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50 CENTS

DECEMBER 28, 2007

Final Library Plans Unveiled

Plans for the proposed 15,000square-foot library were unveiled at the December 18 council meeting. The final plan is a culmination of years of meetings, planning, rejections and more planning to reach a consensus on a library that will meet the needs of the borough, while keeping the costs within budget.

The December 18 meeting was also the final council meeting for Councilwoman Kathy Thomas, who has been working for years with the library board on a design and layout of the new library. Thomas lost her bid for re-election in November, and in January, the Republicans will take

control of the council and decide whether or not to accept the plan and subsequently fund the new library.

The new building, located on borough owned property on Plainfield Avenue between Unity Bank and South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, will be almost twice the size of the present library. Plans call for a children's craft room in addition to the regular children's room. Presently, children's arts and crafts are held in the main part of the library.

Plans also include a second floor meeting room that can accommodate 90 people. The current library has no (Continued on page 10)



SPHS senior Kristen Partesi's painting (above) accompanies photos of U.S. military personnel currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan on the "Wall of Heroes" that was recently unveiled at Borough Hall.

SPHS Senior Paints Wall of Heroes

By Libby Barsky

On December 18 the Borough Council unveiled the "Wall of Heroes" commemorating the service of South Plainfield residents who are currently serving in the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The idea for the commemoration came from Councilwoman Kathy Thomas who contacted SPHS Principal Dr. Kenneth May to suggest that a student artist create a painting on the wall in the council chambers where the council, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment meet and where court sessions are held.

May approached Kristen Partesi, who helped to organize fellow seniors on the painting of the school cafeteria for the senior project. Partesi also painted the Tiger logo on the entrance to Jost Field.

Partesi designed a bald eagle atop the American Flag after consulting with Thomas When she began

September, Partesi found the painting schedule was complicated by her obligation to attend rehearsals for the high school band, a two-week illness and various meetings held in council chambers. The mural wasn't completed as early as planned, but its presentation coincided with Thomas's last public meeting as a member of the council.

The mural occupies the center of the wall. On both sides of the painting are portraits that Thomas had matted and framed of South Plainfield residents currently serving in the military.

"I am honored to be part of this 'Wall of Heroes' project because I think it's a great idea and shows the spirit of the town," said Partesi when presented with a plaque of appreciation for her work.

Partesi is also thrilled to have taken part in painting the school cafeteria and the Tiger symbol on the fieldhouse building which led to designing and painting the "Wall of Heroes. painting the mural at the end of the beginning of the school year, Par-stovski of South Plainfield.



Kathy Thomas and Kristen Partesi

tesi was concerned her portfolio was too thin for the college application process of an aspiring art teacher.

"I was concentrating on my school subjects and my academics, and had trouble developing my portfolio. So I was so happy to receive all the opportunities, especially this one (to add to my portfolio)," she said.

Kristen is the daughter of Vincent artesi of Piscataway and Maria Bro-



Standing in front of the toys collected for the "Gifts for Kids" toy drive are (L to R) Johnny DiDolci, Emily Reinke and Rebecca Eustice.

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Middle School Student Council's annual "Gifts for Kids" toy drive collected close to 300 toys for the 1st Marine Corps Reserve N.J. Chapter to distribute to needy children throughout Central New Jersey.

Students were asked to bring in new, unwrapped toys which were collected and placed under a Christ-

mas tree in the school entrance. The faculty made donations to purchase a few more higher priced gifts, including an MP3 player and a Playstation 2, and one local family donated the Guitar Hero video game, which were distributed to needy families in the borough.

The week before the holiday break, the toys were boxed up by the student council members and picked up by the Marine Corps for delivery.



These wreaths-some 5,000-placed on the graves in Arlington National Cemetery, are donated by Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine, since 1992, which also covers the trucking expense as well. Most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to Washing-ton, D.C. with the event to assist.





Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m.

(Except for Holidays)

The December 19 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m. until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 16. Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

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

Agenda Meeting **Public Meeting** Dates to be announced at the Borough Reorganization meeting on Jan. 5.

2008 Council Reorganization Meeting Saturday, January 5 at noon All are invited.

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

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

boardofeducationmeetings

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

recreation

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

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.

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

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



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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:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Emergency Management Drill October 2007-At the December 4 Borough Council meeting, plaques were presented to those who donated their time and expertise during October's Middlesex County Emergency Mangagement drill. Recognized were: Jamie Gutierrez from J. P. Express-location of the drill; Michael Shinkle from Altivity Packaging-who supplied the boxes for the pill bottles; Sandy Severini and Bill Ashnault from Twin City Pharmacy-who helped supply the 10,000 pill bottles; John Westerholt from Palwest Company LLC; Joe Lemo from Di-Lex Trucking; Tim Brady accepting on behalf of Dale Jayne from Hall's Warehouse Corp; South Plainfield Transfer & Recycling and Bob Stilo from Stilo Excavating.

