance counselor and serves as moderator of the Father's Club.

After leaving St. Francis School, Brother Ronald served for eight years as principal of St. Joseph High School, where he now teaches accounting.

Tickets for the dinner are available for \$200 per person. A 50/50 raffle will also be held to raise funds for both St. Francis Cathedral School and the Foundation for Catholic Education. Raffle tickets are available in advance for \$50 each.

For more information on purchasing tickets for the dinner, contact Tina Sofo, Office of Development, at (732) 562-2429.

Brittany Woodridge Named Junior Journalist

2007 JUNIOR JOURNALIST #1

The Day I Lost My Barbie Doll

By: Brittany Woodridge



Brittany Woodridge with teacher Christine Dispenziere.

"Christen and Jackson put your coats on. We are going to the park for fresh air," mom called.

"Hold on, Mom, I have to get Molly my Barbie doll."

Christen looked in her Barbie collection. Molly was not there.

"Oh no! Where can she be!" Christen cried.

Christen ran downstairs as fast as a cheetah.

"Mom! Molly is gone!"

"Sorry Christen, honey. You may look for the doll when we get back from the park."

Christen moaned, "Mom why can't I find Molly now?"

Mom replied, "No. Go put your coat and shoes on."

We opened the door. It started drizzling.

"Oh no!" Mom sobbed. "I guess no park today."

Jackson ran downstairs.

"I am ready!"

"Sorry Jackson it is starting to rain. Where have you been all this time?" asked Christen.

"None of your business Banana Head!" Jackson replied.

"Jackson, your sister is not a banana head. Say you are sorry."

"Sorry," Jackson moaned.

Christen went to look for Molly. Christen had an idea. She would trace

her steps from yesterday to today. First, Christen thought, she had breakfast with Molly, then had lunch with Molly. She went to her grandma's house with Molly. But Molly was not there when they got home from grandmas house.

"That means Molly is at Grandma's, Christen," explained her mom.

Her mom said, "We cannot get your Barbie in San Francisco, California."

Christen cried for fifteen minutes on her pillow. Christen called her grandma on the phone.

"Grandma," she said, "I left my doll at your house. May I have it back?"

"Yes," her grandma said happily.

She got it in the mail the next week. Molly was safe and right next to Christen in her bed. Molly and Christen fell fast asleep in her soft cozy bed.

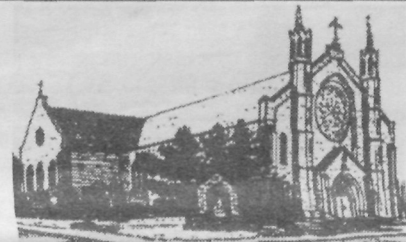
Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

Want to be included in the prestigious list of this school year's Junior Journalist winners? Your opportunity is slipping away. Last winner will be published in the Friday, April 20 issue. Get your entry in now!!!!

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

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Sauce, French Fries
Fountain Soda
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Stuffed Chicken with Rice & Mushrooms	Chicken Cordon Bleu	Stuffed Salmon with Crab Meat	Seafood Croquettes Potato Croquettes

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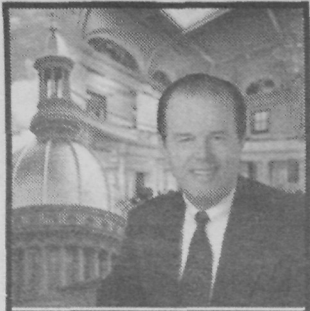
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News

From The State House

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan

The United States of America is the greatest democracy in the history of mankind. However, sometimes the most vulnerable of our citizens need a helping hand in having their needs addressed. Nothing is more rewarding to a legislator than giving those in need or those at risk a platform to be heard. During my five years in the State Assembly, I have worked with many remarkable individuals to help develop legislation which will give protection to those who suffer from physical, mental or emotional disorders. I am the primary sponsor of two pieces of pending legislation which will hopefully improve the lives of many people at risk. Assembly Bill A-3570 entitled "Billy's Law" which was unanimously passed by the Assembly Human Services Committee will monitor out-of-state educational facilities in which New Jersey children requiring special services are placed. As you may know, thousands of children are in facilities as far away as Florida because there are either no comparable schools in New Jersey or there are no places available within the state. Sadly there have been numerous instances of abuse or neglect in these out-of-state residences. In fact, the legislation is named in memory of a young man who died as a result of neglect. The law requires the Department of Human Services to develop core requirements which must be met by any out of state school or program before they will be added to a New Jersey approved registry. In addition, regular inspections are required and any instance of abuse or neglect must be promptly reported along with the outcome and appropriate remedial action. It's difficult enough that parents are forced to place their child in a location so far away that they cannot regularly visit or monitor them. At the very least the state of New Jersey should do whatever it can to assure that these facilities are providing the necessary service in a safe and secure manner.

I am also the prime sponsor of Assembly Bill 3566 which will require physicians to obtain informed consent from parents or guardians of minors for psychotropic drugs. This legislation came about as a result of a meeting I had with an exceptional mother, Lisa Van Syckel. Lisa's 15 year old daughter, Michelle slashed and mutilated herself and ultimately attempted suicide after being prescribed Paxil, which is an antidepressant. Medical authorities warn that Paxil should not be taken by those under the age of 18. The doctor who prescribed the drug never told the Van Syckels of these dangerous side effects which is called a "Black Box Warning" because it is outlined in a black box by the Food and Drug Administration. It is not difficult to determine if a black box warning is present for a particular prescription. It is included in the dosage literature. My proposed law is not overly burdensome on the doctor. It simply requires him or her to take a look before prescribing psychotropic drugs and inform the parent or guardian of its side effects. The physician should note the informed consent in the patients file. No one should suffer the tragedy the Van Syckel family suffered. Thankfully Michele is now doing very well.

These are the kind of positive actions that make being a member of the Assembly so rewarding. It really is putting the Golden Rule into practice. I feel fortunate to be in a position where I can bring the protection of law to those who may otherwise be ignored.

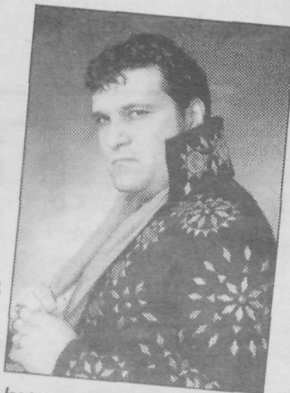
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MONEYWISE

Creating a Personal Safety Net

The disappearance of some traditional safety nets from both the public and private sector has forced the public to shoulder more of the burden for their financial well being. Today, many people realize that because the government and employers are less able to provide financial security, they must create their own personal safety net.

