

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL 11, NO. 13

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 30, 2007

## HELEN ST. FATE UNDECIDED

Residents weighed in with their opinions on the Helen Street Extension Project at a special public meeting held by the South Plainfield Borough Council on November 12. A letter from the N.J. Transportation Authority (TPA) sent to Mayor Charles Butrico in May of this year stated funding was at its "10 year point" and a decision had to be made whether to pursue or abandon the project.

Butrico laid out the borough's three options to the packed council chambers:

(1) A "no build"—the borough gives up on the project and doesn't owe the \$650,000 spent so far;

(2) Submit a permit application to the DEP at the cost of nearly \$1M and wait to reapply for federal funding in five years; or

(3) Leave the project open. The borough will then be responsible for paying the government back the \$650,000.

"There is nothing further we can do on the state level to get 'reasonable assurance' from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)," said Butrico. That is the last step before applying for a permit to build. He went on stating, "Risking \$1.5M taxpayer dollars on something that still may not be permissible doesn't seem like a good idea, and there are a lot of 'ifs.'"

Council President Dennis Cerami said he felt applying for a permit "is a crap shoot" and he was not comfortable with it, even though Butrico said that the project's consultants say the borough has a good case which addresses the environmental issues. The project, if and when completed, would affect less than one percent of the 880-acre Dismal Swamp, a feder-

ally protected Priority One Wetlands. Engineers have also followed federal guidelines by restoring at least two acres of wetlands for every one that will be used.

Councilman Rob Bengivenga thought that there were "too many maybes, however and what ifs" to continue the project and Councilman Ray Petronko said that he felt we should wait the five years and "see what doors might be opened" between now and then. However, some residents seemed to be more optimistic.

Senior Center Director Joann Graf suggested that "instead of hating the Edison Wetlands Association (EWA), the environmental group standing in the way of the project, we should embrace it and form a regional committee with Edison and Piscataway to work out our problems with them."

Resident Renato Biribin said that we should argue our case in a court of law, and said, "It's time we stop letting people out of town come into this town and tell us what we should do in our own backyards. We need to sacrifice to make this the place you want to live in."

(Continued on page 12)



## Giants Stadium Here We Come! SPHS Tigers Advance to Group III Finals

The South Plainfield Tiger football team will face Newark West Side in the North Jersey Section 2, Group III Final on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 11 a.m. at Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands. Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students (18 and younger) and seniors and may be purchased at the IZOD Center Box Office or at the stadium box office on the day of the event. This is the first time since 1988 the Tigers have appeared in a sectional final. Team members are—seniors: Scott Barton, Christian Cole, Kyle Darr, Emilio Faillos, Benny Gibson, Keith Heckel, Scott Hunteon, Navendra Itwaru, Timmy Keane, Huy La, Andre Lawson, Kyle McMahon, Mike Ortiz, Rocco Petriello, Russell Pornovets, Troy Russell, Kyle Smith, Chris Uribe and Aaron Wright. Juniors: Greg Burton, Mike Burton, Vikash Budhan, Darin Campbell, Steven Chen, Jon Conroy, Jamari Miller, Tramane Miller, Russell Nash, Greg Natt, Akil Nurse, Joel Santos, Brandon Yellock and Nate Eliason. Sophomores: Mike Jeffreys, Alex Kahanu, Charles Merryman, Bobby Sachs, Seth Yocum and Mike Wagner.



Accepting Cappy Awards are Owen Kelly (left) and Sam Pauls, son of the late Nancy Pauls.

## Kelly, Pauls Cappy Winners

On November 17, Owen Kelly and the late Nancy Pauls, two pioneering volunteers from the early days of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC), were honored as recipients of this year's Cappy Award.

The annual dinner held at the senior center was packed with family, friends and more than 25 bowlers from the leagues that Nancy Pauls participated in for more than 30 years. Also attending were Councilmen Ray Petronko and Rob Bengivenga, Councilman-elect Ray Rusnak, members of the recreation commission and PAL President Chris Collucci.

The invocation was delivered by Rev. John Paul Alvarado, pastor of

Sacred Heart Church. Master of ceremonies was Bill Cochrane, president of the recreation commission.

Several years ago when Pauls attended a Cappy dinner she questioned why some of the early baseball pioneers had never been nominated. She also wrote a letter to the recreation commission asking the same question and suggested Owen Kelly as a possible nominee. After Pauls' death, and in her name, several of her friends nominated Owen Kelly. They also nominated Nancy Pauls, emphasizing her efforts in starting the SPJBC snack stand. The stand was, and still is, a significant source of revenue for

(Continued on page 24)

## Local Immigrant Honors 100 Year Old Mining Disaster Victims

By Michael Duquette

On Dec. 6, 1907, in what was the worst disaster of its kind in American history, explosions rocked the No. 6 and 8 mines in Monongah, W. Va. The official death toll saw 362 victims, all miners caught in the blast or rescue workers who succumbed to hazardous conditions while struggling to rescue the doomed workers.

A century later, the tragedy seemed largely forgotten—or would have, however, if not for the efforts of several individuals, including Assunta Leonardis of South Plainfield.

Leonardis, an operating room nurse in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, best known to friends as "Susi," helped spearhead a campaign to raise awareness for the 100th anniversary of the Monongah tragedy.

"This is my joy and pride," Leonardis said of her part in increasing visibility of the plight of Monongah, which saw the deaths of 171 Italian-Americans.

Her story began in 1969 when she met Eugene Salvati, a colorectal surgeon at Muhlenberg with a shared interest in Italian-American history. Through Salvati, she learned about the Monongah disaster and came in contact with the Rev. Everett Francis Briggs, the first public figure to actively raise awareness of the tragedy.

Before his death at age 98 in 2006,



The Monongah monument honoring victims of the worst mining disaster in U.S. history.

Briggs tirelessly dedicated his efforts to remembering the victims of Monongah, which he estimated to be closer to 1,000 due to many of the miners being illegal immigrants or workers who were not documented as part of the company that owned the mines.

"It's the same kind of problem we face today with illegal immigration," Leonardis said.

Briggs dedicated St. Barbara's (Continued on page 24)

## 101st Airborne Tree Lighting

The New York Chapter Association of the 101st Airborne will hold the annual memorial service and tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 8 at noon under the tree on the front lawn of McCricken-Gustafson Home For Funerals on Plainfield Avenue.







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

The November 28 Board of Education Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m.

until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council meeting, contact the *Observer*.

### councilmeetings

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

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
December 4	7 p.m.	Immediately following
December 18	7 p.m.	Immediately following

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

### planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Dec. 11.

### zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, \*except where noted.  
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641  
Dec. 13.

### boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted  
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.- Dec. 12,  
Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12 and April 2  
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

### recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716  
Dec. 11

### taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

### siteplansub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.  
Dec. 18.

### environmentalcommission

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

### businessadvisorygroup

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

### trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.  
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

### boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

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

Visit our Website [www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com)  
Updated Weekly

## 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](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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## INMYOPINION

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

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the following sponsors who helped make the South Plainfield High School Varsity Swim Team for the winter season for 2007/2008 a reality. The generosity shown these students, whose long awaited dream has come to fruition, will remain in their hearts, minds and strokes. Each of you had a part in the beginning of this team: Nicholas Bouras, Steve DeCarlo, South Plainfield Elks, Michael and Tina George, Creative Kids Academy, Inc., McCriscin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Maria and Tony DiCarlo and South Plainfield Dental, LLC, an anonymous donor PSPU, Douglas McQuade, American Gymnastics Academy, LLC, Century 21 Moretti Realty, Stilo Excavation, Inc., Karin Harris, Garnet Ivaniuc, Norman Gustafson, Elizabeth Gustafson, Kathleen and William Thomas, Brian and Linda Kelly, Barry and Joan Gustafson, Carol Wolf and MaryAnn Boyle.

Also, Karen Kappra, Giulio Binetti, Lou Piancone, Jr., Bob Boyle, the Roseo Family, Nancy, Carol, Lucy, Eugene and Lisa Roseo, Lord and Taylor, canning donors, Old Timers Motorcycle Club, football donors, back-to-school night donors, Heilmann's Gulf, the Kasmer Family, Michael Kasmer, John and Barb Glavassich and Gerry Nuber and family.

Also, Tim and Kathy McGovern, Tiger Sharks parents organization, Dominic and Louise Valentino, Jane Burke, Patrick Valentino, South Plainfield Funeral Home, Edward and Mary Piekarski, South Plainfield Education Association sponsor, Kristin Tomasula, Susan Barry, Myron and Frances Allen and Kimberly Pfeifer.

Also, Virginia Allen King, William and Janice Leavitt, Robert and Katherine Baker, John Babinetz, Matthew and Lauren Zinsky, Suburban Woman's Club Full Chapter October 1952 and Federated March 1953, Mary Ann Iannitto-president and Marge Reidy-vice president and Sarah Blessing for helping to organize the SPSHS swim-a-thon at the JCC.

Also, Filomena Cysanelli Viola, Anna Lungren, Brittany Penevolpe, Bonnie Vigneri, Jean Pys, Cameron

Green, Patty Porzio, Eleanor Haines, the Egan Family, Dr. William Carone, South Plainfield Wrestling Club (year round wrestling), Kevin and Susan Schweers and Danielle Schweers.

Also, Donna Timko, Katherine and William Moates, Jr., Gabriele, Inc., Joanne, Wayne, Jen and Mary Orlowski, Joanna Leivent, The Jewish Community Center and Coach Lori Post, Ed and Mary Piekarski, Barbara and Frank Valentino, Donna and Tom Egan, Lauren and Matt Zinsky, Lisa and Eugene Roseo, Mr. And Mrs. Paterek and the South Plainfield Board of Education for welcoming this team.

Thank you to Athletic Director Michael Bugey for your help and support, high school Principal Dr. Ken May, The Command Radio for donating their time and talents in support of the swim team, the O'Brien Family, Maggie and Joe Valentino, Gracie Piekarski and the *Observer* for all of the coverage.

Thank you to all the swimmers who gave 110% of their time to starting a team: Kaitlin Egan, Ellen Zinsky, Matt Moates, Emily Piekarski, Michele and Teresa Gustafson, Michael Boyie, Lucy and Emily Roseo, Alan Kasmer, Liz Valentino, Stephanie Kelly, James Howard, Allyson and Kathryn Paterek and JP Barry.

**WITH GRATITUDE,  
DEBBIE BOYLE, THE BOYLE  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

Dear Editor,

There has been a lot of talk among South Plainfield residents about the opposition of my organization, Edison Wetlands Association (EWA), to the proposed Helen Street Extension.

First, I would like to clarify a few misconceptions. Along with other groups, EWA opposes this project for a number of reasons:

1. It will not accomplish its stated goal, which is getting trucks off South Plainfield's streets;
2. It will destroy acres of wetlands that currently provide the only means of flood control for large areas of South Plainfield and Edison;
3. It will pave over Environmental Protection Agency-designated priority wetlands, which are vital to the

quality of our water, the air we breathe, and the only large remaining wildlife habitat in the area where our children can truly experience nature; and

4. As it does not accomplish its stated goal, it is a complete waste of taxpayers' money.

Until now, South Plainfield's town leaders have politicized our involvement to paint a misleading picture of EWA as an "outside group" trying to come to South Plainfield and tell you how to do your business.

EWA is an independent, regional organization with no affiliation with Edison Township. Our sole mission is to protect New Jersey's environment and the health of the families who live here.

Without our involvement, South Plainfield's citizens would still be working in contaminated dust in the Cornell-Dubilier Superfund buildings and tracking the dust home to their families. And they would still be playing baseball on fields oozing with toxic black sludge. Likewise, contrary to the lies put out there by many of your leaders, we spent five long years fighting Edison's Talmadge Road extension, joining with active citizens to hold pickets and rallies nearly every month.

Finally, and most importantly, Edison Wetlands is not the one holding back your Helen Street project. South Plainfield's leaders hired consultants who did a rushed, shoddy job that was not even close to compliance with the rules of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection or the New Jersey Department of Transportation. If you are looking for someone to blame, you can choose us if you want to give your politicians a free pass. Or you can speak to the people who actually made the decisions that strung out this poorly planned project for a decade-South Plainfield's own leaders.

In the future, we hope to work with the citizens of South Plainfield on issues that we assume are as important to you as they are to us-the health of your families living near your Superfund sites and a future that will not see every last portion of South Plain-

(Continued on page 17)

# PAIN?

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# Santa Claus Is Coming To Town!

## SPVFD's "Project Santa" Underway

It's that time of year again when Santa will be traveling around town in a fire truck, visiting children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. Can you imagine a fire truck with lights and sirens playing Christmas carols pulling up in front of your home with Santa Claus?

Here's how it works. For a \$25 donation from each family, Santa will deliver their presents by fire truck. All you need to do is bring a completed form, along with a small, inexpensive gift and a check made out to "SPVFD" to the firehouse. Please make sure that you mark your child's name and address in big letters on the package. Then just sit back and relax, the rest is up to us. Forms can be downloaded from the Web site: [www.southplanfieldfire.com](http://www.southplanfieldfire.com).

The form and gifts can be dropped off at the firehouse on Friday, Nov. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2 from 1 to 4 p.m. or Monday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. Packages received after that time will be charged an additional \$50. Families must reside within the Borough of South Plainfield. Gifts will be delivered between Monday, Dec. 10 and Thursday, Dec. 13. A delivery schedule will be announced.

For further information, please call Santa's hotline at (908) 412-8868. Santa is very busy, so please leave a message.

SPPD Crime Statistics	
October	
The South Plainfield Police crime statistics for the month of October, 2007 are listed below.	
Crime Classification	No. of Cases
Homicide	0
Agg. Sexual Assault	0
Robbery	1
Agg. Assault	2
Burglary	8
Theft	39
MV Theft	2
Simple Assault	20
Arson	0
Forgery/Counterfeit	0
Fraud	6
Embezzlement	0
Stolen Property	1
Criminal Mischief	18
Weapons	1
Prostitution	0
Sex Offenses	1
Narcotics	4
Gambling	0
Offense Against Family	1
DWI	10
Liquor Laws	0
Drunkenness	0
Disorderly Person	7
Vagrancy	0
All Others*	45
Runaway JV's	0
Total	166
Year to Date	1,434
* Includes all other incidents which require a police report.	

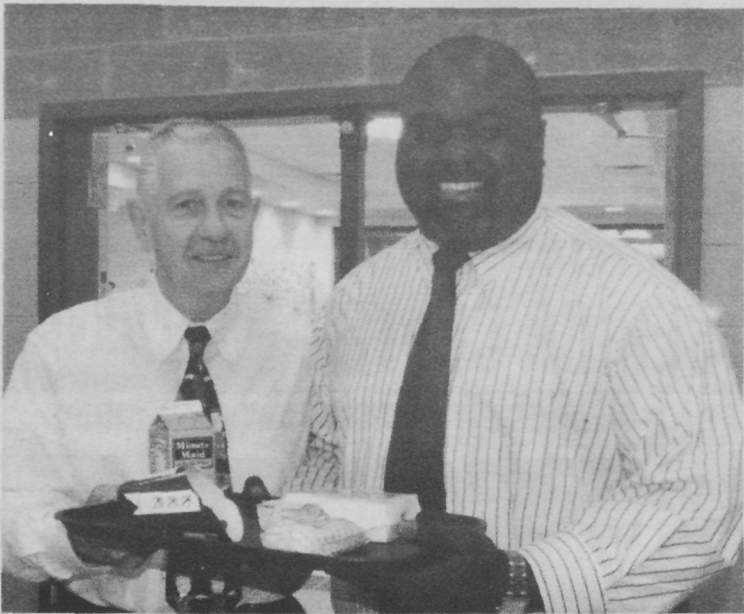
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Corporate Accounts Welcome



Riley School Principal Al Czech brings Roosevelt School Principal Charles Ford breakfast after losing the Market Day pie selling challenge.