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

Dear Editor,

How appalling were the roads leading to the high school and the high school parking lot after the storm on December 15 and 16? Dropping off our children is not supposed to be a safety hazard as it was on December 17. When I contacted the superintendent's office, I felt sorry for his secretary, who had to field all the calls. The response was a miscommunication between the BOE and Sodexho.

What about our borough employees? Oh, I forgot the town contracts out snow removal!

Maybe next time the Board of Education should consider a delayed opening and let their contracted employees do what they get paid to do. SINCERELY,

SANDRA T. FREULER

Recycling Closed New Year's Day

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1 and open from 12 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

The yard waste site is on winter hours and will only be open on Saturdays until March 16. Both the recycling center and the vard waste site will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 29.

Regular recycling drop-off center hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular winter yard waste hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

2008 yard waste decals are available in the municipal clerk's office in Borough Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.



Brighten up someone's day with a gourmet gift basket or floral arrangement.

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(908) 561-2808 Corporate accounts Welcome



Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer does not publish anonymous letters.

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

Dear Roosevelt Families, Faculty and

On behalf of the Roosevelt Elementary School Student Council, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for making our pajama drive a success! Because of your generosity, we were able to provide many families with the gift of warm pajamas, ranging from infant sizes to teen sizes. This was a great opportunity for our students to witness and participate in a community effort to help one another. It also highlights and incorporates our December character trait of "Caring."

We would also like to thank Mrs. DeAndrea for delivering our pajamas to Marge Ackerman, director of South Plainfield's social services, and for spending the day with her putting together the bundles for the needy families in our community.

Again, thank you and best wishes for a joyous, peaceful holiday and New Year.

SINCERELY YOURS, MARGARET MOSLEY, M. ED, MSW, LCSW. STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR





Kelly Richkus Appointed Kennedy Principal

By Libby Barsky

Kelly Richkus has been appointed the new principal at Kennedy School, replacing Fred Oberkehr who moved to central administration as assistant superintendent of instruction.

Richkus came into the district 11 years ago as sixth/seventh grade Language Arts and Reading teacher. Before then she taught basic skills sixth and eighth grade in North Plainfield for three years.

A recipient of The Principal's Certificate from Monmouth University in 1999, she became assistant principal at South Plainfield High School from September 2004 to June 2005, then served as assistant principal at the middle school from July 2005 to July 2006. In August 2006, she returned as assistant principal at SPHS and re-



Kelly Richkus

mained there until her promotion.

While at the high school she organized student assemblies and faculty meetings, supervised the curriculum for math, English, world languages and the ESL department. At the

middle school she supervised the science, business education, special ed, language arts and fine and performing arts. Also at the high school she interviewed new staff positions and organized training sessions for My GradeBook.com. When Director of Guidance William Beegle retired in June, Richkus took over as coordinator of SPASA.

As assistant principal in both schools, Richkus was known for giving out white blouses to female students to cover their more revealing attire. "Tm happy to see Ms. Richkus as principal and working with elementary school children," said board member Carol Byrne.

Richkus will begin her new position on or before January 31, 2008.

She is married to Richard Richkus, who is assistant principal at Grant School.



Suburban Woman's Club members presented a check for \$3,800 to Women Aware Inc. Pictured (L-R): Treasurer Lucy Hudson, member Filomena Viola, Fundraising Chairman Natalie Bergen, Women Aware's Executive Director Phyllis Adams, Shelter Director Virginia Diaz, Suburban Woman's Club President Mary Ann Iannitto and Federation Corresponding Secretary Frieda Walker.

Suburban Woman's Club

Roseo Family Renews Adopt-A-Spot

The Roseo Family has renewed its Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association. Lisa Roseo, husband Eugene and daughters Emily and Lucy will go out at least quarterly to pick up litter along Morris and Cedarbrook avenues at the stream crossing.

The Roseo's joined the Adopt-A-Spot program in 2005, stepping in to take over the spot when the previous adopter had to give it up. This wooded area near Riley Elementary

School seems to attract litter and illegal dumping, so it is important to have regular cleanups there.

The CBA is looking for more adopters for roadsides that front on wooded areas. Stretches of Belmont Avenue, Garfield Avenue and Metuchen Road need attention.

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

By Jane Dornick The South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club graciously donated a \$3,800 check on December 19 to South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club graciously donated a \$3,800 check on December 19 to South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club graciously donated a \$3,800 check on December 19 to

Woman's Club graciously donated a \$3,800 check on December 19 to Women Aware Inc. located in New Brunswick. Women Aware is a private non-

profit corporation whose mission is to end abuse for all people; women, men and children and is the only agency in Middlesex County providing comprehensive services for all victims of domestic violence and shelter for battered women and children. All of their services are provided free of charge.