To do so, individuals need and want help identifying and addressing the risks within their control. However, financial products are getting more complicated, so people are looking for help in navigating through the maze of choices in order to make the best decisions for their circumstances.

And who better to explain those needs than a financial services representative? Based on MetLife's consumer research, individuals eventually see agents as collaborators, but the road is a long one. The worst part of the process is getting started. Many people have feelings of unease, worry or concern. But those same people report feeling better than expected during the process and positive feelings of security, relief and satisfaction immediately following meetings with financial services representative. And feelings get even more positive with

the passage of time. Rather than feeling buyer's remorse, these individuals feel that meeting with a financial services representative was the right thing to do.

Isolating the need to collaborate with a financial services representative is an important first step. Close to follow should be the realization that good insurance coverage can improve an individual's quality of life. Most people associate insurance coverage with benefits for one's family more strongly than with benefits for themselves (especially true with women and established families) – taking care of one's family is the most important emotional end benefit.

Constructing a personal safety net requires thinking, in broad terms, about the life events that could trigger financial adversity and taking the requisite steps to prepare for those uncertainties. While it is impossible to predict all of life's uncertainties, it's possible to group them into a few common categories. They include:

• **Morbidity Risk** – In our low-savings, high-debt society, medical expenses for an acute injury or illness fall outside the reach of many Americans. Moreover, a chronic disability requiring long-term care could be financially

devastating. There are many insurance solutions that can help defray the cost of medical and dental emergencies.

• **Mortality Risk** – Life insurance allows an individual to insure against premature death. It is viewed by many as the foundation of their family's safety net. Without life insurance, the premature death of a primary breadwinner can be financially devastating. However, in 2004, one third of adults still carried no life insurance at all, similar to the 30 percent of adults without coverage in 1960, according to the Life Insurance Marketing Research Association. Regardless of your current financial situation, life insurance should be an integral part of your personal safety net.

• **Longevity Risk** – First the good news: people are living longer than ever thanks to modern advances in healthcare and medicine. But as pensions are replaced by personal savings plans such as 401(k)s and IRAs, and Social Security lingers on the brink of a boomer overload, outliving one's savings is more possible than ever. Most insurers offer solutions to help individuals maintain an income stream after they retire. Deferred annuities, for example, can be a great tool for one's portfolio, as they enable people to save money now, on a tax-deferred basis, for use down the road. Immediate annuities, on the other hand, allow an individual to immediately receive a guaranteed stream of income for as long as he or she lives. Individuals should work closely with their advisors and insurers to develop a customized income plan for retirement.

This column appears courtesy of E. Steve Hyles. Steve is a Registered Representative offering securities through MetLife affiliated broker/dealers including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (member NASD) or MetLife Securities, Inc. (member NASD/SIPC). Insurance and annuities offered through Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Steve can be reached by phone at (732) 981-0470, ext. 151.

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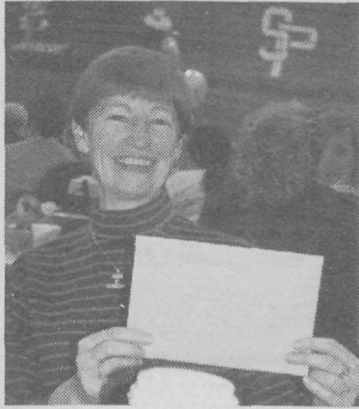
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The Board of Grant Elementary PTO supports the proposed 2007/2008

Board of Ed Budget and reminds all residents to vote April 17, 2007

from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Paid for by Grant School PTO



Annual Raffle Draws Huge Crowd

By Patricia Abbott

A line began forming outside the gym a full half hour before the doors opened at the South Plainfield High School PTA 10th annual Project Graduation Auction/Raffle. As usual the room quickly filled to capacity.

The community and area businesses were very generous with donations this year. The 266 prizes ranged from potpourri, theme baskets and gifts, super raffle and the much sought after grand prize and mega raffles. Grand prize items donated by local schools and parents included a GE chest freezer, Magellan portable navigation system, Broadway tickets and dinner, a digital camera, Vizio LCD HDTV 20" flat panel, Yankees tickets and more.

The two mega prizes were a Vizio HDTV/42" flat panel and an HP Pavilion Notebook PC, AMD Turion 64 x 2 mobile technology, 17" wide-screen, a webcam and microphone for live video chat, and Windows Vista Home Premium. These were donated by SPHS families.

Project Graduation began 19 years ago in 1989. It is an all-night substance-free party for the graduating class. It is offered free of charge to the recent graduates at The Club at Ricochet. It is an opportunity for seniors to enjoy one last big fling with classmates. The food, entertainment and activities keep all busy until morning.

The SPHS Project Graduation Committee is currently seeing volunteers to assist with the June 21 event. They need volunteers to plan activities, set up, chaperone and clean up. They are also in need of new members for the 2008 Project Graduation. Contact a member of the executive board or Sharon Miller if interested.

The 2006-07 board is President Sharon Miller, Co-Vice Presidents Marianne Decker and Patty Porzio, Treasurer Amy Rastelli, Recording Secretary Pat Fabino and Corresponding Secretary Barbara Mennuti.



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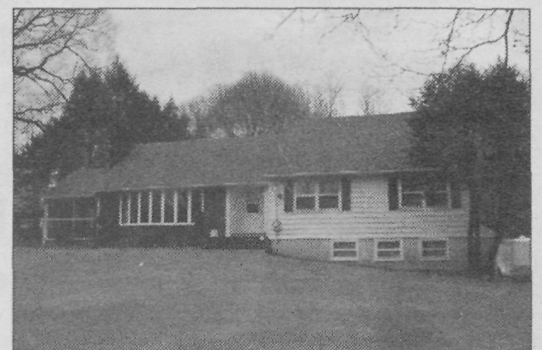


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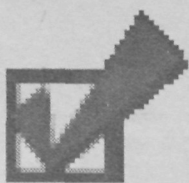
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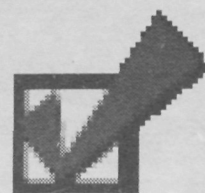
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- ✓ Keep the 4 "A's" alive...Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities.
- ✓ Our younger generation deserves the same opportunities that we have benefitted from.
- ✓ To maintain our high test scores.
- ✓ How will you complete your child's college application without any activities if there is nothing to offer?
- ✓ Keep elementary class sizes low.
- ✓ Keep the value of our homes and neighborhood intact.