## Roosevelt Wins Riley's Pie Selling Challenge

By Jane Dornick

Riley School Principal Al Czech issued a Market Day dessert pie selling challenge last month to Roosevelt School Principal Charles Ford. If Riley sold the most pies, Ford would have to wash Czech's car and if Roosevelt won, Czech would have to bring Ford breakfast.

Roosevelt School sold 501 pies and was victorious over Riley's 301 pies. In defeat, Czech humbly brought a Burger King breakfast to Ford on November 13.

The class that sold the most pies received a pizza party and the PTO served breakfast that morning to all of the students for their hard work selling the fundraising pies.

## Did You Receive This Letter? It's a Scam!

By Jean Fultz

In a recent issue of the *Observer* (Sept. 14, pg. 2), Middlesex County Clerk Elaine M. Flynn alerted seniors in our area to a state-wide scam offering to research and obtain a certified copy of a deed to their house for a fee.

Last week, a resident sent us a copy of an official looking letter that referenced the Middlesex County Clerk and a document number. The letter from National Deed Service, Inc., states, "The U.S. Government Federal Citizen Information Center Web site recommends that property owners should have an official or certified copy of their deed." The letter goes on to say that to obtain a "certified copy of your deed" you should send a check for \$79.50 or provide your credit card information.

In this age of impersonal, online commerce, no one should ever provide their credit card information to anyone unless they have initiated the transaction and know they are dealing with a reputable company. If the request for credit card information does not make you suspicious, calling their toll-free number should have.

No one answered the phone when the *Observer* made seven attempts

over the course of an hour. Instead, there is a recorded message saying that if you have ordered a copy of your deed, you will receive it within 30 days from the date they receive the request. Then it goes on to "explain" the letter you received and "apologizes" if any information in the letter is incorrect. They further state, "we do not have access to any original documents." During the recorded message, you hear pages being turned as the prepared script is read.

A visit to their Web site further perpetrates the scam by claiming, "It is not an easy process to obtain public records from a governmental agency. It often requires people traveling to the recorder's office, losing time from work and pay, locating the proper office, dealing with the people at the office locating their document and waiting for the document to be produced."

If you were not provided with a copy of your deed by your lawyer at closing, contact the Middlesex County Clerk's office at (732) 745-3365 or search for the records yourself by visiting [www.mcrecords.co.middlesex.nj.us](http://www.mcrecords.co.middlesex.nj.us). You can order copies via regular mail. The cost? \$10 for a certified copy, plus \$2 for each additional page.

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908-769-3224 [www.LTLC.net](http://www.LTLC.net)



# Around Town

## Fall Clothing Drive

December 1 & 2

Sacred Heart School is holding a clothing drive on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m.-noon and 4-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-noon. A trailer will be in the church parking lot if you are unable to come at the listed times. All clean, usable, wearable clothing, shoes, boots, sneakers, accessories, bedding, towels, curtains, tablecloths, stuffed animals and small toys will be accepted. Place items in plastic bags.

For information, call Laurie at (908) 756-4738 or Joan at (908) 313-3001.

## American Legion Holiday Craft Show

December 1 & 2

The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., is holding a holiday craft show on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2. Call MaryAnn at (718) 619-2751 or the post at (908) 757-8131.

## Coffee House at First Baptist Church

December 1

First Baptist Church, located on Hamilton Boulevard, will hold a coffee house on Saturday Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. Spiritual singing artist David Michael Carillo will be performing. Share in worship on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:30-10:20 a.m. for preschoolers through high school.

For information call (908) 753-2382 or visit [www.fbcsouthplainfield.com](http://www.fbcsouthplainfield.com).

## Vendor Night

December 1

Our Town Deli, South Plainfield

What's happening at the  
South Plainfield **SENIOR CENTER** **NOV/DEC**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> <b>Monday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m.</b> <b>Somerset Medical Center Program on Strokes</b> <b>Sunday, Dec. 16</b> <b>Christmas Luncheon from noon-2 p.m.</b> <b>Caroling in the Park at 3 p.m.</b>				<b>Bingo 10am-2pm</b> <b>30</b>
Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am Strokes program 1pm	<b>3</b> Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	<b>4</b> Taj Mahal trip 9am Aerobics 8:45 am Line Dancing 10am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm	<b>5</b> Pathmark Shopping 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15p	<b>6</b> Bingo 10am-2pm <b>7</b>

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

Avenue, is hosting a vendor night on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 4-8 p.m. Do your holiday shopping here!

For more information, call Tina at (908) 202-5954.

## Country Breakfast

December 2

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, is holding a country breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Public is welcome.

## Over the River and Through the Woods

December 2

ACT IV Productions will present a special benefit performance of "Over the River and Through the Woods" on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. The play is directed by Bill Cochrane. The show will be performed at the Parish Theatre, First Unitarian Society of Plain-

field, located at 724 Park Ave. in Plainfield. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by contacting Robert Bengivenga at (908) 753-1383 or Renato Biribin at (908) 561-9898.

## Music Boosters/Pot Luck/Meeting

December 5

The SPHS Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting and a pot luck dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Please bring a food or dessert item. All band, chorus, color guard and orchestra parents are welcome to attend. We are also collecting canned goods/non-perishable items for donation to our local food pantry.

## Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair

December 8

The South Plainfield Elks #2298, 1254 New Market Ave., is hosting a holiday craft and vendor fair on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9-4 p.m. One-stop holiday shopping with jewelry and other crafts. Well-known vendors will be represented. Baked goods and lunch available.

Limited space available; please contact Sharon at (908) 791-1214.

## Tree Lighting at McCricken

December 8

The annual holiday tree lighting ceremony at McCricken-Gustafson

Home For Funerals will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8 at noon. All are welcome to attend. For information call (908) 561-8000.

## Breakfast with Santa

December 9

The South Plainfield Elks, located at 1254 New Market Ave., is hosting breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 9 from 8 a.m. until noon. Come and enjoy pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, eggs to order, coffee, tea, milk and juice. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12, free for kids under 5. Bring your camera! Santa will be on hand.

## Soccer Club Breakfast/Basket Sale

December 16

The South Plainfield Soccer Club is hosting a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Elks on New Market Avenue from 8 a.m.-noon. Menu includes eggs to order, French toast, pancakes, toast, bacon, sausage, pork roll, orange juice, coffee and tea. Adults \$6, children ages five to 12 \$4, children under five free. They will also be holding a fundraising sale of baskets from Dresden, Ohio. This is an open house sale of all sizes of famous, top quality baskets.

## Pancake Breakfast

December 16

American Legion Chaumont Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., is holding an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 8 a.m.-noon. Adults \$5, children \$3, children under three free. Everyone is welcome. All profits go to our scholarship fund.

## Caroling in the Park

December 16

Everyone is invited to join the annual "Caroling in the Park" on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at Spring Lake Park. The high school chorus will be there to lead us. Refreshments at the senior center after caroling.

## AARP #4144 Holiday Meeting/Luncheon

December 18

AARP #4144 will hold their annual holiday meeting/luncheon at the Victorian Manor on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Entertainment will be provided by Jack McDade, singer/entertainer/radio show air personality (WDVR-FM 89.7). Guests are welcome; \$25. Call Sylvia at (908) 561-1899.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. They are currently knitting 130 lap robes for the Highlands, preemie hats for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. Refreshments served. New members and guests welcome.

## — Out of Town —

## Holiday Sale

December 1

The Danish Home on New Durham Road in Edison is holding a holiday sale on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. featuring a large selection of holiday gifts, many Danish items, children's gifts and more. For more information, call (732) 287-6445.

## Christmas Spirit at Willow Grove

December 1

Come to Willow Grove Church in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. for a fun-filled time for you and your family. Make Christmas ornaments and Advent wreaths, decorate gingerbread houses and sing Christmas carols. Pizza dinner, salad and dessert provided at a cost of \$5 per person or \$15 per family for supplies and dinner. Children age 5 and under are free!

## Holiday Memorial Ceremony

December 2

Sheenan Funeral Home, 233 Dunellen Ave. in Dunellen, is holding its annual holiday memorial ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 12:30



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## LET'S REMEMBER Together

Facing the holiday season without a loved one who has passed away can be one of the most challenging and difficult experiences one can go through. During a season when everyone is expected to feel joy, you may be feeling sad, lonely or even resentful.

No one has to suffer passively through the season. Whether your loss occurred a week ago or many years ago, this seminar may help you cope with the emotional pain that often accompanies the holiday season.

We invite you to join us and learn about helpful steps that may be beneficial to you in making this holiday season a better one.

All are welcome.

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### YOU'RE INVITED

**What:** Coping with Grief during the Holidays Seminar

**When:** Saturday, December 15  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** South Plainfield  
Elks Lodge #2298  
1254 New Market Ave  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

**Who:** Certified Grief Specialist  
Jessie Flynn will speak and pay tribute to families who have lost a loved one during this year.

REFRESHMENTS will be served.

**RSVP:** to McCriskin-Gustafson Funeral Home  
(908) 561-8000  
by Monday, December 10



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to 2 p.m. Open to the general public for family members and others to gather during the holiday season and remember loved ones who have passed. A memorial tree will be on display at the funeral home. Refreshments will be served.

To make a reservation, contact the funeral home at (732) 968-4227.

## Bookends-A Staged Reading

December 4

Richard Stockton College presents a staged reading of "Bookends," by California writer Michael J. Feely, on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are available at no charge at the door of the Alton Auditorium beginning at 6 p.m. For more information call (609) 626-6094.

## Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Mtg.

December 5

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. Guests welcome; light refreshments served. For information, please call Mary at (732) 494-5649.

## Cleo Mack Dance Project

December 7 & 8

The Rock Theater, 31 Washington Ave. in Dunellen, presents Cleo Mack Dance Project (CMDP) "All Voices In: Being Everything," a mixed medium performance of dance, set design, text, music and film on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission; \$15 students.

For tickets, call (201) 927-7208.

## Healing Body and Soul at Willow Grove

December 8

Medical Qi Gong is a course of meditation exercises being offered free at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains on Saturday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For more information, call Margo Mann at (908) 757-2495 or E-mail jermar107@themannfamily.org.

## Holiday Luncheon/Program

December 11

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains, is holding a Christmas program and holiday luncheon at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Luncheon is \$5. Reservations by December 7.

For more information or to make a reservation, call the church office at (908) 232-5678 or E-mail us at info@willowgrovechurch.org.

## Singles Dinner and Game Night

December 11

A Christian singles 35-55 dinner and game night will be held at Panera Bread in Fair Lawn in the CVS strip mall on Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost is whatever you order. Bring your favorite party or board game.

RSVP to AngelButterfly37@aol.com

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# High School Forms Models UN Club

By Libby Barsky

When Social Studies teacher Miten Shah was a student at East Brunswick High School, he was very involved in the Model United Nations Club, debating world questions and attending regional Model UN Conferences. "East Brunswick High School has a long history with the program and I wanted to bring the Model UN Club to South Plainfield, because the students are highly motivated and interested in social studies. They've never had an opportunity to sharpen their abilities in this subject area and this club provides the opportunity for their interest," said Shah.

After receiving approval last year, the new club officially formed in September. They meet after school on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:15 pm.

Since September students began preparing for the four-day Model UN Conference held November 15 through 18 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick.

Thirteen students from SPHS attended the conference, along with 1,100 students from all over the country. They included freshman Michelle Hernandez; sophmores Joseph Fierro, Shamrin Ghai, Holly McDeede, Brittany Pasquarella, Manraj Singh and Julie Stilo; juniors Jeremiah Magpile, Michael Pachytel, Dharti Patel and Krisha Patel and seniors Natia Katsantonis and Shivana Maraj. Teachers Fran Flannery and Miten Shah were chaperones for the group. The total cost to the students was \$300. The hotel bill was supported by a scholarship from the Institute for Do-



Some of the members of the Model UN Club, who attended the four-day conference in November.

mestic and International Affairs, Inc. with the rest of the convention costs paid by the students.

To simulate the United Nations, each high school represents a different country. South Plainfield represented the Irish perspective on issues including the role of women in politics, genetically modified food and HIV orphans. The students formed committees, researching and debating on average between 12 and 20 hours on the issues. The students debated with others, attempting to reach a solution to problems. All countries' viewpoints were respected.

Junior Jeremiah Magpile wrote about sustainable development, "ensuring that the needs of Ireland's present are met without compromising the ability of the future to meet

their needs" and presented his paper during committee sessions. "The Model UN Conference emphasized the bigger picture-realizing millennium development goals, thinking globally and acting locally. We might not think it, but we live in one global community and every issue affects everyone," said Magpile.

The students spent most of their time at sessions and had no time for the pool and spa offered at the hotel, Magpile added. They did have a "social night," highlighted by dancing and Karaoke singing.

Although awards were given out for the best paper in each committee at the conference, none of the SPHS students received one. But student aspirations for the program remain high, said Shah. "We are hoping to go to another conference in the spring time. I personally want to make the Model UN program a course in the high school because the students do so much work researching a country, their topic and how to debate properly. If this were a course, it would reward the students for their dedication to the program," said Shah.

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spobserver.com

## Sacred Heart Church

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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor  
Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal

Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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



## South Plainfield Open House-Sunday, Dec. 2, 1 to 4 p.m.



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## Elks Sponsor New Boy Scout Troop #267

In a special ceremony held recently, the South Plainfield Elks became the proud sponsors of the newly formed Boy Scout Troop #267. This historic charter unites the members of both organizations on a common ground.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has a longstanding history of involvement in Scouting with over 65 years of support in sponsoring Boy Scout Troops throughout the United States. The Elks are proud to fund Elks' Eagle Scout scholarship awards through the Elks National Foundation, as well as to recognize all scouts and their accomplishments. The sponsorship is the Elks' commitment to fostering Americanism, recognizing a belief in God, promoting community welfare and cultivating fellowship and leadership in these fine young men who will be the future leaders of this great country.

Youth Activities Chairman Bill Reuter initiated the sponsorship and worked closely with Scout Master Jim Donelson to bring together these organizations. The Induction Ceremony and Court of Honor began with a dedication of the charter, presentation of the American flag and troop flag donated by the Elks, commitment of dedicated leadership from the troop officers, leaders and Elks and presentation of the new troop neckerchiefs to the scouts. Scouts awarded Merit



Top row (L-R): Erik Holtermann, Tom Berry, Trent Rhoads, Jim Donelson, Paul Leepin, District Americanism Chair Dan Uken, PVP Youth Activities District Chairman Pat McDonnell and Mayor Charles Buttrico. Third row: Barbara Rhoads, Youth Activities Chairpersons Sharon and Bill Reuter, Exalted Ruler Debra Czech. Second row: Karen Bayman, Andrew Rhoads, Anthony Austin, Ryan Rhoads. First row: Charlie Clark, Brendan Berry, Jason Christilles, Jorgen Holtermann and C.J. Wallace.