The goal of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, in which the Suburban Woman's Club participates, is to enhance the quality of life within their respective communities and state by transforming public interests and concerns into meaningful projects and programs; to afford our members opportunities for the development of individual skills, talents and abilities and to serve as a grass roots volunteer resource in New Jersey communities. As part of the federations special projects for the year 2006-2008, the Suburban Woman's Club chose to help in adopting battered women's shelters and donating needed goods such as food, linens, health care items and more.

They held a successful Mad Hatter Tea in October to raise funds to donate to Women Aware that will go towards furnishing one of their battered woman's shelter. Aside from the raffles and other money raised at the tea, they also received generous donations from private citizens.

BOROUGH NOTES

- The council authorized the renewal licenses for motor vehicle sales and exchange, self-service laundromats and coin-operated amusement devices for the year 2008. Applicants met all State and Borough requirements and all fees have been paid.
- The council accepted the resignation of Police Officer Christopher Cochrane effective November 28, 2007.
- The chief financial officer was authorized to issue refund checks of \$4,390 to SP Fidelco I, LLC–3473 South Clinton Ave., who received a favorable judgment in State Tax Court and \$1,551.52 to the owner of 134 Maple Place, due to an overpayment of taxes.
- A maintenance agreement with Munidex for the period January 1 through December 31, 2008 was authorized.
- A refund check will be issued to Somerville Aluminum for a building

permit fee for work being performed at the property located at 2 Babes Dr.

- Maureen Noll was hired as secretary to the Recreation Commission effective January 1, 2008.
- The council gave their support to Assembly Bill A-3148, sponsored by Assemblywoman McHose and Assemblyman Greenwald, and cosponsored by Assemblyman Diegnan, which would give parents/guardians the option of placing their multiple same-age children in either the same or different classrooms.
- Equipment and software upgrades for the police department's mobile-vision system from L-3 Communications was approved at a cost not to exceed \$27,090.
- Stilo Excavating and Nu-Scape Property Maintenance were hired to supplement the borough's snow removal services. The rates for these contractors will vary depending on the type of equipment being used.



Riley School PTSO held their holiday

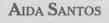
party on December 14. Principal Al

Czech read "The Night Before Christ-

mas" to a pajama clad audience of

children and adults alike in an-

ticipation of the arrival of Santa.



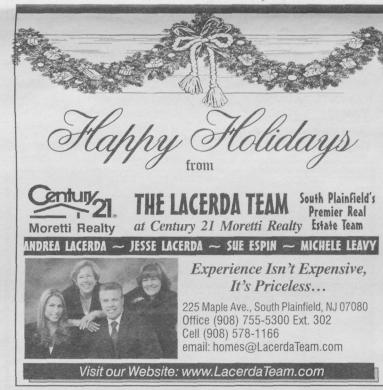
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Understanding "The Sermon On The Mount"

December 31

The community is invited to Wesley Church on Sunday, Dec. 30 for the 10:30 a.m. service. The theme will be "How to Understand the Sermon on the Mount."

Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw

January 13

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual Youth Free Throw Championship. Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2008 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Registration will be held on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008 at 1 p.m. at the Sacred Heart School Gymnasium. Competition starts at 1:30 p.m. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For information, contact Greg Gaydos at (732) 762-5003

"Stroke? R.E.A.C.T." Support Group Mtg.

January 16

AristaCare at Cedar Oaks will sponsor a new stroke group, "Stroke? R.E.A.C.T." on Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Cedar Oaks, located on Durham Avenue

RSVP to Kathy Sherry, admissions director, at (732) 287-9555, ext. 123.

Is your organization holding an event? Publicize it in "EVENTS AROUND TOWN."

Send your event to us at spobserver@comcast.net.

What's **DEC/JAN** happening at the South Plainfield MONDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY 28 Bingo January 10 - 1 p.m. 10am-2pm Foot Health for Diabetics-With Dr. Ben Gurjal UPCOMING VENT January 28 - Noon Presentation of Pre-Arrangements by McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals with lunch Aerobics 8:45 am Pathmark Crocheting Bingo 4 9:30am-11:30am Computer Classes Shopping 9am 10am-2pm CENTER Yoga 10:30-11:30am 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Computer Class 10am Art Class 11:30am Crocheting 1pm 11:30am, 1pm CLOSED Tai Chi 2pm Exercise Class 1:15p-TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

Wine and Cheese **Business Reception** January 30

The directors and officers of Commerce Bank and the South Plainfield Business Association cordially invite members of area businesses to attend a wine and cheese business reception on Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Commerce Bank, 2473 Plainfield Ave. Guest speaker is Joel L. Naroff, Commerce Bank chief economist. Your business card is your admission.