Join the team supporting the budget.....

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Scott Barton
Tim Bishara
Steve Bohn
John Bostick
Kelley Bostick
Kyle Bostick
Bob Boyle
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Megan Boyle
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Jack Brady
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Michael Buggey
Ginny Butrico
John Celentano
Margaret Celentano
Sara Chrysanthopoulos
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Kathy DiMeglio

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Ralph Fech
Susan Fech
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Nancy Flannery
Amy Fonti
Rich Fonti
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John George
Jim Giannakis
Linda Giannakis
Beth Graves
Glenn Graves
Ken Haus
Sherry Hardy
Tom Hardy
Joyce Heckel
Keith Heckel
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Nick Heilmann
Kevin Hughes
Rob Hunt
Michael Jakubik
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Lynn Pennisi

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Invest in the future of South Plainfield ...our children!

Sports

Memorial Golf Outing to Benefit SPEF

Emil Leporino was instrumental in the formation of the South Plainfield Education Foundation (SPEF). While he was a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education, a committee was formed to look into ways to connect the business community with the education community.

In 1994, as a result of the committee's work, the South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation was formed. Since the year 2001 has come and gone, the group has been renamed the South Plainfield Education Foundation, but the goal of the organization has remained unchanged; to provide scholarships for graduating seniors and to provide educational incentive programs throughout the district.

Leporino was also an active member of the South Plainfield Business Association, where he served as vice president. He owned his own insurance business in South Plainfield, where he continuously worked with the business community to improve communication with the town government, and further the objectives of the South Plainfield Business Association; to organize and write the businesses in South Plainfield, in a manner that promotes the development of local business, and creates a better business environment throughout the borough.

The Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing, co-sponsored by the South Plainfield Education Association and the South Plainfield Business Association, will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at the Cranbury Golf Club in West Windsor. Entry fee is \$150 per golfer and includes the 18-hole event, use of locker rooms, greens fees and cart, continental breakfast, complimentary beverage cart, hot dogs and chips "at the turn," open bar (beer, wine and soda) and BBQ luncheon. Cost to attend just the luncheon is \$50. Format is four-man scramble, shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded for team low gross, team low net, hole in one, longest drive and closest to the pin.

Continental breakfast and registration will be held at 8 a.m.; shotgun start at 9 a.m.; open bar at 2 p.m.; BBQ luncheon at 2:30 p.m. and award ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

Corporate sponsorships range from \$500-Silver: includes twosome and tee sign, recognition at the event; \$750-Gold: includes foursome and flag, recognition at the event and \$1,000-Platinum: includes foursome, corporate banner, flag and tee sign, recognition at the event.

Corporate underwriters range from \$250-breakfast sponsor, \$250-beverage cart sponsor, \$175-flag 1st and 18th green, \$125-flat 2nd and 17th green and \$125-tee sign.

Registration is required by April 27. Make checks payable to and mail to South Plainfield Education Foundation, P.O. Box 733, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

For more information you can e-mail SPBA@comcast.net. or contact any member of the Golf Outing Committee: Carolyn Allen (908) 561-3275, Debbie Leporino (908) 510-3663, Bob Longo (908) 753-7004, ext. 106, Jack Pedersen (908) 405-6355 or Marge Reedy (908) 561-5800, ext. 302.

TRAVELING SOCCER

Bullets U-13B Defeat Wolverines 1-0

The U-13B Traveling Soccer Team's opening day game was an eventful one. With the Bullets coming out to challenge the North Plainfield Wolverines on this beautiful sunny Sunday, the Bullets came out ready to win.

With a new coaching staff and team captains (Shane McCoid, Ryan Marcoux and Joey Kravietz), this year's team looks good.

Coming out to win, the Bullets' only goalie, Shane McCoid, played the entire game with his "gloves" on. The 13-year-old made some amazing dives and saves to keep his team at 0-0 during the first half.

With the captains' confidence in

their team, they went out the second half putting the pressure on. The entire Bullets team came onto the field ready to play hard to win.

With Joey Kravietz, Tony Franczak and Joey Skwiat leading the offensive-to a goal by Tony Franczak-minutes into the second half. The defense players stepped up and held back the fighting Wolverines.

Ryan Aquiar and Jimmy Gerber did an excellent job helping to keep the score at a win of 1-0.

The Bullets' next game is in Parsippany against the Parsippany Lions on April 1. Best of luck to them.

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The next SPJBC monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. The SPJBC needs as many volunteers as possible this Saturday, March 31 to assist in preseason field preparations.

This weekend's field duty assignments are for 11, 16 and 17 year-old parents. These parents should report to the SPJBC clubhouse on Saturday, March 31 at 8 a.m.

Opening day is two weeks away. There are still player openings in Pony A League and B League. Any child interested in playing in the 14-17 age group and 10-11 age can still register for the 2007 season.

This weekend begins booster/canning for the SPJBC. Canning will take place Friday night and all day Saturday. Please check with your manager to obtain the proper days and times.

Also, there will be two more snack stand signup dates. These signups are scheduled to take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 4 and 11. After these two signups, any small fry parent that fails to signup for snack stand duty, will be assigned a time by the SPJBC Executive Board.

The SPJBC is looking for volunteers for the 2007 season. In particular, the SPJBC needs 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. Also, feel free to visit the SPJBC Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc. The SPJBC is asking all of its members, and the community, to patronize those businesses that supported the SPJBC in its canning efforts.