Badges were: Anthony Austin, Colin Berry, Jonathan Black, Jorgen Holtermann and Ryan Rhoads. Awarded Scout Rank were: Jonathan Black, Jason Christilles, Andrew Rhoads, C.J. Wallace; Tenderfoot Rank were: Anthony Austin and Colin Berry; Second Class Rank were: Brendan Berry and Colin Berry and Star Scout were: Jorgen Holtermann and Ryan

Rhoads, as well as other distinctions.

In attendance from the Elks were Exalted Ruler Debra Czech, Youth Activities Chairman William Reuter and Co-Chair Sharon Reuter, District Americanism Chairman and Past Exalted Ruler Daniel Uken and Past Vice President/District Chairman of Youth Activities Patrick McDonnell, as well as lodge members. Scout committee leaders included Committee Chair Barbara Rhoads, Advancements Chair Erik Holtermann, Treasurer Jane Wallace, Secretary Liz Smith and Assistant Scoutmasters, Karen Bayman, Trent Rhoads and Anthony DiPaolo. In addition, Mayor Charles Buttrico also addressed the scouts on this momentous occasion. The Elks look forward to working with the scouts and congratulate them on their awards.

### Visit With Santa and Get Your Picture Taken

Santa will be on hand for pictures and a visit (newborn to 10 years old), on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the senior center. Each child talks to Santa, gets a picture taken and receives a gift. You must register at the PAL. Cost is \$5 per child.



## NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

**Stroke 101**—How much do you know about stroke? You probably know what it is but do you know the risk factors and how to reduce your chances of having one? Can you recognize the symptoms? The South Plainfield Office on Aging will host a program on strokes at the senior center on Monday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. "Strokes ... When Minutes Matter" is the next topic in a program series given by Somerset Medical Center. All South Plainfield residents are welcome to attend.

Stroke can happen to anyone at any time, regardless of race, sex or age. Few Americans know the symptoms of stroke. Learning them—and acting FAST when they occur—could save your life or the life of a loved one. Common stroke symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg—especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; sudden severe headache with no known cause.

A stroke is a brain attack, cutting off vital blood flow and oxygen to the brain.

In the U.S., stroke is the third leading cause of death, killing 160,000 people each year, and the leading cause of adult disability. Approximately 750,000 strokes will occur this year; however 500,000 of those strokes can be prevented.

Everyone has some stroke risk. A few stroke risk factors are beyond your control, such as being over age 55, being a male, being an African-American, having diabetes and having a fam-

ily history of stroke. But the other risk factor both medical and lifestyle factor are within your control. They include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, atrial fibrillation, carotid artery disease, smoking, being overweight and drinking. These risk factors can be controlled.

Being able to detect a stroke and acting fast is vital. There is a simple test called "FAST" which will help you detect stroke symptoms and allow you to act E.A.S.T.:

F = FACE, ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A = ARMS, ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S = SPEECH, ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

T = TIME, if you observe any of these signs, it's time to call 9-1-1 or get to the nearest stroke center or hospital.

Please join us on Monday, Dec. 3 and learn life-saving information about stroke awareness, symptom recognition, and how to decrease your chances of having another stroke.

For further information, please contact the South Plainfield Office on Aging at (908) 754-1047.

### Discussion on Religion and Science at Wesley Methodist

A book discussion on religion and science will be held at Wesley Church at 7 p.m. on Sundays. Refreshments will be served. This ecumenical group always has room for new people. Please stop by and register on the spot.

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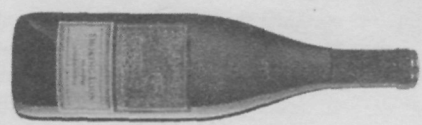
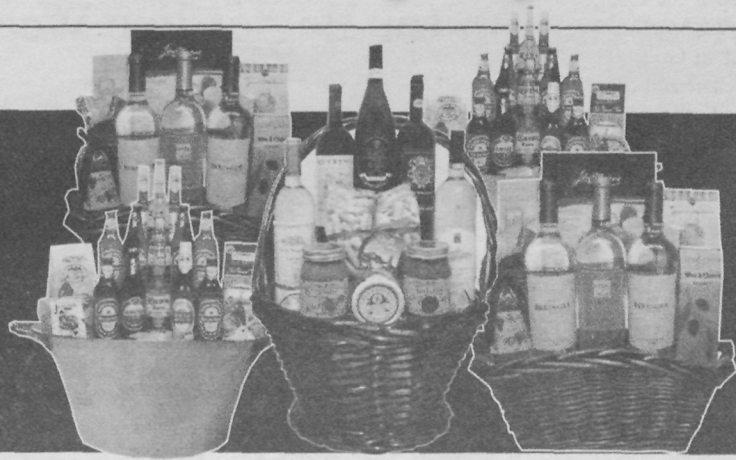
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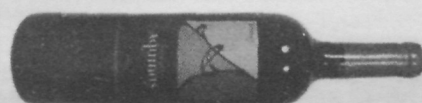
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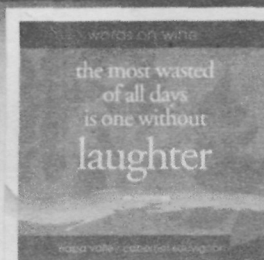
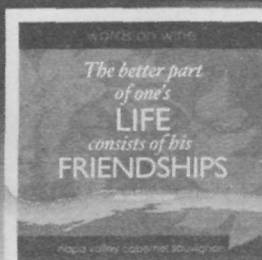
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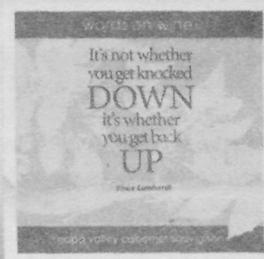
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NJ laws prevail. Prices do not include NJ sales tax.





The 2007 Junior Pee Wee Cheerleaders.

## Great Season for Eagles Pee Wee Cheerleaders

The South Plainfield Eagles 2007 Pee Wee Cheerleaders had an incredible season. After taking second place at the Mountain Valley Conference competition on October 13. The squad competed at the State qualifiers on October 28 vying for a place at the Eastern Region Cheer Competition. At the State qualifiers the competition was fierce with eight teams in the Pee Wee category of Large Novice. That, however, did not stop this group of 25 cheerleaders! They came out strong and performed an amazing routine to a mix of dance and rock songs while incorporating cheers, stunts (lifting other girls) and tumbling all while changing formations throughout their 2½ minute performance.

Their awesome performance helped secure a spot at the Eastern Region Cheer Competition which was held November 17 at Sovereign Bank Arena. Again the girls did great earning them a fifth place finish out of the 11 teams in their category. Considering that the Eastern Region is the biggest region in Pop Warner being comprised of five states, coming in fifth

place is a great accomplishment.

The success of the squad can be attributed to the following girls: the Pee Wee's strong bases which provide the foundation for the stunts are Kaitlyn Bonnanno, Taylor Brinks, Alyssa Capone, Lauren Dicellis, Ashley Franchak, Shayna Hodge, Chelsea Housel, Malina Mohtadi, Diana Pender and Brianna Swenson. In addition to the bases, front and back spotters are required to ensure the safety of the flyer. This season's spotters were Katie Addario, Alexis Cavaliere, Nicole Gerardi, Taylor Mais-tickle, Megan Mann, Diamond Pender, Maggie Quintanilla, Shannon Sheedy and Monica Spooner. No stunts would be complete without the 2007 fliers: Katie Cooper, Amanda Driscoll, Carolyn Kowalski, Kara Podlovits and Emily Smith. And what would a cheer squad be without the spirit of the team provided by Lauren Zekas. While Lauren could not be on the floor with the girls due to recent surgery, she is always on the sidelines cheering the girls on along with their coaches Melissa Smith, Kelly Addario,

Amy Fonti, Cathy Geradi and Doreen Massaro.

The Pee Wee squad would also like to thank all those local businesses who have been helping them raise funds for a possible trip to Disney for the National Competition. Although the girls didn't make it that far this year, we appreciate everybody's help and support. Go Eagles!

*Submitted by Terry House*

## AristaCare Health Services Announces Newest Acquisition

AristaCare Health Services of South Plainfield, formerly Garden State Healthcare Group, has not only changed its name, but acquired the 230-bed Cedar Oaks Care Center on Durham Avenue, which is now operating as AristaCare at Cedar Oaks. AristaCare plans on doing whatever it takes to ensure the highest levels of patient care possible, while bringing Cedar Oaks to its highest potential.

As a premier healthcare provider, AristaCare and its related nursing facilities (Alameda Center, Norwood Terrace and Meadow Springs Center) have been on the forefront in the provision of cutting-edge, innovative and state-of-the-art healthcare.

There will be some changes at Cedar Oaks implemented in the way of the physical environment and in the delivery of additional specialty healthcare services. On the physical end, Cedar Oaks will be transformed, slowly but surely, into a shining example of 21st century healthcare.

## Local Resident to Direct "Over the River and Through the Woods"

A comedy featuring love, laughter and lasagna, written by Joe Di Pietro, author of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," will be presented Friday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. The play is directed by South Plainfield resident Bill Cochran and produced by Peter Jones of North Plainfield.

"Over the River and Through the Woods" will be performed at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, located at 724 Park Ave. in Plainfield.

Additional performances are Saturday Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday,

Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. there will be a benefit performance for the Plainfield Chapter of UNICO. Tickets can be obtained from any UNICO member.

The cast features Sheila Harding of Plainfield, John Boucher of Somerset, Victor Lucariello Jr. of Union, Michelle Morin of South Plainfield, Jean Dembaugh of New Providence and Renato Biribin of South Plainfield.

Tickets can be reserved by calling (908) 756-0750. If no answer press five and leave a message.

## Holiday Food Drive at The South Plainfield Funeral Home

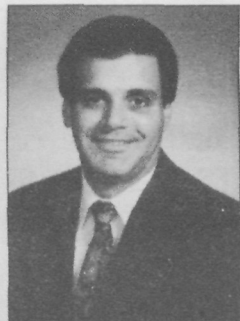
Franklin Rainear, owner and manager of The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, has announced the sponsorship of a holiday/winter food pantry drive for the needy within the South Plainfield community.

All donations will be given to the St. Paul Society of Sacred Heart R. C. Church and South Plainfield food pantry for distribution to the needy.

"My commitment and dedication to South Plainfield continues in full force. Although I am relatively new to this town, I am proud to say that it gives me great joy to give back to the community by helping in every way I can,"

Rainear said.

"We will have an open door policy where people can drop off non-perishable items from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., seven days a week now through March 1, 2008. The drop-off area is clearly marked and is located in our flower room on the right side of the funeral home by the mailbox. This door will be unlocked for the time specified so that it will be more convenient for everyone. I believe that we as a team can work together to create an uplifting holiday/winter season for everyone by helping those who are less fortunate," said Rainear.



Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta

"The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease."

~ Thomas A. Edison

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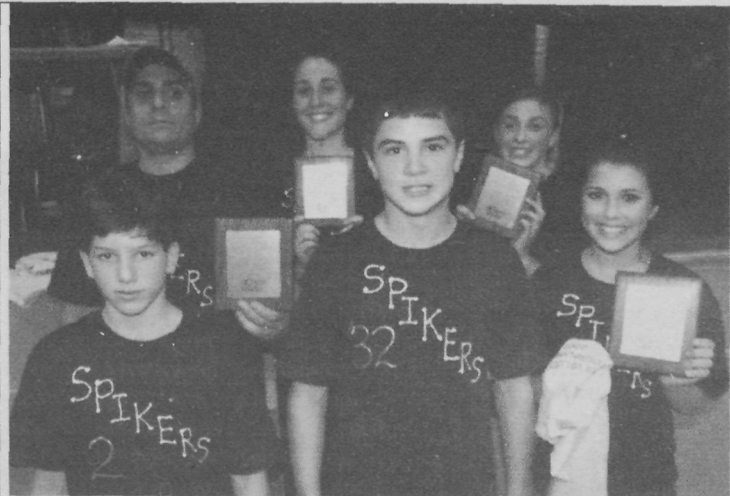


136 South Plainfield Ave

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The South Plainfield Middle School held a charity volleyball tournament on November 15 to benefit 14 month-old resident Matthew Hannon, who was diagnosed with cancer. The students raised a total of \$650 for the family with \$350 being donated by the Cancer Awareness Club and \$300 from the tournament. Pictured are members of the tournament champion team Spikers: rear (L-R) teachers Nick Scalzo, Melody Haggerty and Kendal Crist, front (L-R) Anthony Ashnault, Scott Whalen and Ashley Annetta.



Accepting the \$650 check on behalf of the Hannon Family are: (L-R) Renee Eggert, Geraldine Eggert, Principal Steve Novak, Ashley Linick and Student Council President Casey Butrico.

## Sacred Heart Honor Roll

### Principal List

Grade 8—Andrea Muglia and Carla Palma.

Grade 7—Himanshu Patel.

Grade 6A—Rose Bach, Patrick Bogart and Roxanne Lee.

Grade 5—Shabey Joseph and Morgan Miller.

Grade 4—Joshua DeCastro, Angela German and Nicole Walker.

### Honor Roll

Grade 8—Dominic Gonzales, Emily Done, Rhel Lapitan, Christina Pokorny, Kyle Whitaker and Amanda Caruso.

Grade 7—Taylor Aljian, Jordana Apporvato, Jenna Bengivenga, Janee Edwards, Leah Hansford, Stephanie Kearney, Nicholas Muglia, Devynn Nolan, Maia Plummer and Jacqueline Stenersen.

Grade 6A—Sabrina Inigo, Alexander LeGrand, Brandon Ozbalik, Kayla Simpson, Jessica Thomas and Arthur Wright. Grade 6B—Juliana Degutis, Kerri Salvatore and Aryanna Torres.

Grade 5—Philip Aquilina, Italo Cardoso, Angela LoBosco, Savannah Miller, Giovanna Nolan, Elizah Rodriguez and Eric Nguyen.

Grade 4—Mary Bach, Daisy Garcia, Justin Inigo, Melissa Pokorny, Lizelle Policarpio, Kayla Whitaker, Lauren Yanick, Kara Slattery and Madison Zieger.

Most Improved: Virginia Novak, grade 5 and James West, grade 6A.

## Make Auto Insurance Cards Wallet-sized

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan today announced that he has introduced legislation that would require auto insurers to provide wallet-sized insurance verification cards to their policyholders.

Diegnan (D-Middlesex) said he crafted his bill to promote consumer convenience and to crack down on the large numbers of motorists who find themselves in local traffic courts because they lose track of the oddly sized insurance cards currently issued by motor vehicle underwriters.

"Why can't auto insurance cards be the same size as driving licenses and vehicle registrations?" asked Diegnan. "It just doesn't make sense to have two motor vehicle documents at one size and a third document a completely different size."

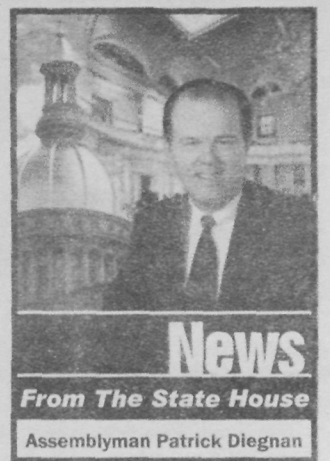
Diegnan's measure (A-4587) would require insurers to provide wallet-sized insurance cards in addition to the larger insurance cards they already provide to policyholders. Diegnan said the more uniform-sized documents would cut down on the large numbers of motorists who end up with violations because they are unable to locate their insurance cards even though they have insurance policies.