Please respond by January 16 to Carolyn Allen at (908) 561-3275.

Inauguration of Coalition of Cultural Diversity

January 21

Mayor Charles Butrico will inaugurate the newly formed Coalition of Cultural Diversity on Monday, Jan. 21 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

The event starts at 4 p.m. with various displays of cultural artifacts and music, followed by a brief tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ethnic food will be available at a modest cost. For more information, call Nehe-

miah Thompson at (908) 251-3992. SPHS Class of 1982 25 Year Reunion

April 5, 2008

Save the date! The SPHS Class of 1982 25-year reunion is set for Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Piscataway from 7 p.m. to midnight. Overnight rooms will be available at a discount rate. Register/update your contact information with classmates.com or contact Rosanne Demico-Ilardo directly at jrilardo@roverusa.com.

Out of Town -

New Year's Eve Party December 31

Let us celebrate together! Bid farewell to the year 2007 and welcome the New Year 2008 on Monday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. at the Singer Hall in North Plainfield. Music will be provided by Nora and Ragner Moen. Tickets are \$25 and include a cold buffet, hats, noise makers and complimentary drinks to toast the new year.

For reservations, call Joan at (908) 647-0819 or Victor at (908) 276-

35th Annual Stamp And Postcard Show

January 4-6

The New Jersey Stamp Dealers Association 35th annual Garden State Stamp and Postcard Show will be held on Friday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Frank Pombo's Bethwood, located at 38 Lackawanna Ave. in Totowa. Admission and parking is free.

For information, call N.J. Stamp Dealers Association at (732) 247-1093.

2008 Bucks County **Dinner Theater**

January 11

The Bucks County Playhouse winter schedule opens on January 11 with "Beehive, The 60's Musical," a fast paced and nostalgic look back at the girl groups and soloists of the time.

Ticket prices are \$55 for the evening dinner and show and \$49.50 for the matinee brunch and show. Discounts are available. For tickets and reservations, call (215) 862-2041.

Howie Mandel to Headline Benefit April 12

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey announced comedian Howie Mandel, star of the hit NBC show "Deal or No Deal," will be the featured entertainer for the 28th Scholarship Benefit Gala to take place on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Caesars Atlantic City Hotel-Casino. Stockton is seeking corporate and individual sponsorships and partners for the event. All are invited to receive updates on sponsorships, tickets, auction items and to place ads in the Tribute Journal, a professionally produced keepsake for the event by calling (609) 652-4658 or by logging onto www.stock ton.edu/scholarshipbenefit.

16th Annual Taste of Somerset Tickets

April 28

The 16th annual Taste of Somerset, the area's original public tasting event, will provide a more extensive culinary experience than ever before according to Marie Hughes, executive director of the PeopleCare Center, promoters of the event. The event is scheduled for April 28, 2008 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Palace at Somerset Park, located at 333 Davidson Ave. in Somerset, the area's premier catering facility.

The 2008 Taste of Somerset will feature more than 40 of the region's best restaurants and more than one dozen beverage providers. Guests will stroll through the Palace, sampling the finest fare from the area's finest restaurants while interacting with the chefs and owners of these first rate establishments. Entertainment will be provided by a live jazz combo, a harpist and other quality entertainers.

Tickets, normally \$75, are available at \$65 if purchased prior to December 31 for this all-you-can-eat event. Purchases may be made at the People-Care Center office at 120 Finderne Ave. in Bridgewater, online at www. peoplecarecenter.org or by calling (908) 725-2299.

Proceeds support the PeopleCare Center and the non-profit tenants that call the facility home.



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

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

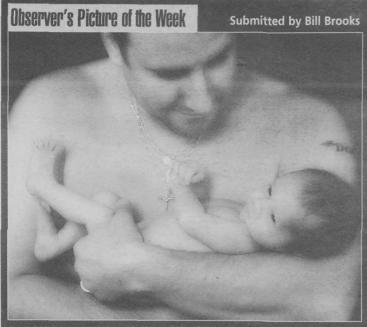
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m. Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m. Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL-Giuliana (all of one week old), daughter of Jay and Sue Zazzara, cradled in her father's arms.

Submit your high resolution photos for consideration for our "Picture of the Week" feature to spobserver@comcast.net.

First Annual Festival of **Cultures Announced**

Come experience a festival of cultural extravaganza on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008 at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave., from 4 to 8 p.m. It will be a celebration of us-we, the diverse people who call South Plainfield home-and a celebration of the dance, music, food, and more that makes us who we are.

The evening will also include a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. and a ceremony by Mayor Charles Butrico, inaugurating the South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity. Refreshments will accompany the program. All are invited to attend.