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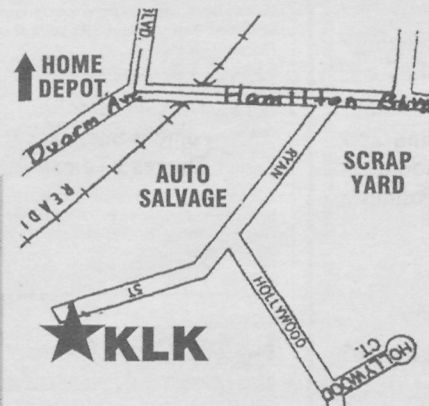
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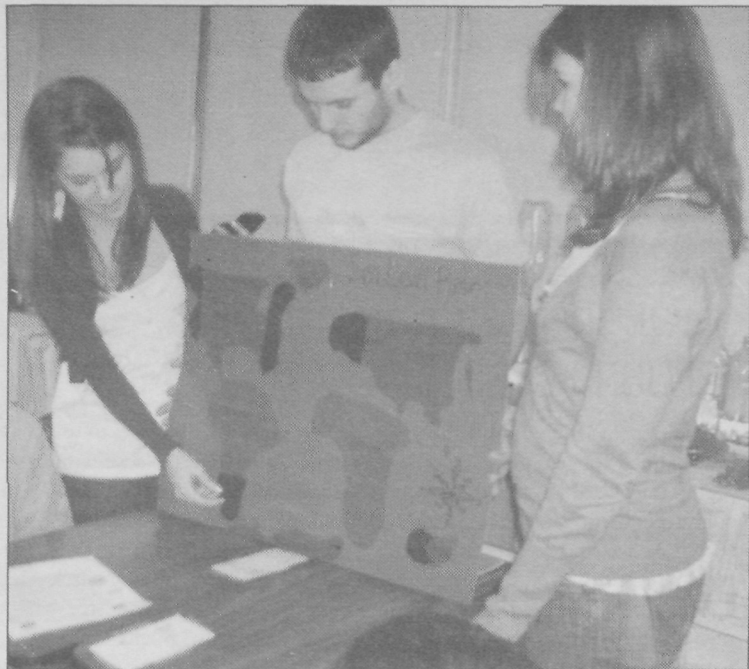
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South Plainfield High School AP students explain global warming.

Global Warming

(Continued from page 1)
were Chanti-yana Beckett, John Carigma, Channel Dues, Nicole Miglis and Geraldine Valladares.

The team of students demonstrating the effects of Global warming included Cassie Hoffman, Christine Lanza, Jackie Miller, Selene Rayho, Tifani Smith, Chris Stallone and Sean Walsh. As a visual tool, they melted

ice cubes with a hair dryer to simulate the melting of the polar cap.

The team also used a map of the world and placed contrasting blue cut-outs of the shorelines of continents to show the results of higher temperatures and rising oceans.

Summing up the program, fifth grader Alyssa Adamson said, "This is enjoyable and I learned a lot."

Historical Society to Dedicate Memorial Stone

(Continued from page 1)
of the memorial stone and the public reception.

On Sunday, April 15, Nancy C. Carnevale of Montclair State University will present a lecture, "Ellis Island: Myth and Reality," at the Senior Center beginning at 2 p.m. She explores the lived experience of immigrants as they arrived in America and how the social, political and intellectual climate of the times shaped that experience. Some popular myths about Ellis Island, such as name changing, are reconsidered. Carnevale, an assistant professor of history, teaches courses in the history of immigration in the U.S. and Italian American history at Montclair State. Her forthcoming book is entitled "Living in Translation: Language and Italian Immigrants in the U.S., 1890-1945" (University of Illinois Press). She has published in scholarly journals and edited collections and her work has been supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This is the first of two programs offered in 2007 by the Historical Society to be held at the Senior Center. It is offered through the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council

for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is free-of-charge.

For more information on any of

these programs, e-mail SPHistorical Soc@cs.com or log on to www.geocities.com/sphistorical society or call (908) 754-3073.

Memories of Elvis Concert

(Continued from page 1)
acclaim at the 2002 Musicfest in Pennsylvania. Joe has performed at casinos both in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

Proceeds from the ticket and advertising sales will be used to help fund the new library building.

Ground-breaking is anticipated in the Fall of 2007. The library, which will be built on the vacant lot adjacent to the South Plainfield Funeral Home, will be 15,000 square feet, more than double the size of the existing library. It will include an enhanced and expanded children's section with

a new craft room, quiet study areas, a large public meeting room, wireless Internet access, a drive-up and drop-off area, an expanded video and audio rental section as well as many more features.

Tickets for the event and advertising space in the program for the show are currently being sold. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the library the first week of April. The price of a ticket is \$15.

Inquiries regarding the show or advertising can be made to the ticket office at (908) 412-0436.

JFS Offering Basic Computer Class

Jewish Family and Vocational Service (JFVS) of Middlesex County is offering basic computer literacy classes. The classes will introduce participants to Microsoft Windows, Word Power Point and Excel. There is still space available in the day classes.

The next series of classes will begin

April 16. The cost for the four week session is \$50 with reduced fees for women who qualify as displaced homemakers. Classes are held at our new location at 200 Metroplex Drive, Suite 200 in Edison.