The assemblyman said he is surprised to find there is resistance to the move, but he isn't completely shocked.

"Five years ago, everybody said we could not reduce auto insurance rates in this state and we have proven them wrong," said Diegnan. "Now the same naysayers are contending that we can't make insurance IDs any smaller."

Diegnan said motorists deserve documentation that is "convenient, not clumsy."

Diegnan's bill was formally introduced on November 19. It has been referred to the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee for possible consideration.



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## Adelines Ristorante Celebrates First Anniversary, Introduces New Chef

Adelines Ristorante on Hamilton Boulevard recently celebrated their one year anniversary, along with introducing their new chef, Nouri Shafie, and the addition of many new menu items and specials. You will not find pizza on the menu, but you will find old and new Italian favorites made to order from fresh ingredients; not one dish is pre-cooked.

Chef Nouri began his 30-year career in the restaurant industry at hotels and country clubs while attending Central State University in Oklahoma. After graduating with a BS degree, his love of fine food led him to several positions, from sous chef to head chef, in San Francisco, Texas and New Jersey, bringing him to Adelines five months ago. Six days a week, Nouri serves up a unique dining experience, changing the dinner specials weekly and never failing to tantalize the discriminating palate with unique appetizers, soups, salads and entrees. And the prices at Adelines will surprise you too.

The most expensive regular menu dinner entree, Surf and Turf at \$27.95, includes an 8 oz. hand-cut filet mignon, a 5 oz. lobster tail and four jumbo shrimp broiled in a white wine garlic butter sauce. Favorites like chicken marsala and fraise (\$16.95) can be paired with either potato and vegetable or pasta. All entrees include either tomato-onion salad or roasted garlic dipping oil with bread, potato and vegetable or pasta.

Among the favorite appetizers at Adelines is Eggplant and Portobello Capri, a layer of thin-sliced grilled eggplant, portobello mushroom, roasted peppers, sliced tomato and mozzarella cheese in a balsamic demi glaze (\$11.95) and Fried Calamari, perfectly fried and served with a hot or mild marinara sauce or garlic basil aioli (\$9.95).

If you love vodka sauce, you will love Adelines Penne Vodka, prepared with peas and prosciutto, fresh cream and vodka (\$12.95). Ravioli and manicotti is homemade from an old family recipe (\$13.95). Among the varied steak selections is Filet Sinatra, fi-

let mignon medallions sautéed with peppers, onions and mushrooms in a sherry wine sauce (\$23.95) and Gorgonzola Steak, a charbroiled 14 oz. New York strip topped with cognac demi-glaze and gorgonzola cheese (\$23.95). Adelines extensive menu includes chicken, veal, pork, seafood and pasta dishes that are all made fresh to order. If you don't see something on the menu, just ask. As long as the ingredients are in the kitchen, Chef Nouri will prepare any special request you may have.

Adelines lunch menu includes fresh made soups, salads, burgers and sandwiches (including their Philly cheesesteak made from sliced top round) as well as lunch portions of most dinner entrees. You can view their full menu online at [www.adelines-restaurant.com](http://www.adelines-restaurant.com). If you don't have time to dine out for lunch or dinner, call or fax in your order. Everything is available for take-out.

Adelines is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner Monday and Tuesday from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays until 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays until 10 p.m. Reservations are accepted but not necessary. They also offer a full service bar. Happy hour with Lisa is every Wednesday and Friday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. On and off premises catering for holiday parties and special occasions is also available.

For reservations, information or to book a party call (908) 755-8520 or fax (908) 755-8581.

## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Services Held at Wesley Methodist Church

By Libby Barsky

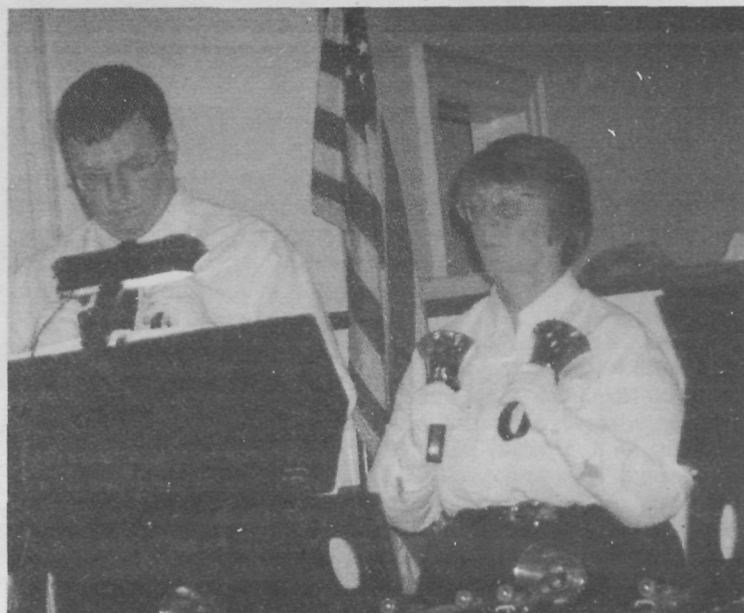
Choirs from four South Plainfield churches joined forces to present an ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Wesley United Methodist Church on November 20.

Featured were the choruses from Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and St. Stephens Lutheran Church which joined together with Wesley United Methodist Church. The choirs were led by music directors Ken Mahoney, Jack Bender, Tom Baker and Meili Chen. The Wesley Bell Ringers were led by Laura Livingston. The choir from Rescue House of Prayer sang a rousing anthem and were accompanied by piano and drums and directed by Music Director Kathy Davidson.

Prayers and readings were offered by Pastor Gordon Braun and Pastor Michele Lewkow from First Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Irene Campbell and Minister Wanda Roach from the Rescue House of Prayer and Rev. John Alvarado from Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Rev. Clark Olson-Smith from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church spoke of the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America combating world hunger, poverty and advocating for justice.

Sister Kathleen Rooney, the pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church, gave the sermon, "In All Circumstances Give Thanks," emphasizing the meaning of Thanksgiving—to give thanks for God's presence at all times in life, including times when challeng-



The Wesley Bell Ringers performed at Thanksgiving services.

ing experiences occur.

Before giving the closing prayer, Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Thompson from Wesley United Methodist Church asked for "more songs." The attendees responded with the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" and the Wesley Bell Ringers performed "We

Gather Together," while audience members hummed along.

Afterwards, St. Stephens retired pastor, Reverend Charles Mingle, spoke of how much he had enjoyed the program. "I liked being up there [part of the proceedings] and I like being here [seated in the pew]."

### Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

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Tues.-Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Mass

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### a "Pictures with Santa" Day

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Pictures are \$7.00 each.  
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Where: Plainfield Animal Hospital  
2215 Park Avenue  
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908 755-2428

When: Sunday, December 9, 2007  
2-4pm



We invite your business to join us at our monthly meeting every third Thursday at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner 222 Front Street.



## The South Plainfield Business Association

The South Plainfield Business Association was formed to actively promote the development of businesses located in the Borough of South Plainfield. We support our members by working toward better communication between the local business community and Borough agencies. Our aim is to work together to make South Plainfield a place not only to live in, but do business in.

### SPBA Member Directory

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Cornerstone Architectural Group  
LLC(908) 753-0202

#### Attorneys at Law

Walter K. Abrams, Esq.  
(908) 757-2700

Renato R. Biribin  
(908) 561-3764

Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., Esq.  
(908) 753-7200

Paul W. Grzenda  
(908) 769-8602

LANZA & LANZA  
(908) 753-6010

SANCHEZ, SANCHEZ & SANTOLIUQUIDO  
(908) 791-0142

PATHAK & SHAH, LLP  
(908) 769-7000

BRENDA VALLECILLA  
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#### Auto Body Repair

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD AUTO BODY  
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SKYLANDS COMMUNITY BANK  
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UNITY BANK  
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VALLEY NATIONAL BANK  
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### Membership Benefits Include:

- Networking events featuring keynote speakers
- Access to discounted services
- Local advertisement, exposure, and information sharing
- Business name listed on the municipal website and in the SPBA Directory
- Charitable Events
- Provide a forum to address local issues and/or concerns related to your business
- An opportunity to broaden your customer base
- Businesses are featured at monthly meetings

# SPBA

### SPBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business \_\_\_\_\_ (as it would be listed in the Yellow Pages)

To join the South Plainfield Business Association, fill out the application, enclose a check for \$75 and mail it to SPBA, Attn: Membership Committee, P.O. Box 852, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

**Save the Date** – Join us at a networking event, Jan. 30, 2008, at Commerce Bank. Details to follow.





An aerial view of the Dismal Swamp in relation to Helen Street.

## Helen Street Fate Undecided

**"At this point I have not gotten the consensus of the council on what the next steps will be. I hope to get that finalized at the next council meeting on December 4."**

—Mayor Charles Butrico

(Continued from page 1)

South Plainfield Business Association President Jack Pedersen feels that we need to "find a way to deliver a message to the state, that if they continue to fund them [the EWA], we're going to find a way to vote out

of office whoever it is that's authorizing their funding."

South Plainfield Police Lt. Kevin Murtagh, who also heads up the traffic safety department, feels that "we need to have the application [for permits] turned down before we could proceed with a lawsuit."

Other concerned residents felt that we should "take off the gloves" and fight for the project. One resident said that the project "was a dead deal and we're beating our heads against the wall," while another said we should "put up a little cash and hang in there as things may change."

Many residents from the New Market Avenue area, as well as a Dunellen resident who works in South Plainfield, complained about the truck traffic on the new truck route, but gained little sympathy from the mayor, who contends that

once the New Market Extension Project is completed, traffic on the route will ease.

Frank Mikorski asked Mayor Butrico, "Why did it take from May until now for residents to hear about the year-end deadline for the Helen Street Project?" Butrico responded, "I tried to escalate it amongst the agencies and the Federal government to try to reverse that decision. I've said in the past that the Helen Street Project is on very shaky ground and I've tried to do everything I could to get the agencies to give us an extension on the deadline."

When asked about Joann Graf forming an ad hoc committee to address the Helen Street issue, Butrico answered, "Any help would be appreciated."

Helen Street will be a topic of discussion at the next Borough Council meeting on Tuesday, December 4.

## Helen Street: A Timeline

At the November 12 special meeting, Mayor Charles Butrico provided a history of the Helen Street Extension Project, first proposed in 1981. "Truck traffic moving through the center of town was increasing and causing heightened concern among residents regarding safety, especially along local residential roads, such as Belmont Avenue." He added that the industrial-zoned area along Metuchen Road had vacant land available for potential development and that industrial growth could be a viable asset to the region.

He continued to say that the Borough had adopted a master plan on May 9, 2000 that discussed the implementation of an alternative truck route study to reduce truck traffic congestion on Hamilton Boulevard between New Market Avenue and Durham Avenue, and on Durham Avenue between Hamilton Boulevard and New Durham Road. The master plan also identified unsafe intersections within the project study area. Those intersections included: Durham Avenue at Helen Street; McKinley Street; Route 287 and Hadley Road; Hamilton Boulevard at Ryan Street; Montrose Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue and Oak Tree Avenue at Front Street and Metuchen Road. The plan recommended several alternatives to alleviate truck traffic along residential streets which led to the development of the Helen Street Extension Project.

What follows is a history of the activities conducted and documents prepared by DMJM Harris, the engineers for the project, and its sub-consultants for the Helen Street Extension Project.

• May 11, 1998—DMJM Harris hired to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA).

• September 1998—DMJM Harris releases Executive Summary Report, Existing Conditions Summary Report and Traffic Study Report.

• March 1999—Letter of Interpretation (LOI)-Line Verification and Wetland Delineation Report.

• April 1999—Cultural Resources Report and Hazardous Waste Screening Report.

• August 4, 1999—All wetlands within the study area (200+ acres) were delineated and an LOI was obtained from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) verifying the wetland boundaries and resource value classifications valid through August 4, 2004.

• December 1999—Alternatives Analysis Report. As part of the Alternatives Analysis, two Public Information Centers (PICs) were held to introduce the proposed project to the public and obtain their input. One was held on October 8, 1998 and the other on February 11, 1999.

The PICs were published in two newspapers, notices posted at borough hall and the library and hand-delivered to homeowners along and near Belmont Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard. Comments received at the PICs led to the development and selection of the Preferred Kentile Road Alternative K-4, which would connect Kentile to Harmich Road. Alternative H-3 was the preferred alternative for the Helen Street Extension based on the evaluation of all environmental impacts.

• March 2001—Examination of Regional Alternatives Report.

• June 2001—EA draft was reviewed and sent to NJDOT and FHWA.

• July 24, 2000—Pre-application meeting held with NJDEP.

(Continued from page 22)

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PROTESTING MOMS WANT TRUCKS BARRED

Baby carriages block S. Plainfield street

By ROBERT MISSECK

About 20 women and their children formed a human blockade yesterday morning across a South Plainfield street which they feel should be closed to the numerous tractor-trailers which use the road daily.

The women, using several baby carriages, blocked off Durham Avenue near Yungel Drive shortly before 7 a.m., causing a traffic jam on the road which is an access route to Route 287.

The group carried signs reading: "We like trucks, but not on our narrow roads" and "We tried trucks, but we don't like them" and "Bikes and trucks don't mix."

Although the demonstrators allowed cars and small van-type trucks to pass through the blockade, they refused to yield to nearly a dozen large tractor-trailers.

According to Mrs. Rose Pompa, organizer of the demonstration, the women's makeshift blockade forced

most of the trucks to make U-turns and head back toward Route 287.

Mrs. Pompa said the protest was in reaction to a refusal by the State Department of Transportation to declare Durham Avenue, which runs past the Shadyside housing development, a light traffic street.

The development consists of one-family homes, many of which have children who use Durham Avenue to go to schools, recreational activities or to stores.

"These huge trucks represent a serious safety hazard to our children," said Mrs. Pompa. "Many of these trucks

refuse to obey the residential speed limit of 25 miles per hour and come through here as fast as 50 miles per hour."

According to Mrs. Pompa, most of the trucks use Durham Avenue to get onto Route 287, or to get to an industrial plaza adjacent to the housing development.

She said residents also view the trucks as a source of noise and air pollution. Mrs. Pompa said a neighbor who found his pet dog dead on his lawn recently had an autopsy performed which showed the dog died of "carbon monoxide poisoning."

"We certainly don't want

what happened to that poor dog happening to us or our children," she added.

Yesterday's demonstration resulted in no confrontations with any of the truck drivers, Mrs. Pompa said. "Only one driver gave us any trouble. He got out of his truck and sat in front of a school bus saying, 'If you won't let my truck through then I won't let your school bus pass.'"

Police, who were on the

scene shortly after the demonstration began, escorted the irate driver back to his truck.

The demonstration broke up about 10:30 a.m. when police arranged a meeting between the women and Lt. Albert J. Dellavalle, borough traffic safety director.

Dellavalle told the group a traffic survey conducted 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 27 showed that a total of 245 tractor-trailers used the road.

Mrs. Pompa said South Plainfield officials apparently agree with the state that this kind of truck traffic did not warrant making Durham Avenue a light traffic street.

She said the group planned to meet last night with city officials to discuss the situation, and added that if "something concrete is not done," the women will be back out on the street with their signs today.



More than a dozen mothers with baby carriages demonstrated yesterday morning in the Yungel area of Durham Avenue, blocking the use of that portion of the road by heavy trucks. The women barred 15 trucks, some

Heed moms' protest

By TEK TALMONT

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD**—Police Lt. Albert Dellavalle, traffic safety coordinator, has been instructed to seek another state survey in an effort to declare a portion of Durham Avenue a light traffic street.