The South Plainfield Coalition of

Cultural Diversity was organized in mid-2007 in response to the existing and increasing diversity of people living in South Plainfield. Our purpose is to encourage the awareness, inclusion, and appreciation of each others' ethnicities, including our differences and commonality. We hope that celebrations of the richness of our cultures, like the 2008 Festival of Cultures, are only the beginning. We invite all citizens of South Plainfield to join the efforts of the coalition.

For more information, contact Nehemiah Thompson (908) 756-1044 or Chris Sienkielewski (908) 561-8057.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Nicole Barka Volunteers with Montana Conservation Corps

Nicole Barka recently worked in mail. The conservervation corps ap-Montana as a volunteer for the Montana Conservation Corps from May until last month. She worked mostly on trail building in and around Yellowstone National Park.

According to Barka it was the most challenging thing she ever done in her life, emotionally, spiritually, and especially, physically.

While working in Yellowstone, her sessions consisted of eight days working 10 hours in the heat, rain, wind, lightning, and anything else nature decided to throw at her. It wasn't easy by any means, especially considering that most of the work involved days of heavy lifting, swinging heavy trail tools such as the pick, using 100-yearold crosscut saws, and sometimes hiking five miles in the backcountry with a 50-pound pack.

The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) was started as a revival of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which began during the Great Depression. Barka initially heard of the MCC through an environmental agency who sent her a link to their Web site via E-

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from easy. In fact, many people who join the program actually quit before the end due to many reasons, including low pay, long hours working outdoors, the physical labor, etc. But those who stay until the end leave a changed Before she left for Montana in May,

plication stresses that the work is far

Barka commented to one of her friends, "If I can survive this, I know that I can do anything." And now she knows for sure that

this is true. Of course, there were days that she wanted to give up, but she knew that this was something that she had to do, not only for herself, but also for the environment. "I joined the MCC with every intention of staying until the end."

Barka has lived in South Plainfield her whole life. She graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1998, Union Catholic High School in 2002 and



Nicole Barka

Georgian Court University in Lakewood in 2006.

As for what's next, Barka says she would love to continue with conservation, or find some way to combine it with another love of hers, wildlife illustration.



Secretaries Ginny Bruno and Paula Dick were recognized at the December BOE meeting. Both are retiring from the high school.

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO FORECLOSE ON TAX SALE CERTIFICATE No. 94-34

The law firm of Wolff & Samson PC has commenced a foreclosure action on behalf of plaintiff Chevron U.S.A., Inc., by filing a complaint in the Superior Court on Decembe 3, 2007 (Docket No. MID-F-33476-07), to foreclose and forever bar any and all rights of redemption within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice of the following 3, 2007 (Docket No. MID-F-33476-07), to foreclose and forever bar any and all rights of redemption within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice of the following parcel: Block 255, Lot 33 on the Tax Map for the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, commonly known as Metuchen Road, as reflected on the tax foreclosure list below. The action is brought against the land only and no personal judgment may be entered therein. Any person desiring to protect a right, title or interest in said parcel by redemption or to contest plaintiff's right to foreclose, must do so by paying the amount required to redeem, which is \$565,321.83 as of the date of purchase by plaintiff on June 26, 2007 of the Tax Sale Certificate plus statutory interest and additional taxes paid from June 26, 2007 to the date of redemption and such costs as the court may allow, prior to the entry of judgment therein, or by filing and serving an answer to the complaint setting forth defendant's answer within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice. In the event of failure of timely redemption or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed as the court may allow, prior to the extra the properties in except the properties in except the properties in except the properties. of all his right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel of land described above. Please contact the undersigned immediately so that we may provide you with information regarding these matters.

Jennifer R. Jacobus, Esq., Wolff & Samson PC, The Offices at Crystal Lake, One Boland Drive, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 (973) 325-1500

Tax Foreclosure List											
Schedule	Description of Land as it appears on Tax Duplicate and in the Certificate of Sale	Certificate Number	Date of Tax Sale	Date of Recording & Book & Page Middlesex County Registrar's Office	Amount of Sale	Date of Assignment	Date of Recording & Book & Page Middlesex Co. Registrar's Office	Amount of Assigment	Amount of Tax Liens Accuring Subsequent to Tax Sale including interest, penalties and costs	Amount Requested to Redeem	Name of Owners as as it appears on Last Tax Duplicate
1	Block 255, Lot 33	94-34	6/27/95	2/25/96 Book 5070, Page 577	\$24,509.60	6/26/07	7/9/07, Book 990, Page 787	\$565,321.83	\$650,450.77		Jack Abramson and Martha A. Olin 359 Cambridge Drive, Union, New Jersey 07083
	Owner of Certificate: Chevron U.S.A., Inc.								Interest Through Through 12/27/08		

I, Jennifer R. Jacobus, Attorney for Chevron U.S.A., Inc., hereby certify that the foregoing schedules of Tax Sale Certificates are eligible for foreclosure. /s/ Jennifer R. Jacobus

Riley School Goncert The John E. Riley School Songs of Peace winter choral concert was under the direction of Joanne Gurske. Third and fourth grade students sang "Light the Candles All Around the World," "A Time for Peace," "Today is the Day!," "Friends are Like Diamonds," "This Little Light of Mine," "Where is the Peace?," "Dona Nobis Pacem" and "An Old Irish Blessing."