To register please contact Noreen Noel at (732) 777-1940.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice to Bidders hereby is given that Bids are invited and will be received as set forth below.
1. Owner: Borough of South Plainfield
2480 Plainfield Avenue
Borough of South Plainfield
Middlesex County, New Jersey
2. Work Title: South Clinton Avenue and New Market Avenue Intersection Improvements
3. Work Site: South Clinton Avenue and New Market Avenue Intersection Improvement
Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey
4. Engineer: PMK Group
65 Jackson Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016
5. Work Description: The project entails a widening of the southeast quadrant of the intersection of South Clinton Avenue, a Middlesex County roadway, and New Market Avenue, a municipal roadway, within the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, New Jersey. The project includes new curb, construction of bituminous concrete pavement, installation of new traffic signal equipment, relocation of utilities, restoration of adjacent site bituminous parking area, and all other associated work as contained in the Contract Documents or as directed by the Engineer.
6. Examination of Contract Documents: Contract Documents may be examined Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the office of the ENGINEER, at the address set forth above or at the office of the South Plainfield Borough Clerk at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.
7. Obtaining of Contract Documents: Contract Documents may be obtained only from the ENGINEER at the address and hours set forth above upon payment of \$75 for each set of Contract Documents. If the Contract is awarded, no refunds will be given. If for any reason the Contract is not awarded, refunds will be made to bidders pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-24(b) when the Contract Documents are returned in reasonable condition within ninety (90) days of notice that the Contract has not been awarded.
8. Use of Contract Documents: Contract Documents are available solely for the purpose of obtaining Bids and not to confer a license or grant for any other purpose.
9. Pre-Bid Meeting: There will be no pre-bid meeting for this project.
10. Bid Security: A Certified or Cashier's Check to the order of the OWNER for the sum of \$20,000 or ten percent (10%) of the total bid amount, whichever is less, or a bid bond for a like sum, executed by a Surety Company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey, binding the bidder to execute the contract, if awarded to him, must accompany each Bid.
11. Consent of Surety: Bidder must submit with the bid, a Consent of Surety stating that, upon award of the contract to the bidder, the Surety will issue an appropriate bond to the OWNER in accordance with the prescribed form for 100% of the bid amount. The Consent of Surety shall be executed by the duly authorized agent of a Surety Company authorized to transact business in the State of New Jersey.
12. Submission of Bids: Bids shall be placed in sealed envelopes and must be received by OWNER at the date and time indicated for Public Bid Opening and reading in Section 13. No Bids will be received after the indicated date and time. Bidders must hand deliver Bids to OWNER at the place indicated for Public Bid Opening and Reading in Section 13. Bids submitted by mail will not be accepted.
13. Public Bid Opening and Reading: Sealed Bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield at the following time and place:
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2007
Time: 10 a.m. Prevailing Local Time
Place: Borough of South Plainfield Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080
14. Statutory Requirements: Bidders are required to comply with all applicable Laws and Regulations including P.L. 1975, C. 127 (Affirmative Action) and P.L. 1963, C. 150 (Prevailing Wages).
15. Rejection of Bids: The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any immaterial defect or informality in any Bids, if deemed in the best interest of OWNER.
16. Withdrawal of Bid: Bidders may not withdraw their respective bids for a period of sixty (60) days from receipt of bids as provided in Chapter 53 of the Public Laws of 1977.
By Order of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield
Vincent Buttiglieri, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk
It is the purpose of the Notice to Bidders to summarize some of the more important provisions of the Contract Documents. Prospective bidders are cautioned not to rely solely on this summary, but to read the Contract Documents in their entirety.
\$144.00 March 30, 2007

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
An appeal has been filed by Bernard and Conny Schoen requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit proposed deck lacks 20' required rear setback; 12' 6" proposed, and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 129 Pomponio Avenue, Block 430, Lot 8.02 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.
For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 12, 2007 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 8:00 p.m.
The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
\$38.50 March 30, 2007

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE
March 23, 2007—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its' meeting held on March 22, 2007.
A. Case #67-06—MTMC Associates, LLC. Block 254; Lot 1.01, 120 Case Drive. The applicant's request for an interpretation, parking variance, continuation of the existing non conforming conditions, design & submission waivers, together w/ amended preliminary & final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary, Board of Adjustment
\$22.80 March 30, 2007

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 April 6, 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 Department 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
1991 Honda JHMB4227MC007753 Resale Prelude \$1500.00
1999 Ford 1FTNS2423XHC31235 Resale Econ \$3500.00
1995 Land Rover SALJY1243SA114907 Resale Discovery \$3500.00
2002 Nissan 1N4AL11DX2C704894 Junk Altima \$2000.00
2000 Dodge 2B3HD46R5YH2567A Resale Intrepid \$3500.00
South Plainfield Police Department
Officer Karl W. Schuetz
Traffic Safety Officer
\$49.40 March 30, 2007

Obituaries

Ruth Ann (Mendel) Sabino, 80

Ruth Ann (Mendel) Sabino died on Tuesday, March 20 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Born in Plainfield, Ruth had been a lifelong resident of the city.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, who died in 1995 and a son, George, who died in 2003.

Surviving are two daughters and their husbands, Mary and Phil Petraglia of Bridgewater and Joanne and Rich Levine of South Plainfield. Also surviving are five beloved grandchildren, Jill, Michael, Judy, Natalie and Casey and four great-grandchildren, Geoffrey, Ben, Ally and Madelyn.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Edna (Henel) Curtin, 93

Edna (Henel) Curtin died on Tuesday, March 20 at the Elms of Cranbury Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Curtin had resided in Jamesburg for 30 years before moving to Monroe in 1984. She resided there until 2006 when she entered the care center.

For many years, Edna was employed as a clerk and bookkeeper for the N.J. State Home For Boys in Monroe. She also had been a member

of the Clearbrook Bowling League. Her husband, Lawrence, died in 1984. She was also predeceased by a daughter, Judy Lowry; a sister, Mildred Schultze and a brother, Albert Henel.

Surviving are two daughters, Virginia DeCarlo of Cocco Beach, Fla. and Linda Curtin of Torrance, Calif.; four sons, Lawrence of Clark, Edward of South Plainfield, Richard of Wilmington, N.C. and John of Forks Twp., Pa. and a sister, Dorothy Ingeholm of Eugene, Ore. Also surviving are 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Claire A. Zwolak, 74

Claire A. (Willmot) Zwolak died suddenly on Saturday, March 17 at home.

Born in Elizabeth, Claire was raised on Staten Island and lived in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1956.

She was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield and worked for Varsity and General Electric, both in South Plainfield, retiring in 1996.

Claire was predeceased by her husband, Edward, who died in 1982 and

a brother, Warren.

Surviving are three daughters, Diane Zwolak and long time companion Joseph DiCanto of South Plainfield, Donna Spratford and husband Mark of Califon and Amy Belica and husband Geoffrey of Annandale; a sister, Mary Jane Lohr of Staten Island and three brothers, Donald of Forked River, Frederick and wife Leslie of Connecticut and John and wife Peggy of Fla. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Courtney, Katrina and Shane Spratford and Connor and Erin Belica.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Milissa M. Rauh, 48

Milissa M. Rauh died on Thursday, March 22 at the Barbara E. Chung



Milissa M. Rauh

Memorial Hospice in Edison, surrounded by her family, after a long hard battle with cancer.

Born in New Brunswick, Milissa lived in the city for most of her life before moving to South Plainfield in 1989.

A graduate of St. Peter's High School in New Brunswick, she later attended UNLV. Milissa left college to follow her passion for horses, working on Wayne Newton's horse farm in Logandale, Nev. After returning to New Jersey, Milissa worked for Verizon for eight years and later transferred to New Brunswick where she worked as a network technician for 17 years.

She continued with her passion for horses, spending numerous hours caring, riding and even teaching her grandchildren to ride. She is the proud owner of two horses and a new pony for her grandchildren.

In addition, Milissa was a avid Indianapolis Colts Football fan and a Dame Grand Cross of the Noble Companions of the Swan.

She was predeceased by her father,

William Maszer.