The decision was made after a conference last night between several councilmen and a delegation from the Shady Side development, between New Durham Road and Hadley Road.

More than a dozen mothers demonstrated yesterday morning in the area of Yungel Drive in protest of use of that stretch of Durham Avenue by heavy trucks. They want a four-ton limit imposed but the state Department of Transportation has refused. The demonstrators halted 15 trucks, some for as much as two hours.

Police diverted traffic from entering Durham Avenue in the area of the demonstration, and St. Andrew's, a spokesman for the residents, pointed out, there was no

problem or congestion resulting from the trucks using alternate routes.

He said the residents were more than satisfied with the results of last night's conference, but threatened to repeat the demonstration if some signs of action were not forthcoming within a week's time.

Stazzone pointed out that state officials apparently are not aware a Supermarkets General warehouse is about to open in the area, which would dump a potential 300 trucks a day on the street.

The women were concerned about the safety of children rather than waiting for school buses or riding bikes.

One of the truck drivers caught in the trap became so angered he lay in the road for 10 minutes when a school bus tried to pass.

Stazzone said this was unfair because the demonstrators "were moving but he just lay there."

The demonstration ended

when Dellavalle began meeting with the residents at about 9:30 a.m., two hours after it had begun.

Stazzone praised Dellavalle for his efforts after the Borough Council was asked in April to do something about the situation. The negative reply from Trenton arrived this week. Apparently, no action was taken two years ago when a similar request was presented by the residents.

Except for the school bus incident, it was an almost friendly demonstration. The women offered coffee to the frustrated truck drivers, with the only reported refusal coming from the unidentified driver who halted the school bus.

Council President Charles Haus pointed out that "Trenton has the file" on the problem, and that a meeting should be arranged in a week's time and another survey would take no longer than a week.

A Balancing Act: Economy Versus Safety

Protests and Propoganda: Borough Truck Traffic an Issue for Decades

By Jean Fultz

Thirty-four years ago a small group of concerned mothers from the Shady Side development off New Durham Avenue banded together to protest truck traffic after the State DOT refused to declare Durham Avenue a light traffic street. Two children had been hit by trucks while riding their bicycles in the area, prompting the women to bring their concerns to the town council.

A meeting was held at Borough Hall the evening prior, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1973. The following morning

around 7 a.m. more than a dozen women and children took to the streets, blocking truck traffic and carrying signs that read: "We like trucks, but not on our narrow roads" and "Bikes and Trucks Don't Mix."

At that time Rickel's warehouse was located on Helen Street and approximately 245 trucks a day used Durham Avenue to get to Route 287, ignoring the 25-mph speed limit and traveling up to 50-mph or more. The protesters were also concerned about the Supermarkets General warehouse about to open on Talmadge Road in

Edison, potentially adding another 300 trucks a day to Durham Avenue. The demonstration ended after two hours when police held a special meeting with the protesters at borough hall, promising to arrange a meeting with Trenton to request another traffic survey.

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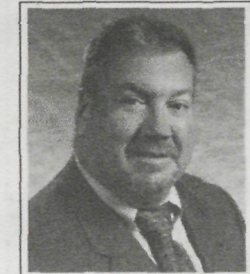


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## TBSA Announces 2007 Holiday Programs And Free Basketball Clinic

TBSA Sports Academy has exciting programs throughout the year. TBSA is the base of operations for The Basketball Shooting Academy, which is renowned throughout the United States as a premier teaching facility. Players are taught by a staff of professional shooting coaches including Mike Allocco, former three-time All-American Collegiate and professional basketball player and coaches Rich Fonti, Al Czech, John Wojcik, Bill Gilmartin and Chris Tee. All follow the method of shooting development that Allocco has learned and developed over his 40+ years of playing and coaching.

That is not the only thing that goes on in this 41,000-square-foot athletic facility. On just about any day you will find someone playing soccer or baseball or lacrosse on one of the two turf fields that measure 48 ft. by 140 ft. or you may find girls and boys hitting a baseball or softball in one of the seven batting cages available all day. TBSA is the home of the former NY Yankee, Steve Balboni. Baseball school week-end instruction can be set up by calling Balboni at (201) 650-4486. If you are looking for everyday instruction, One Six Sports offers daily baseball instruction and is owned and operated

by 10-year minor league professional pitcher and Edison resident, Matt Smith. He has a staff of local athletes and they work with many of the local players in hitting, fielding and, of course, pitching from South Plainfield, Edison, Woodbridge, Piscataway and Clark. If you are an aspiring catcher then you need to look no further than Brian Weingart. Brian, the owner of Power Alley Baseball, is a former collegiate and professional catcher who uses TBSA as his base of operations can be reached at (908) 403-8455 for expert catching lessons.

Our Fantastic Fridays program has been a Friday night staple for children throughout the area. For just \$10 on a Friday night, children come to the academy to play various sports and recreational games and listen to music. This is adult supervised. Parents are asked to accompany and stay with children under 10 who may need a bit more supervision.

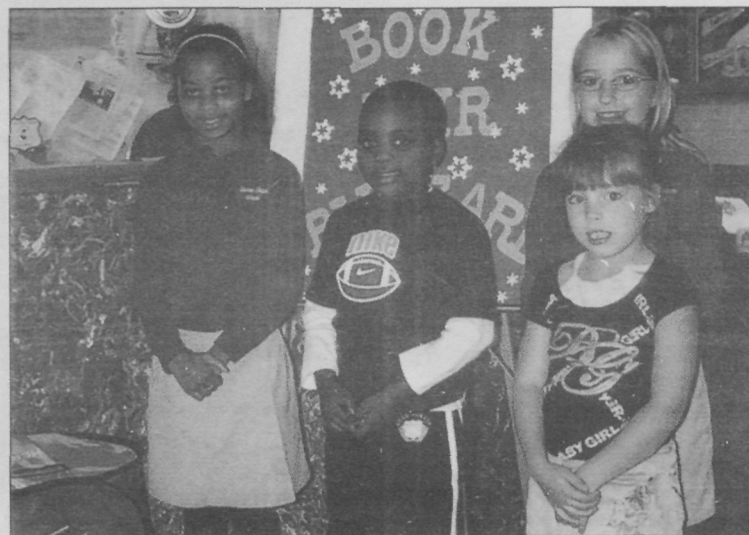
Our free basketball clinic called Sunday Basketball Skillz for children ages 5-9 will be held on December 2 and 9 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Children are taught basketball basics on lower baskets using smaller basketballs so they do not struggle with the larger basketballs and higher hoops. In order to

learn basketball it is important that children learn to play using age appropriate basketballs and baskets.

During the Christmas holiday break, TBSA will host a variety of camps in all sports. There will be a basketball shooting clinic from 12 to 1:30 p.m., a baseball catching clinic from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and a hitting and fielding clinic from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26, 27 and 28. Clinics are \$25 per individual daily clinic. The staff requests that people sign up in advance. Visit our Web site at [www.tbsanj.com](http://www.tbsanj.com) or call the academy at (732) 650-1224 for more information.

For working parents, on December 26-28, TBSA will offer its usual \$50 per day "Days Off From School" program. Children ages 6-13 (children under age six are not eligible) may be dropped off at the academy and our staff will watch them and keep them occupied with sports and recreation. This is an 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. program. Children must be picked up before 6 p.m. Lunch (pizza) is available. As a bonus, children are welcome to attend any of the clinics that we offer during the day.

For information, call us at (732) 650-1224 or visit [www.tbsanj.com](http://www.tbsanj.com).



Sacred Heart student winners (L-R) Kayla Whitaker, Henri Brignol, Carly Petela and Melissa Pokorny.

## Sacred Heart Book Fair Blizzard a Great Success!

The Annual Sacred Heart Book Fair Blizzard was held during the week of October 14. One of the main goals of this year's book fair was to put more books in the hands of students, as well as on the shelves of the classroom libraries. It was a great success, earning a profit of \$2,800.

Students and their families were asked to help obtain more books for the school shelves by donating \$1 to the "One for Books Program." The families were generous and raised \$158 for the school, which will be matched by Scholastic Book Services and distributed through book donations to three non-profit organizations: Toys for Tots, Kids in Distressed Situations Inc. and National Center for Family Literacy.

The Book Fair Blizzard is an event which students and teachers look forward to, not only to purchase the latest new books, but also for a chance to win gift certificates during the Sunday Family Event and teacher preview.

This year's student winners were: Kayla Whitaker (4-A), Henri Brignol (K), Carly Petela (K) and Melissa Pokorny (4-A), who each won a \$5 gift certificate. This year's teacher winners were: Mrs. Hohner, Mrs. DeGregorio and Mrs. Semon, who each won a \$10 gift certificate to be used at the book fair. Leah Hansford (7A) won the Candy Jar Guessing game contest and took home the jar full of candy.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and to everyone who supported this year's Book Fair Blizzard!

## County's Ice Skating Rink Opens for Fifth Season

Middlesex County's Roosevelt Park Family Ice Skating Rink opened for its fifth season on November 21.

"The Family Ice Rink has become one of our most popular venues, welcoming more than 18,000 skaters last season alone," said Middlesex County

Deputy Freeholder Director Stephen "Pete" J. Dalina.

The rink is located at the Level Playing Fields Complex inside the county's Roosevelt Park, which is adjacent to Menlo Park Mall in Edison.

Accredited group and private lessons are available. The rink is available for birthday parties and private events. Call (732) 494-2980 for information and reservations.

Hours are 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays, noon to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and holidays and noon to 3 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

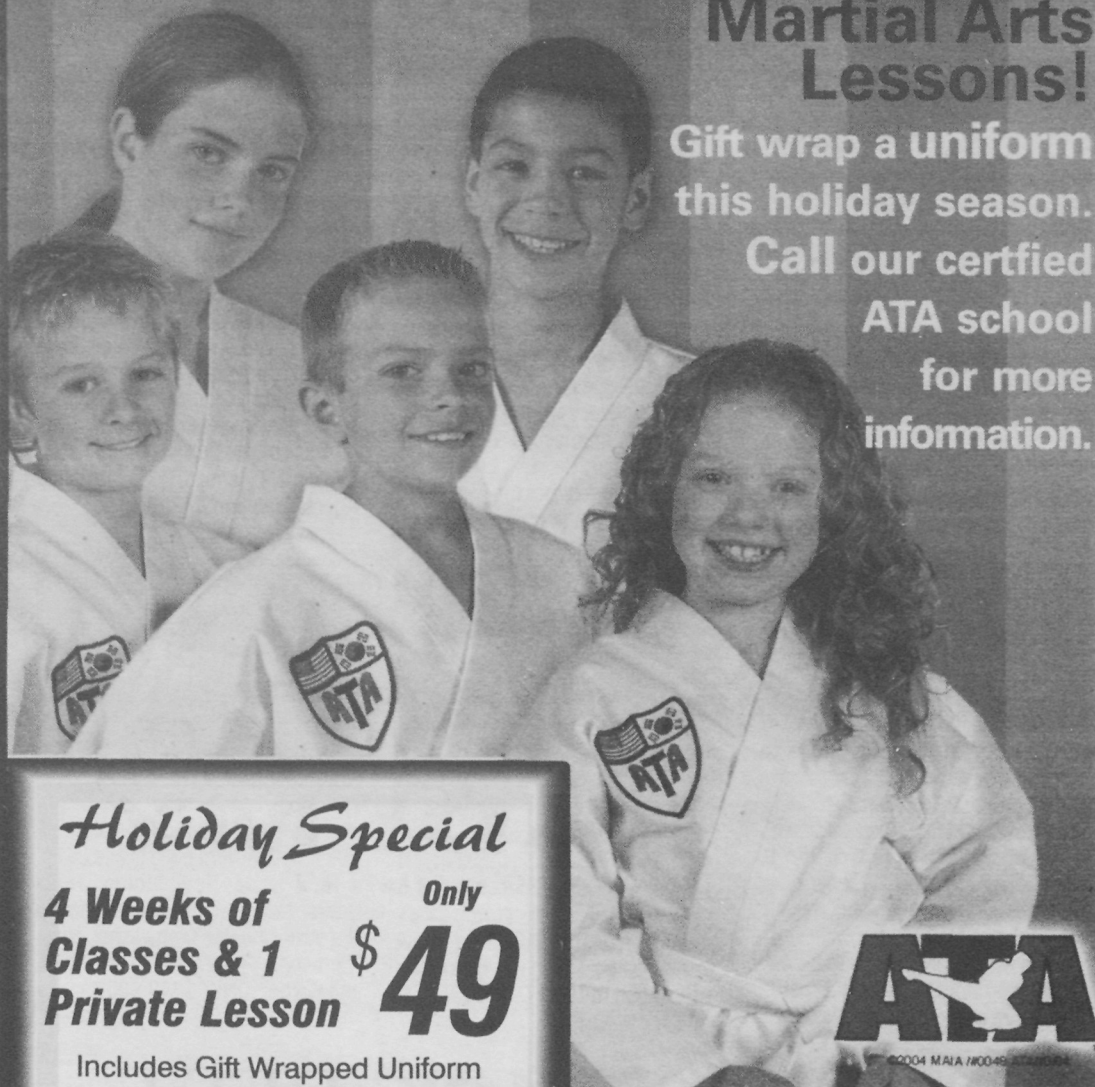
The rink is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Christmas Day.

For more information, call (732) 494-3785 or visit [www.co.middlesex](http://www.co.middlesex).

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# Sports

## SOCCER

### Magic Girls U-13 Season Undefeated

Magic, the girls U-13 traveling soccer team, had an excellent weekend October 17 and 18. They defeated Woodbridge by a score of 2-0 on October 17, dominated their opponent the entire game. Captains were Danielle Butrico, Emily Skula and Marris Smith.

Alexa Douras and Emily Skula scored one goal each. Both players had an excellent game.

The offensive and defensive players displayed a lot of team effort. They played an incredible game. Players were Marris Smith, Alexa Douras, Carlee Gonzalez, Danielle Butrico, Marie Lanza, Jessica Bishop, Annie Pezzolla, Kim Walsh, Kaitlin McHugh, Allison Ratti, Emily Skula and Jackie Dvorak in goal. Jackie made some nice saves.

On October 18, Magic played the East Brunswick Shockers at Heavenly Farms in East Brunswick. Despite the cold weather, the girls managed to win their last game by a score of 4-0. Their

final record is 8-0-2. Captains were Jessica Bishop, Taylor Crews and Kim Walsh. Emily Skula scored two goals. Alexa Douras and Jessica Bishop scored one goal each. They both played an excellent game.

The offensive and defensive players were Jackie Dvorak, Jessica Bishop, Danielle Butrico, Allison Ratti, Kim Walsh, Taylor Crews, Marris Smith, Emily Skula, Alexa Douras, Brooke Penik, Annie Pezzolla, Kaitlin McHugh, and Marie Lanza. Jackie Dvorak and Annie Pezzolla at goal. They all played very well together.

Everyone is very proud of their ac-

complishments. They really pulled together and worked as a team making this season very successful. Magic has improved and will be moving to the next division.

Coaches Smith, Bishop and Pezzolla would like to take this opportunity, to thank Magic's parents for all their support and cooperation which helped make this season very enjoyable. We also would like to give a special thanks to Diane Gazzara for doing such a great job managing our team. We appreciate all your dedication.