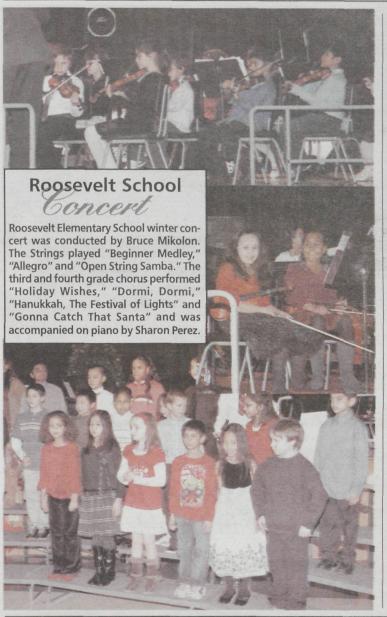




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Observer

December 28, 2007





Middle School The South Plainfield Middle School opened their winter concert with the Gems singing "The Star Spangled Banner." The orchestra, conducted by Sarah Bruce, played "Scherzo for String Orchestra," "Las Mariposas Exoticas" and "Chritsmas

Comes Again...in About Three Minutes." Donna Markiewicz conducted the Gems, accompanied by Frank Jacobson on piano, sang "Ye Shall Have a Song" and "Feliz Navidad." The concert choir joined in to sing "Adeste Fideles," "Winterlight," "Al Shlosha," "Why we Sing," with soloists Ashley Linick and Jade McDonnough, and "Go Where I Send Thee." The concert band played "Rites of Tamburo," "Cartoon Christmas" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever" led by conductor Andrew Veiss.



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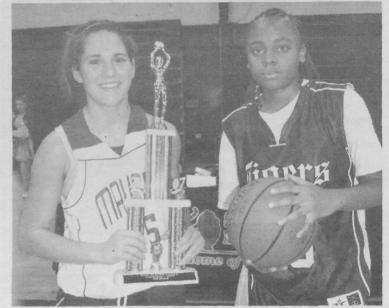
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been introduced to the "mechanics" of running as taught by instructor and coach Bill Gilmartin and they have learned some ballhandling drills, passing skills, proper form shooting, layups, triple threat positions, defensive skills and even some jab steps!

The sessions are packed with information and skill work. The practice sessions are age appropriate for all kids in the five to nine age group! We use lower (eight foot) baskets and smaller basketballs to make sure that your child is learning to shoot prop-

The children are learning about the game and will hopefully be playing a little better after every week that they attend our sessions.

At a cost of just \$10 per week you can't go wrong with this small investment in your child's basketball edu-



Holding the winning trophy for the girls division representing Mauger School in Middlesex is Brianne lannetti, along with the SPHS Tigers leading scorer, LaRonda Womack.

Boys Win SPASA Tournament; Girl's Lose in Double Overtime

By Jane Dornick

The 16th Annual South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness (SPASA) basketball tournament was held December 10-12 at the middle school and once again was a huge success. A large crowd came out this year to watch boys' and girls' teams from Carteret, Middlesex, Metuchen and the South Plainfield Tigers compete against each other and receive the coveted winners' trophies.

This year games were played for a consolation, guaranteeing each team two games. The boys' team, coached by Jeff and Don Panzarella, took a first round victory with an exciting win over Metuchen 54-28 in the first round. Joe Saitta and Joe Skwait led the scoring with Jalyn McCoy assisting. The Tigers won the championship, defeating Carteret with the boys scoring 61 points. Joe Skwait had 13 points and nine rebounds. Their outstanding defense was led by brothers Collin and Brendon Wilson, Al Bethea and Shane McCoid. Point guard Ryan Marcoux also had a tremendous

In the girls division, the Tigers basketball team, under the direction of coach Kevin Hughes, won the first round game defeating Carteret. They lost a nail biting double overtime game in the finals against Middlesex 48-45. The team, led by LaRonda Womack, scored a total of 25 points and sunk her third three-pointer in the final 2.2 seconds of regulation play. She hit another three-pointer in the first round of overtime, giving South Plainfield the lead, but Carteret came back to tie it up and force a second overtime.

SPASA conducts this annual middle school level basketball tournament to reinforce a healthy attitude and awareness about the dangers of substance abuse. All four teams attended a presentation by Leslie Rippon, certified athletic trainer at SPHS, on the effect drugs and steroids have on their bodies, performance and mind.