She is survived by her husband, George Rauh, Jr.; her mother, Grace M. Maszer, a step-son, George III and wife Christine Rauh of Mt. Olive and a brother, William Maszer, Jr. and wife Marianne of North Brunswick. Also surviving are four grandchildren, George IV, Logan, Donovan and Madison.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Alfred Schroeder, Jr., 83

Alfred Schroeder, Jr. died on Sunday, March 25 at home.

Born in New York City, Al had resided in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield 57 years ago.

A WWII veteran of the U.S. Army, Al served in the Normandy Beach Invasion and in the Central European Theater from 1942 to 1945 before being honorably discharged.

He was employed with PSE&G in Elizabeth for 41 years before retiring some time ago. After retirement, he became a very talented artist, painting numerous pictures for his pleasure and his family. In addition, Al was a long time coach with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

His wife, Evelyn (Toresco) Schroeder, died in 1999.

He is survived by a daughter, Debbie Grego and husband Joe of South Plainfield; two sons, Alfred L. and wife Debra of South Plainfield and William and wife Andrea of Arizona. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, Stephanie, Alyssa, Joseph, Matthew, Nicholas, Jody, Michael, Bret, Leah and Lanae and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Search For New Foster Parents Continues

The Plainfield Area YMCA began providing foster care through the R.A.P. program back in 1987. Now entering its twentieth year, the program is still going strong, however children throughout New Jersey need help more than ever to secure stable loving homes. Over 11,000 children in New Jersey are in out of home placements, 10,000 of which are in relative or foster homes. In the United States alone, more than 20,000 young people age out of foster care, many without a plan for permanency or the appropriate skills to become successful. Children of all ages, including teens, need the support of the greater community. R.A.P. has homes throughout Northern and Central Jersey, but more are needed. For more information about becoming a foster parent, please contact Stacy Reh or Kimberly McLaughlin at (908) 756-6060 or come out to Healthy Kids Day on April 14 at the Plainfield Area YMCA.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Plainfield Area YMCA will be hosting Healthy Kids Day in conjunction with the grand opening of their new state-of-the-art wellness center. The event will include more information about the R.A.P. Foster Care program and a health fair with screenings for eyes, ears, oral, lead, and asthma. For adults, diabetes, blood pressure, stroke and HIV screenings will also be available. In addition to fitness, water safety, dance and performing arts demonstrations, there will also be giveaways throughout the day. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event. The Plainfield Area YMCA serves Plainfield, South Plainfield, North Plainfield, Piscataway, Green Brook, Dunellen, Watchung and Warren.

The Plainfield Area YMCA is located at 518 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. For more information or directions, contact the Plainfield Area YMCA at (908) 756-6060.

(908) 561-8000

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2007 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

#1

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros present dinner to Junior Journalist contest winner Heidi Pilla, along with her parents Sue and John.

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IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

To the Editor,

To all who contributed to the "Out of the Recycle Bin Project" this past winter, we give many thanks.

The project, held by the Glitterbugs of the Clean Community Advisory Board of South Plainfield, received 87 trophies. More than 50% of the trophies were for bowling and some dated back to the 1960s! The trophies were donated to the Plainfield Curling Club and Cub Scout Pack 207 for their Pinewood Derby. Some trophies will be refurbished and used for events the Glitterbugs will hold as well as the Clean Community Advisory Board.

We would also like to thank Tommy and Carol Hart for all the hours they put in recycling these trophies. The Glitterbugs, a kid's club for children ages five and up, teaches kids how litter affects the environment and how they can help.

Again, we thank all the trophy donors who have taken one step closer to making South Plainfield a healthier and cleaner place to live.

For more information on the Glitterbugs, call Marie Markey at (908) 755-3213.

ILEANA VAZQUEZ
GLITTERBUGS PUBLICIST

To the Observer,

On April 17, the citizens of South Plainfield will be voting on two very important questions that will affect the future of the South Plainfield School District. They will be voting on the school budget and electing three board of education members.

My name is Pio Pennisi and I am running for re-election to the Board of Education. I have been a lifelong resident of South Plainfield and am

very committed to ensuring that all the opportunities that I had will continue to be available to all your children. As many of you are aware, South Plainfield ranks on average, in the top four in the county for all test scores, while ranking fourteenth in per pupil spending. This is something we should all be extremely proud of. This success is due to the hard work of a dedicated staff and administration, as well as the support of the board and community. In addition to having a district that is doing well academically, our students are continually showcased in the state and county for their many co-curricular and extracurricular successes. We have a wonderful school district that is an envy to many.

I am seeking another term because I feel very strongly we are at a critical juncture. With all the hurdles thrown at us by the lack of state funding, imposed unfunded mandates, and failed budgets, it becomes more and more difficult to maintain all the programs that we have enjoyed. I am committed to not only maintaining current programs, but also to continuing to move the district forward. My current position as superintendent of a neighboring district clearly gives me insight to many issues that affect our district. Electing me to the Board of Education will provide South Plainfield another voice in the county and state. I know what questions to ask and the impact of every vote I cast.

I have dedicated my life to education and to this town. Six years ago, I had the privilege of being inducted into the South Plainfield High School Hall of Fame for my accomplishments after high school. I can confidently say, if it were not for the education I received from the South Plainfield

School District, and the opportunities that were available to me, I would not be where I am today. I promise you, if I am re-elected, I will continue to be committed to making sure that all students have the same opportunities I did. Our school district has to continue to be a place where parents want to send their children, and a town that people want to move to.

Please support me on Tuesday, April 17 and vote Line 1.

PIO PENNISI

Dear Editor:

A situation was brought to light at the March 20 borough council meeting that I find extremely disturbing and I feel obligated to share with our residents.

On the agenda of the March 20 meeting was an ordinance to be voted on for final adoption. The purpose of this ordinance was to amend our zoning laws regarding billboards. I am personally opposed to billboards, or as I like to call them "Litter on a Stick," so prior to the meeting I decided to do some investigation as to why we needed to amend the existing zoning. I found out that the changes being made to the existing law were required as a result of a lawsuit brought against South Plainfield by a billboard company and the developer who owns the property the billboard will be placed on. The changes being forced on us would allow this property to become the next location for a billboard in South Plainfield. The owner sued to require these changes so that the sign could go on his property, bringing him rental income of around \$100,000 a year. When I found out who the developer was I was appalled. The development company which will reap

this financial windfall is owned by Councilman Bengivenga's father who is also the local Republican's biggest campaign contributor.