*Submitted by Margaret Pezzolla*

### Arsenals Last Game of Season Ends in a Tie

The boys U-9 traveling soccer team played their final game of the fall 2007 season on November 18. It was a cold and rainy afternoon, but Arsenal was determined to play the undefeated Scotch Plains Vikings.

The boys played hard and strong the entire game despite the treacherous weather conditions they were up against. The only goals Arsenal gave up were penalty kicks given to the opposition based on errors made by Arsenal. Without those two shots, the Vikings would have lost instead of tied.

The final score was 2-2, with both

goals scored by Jake Hoffman. The coaches, who include Rich Paez, Greg Hoffman and Dave Cieszkiewicz, would like to congratulate the team on a great season. In their hearts, Arsenal won the game, because the players displayed tremendous teamwork and determination.

The team includes Tyler Curtis, Jared Marks, Nicholas Plate, Jake Giordano, Jose Arrubla, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Jake Hoffman, Nicholas Pezzolla, Alec Paez, Ricky Pellegrino, Jason Cieszkiewicz and Jake Smith.

Good luck next season. Go Arsenal!

*Submitted by Chris Paez*

### Bullets Win Their Fight

Even though the U-14 Bullets traveling soccer team never played their last game of the season due to a forfeit by their opponent, they ended the season in first place. This was all a result of their hard work and tremendous teamwork throughout the entire fall season.

The Bullets' record for the season was eight wins and one loss. They scored a total of 39 goals, with only eight goals scored against them. That is phenomenal!

The coaches, who include Rich Paez, Pat Flanagan and Ken Noll, would like to thank the entire Bullets team for a job well done. They couldn't be more proud of them and look forward to another great season in the spring.

The 2007 fall team consisted of Shaun Alers, Kevin Flanagan, Zach Noll, Joseph Krawiec, Ryan Marcoux, Marc Paez, Edgar Callejas, Alex Valladares, David Forero, Ryan Riccardi, Jimmy Gerber, Tony Franczak, Anthony Quadrel and Jelani Ptaah.

Congratulations again and good luck next season!

*Submitted by Chris Paez*

### Ponytail Softball Batters Box



First of all, we would like to wish everyone happy and healthy holidays! Enjoy the time off with your family and friends. Hope you all had a wonderful 2007 and are looking forward to 2008.

Usually, the Parents' Ponytail Association meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. That may change in the near future. The November meeting, has changed from Tuesday, Nov. 27 to Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. It will continue to be held at the PAL building located on Maple Avenue. We continue to encourage new members and fresh ideas.

We hope to see you all there! Remember to visit our Web site at [www.spponytail.com](http://www.spponytail.com).



### ATA Students Earn Second Degree Black Belts

Congratulations to the following students who earned their second degree black belt recently at the ATA Black Belt Academy of South Plainfield (left to right) Roweena Kanj, Kevin Ruoff and Justin Bannon.

The following students earned their first degree black belts: Matthew Celantano, CJ Granados, Alysa Esposito, Jamie Bohn, Ryan Porter, Justin Rodriguez, Mark Ruoff and Anthony Granados.

These students have demonstrated hard work and dedication to martial arts training over the past three to six years and have demonstrated both the physical skills, mental discipline and life skills to achieve these honorable and elite awards. The students had tremendous support from their parents and ATA instructors, including Master Tom Guerin, Tony Onorato and Greg Seidel.

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SPHS Music Boosters

# MUSIC NOTES



The marching band competition season is now over. The competition finals were held in Allentown, Pa. and after a fairly warm season, we all bundled up in multiple layers to keep warm. I don't know who was more nervous—the students or the parents. The students looked fantastic, as always in their dress whites. The cold air aided in a crisp sound. The acoustics in the stadium were great. While we came in sixth overall with a score of 84.7, our color guard came in second place with a score of 19. Congratulations to the guard, who also beat percussion by about two points; percussion came in fourth place with a score of 17.

We will not have a separate choral and instrumental holiday concert this year. Instead, there will be a combined holiday concert with the entire music department on Wednesday, Dec. 19. More details to follow, but mark your calendars now. This will be an exciting night, filled with the sounds of the season.

Popcorn! Get your popcorn here! The students in chorus, orchestra, marching band and color guard are selling popcorn for the holidays. Multiple gourmet flavors are being offered, in snack sizes to gallon tins. Prices are \$5 and up. Money raised goes into the individual student's account. This fundraiser is only being offered until December 5. All orders and money must be turned in no later than our December 5 meeting in order to have the yummy popcorn delivered in time for the holidays, so see a music student soon to place your order.

Want to get your Christmas shopping done early? Do you like to shop online? Your purchases can help support our music students. Log onto [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) and click "Join." Choose "South Plainfield High School Music Boosters" to receive credit for your purchases. This is a secure Web site. The more you shop with Schoolpop the more you earn for our music students.

Do you hate to shop online? We are working together with Five Below in South Plainfield for a week-long event. From December 10-16 from 3 to 9 p.m. If you shop at Five Below, a portion of each sale will be donated back to the music boosters. You must show a promotional flyer for your sale to count. Flyers will be distributed soon. Five Below offers a wide variety of merchandise, including seasonal and novelty items, gag gifts, stocking stuffers, etc.

The citrus fruit fundraiser is now over. Thanks to all who participated. The fruit will be delivered on or about December 15. You will be informed when to pickup as the date closes in.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Instead of a formal meeting, join us for a potluck supper, just bring a food to sample. We will also be collecting for a local food pantry. Bring a canned or non-perishable food item.

Now that marching band season is over, we'll bring you news from the winter guard, jazz band, the choral ensembles and more.

—Submitted by Pamela Hussey

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Kristen Gualano

### Gualano Inducted Into NSCS at Seton Hall

Kristen Gualano, a sophomore at Seton Hall University, was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Seton University Chapter on October 25. The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is the nation's premiere organization for high achieving students. Founded in 1994 at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., the NSCS is the only honor society to recognize outstanding academic achievement among first and second year college students. Membership is by invitation only and is offered to those freshmen and sophomore students who carry a 3.4 grade point average or higher and rank in the top five percent of their graduating class.

With active chapters at more than 220 colleges and universities across the country, the NSCS has as its goal to honor, inspire and engage. Chapters are involved in service to their individual campuses and communities, as well as in scholastic and social activities.

Miss Gualano is currently a psychology major at the university. She is the daughter of Diane and Gregory Kuhn of South Plainfield.

### Jennifer Kathleen Renner and Raymond John Del Nero Wed

Jennifer Kathleen Renner and Raymond John Del Nero were married on July 21 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Skillman.

The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Kathy Renner of Skillman and the groom is the son of Raymond and Janet Del Nero of South Plainfield. The maid of honor was the bride's sister, Kathleen Renner of South Plainfield. The bridesmaids were Jennifer Del Nero, Catherine Lee, Maureen Cniewski, Kelliann Richardson and Lauralee Richardson. Olivia Richardson was the flower girl.

Best man was the groom's father, Raymond Del Nero. The groomsmen were Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mohamed Shiliwala, Christopher Sy-Santos,

### Hartman Completes Basic Training

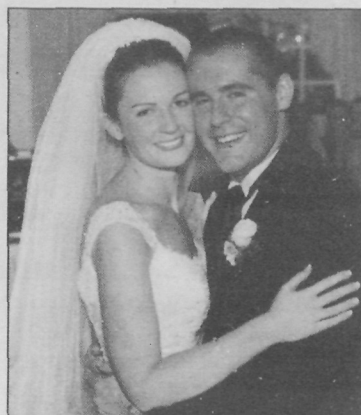
AB Amber M. Hartman has completed basic military training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. Hartman will train to become an aerial boom operator at various bases.

A 2007 graduate of South Plainfield High School, she entered basic military training in the U.S. Airforce in August of 2007.

Hartman is the daughter of very proud parents Kenneth and Deborah Chabok of South Plainfield.



Amber Hartman



Jennifer and Raymond Del Nero

Steve Ambicelli and Stan Yuen. Charles Richardson was the ring bearer.

The bride is a 1999 graduate of Montgomery High School. She graduated magna cum laude from The College of New Jersey in 2003 with a degree in English education. She graduated from Rutgers University in Camden in 2007 summa cum laude with a master of English degree and a thesis with distinction. She currently teaches sixth grade in Green Brook.

The groom is a 1999 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Metuchen. He also graduated from The College of New Jersey in May 2003 with a degree in finance. In 2005 he received his license as a certified public accountant and is currently pursuing his MBA at N.Y.U. He works as a team leader at Goldman Sachs in Princeton.

The couple honeymooned in Bermuda and reside in Belle Mead.

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# IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

field's open space paved over and gift-wrapped for politically connected developers like Jack Morris to build more condos.

**SINCERELY,  
BOB SPIEGEL, EXEC. DIRECTOR,  
EDISON WETLANDS ASSOCIATION**

## To the Editor:

While reading the November 16 edition of the *Observer*, I noted a small article that was entitled "A Great Idea!!!" It suggests sending a Christmas card to: A Recovering Soldier c/o Walter Reed Hospital. While the intention is good, the cards will not be delivered unless they are addressed to a specific patient at the hospital. Check out the attached link for the facts on this at [www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/s/support-the-troops.htm](http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/s/support-the-troops.htm). I know this is true firsthand since I tried to send a card last year and it was returned as undeliverable. There is a suggestion from Walter Reed given on the Web site [www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil) to make a donation to a fund that benefits the troops in various ways. While it is a great idea to help and think of our troops during the holidays to let them know we stand behind their efforts to make our world safe and protect our freedom, I just don't want folks wasting their effort and money during this busy time of year for something that isn't fruitful.

**SINCERELY,  
WAYNE DIETERLE**

## To the Editor:

For those not familiar with the South Plainfield Helen Street Project, here is some history. In the late 1960's the borough realized that extending Helen Street to Metuchen Road would give trucks a much shorter route to the industrial area around Hall's Trucking and to Park Avenue via Oak Tree Avenue. Whereas this is where the majority of trucks were traveling, this extension would create a much shorter route and eliminate the need to travel through residential neighborhoods. Less truck emissions, improved safety and quality of life for the residents of South Plainfield would be guaranteed by this improvement

and no one can honestly debate that. Robert Spiegel, executive director of Edison Wetlands, opposes the project. He says it would harm the Dismal Swamp and would not lessen the load on the borough's streets. He says we have to be honest and say this is a bad plan. Spiegel is the one who is not being honest.

Per their Web site, the Edison Wetlands Association (EWA) is a grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment through conservation and the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. The site goes on to discuss issues such as open space preservation and the hazardous waste contamination. The current truck route travels up Durham Avenue onto Hamilton Boulevard, and then makes a left onto St. Nicholas Avenue, a right onto South Clinton Avenue, a right onto New Market Avenue, a right back onto Hamilton, a left onto Spicer Avenue, a left onto Belmont Avenue before hitting Metuchen Road. The proposed route would be, ready for this, a quick right on Helen Street and a left onto Metuchen Road. Fractions of the time, distance, emissions, turns and accidents and at no time does it touch residential neighborhoods.

This project would have no significant impact on the 275 acre Dismal Swamp [in South Plainfield]. It would be a raised road on less than one acre, about one third of one percent of the area. We would also be restoring a much larger area to pristine wetlands. We have offered to preserve and restore much more than is typically required for this type of project and Spiegel will not bend an inch. He has drawn a circle around this Dismal Swamp and refuses to listen to reason.

I think it is obvious Spiegel has lost sight of EWA's mission of protecting human health and the environment. His indifference to the safety and quality of life of the men, women and chil-

dren of our borough proves he is no longer deserving of the unquestioned support he enjoys from them and many other environmental groups throughout the state. He is abusing his influence by rallying supporters with his untrue statements to the press. They follow him blindly. No one who looks at this project with an open mind can honestly deny its overall benefits and minute impact. It's time for Spiegel to be honest. The worst part is he gets much of his money from state grants. Our tax dollars are funding this lunacy!

It is also time for the DEP to be honest. They have misled the public by implying South Plainfield has not filed the necessary permits. We can move no further without their "reasonable assurance" and they have refused to deliver it. They have, out of fear of Spiegel's influence and threatened lawsuit, abandoned this project. They have hidden from their responsibility to the taxpayers of South Plainfield and the surrounding communities. We need this road. We will have this road!

Robert Spiegel is the enemy and we must treat him as such. We must expose him for what he is to the environmentalists and the politicians over whom he has such great influence. We must let our lawmakers know we do not want our tax dollars supporting his deceptions and stall tactics and we must find a way to deliver more votes than he can and break his strangle hold over our DEP and the politicians of this state. I suggest we form a true grassroots organization for the people. We might call it "Citizens Against Stupidity!"

**JACK PEDERSEN,  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

## To the Editor:

I attended the special town council meeting on Monday in reference to the Helen Street Project—the federally

funded project that would extend Helen Street into Metuchen Road. This project has been in front of our town council for 10 years. It's funny now that time is running out on the grant, this special meeting is called to decide on what terms of action should be taken.

In my opinion, this project is vital to South Plainfield's future. It is probable the most important project South Plainfield as a town has faced. I have lived in South Plainfield my entire life. I have seen a lot of good things happen in this town and some not so good. I work in the construction field and have traveled the state. South Plainfield isn't the only town that has experienced growth, and along with it, traffic problems.

The town has recently done a lot of road work which is beneficial to everyone; you need to do this for the safety and appearance of the town. Our town has a unique problem which is we have big industry and with that comes trucks—lots of them; and they are here to stay.

It would be wrong to blame Mayor Butrico for everything that has or has not happened with this project in the last 10 years; he hasn't been mayor

long enough. At this special and very important meeting we were missing two important players: former Mayor Dan Gallagher and our Assemblyman, Pat Diegnan. I would have liked to have known what their views on this very important project are and what they were doing with this for the last eight years. Maybe if this project was pursued before the elections we would have had more leverage or at least know who we could rely on.

In my opinion, I don't feel we fought a good fight for this project. I feel it's time we do fight instead of rolling over. I feel the Edison Wetlands Association is out for its own benefit. They don't care about what is good for the people of South Plainfield. They hide behind the wetlands association because it's the only way to stop developing on their side of town. I do believe in preservation of the wetlands. I do believe the Helen Street Project would not affect the wetlands but improve it; right now, it's a dumping ground. By building the road we will be forced to clean up the area we are building over. I would think this would take most of the truck traffic off our roads and would also relieve

(Continued on page 20)

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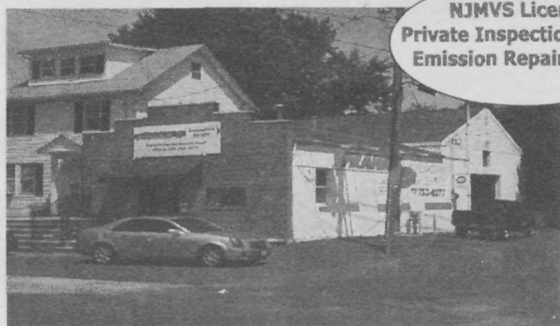
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## Obituaries

### Edward C. Mead, 77

Edward C. Mead passed away on Sunday, Nov. 18 at Meadowlands Hospital in East Rutherford.

Mr. Mead was born in Newark and resided in South Plainfield most of his life.

Edward was a graduate of St. Benedict's Prep School in Newark and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Mr. Mead served in the United States Army.

Edward is the founder, owner and operator of his family run business known as Execu-Jet Limousine Service, Inc. of South Plainfield. In addition he was employed by Schering Plough in Kenilworth for 27 years before he started his family business. Mr. Mead was a troop leader for the Cub and Boy Scouts in South Plainfield.