Chairing the event were middle school teachers Cheryl Hughes and Joe-Blondo and was made possible through a grant from the borough. The trophies were donated by Joe Romer Trophy and the tournament t-shirts were proved by AKA, Inc.

RECREATION WRESTLING Submitted by Joe Sacco

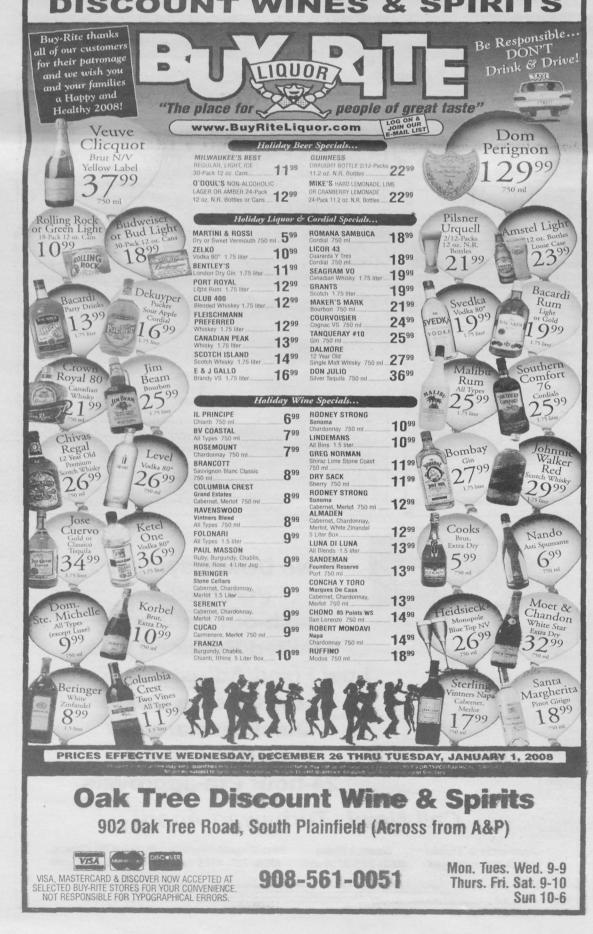
Central Jersey Beats Westfield, Raritan Valley Loses to Watchung

The Central Jersey Recreation Wres-Westfield.

Winning by pin for the young Tigers was Raymond Jazikoff. Winning by decision was Jacob Painton, Jake Giordano, Ryan Walsh, Kyle Bythell and Danny Hedden, while Joey Heilmann, Jake Hoffman, Antunee Adams, Matt Hurst and Dakota Pauls received forfeits.

Raritan Valley Recreation Wrestling tling team improved its record to 2-0 Team lost its season opener to on the season with a 46-13 win over Watchung Hills 30-34. Despite forfeiting four matches the young Tigers kept it close and at one point were leading 24-0.

Winning by pin was Joseph Sacco, Michael Marrero and Desmond Santos. Winning by decision was Tommy Fierro, David Loniewski, Ricky Pellegrino and Kyle Davisson.





Obituaries



Lynn Heckman

Lynn Heckman, 68

Lynn Heckman died on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Hamburg, Pa., Lynn was raised in Flemington and lived in Middlesex and North Plainfield before settling in Green Brook in 1988.

He graduated from Bound Brook High School in 1957.

Shortly after high school, Lynn began his apprenticeship as a typesetter with Art Color Printing in Dunellen. Upon learning his trade, he worked for Alert Type Setters in Manhattan and with LNB Typography in Scotch Plains before working with Excerpta Medical in Hillsborough.

Lynn was a car enthusiast and enjoyed car racing among many other hobbies, such as roller skating, golf, working on electronics and small gadgets, model trains, and keeping his Koi fish pond healthy. In addition, he was an avid bowler and a member of the Somerset Co. 700 Bowling Club.

He was predeceased by his parents. Surviving are his longtime companion, Charlotte Mayrose of Green Brook; three daughters, Christine

Sabra Heckman of Green Brook, Lee Ann Miller and husband John of North Plainfield and Tara Heckman-Miller of Piscataway. Also surviving are his wife, Barbara of Green Brook and a grandson, Edward Miller.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Milton W. Stern, 84

Milton W. Stern of Princeton passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 22 at The University Medical Center at Princeton surrounded by his loving

Mr. Stern was born in Buffalo, N.Y. and resided in Rochester before moving to Edison in 1962 and recently to Princeton.

Milton served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and was a prisoner of war. Mr. Stern was an extremely active volunteer at the Lyons Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System, in addition to numerous other veterans ac-

Milton was featured in the PBS Documentary "The Price of Freedom." In addition he was listed in The Library of Congress Veterans History

Mr. Stern was predeceased by his beloved wife, Marjorie Stern, who passed away in April of 1990.