During two separate votes at the March 6 and March 20 council meetings, Councilman Bengivenga never disclosed this clear conflict of interest. In fact he got angry at me for bringing it up and admitted he had no intention of revealing it. He said no one had the right to know that this zoning change would financially benefit his immediate family. I consider Councilman Bengivenga's actions to be outrageous and not in the best interest of the residents of South Plainfield.

The Republican Party must take corrective action. The council has temporarily stopped the zoning change. The chair of the Republican party, Bob Jones, along with Councilman Matthew Anesh should publicly do the following: (1) Demand Mr. Bengivenga withdraw the lawsuit against the borough to rezone his property for a billboard, (2) Return all campaign contributions made by Mr. Bengivenga, his family and his various corporations made to the local Republican Organization over the last two years. The Republicans claim they are opposed to pay-to-play. Now is the time for them to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk and (3) The Republican Organization should promise to accept no further campaign contributions or gifts such as use of office space from any of the Bengivenga Family or business entities.

This kind of baloney in government has got to stop. Let's start in South Plainfield.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DENNIS CERAMI

To the Editor:

I would like to remind the voters of South Plainfield what happens when you vote down a school budget. The maximum amount of next year's budget is based on current year's budget, times a small increase set by the state (4%). As an example, let's say last years budget was \$50 million. You can take the \$50 million times 4% for a total of \$52 million. This is the maximum amount your next budget can be, by law. With salaries going up 3-4% (which makes up a large amount of the budget), health benefits going up 15%, energy costs going up about 10%, and everything else going up, it is hard to keep what we have this year, for next year.

When the budget gets defeated and the town council cuts \$1.2 million, this lowers the base you can take the 4% on. Instead of 4% of \$50 million (\$2M), you can only increase 4% on \$48.8 million (\$1.95M). You just lost \$50,000, or one teacher! Over time you get further and further behind until you are at bare bones and nothing for the students. We are almost at that point now.

If the budget is defeated (and I hope it won't be) and the council cuts another \$1.2 million, your children just lost all athletics, all music programs, all after school activities, all trips, etc. That means no marching band, no jazz band, no wrestling, no football, no track, no soccer, no clubs, etc. Is this what you want for the children of South Plainfield? Not me, and I don't have any children in the district! Vote "Yes" for the budget and future of our children.

I would also ask for your support of Pio Pennisi for the Board of Education. Pio has done many great things for South Plainfield youth, especially during the past years on the Board of Education. He is very approachable and has been very helpful to me in understanding what is going on in the district. He has been a great help to the Athletic Booster Club at many of our events. He has been someone you can trust on the Board now and in the future. Vote "Yes" for Pio Pennisi

NORM LOENSER

To the Editor,

On April 17, voters will choose three people for the school board. As a candidate, I thought it important to write this letter talking about why I'd like to serve and my goals if elected.

As someone who went through our school system, I believe the education I received served me well. I went on to attend Rutgers College and Rutgers Law School and I always felt my education in South Plainfield prepared me for the challenges I faced. I want today's kids to receive the same top-notch education I received and that's one of the reasons I'm running.


I've also had a longstanding commitment to issues involving children and education. For example, I'm active in the Education Foundation, helping to raise scholarship money for SPHS seniors. For many years I also volunteered for the Ronald McDonald House, a home-away-from-home for families of children with cancer and other serious illnesses, and I've taught part-time at Fairleigh Dickinson University for more than a decade.

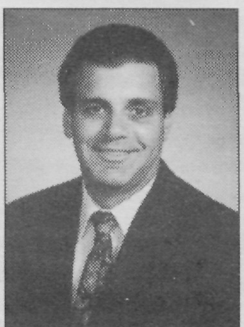
If elected, I have three areas on which I'll focus. The first is strengthening basic skills. From teaching at the college level, I know firsthand the importance of making sure our kids get a solid grasp of the basics before they head to college.

I also want to be an advocate for our students. South Plainfield should get its fair share of state and federal aid. We should not sit by while other districts receive the lion's share of state funding, and as a board member I'll

(Continued on next page)

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IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from previous page)

fight to make sure our town gets what it deserves.

Finally, I'll be aggressive in controlling spending. In 2004 when I ran for town council I talked about shared services between the town and the school system. I still believe these types of programs can save taxpayer dollars, as would shared costs with other districts. Families and seniors need to be able to afford the town they live in. As a result, holding the line on spending, without affecting programs and the quality of education, is vital.

The theme of my campaign is "Education=Future." If elected, you can count on me to be someone who looks to the future and helps lead us in the right direction. I hope to earn your vote on April 17 and I thank you ahead of time for that opportunity.

BOB JONES
SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE

To the Editor,

My name is Sharon Miller and I am running for a position on the South Plainfield Board of Education, line 5.

I have lived in South Plainfield for 27 years and graduated college with a BA degree. My husband was born and raised here and graduated from SPHS. Our oldest daughter graduated from the high school two years ago and is attending college and our youngest will be graduating from SPHS this year and will also be attending college in September.

For the past 15 years, I have been a very involved parent and an active volunteer in our schools and community. I took on the responsibility of fundraising for the Project Graduation celebration for the senior class. In addition, for the past two years, I have been responsible for coordinating and running the Project Graduation celebration event for the senior class.

I volunteered with the Ponytail As-

sociation for eight years and served on their executive board for three.

When the South Plainfield Field Hockey Association was established, I was asked to be an executive board member and readily volunteered and faced the challenges every new start up organization faces. I have also volunteered at numerous other activities such as helping to rebuild a house for Habitat for Humanity and spending the night at Jost Field last year helping out with the Tiger-24 fundraiser.

I will be highly motivated, hard working, deeply committed and dedicated to the position of BOE member and for doing what is right for the children of our community.

I would greatly appreciate your support.

SINCERELY,
SHARON MILLER, LINE 5

To the Editor,

As if our public servants didn't have enough to do.

On Sunday, March 25, we were driving home on a busy street near our house and we saw a little white dog roaming about on his own. We pulled over and I opened the door and called to the little guy. He jumped right into the front seat and onto my lap. We drove and walked the neighborhood, but no one we met knew anything about him. He had no collar, hence no license nor I.D. tag. We brought him home with us and he made the acquaintance of our boxer, Princess.