Edward was predeceased by a son, Garry Thomas Mead.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Edward S. and wife Patricia C. of Warren Twp. and Thomas P. of South Plainfield; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Deborah Mead of South Plainfield, Eileen T. and husband Timothy Lovett of South Plainfield and Diane M. and husband Robert Neuhaus of Whitehouse; a brother, Kenneth Mead of Connecticut and a granddaughter, Olivia E. Neuhaus.

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

### Angela L. Perun, 87



Angela L. Perun

Angela L. Perun, a long-time Plainfield activist, died peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 18 at her home.

A full history reflecting her life's accomplishments and activities will appear in a future edition.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service celebrating her life on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, 724 Park Ave. in Plainfield at 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow the services.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Popcorn Park Zoo Animal Park & Sanctuary, P.O. Box 43, Forked River, N.J. 08731.

### Frank "Duke" DeCarlo, 90

Frank "Duke" DeCarlo died on Sunday, Nov. 18 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Bernardsville, he was a resident of South Plainfield for 81 years.

Duke was employed as the house manager for the Plainfield Country Club in Plainfield for 47 years before recently retiring. He was also an avid golfer.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Duke served during WWII with the 86th Division Artillery during the European and Pacific Theaters. He had also been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 of South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by two brothers,

Michael and John and three sisters, Antoinette Vastano, Helen DeRose and Mary DeCarlo.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Mary (Lapinsky) DeCarlo; a daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Charles Greenstein of Metuchen; a son, Anthony F. DeCarlo of South Plainfield; a sister, Ann Ludington and a brother, Joseph DeCarlo of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are five grandchildren, Dana Campbell, Ashley Greenstein, Charles Greenstein, Jr., Alissa DeCarlo and Heather Kim and four great grandchildren.

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

### George "Scotty" W. Bouton, 79

George "Scotty" W. Bouton died on Monday, Nov. 12 at Care One in East Brunswick.

Born in Paterson, he resided in Paterson and the Central Jersey area before settling in East Brunswick 25 years ago.

Employed for 35 years for Eskin Vending Co. in East Brunswick as a mechanic, Scotty later worked as a lighting technician for A & K Energy in Edison before retiring recently.

Scotty enjoyed making friends everywhere he went including his many trips to his favorite weekend destination, Atlantic City, and also enjoyed the New York Giants football team, as well as NASCAR auto racing.

He is survived by his wife, Julia; six children, Caroline Hill, Patricia Dudley, Joseph Hill, Robert Pelley, George Pelley and Kim Richards; a sister, Julia Winkler; a niece, Judy Winkler and a nephew, Russ Winkler.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren, Kevin, Robert, James, Michael, John, Alexis and Maria.

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

### William M. Saley, 83



William M. Saley

William M. Saley died on Saturday, Nov. 24 at Robert Wood University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Pottsville, Pa., William lived in

Piscataway before settling in Edison many years ago.

Bill and his wife Helen (Konopka) were world travelers and over a period of 30 years they visited over 100 countries.

A member of the American Legion Post #65 in Metuchen, Bill served with the U.S. Army during WWII.

For six years Bill served on the Edison Planning Board and also served as chairman of the Feasibility Committee for J.E.K. Hospital.

Mr. Saley was employed by the Motor Vehicle Commission for 31 years, retiring as assistant director. After his retirement, Bill worked for the State Department in Washington D.C. for 16 months and for seven years he taught a computer science night course program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

He was predeceased by his parents, Michael and Eva Saley and by an infant daughter.

In addition to his wife of 60 years, he is survived by a sister, Sophie Kowalchuk; a nephew, Michael Kowalchuk; two nieces, Susan DiNardo of Florida and Karen Pack of Arizona, friends of long standing, Bill and Ginny Jackson and Steve Yelencics and family; a brother-in-law, Dominick DiNardo of South Plainfield and a sister-in-law, Estelle Szaro of Florida. He also leaves behind his two cats, Spooky

and Pinky.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Animal Care Fund, Box A, East Smithfield, Pa., 18817.

### Dr. Bong Hak Hyun, 85

Dr. Bong Hak Hyun died on Sunday, Nov. 25 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.



Born on June 23, 1922 in Seongjin, Hamkyeong Namdo, N. Korea, Dr. Hyun graduated from Yonsei University Medical School and received his D. Sc. from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine.

He had practiced and taught medicine at Rutgers University, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Thomas Jefferson Medical School and Ajou University in ROK.

During the Korean War, Dr. Hyun served as civil affairs advisor to Gen. Edward M. Almond, commanding general of the X Corps, U.S. Army. He conceived of the civilian evacuation in Hamhung, North Korea. Together with Col. Edward Forney and General Ned Almond, they planned a rescue mission, which ultimately saved the lives of 100,000 refugees.

In 1999, the Korean Broadcasting Service produced a documentary entitled "Korean Shindler, Dr. Hyun and the Hungnam Evacuation." He is also featured in the Military Channel's program "Going Back, Korea" as well as "Arirang, Part II, The Korean American Dream," by Tom Coffman for PBS.

Dr. Hyun was an active participant with the Korean American Medical

(Continued on next page)

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## Obituaries

(Continued from previous page)

Association; American Society of Clinical Pathologists; NJ Society of Pathologists; International Society of Hematology; American College of International Physicians; American Board of Pathology; College of American Pathologists; American Journal of Clinical Pathologists; American Medical Association; Yonsei Medical Journal; Korean-American Pathologists Association; First International Congress of Korean Physicians in Yanji, China; First Conference of the Asian Bone Marrow Study Group in Fukuoka, Japan; Korean Society of Clinical Pathology; United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia; Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation and Medical Center; Harvard-Yenching Institute; KASCON; Committee for Korean SAT II; Korean Sharing Movement and International Conference on Medical and Public Health Assistance Programs for North Korea.

He has published dozens of articles in Korean language newspapers and journals; six books, 106 articles and more than 60 abstracts and editorials in the field of Hematology/Hematopathology.

Dr. Hyun established the Dong-Ho (Prof. Yun, Il-Sun) Memorial Pathol-

ogy Award at Yonsei University Medical School and has received numerous awards and citations from organizations including the American Society of Clinical Pathologists; Yonsei University Medical School; Korean Medical Association; Seoul Metropolitan Government; Hungnam Women's Association; Michigan-Korean American Community Services, etc.

In 1988, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, an affiliate of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical Laboratories, named its pathology department the Dr. Bong Hak Hyun Clinical Laboratories.

Dr. Hyun is survived by his wife, Sun Sook and four children, Marian, Esther, Helen and Philip, along with five grandchildren, Josh, Ali, Kyle, Tyler and Sun-hwa.

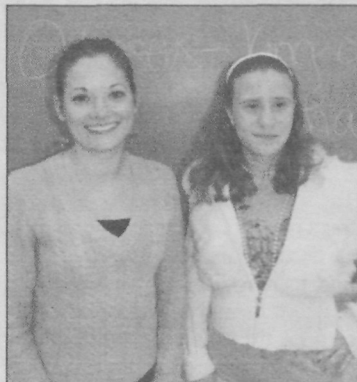
Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Memorial services in Philadelphia and N.Y.C. will be scheduled at a later date. For information, contact Esther Hyun at ehyun@mindspring.com re: Dr. Bong Hak Hyun.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dr. Hyun's memory to the Muhlenberg Foundation, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield, N.J. 07061; telephone (908) 668-2025.

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST

### Kaitlyn Graziano Named a Winner!



(L-R) SPHS Freshman Kaitlyn Graziano with teacher Jessica Marconi.

Kaitlyn Graziano, South Plainfield High School freshman, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros and South Plainfield Observer-sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with her story, "My Heroes."

Kaitlyn will be the recipient of a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros. She will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, she will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children

in South Plainfield, The Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students should submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers, who

will submit them to the Observer.

If you have any questions, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

### My Heroes

By Kaitlyn Graziano

Great heroes to me are the soldiers fighting in the war, the people living on the streets, cold, hungry, & poor, people sick, dying of cancer, so very ill & sore, the people I live every moment of my life for. U don't have to be exactly heroic to be a hero in my book, u just have to have, a warm loving heart, & with life a great outlook. My best friends are my heroes every single day, for the amazing things that they have done, & all the great things they have to say. My grandpa is my hero for he was very wise, & smiles he would always send, he would smile as much as he possible could until the very end. People & animals that have been abused, people who have lost others, & all the other things that they will lose. People with a broken heart, people raised wrong right from the start. People who must work at a job they really hate, people who do so much, & yet others don't appreciate. People who want to commit suicide, a path that is a terrible way, but stay alive one extra, & one extra day. People who dare to be different, unique like me, people who are blind, for the world they'll never get to see. Anyone that wants to pass on a smile, anyone who will be kind to somebody for a while. Any guy that's ever been nice to me, all the explorers that sailed from sea to shinning sea. Anyone, anywhere that does at all truly care, anyone that's living a life that isn't at all fair. Heroes can be a lot of things, there is so much stuff you could do, for anyone can truly be a hero, if you want to.

## Congratulations!

2007-08

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Gabriella Cusick, mom Monica, father Robert and siblings Shane, Garrett and Robert, Jr.

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# IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 17)

car traffic on Hamilton Boulevard by giving another path to the other side of town. I believe that some people suggested at the meeting to take this matter to a higher court. If nobody wants to help us as a town, I feel we must take a stand. I understand the cost is high, but you can't put a cost on human life. If we continue with New Market Avenue as the new truck route, it will prove itself to be dangerous and someone will end up paying the ultimate price.

**DENNIS DRISCOL**

## To the Editor:

On October 29 Kennedy Elementary School hosted a Trunk-R-Treat fundraiser. Our third annual Halloween event was huge success!

I want to thank all the families that came out to support the school and donated candy. Everyone did a great job decorating their cars. The kids had fun running from car to car getting candy, playing games in the gym, eating, buying raffles and going through the haunted school. I want to thank everyone who helped organize, set-up, work and clean-up for this event. The number of people who donated their time that night and for weeks before show a great support for Kennedy School.

The success of this event was due to the exceptional response from the businesses and families in town who donated candy, gift baskets, gift certificates and food.

I want to thank the following vendors: BJ's, Bullseye Handyman, Buy-Rite, Commerce Bank, Cosco, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Entenmann's, Flanagan's Bar & Restaurant, Freihofer's, Gabriele's Bar & Grille, Hall's Warehouse, Hollywood Video, Hollywood Tans, 1-800-Flowers, Krauzer's, Lasy Days Primitives, Lay's, Looking Good Spa, McDonald's, Our Town Deli, Pathmark, Quality Medical Group, Restaurant Depot, Rite-Aid, Sears, Sportsworld, Starbucks, Subway, Toys-R-Us and Unity Bank.

I personally want to thank Margaret Pezzolla who spent weeks getting donations. Also a special thanks to Donna Riccardi and her son, Ryan, for coordinating games for the children. Thanks for your time and effort.

Thanks again to all those who helped and participated in this fundraiser.

**BARBARA BYTHELL,  
CHAIRPERSON**

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of you who

participated in our Thanksgiving food drive. It was a tremendous success!

All the food has been given to FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serving homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

I especially want to recognize and thank Linda and Danny Sticco for all their help on this project.

At this time of year, FISH, as well as other charitable organizations, are inundated with food donations. Unfortunately, these supplies soon run low and more donations are usually not forthcoming until next holiday season.

In order to help FISH address this problem, I plan on running another food drive in the spring to help FISH maintain some of its food supplies. More on this in the spring.

Again, my deepest thanks for all your caring contributions.

**SINCERELY,  
DR. DECONA**

## Dear Editor and South Plainfield Parents,

The Board of Education has eliminated busing for high school students on the south side of the borough. Supposedly, a letter informing affected families was sent in June. However, many families did not receive a letter. Many of us found out about this change, by chance, in late August. A group of families attended the August BOE meeting to inform them of our concerns, mainly that the route students need to walk to get to school has very heavy truck traffic. The Transportation Committee then met to discuss this issue and decided to reinstate the bus for the middle school students only, with the rationale that they are too young to be able to navigate this route safely.

However, this route is extremely dangerous for pedestrians of any age. I wrote a letter to the Transportation Committee (members Jim Giannakis, Tim Morgan, Carol Byrne, Marlene Steele and Donna Tolley) expressing these concerns. The reply stated that my residence is 1.7 miles away. Students must live 2.5 miles for busing, so my request was denied. Needless to say, I think the point was missed.

A ninth grade student was struck and severely injured by a truck on Hamilton Boulevard in late September. If the board's only rationale for eliminating busing for high school students is that they are able to navigate

the truck route safely, this accident is proof they cannot. Many letters have been published regarding the truck issue, however none have addressed that children are walking this route twice daily. The board is well aware of the dangers, yet they continue to insist that children of high school age can walk it safely. I disagree and believe many other parents disagree as well. Please consider contacting the Transportation Committee to advise them of your concern for the safety of all South Plainfield children and to urge them to reinstate the bus service.

Board members, please show concern for the safety of the SPHS children and reinstate the bus route until truck traffic is removed from the Hamilton/New Market/Spicer area.

**SINCERELY,  
MARNIE MARRONE**

## To the Editor:

I moved to South Plainfield because I thought that this was the best neighborhood to raise a family which is true to this day. I became involved in the Borough's activities through my children's interest in recreational sports, which is when I first started to hear about the issues that were affecting the quality of life as seen through the eyes of our residents.

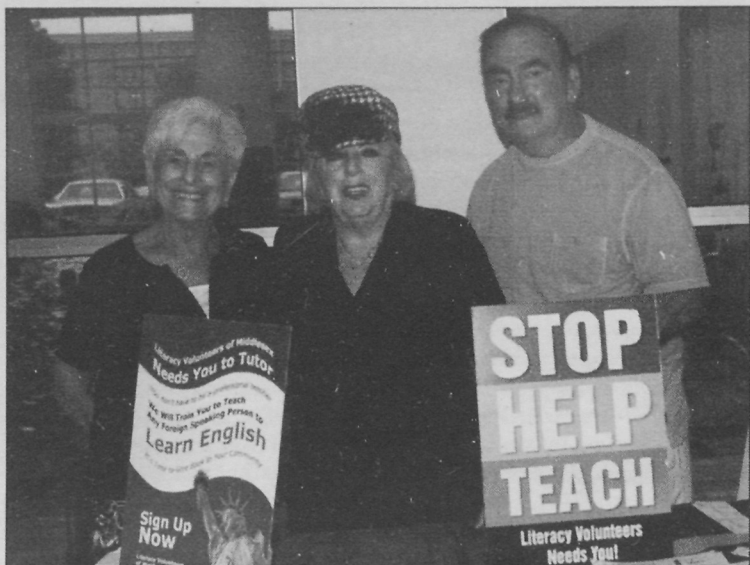
You gave me the opportunity 12 years ago to make a difference in the community where my wife and I chose to raise a family 26 years ago and today call home.

I did not fully realize how fortunate I was to be elected by you to be a part of the Democratic team for positive change in the Borough of South Plainfield. Over the years, we improved the residential feeling by softening the commercial presence on the main artery leading in and out of our community. The open space preservation, improvements to our parks and the enhancements to Hamilton Boulevard have given a renewed sense of invitation and warmth to our town.

I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity that you, the residents, have given me. This has truly been a rewarding experience that I will remember for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the councilpersons elect, Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville and express my desire for their commitment to the continued positive change for South Plainfield.

**RESPECTFULLY,  
DENNIS CERAMI, COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT**



Ken and Audrey Reisch, along with Esther Glick (left), have been visiting various businesses around South Plainfield in an effort to recruit tutors for the Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex.

## Literacy Volunteers Seeking Tutors

Literacy volunteers Ken and Audrey Reisch are asking residents to join them in volunteering their time helping others learn to read and speak the English language. They are asking for volunteers to join the Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex (LVM).

The South Plainfield residents devote their time teaching English as a Second Language to immigrants wanting to improve their English conversation skills at Piscataway's John E. Kennedy Library.

The Reisch's interest in literacy and English began in 1988. Within the course of a year after their three children married, the Reisch's decided they wanted to give back to the community by reaching out to help newcomers to our country. They opened their empty home to exchange students and hosted over 100 foreign exchange students from all over the world, whose knowledge of English varied greatly.

Ken and Audrey joined and graduated from the Literacy Volunteers of America program and began helping people learn to read and speak better English. They joined the LVM when they moved from Westbury, N.Y. to South Plainfield four years ago. This group of volunteers teach the necessary basic skills in reading, speaking and writing English. They are looking for volunteers who would like to join them in tutoring.

LVM offers individuals who wish to become tutors a combined training program that enables them to tutor students. Tutors who are identified as a potential "small group" trainer receive extra group training.

The organization was started by 24 libraries in Middlesex County to carry out their literacy mission. LVM believes that literacy services should be community-based and readily accessible to everyone and anyone who is in need of these services. Libraries are one of the best vehicles for delivering our services.

LVM provides free one-to-one Basic Literacy or ESL instruction for adults in a library close to home. This program is the safety net for that segment of the population for whom traditional adult education programs are either inaccessible or too difficult. Many of our students are prevented from taking part in the adult school classes because of their work schedule and/or transportation problems.

For more information or to join LVM, call (732) 432-8000.

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The Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield has been opposed to the proposed alternate truck route from its inception. Unfortunately this issue of removing truck traffic from Hamilton Boulevard to Belmont Avenue was a political campaign issue in 2006 as illustrated by a letter from then mayoral candidate Charles Butrico. This campaign letter which stated, "If you agree with my plan to keep truck traffic off of Hamilton Boulevard and to move traffic more freely and safely through the borough, I will need your support next Tuesday, Election Day. You know the Democratic team will never allow trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard. Please support

## FROM THE Senior Men's FORUM

By Richard Petron,  
Secretary

a letter and chronicled the problem with Mayor Butrico's alternate truck route. The letter specifically outlined the concerns N.J. DOT had about the safety of the route.

We, as a community, are very fortunate to have a member of our police force who takes his responsibility so seriously. We are sure that doing so may jeopardize his career in some way, but he put his concern for the safety of the public he serves before that of politics. The easy way out would have

been to keep quiet. Thank you Kevin. We need more police officers who put their professional responsibility first.

The Senior Men's Forum, since November of 2006, both at municipal meetings and in letters to the editor has asked, "What is the cost of this proposed route?" At one time we were told "about \$4.5M." Since then, incrementally the mayor and council have spent \$1.6M to purchase three homes; paid \$80,000 for 500 sq. ft. of space to move a traffic light; funds for new traffic signals and recently proposed purchase of 20 acres of land from DSC of Newark Enterprises for the New Market extension truck route. When pressed by the public, the purchase was reduced to six acres. Admittedly additional land will have to be purchased to extend the route to Spicer Avenue and a review of plans

indicates that more traffic signals will have to be installed (about \$500,000 to \$800,000 each). So you see, the spending continues and no estimate of cost is in sight. At several council meetings a member of our group has consistently asked for cost figures and has been told "When we get the final figure you will be the first to know."

In addition, the school board recently increased busing because the route was deemed dangerous. Unfortunately a student was recently injured by a dump truck exiting the Cornell-Dubilier site which has a traffic light exiting private property.

You may recall a number of years ago the Democratic Party, as part of its platform, established what was then called Democracy Day. At that time you would have the opportunity to vote on any proposed spending over

\$1M. Whatever happened to that? What ever happened to Helen Steet?

If you did not read Lt. Murtagh's letter in the *Observer*, get a copy of the October 5, 2007 issue. It would be a worthwhile investment. His letter spells out more specifics in detail. Let us, as a community, subordinate politics and ask for safety and specific answers on the cost of this political career.

We purposely did not submit this article prior to Election Day as we did not want it to appear political.

*Editor's Note: Richard Petrone is secretary of the Senior Men's Forum of South Plainfield. The forum periodically submits columns on their views and opinions. If you would like to know more about the group, you are invited to attend one of their meetings.*

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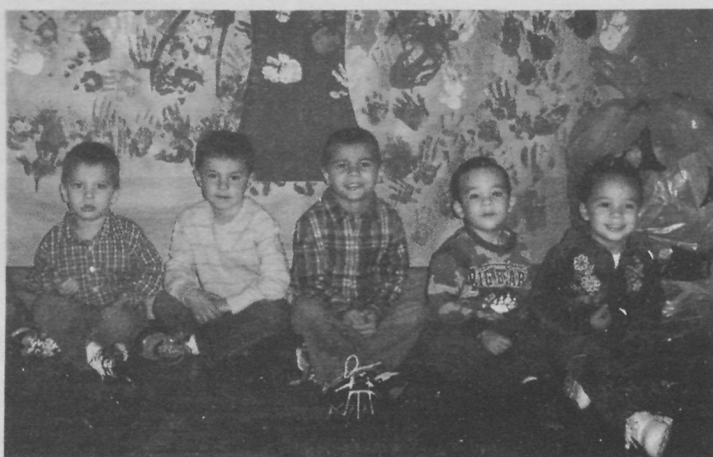


# Helen Street: A Timeline (Continued from page 12)

- July 2001—Phase IB Archaeological Investigation.
- August 2001—Effects Assessment Report for Historic Architectural Resources.
- December 19, 2001—NJDOT review found EA satisfactory to meet NEPA requirements.
- April 16, 2002—Meeting held with NJTPA and USEPA regarding Woodbrook Road Dump Site.
- September 2002—NJDOT and FHWA commented on EA.
- April 29, 2003—FHWA and NJDOT commented on EA.
- June 10, 2003—Revised EA draft was submitted with comments.
- August 25, 2003—FHWA submitted comments on EA.
- September 3, 2003—Responded to FHWA's comments.
- October 24, 2003—Out-of-Scope Services and Extra Work Order submitted to the borough itemizing services conducted for Woodbrook Road Dump Site, reproduction costs, Schlome Sales, Inc./US Plastics research conducted for notification of property owner regarding project and additional coordination efforts. Request was made for necessary funding to complete public process.
- November 20, 2003—FHWA started comments were satisfactorily addressed in EA.
- January 6, 2004—Notice to Proceed with Completion of Public Process.
- January 23, 2004—Notice of Pub-

- lic Hearing in newspapers to begin the public comment period.
- February 2, 2004—Formal public hearing held on the Helen Street Project at senior center.
- February 11, 2004—NEPA public hearing was held.
- February 26, 2004—Public comment period ended.
- May 13, 2004—Revised EA's were submitted addressing public and agency comments.
- June 16, 2004—Meeting held between the borough, NJTPA, NJDOT with updated studies.
- July 13, 2004—Request for LOI extension was issued by the DEP on December 8, 2004 extending LOI to August 4, 2009.
- July 16, 2004—Regulatory agencies meeting held to discuss comments on EA.
- August 27, 2004—Scope of Services and cost estimate was submitted for contract modification.
- March 10, 2005—NJTPA gives additional funding of \$214,213 to conduct updated studies.
- July 18, 2005—Minor Sanitary Landfill Disruption Permit for geotechnical borings at borough landfill.
- September 2005—Traffic Study Report and Geotechnical Feasibility Report was submitted.
- October 3, 2005—TRC Raviv meeting held regarding Texas Eastern's

- site remediation.
- December 1, 2005—EA submitted regarding comments from June 16, 2004 meeting.
- February 24, 2006—Edison Wetlands Asso. requests EA.
- May 2, 2006—Meeting held at FHWA with the DEP, TPA, DOT, USEPA, USFWS, Middlesex County and DMJM Harris.
- July 31, 2006—NJDEP recommends discussion with Land Use Regulation Dept. for "reasonable assurance."
- March 12, 2007—NJDEP commissioners meeting reveals that due to environmental issues it is unlikely the Land Use Regulation Dept. will issue "reasonable assurance."
- May 9, 2007—TPA letter states 10 year point approaching. If the project can not be moved to the next phase before end of year the borough would be liable for costs incurred.
- June 7, 2007—TPA and DOT meeting held to determine options.
- August 1, 2007—E-mail from DEP states reasonable assurance will not be granted.
- September 13, 2007—FHWA meeting held to discuss extension on 10 year limit. If moving to construction not guaranteed within 18 months extension could not be granted.
- October 27, 2007—Senator Barbara Buono meets with DEP, who say they will not reconsider their decision.



Future Stars Pre-school held their annual Fall Harvest Festival complete with games and pumpkin picking. Together the children created a Future Stars autumn tree by placing their individual handprints on the artwork. The students proudly display their work of art in the lobby showcase in the Roosevelt Administration building.

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1999	Ford	1FMRV1862XLB05069		Resale	Expedition	\$6500.00
1992	Ford	1FTDF15Y3NLA97978		Resale	F150	\$2500.00
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The plaque on the Monongah monument.

## Mining Disaster

(Continued from page 1)

Memorial Nursing Home to the victims, and led a committee to erect a statue, the Heroine of Monongah, in honor of the widows and children of the miners. The statue was unveiled in October.

"Father Briggs argued not only for the men but also the women," Leonardis said of her mentor. "He said to me, 'If it wasn't for you, nobody would know about this.'"

Inspired by his words, Leonardis decided to appeal to the Italian-American community about the story of Monongah. "These people were our people," she said. "If we don't bring this kind of information to the younger generations, we'll lose it."

But few paid attention until 2003, when Leonardis met Mimmo Porpiglia, co-founder of La Gente di Italia, the largest Italian-American newspaper in the country. After Porpiglia received all the information Leonardis provided on Monongah, "he moved fast" to spread the story to others—namely, members of the Italian government.

Several of them will be on hand to honor the memory of the miners next week in Monongah. State Governor Joe Manchin will lead a statewide moment of silence on December 3, and the Molise region of Italy will donate a bell to honor the victims that weighs over 1,000 pounds.

Leonardis hopes to continue to honor those lost in the Monongah mining disaster, including the support of a museum built in the Church of Our Lady of Pompeii in Monongah.

However, she sees the tragedy as more than a day of remembrance for Italian-Americans. "We are doing this not only for Italians, but the whole community," she said. "Loving together—that's my philosophy. If it wasn't for the old pioneers, we wouldn't even have roads today."

"They worked hard," she continued. "They were the backbone of this country and they should be honored."

# Kelly, Pauls Honored with Cappy Award

(Continued from page 1)

a significant source of revenue for the club. Pauls was also active in the woman's auxiliary, which was responsible for running the snack stand in the early days. Because of the auxiliary and the snack stand, the club was able to purchase lights, fencing and many of the improvements to the fields over the years.

Sam Pauls, Nancy Paul's son, spoke on behalf of her family, recalling the early days when Nancy would put all the kids in the car and drive around picking up milk, hot dog buns and various items for the stand. She also cooked, cleaned and was always working to expand the snack stand. All of Nancy's 10 children, their spouses and children attended the dinner. Nancy also has the honor of being the first woman to receive a Cappy Award.

Speaking on behalf of the Kelly fam-

ily was Brian Kelly, recalling that when his dad moved the family to South Plainfield, he promised them that they would be able to play baseball and football in their new town. Owen was instrumental in obtaining the land from the borough which is now the SPJBC complex, so his boys could play in one location. As a coach, he instilled character and sportsmanship in his players. When the club first started, boys played at parks and schools all over South Plainfield. He coached and served as commissioner, helping to build dugouts, as well as the clubhouse, fencing and more.

The Cappy Award is named in honor of Former Deputy Police Chief Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli, a volunteer dedicated to the youth of South Plainfield. Capparelli was a member of the South Plainfield Police Department for 30 years, before retiring as

deputy chief. He organized the South Plainfield Athletic League (PAL) and served as director. He was instrumental in getting the original PAL building constructed.

A plaque in his honor was installed at the entrance of the PAL, known as the Wall of Honor when it was expanded in 2001. Each year, the name or names of award recipients are placed on the wall in recognition of their dedi-

cation to the community.

Capparelli was unable to attend the dinner because he was in the hospital. Speaking for him at the dinner was his grandson, Mike Hanley.

Plaques for Owen Kelly and Nancy Pauls will be placed on the Wall of Honor, joining past recipients Ed Niemczyk, Charles Decker, Salvatore "Buddy" Severini, Richard Curcio and Armando "Artie" Fiore.

## policereport

- On November 13, Benny Rouland, 39, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, failure to inspect and three outstanding warrants.

- A Norway Lane Extension resident reported that someone had used his personal information to open up a line of credit with Capital One.

- A Sherman Avenue resident reported that pumpkins and a flower pot had been smashed on their front walk and porch.

- Quick Chek, located on Sampton Avenue, reported \$500 was missing from the store.

- On November 14, South Plainfield Auto Salvage on Ryan Street reported the theft of a set of Craftsman tools and two catalytic converters from an unlocked storage container.

- A Plainfield resident reported the theft of their wallet that was left on a table at the motor vehicle office.

- On November 15, Jasper Moss, 43, of Plainfield was arrested for simple assault.

- On November 16, Dennis D. Harris, 31, of Plainfield was arrested for burglary of a Hamilton Boulevard residence.

- On November 17, William Leonardo Rivera-Chamale, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested on a disorderly persons charge and four outstanding warrants.

- A Field Avenue resident reported the theft of a metal center cap from the tire of their vehicle.

- A Tenaflly resident reported that the driver side window of their vehicle had been broken and a Garmin GPS system was taken while parked at the Middlesex Mall.

- On November 19, AJV Auto on Hamilton Boulevard reported the lock on their shed had been cut and the latch was bent. No entry was gained.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

With preparations for the holidays in full swing you may be asking how you are going to find time to read the books on your list. The library has a solution to this problem with our expanding collection of books on CDs, books on tape and portable audio books. Many of the latest novels, such as ones by author James Patterson, are available as audio books. Why not treat yourself this holiday season by listening to one while driving to buy presents or at home decorating?

Some of our recent books on CD are "Home to Holly Springs" by Jan Karon, "Exit Ghost" by Philip Roth and "Protect and Defend" by Vince Flynn. For an interesting nonfiction book on CD about separated twins, I recommend "Identical Strangers" by Elyse Schein and Paula Bernstein. To help you get into the season we have several holiday themed books on CDs to listen to. Why not check out "Holidays on Ice" by David Sedaris or "Finding Noel" by Richard Paul Evans.

The latest idea in audio books are portable audio books in which you listen to a book that is on a individual MP3 player. The library has several dozens of these new portable audio

books with titles ranging from "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown to "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult.

What is a holiday season without live music? Mr. Kurt is back with a new free program for the whole family. This event will be held at the library on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is not required and we look forward to seeing you.

Story times are on a normal schedule. Story and craft time for children ages three and older are Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. Time for 2's & 3's are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Books 'N Babies is 10:30 a.m. on Friday. All programs are free.

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