I found out that the Humane Society on Rock Avenue would be closed until Tuesday. Not knowing what else to do, I called the South Plainfield Police Department. Dispatcher Harrington took my name and phone number and explained that there were two calls that day about little white male dogs. She called me shortly and gave me the phone number of the person who had described the dog I had.

Needless to say, the owner arrived and was very happy to be reunited with little Chacho.

Dispatcher Harrington handles life-threatening emergencies everyday. She calmly and politely took care of this problem with professionalism and compassion. She never made light of the situation nor weighed it against her more demanding and urgent calls. Dispatcher Harrington is to be commended for concern and caring for all of the members of our community.

And to pet lovers everywhere: make sure your four-legged, furry friends always wear their collars and required license tags.

MARIA SELIGA

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to show support for Danielle Harris Lacasale, a local resident running for a seat on the Board of Education.

My family and I met Danielle in 1995 after our home succumbed to a fire. She tutored my younger sister Amanda during her recovery period and taught her later that year in school. In 2000, when Danielle became a teacher at South Plainfield High School, I joined the Students Against Drunk Driving organization and Danielle served as the moderator of that club. Danielle organized several student centered events to help students focus on the choices they have to not drink and drive, including the largest Red Ribbon Week the school had seen to date.

Danielle is the type of person who takes seriously tasks presented to her. She has educated herself and balanced the responsibilities of a career and motherhood. She provides for her family but has never seemed to stop to help others also. She is compassionate and caring yet firm and decisive.

It is my family's opinion that she would be an asset to the South Plain-

field Board of Education. She has been a lifelong resident who received her education from the system and has worked in the schools. She has five children of her own in the schools and has a career in school administration. Her professional life would work in tandem with the qualifications, knowledge and ideas base needed to be a member of the board of education.

Please vote on April 17 for line 6—Danielle Harris Lacasale—a new spirit who can bring positive contributions to the South Plainfield Board of Education and who doesn't allow the opinions of others to stand in the way of what is the right thing to do.

SINCERELY,
STEPHANIE PRYBELLA

Dear Editor,

With the school board election just a few weeks away, I wanted to write and offer my thoughts on one of the candidates I know very well. That's Bob Jones.

Bob would make an ideal school board member. He cares about our town, our schools, and most importantly, about the people of South Plainfield.

I know firsthand about how Bob cares about people. Last year I went through a tough time trying to get my husband into the veteran's memorial home in Menlo Park. When Bob found out about the problem, he immediately enlisted the help of Congressman Mike Ferguson, and they set out to solve the problem.

Anyone who's been through these situations knows how difficult the bureaucracy can be, but Bob and Congressman Ferguson were able to cut through it and solve the problem, which was a blessing for me and my family.

If you want to elect someone who cares and will do his best for the people of our town, vote for Bob Jones on

April 17. He's the perfect choice for the school board.

SILVANA GOVER

Dear Editor,

The 2006-2007 has been a successful year for the South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club. We raised funds for our new building, we were able to purchase many requested items for high school teams, and took part in charity fundraisers which benefitted our local community. We are, and have always been, a very strong and united organization, an organization to be very proud to be a part of!

It is imperative that we all are aware of the facts and truly understand the impact of another budget defeat. It will be our children and our town that suffer. Our test scores have continued to increase (top percentile), even though South Plainfield ranks well below the state and county average in per pupil spending. Yes, we have done well with less, but how much longer is that going to work when the only things left to cut are staff and programs? When all resources are exhausted, our testing scores could drop, programs currently offered could be canceled, and for the student athletes we so proudly support, fewer programs or no programs offered to them. It is imperative that we maintain the high standards of South Plainfield's Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities and to do this, the right choice on April 17 is yes! A yes vote is a vote to keep South Plainfield as a viable and attractive place to live and raise a family.

If you have questions regarding the budget, you can access Dr. Rosado's presentation, or view his presentation dates by visiting www.spnet.k12.nj.us.

SINCERELY,
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Sell Out Crowd Attends Franklin Auction

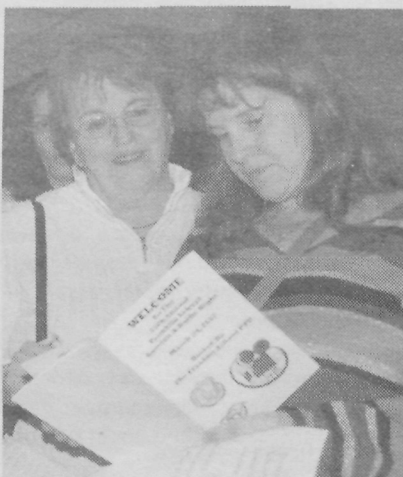
By Patricia Abbott

Even though the Franklin School and the SPHS Project Graduation auction/raffles were held a mere two weeks apart, the Franklin auction was, as in the past, a sell-out.

Attendees signed in and began the task of purchasing tickets for the prizes they sought. A program provided a detailed list of available prizes at each ticket level. The list included 57 potpourri, 77 novelty, 17 dinner/theater, 15 getaways, 54 super raffles, three grand prizes and three super grand prizes.

Businesses, schools and families throughout town donated items. The big prizes included a Sony laptop, a two-night stay at Hershey Lodge/two day park passage for four and a wii game system. Super grand prizes were a 42" Sylvania plasma TV, \$1,000 mall gift certificate and a \$3,000 gift certificate from First Class Travel.

The 11th annual event was hosted by the Franklin School PTO. Auction committee members were Jim Colapietro, chairman and members Dortha Bohn, Mary Cargill, Mija Clemente, Tracy Colapietro, Jennifer Pelligrino and Debbie Peterson.



police report

• On March 21, Infante Marco Machado, 29, of Dunellen was arrested for driving on a suspended license, speeding and four outstanding warrants.

• On March 23, Jenny E. Maranon-Sanchez, 21, of North Brunswick and Shara A. Hassan, 18, of Plainfield were arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$784 worth of clothing and three wallets worth \$84.

• William C. Lake, 49, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and driving without a license in possession.

• On March 24, William Howell, 59, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and speeding.

• On March 26, Enrique Berrueros, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on an expired license and an outstanding warrant.

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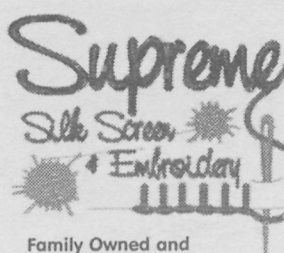
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