He is survived by two sons, Jeffrey L. Stern of Arizona and Michael D. Stern of Franklin Park; a daughter, Michelle Alton of Yardley, Pa.; a sister, Clara Lacher of Flushing, N.Y. and five grandchildren, Trina Stern, Neon Stern, Argon Stern, Jacob Stern and Maxwell Stern.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Mr. Sterns name to The Lyons Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System, 151 Knollcroft Rd., Lyons, N.J. 07939.

Robert J. Roth, 52

Robert J. Roth died suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 20 at home.

Born in Newark, Bobby was raised in Colonia and had resided in South Plainfield since 1976.

He was the owner and operator of

Roth Brothers Auto Lab, Inc. in South

Surviving are his wife, Susan L. (Michalsky); two sons, Robert of North Plainfield and Daniel of South Plainfield; his parents, Robert W. and Elizabeth of Colonia; two sisters, Anna Bertothy of Connecticut and Elizabeth Barto and husband Thomas of Bayville and two brothers, Timothy and wife Robbin of Fords and David and wife Caryn of South Amboy.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Daniel Roth Education Foundation.

Sonia Fontanez, 56

Sonia Fontanez died on Monday, Dec. 17 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

Born in Manhattan, she grew up in New York before residing in various Northern and Central New Jersey towns and Puerto Rico before settling in Flemington.

Sonia had been employed by 3M in the production department and was previously employed by BJ's Wholesale Club both in Flemington.

A member of the Faith Fellowship Outreach Ministries in Savreville, she also volunteered with the American Cancer Society.

Surviving are five children, Francisco Vargas, Jr., Abraham Vargas, Joshua H. Diaz-Fontanez, Ericka M. Diaz-Fontanez and Jason M. Diaz-Fontanez; five sisters, Nereida Santos, Mildred Fontanez-LeBlanc, Magdelena Monet, Eva Fontanez and Rosemarie Arroyo and two brothers, Miguel A. Fontanez, Jr. and Domingo

Also surviving are four grandchildren and 21 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

County Emergency Management Gets High Rating in State

Emergency Management has received the highest possible rating in an evaluation by the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.

In a summary of its findings, the state police evaluation team wrote the county's success "can be directly attributed to the productive and harmonious working relationship they have encouraged and promoted with the municipalities and the central region of the state."

"Middlesex County is often looked upon by the other central region counties for advice with the administration of their programs," the summary continued. "Middlesex County OEM is also noted for both their administrative and operational excellence."

One of the biggest tests for the office in 2007 was the April 15 flooding that plagued several towns and caused millions of dollars in damage.

"The state police have confirmed what we have long believed: the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management does an outstanding job in preparing and responding to emergency incidents throughout the County," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chairman of the County's Law and Public Safety Com-

The State Police Officer of Emergency Management conducts evaluations annually to assess every aspect of the County OEM's operations,

The Middlesex County Office of from policies and procedures to emergency exercises, coordination with local and state entities, staffing and train-

The evaluators cited OEM Coordinator Rory Zach for continuously examining "administrative effectiveness" and seeking "better procedures to keep the county office of emergency management running smoothly and pro-

This year, the county also became a participant of the Metro Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) group, joining six other counties and the cities of Jersey City and Newark to prepare for and respond to regional emer-

As part of the group, Middlesex County splits more than \$26 million in Federal Homeland Security funds with the other UASI members to be used for initiatives that will benefit the entire region. The region is one of several throughout the nation singled out because of its proximity to and inclusion of large urban centers.

The region includes Middlesex, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlsex, Morris, Passaic counties and Newark and Jersey City.

"The county has taken on additional work because of the UASI designation and yet continues to exceed the state's standards," Rafano said. "That's the mark of dedicated personnel and great

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND UTILITIES WITHIN 200 FEET OF PROPERTY AFFECTED BY APPLICATION TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that a Public Hearing is scheduled before the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment on Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey to hear the Application for Site Plan Approval filed by Pinto Rivinters (England 1) Proposed LIC Celating to property located Brothers Disposal, LLC, relating to property located at Lorraine Avenue and designated as Lot 3, Block 361 on the Tax Map of the Borough of South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey

The maps and documents pertaining to this Site Plan Application are on file at the Office of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, and shall be available for public inspection weekdays from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 PM. Any interested party may appear at the Hearing and present any objections to the granting of the relief requested.

Attorney for Applicant, PINTO BROS. DISPOSAL, LLC 287 Bloomfield Avenue Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

December 28. 2007

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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

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

Ordinance 1629A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1629 PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL LAND KNOWN AS BLOCK 276, LOT 5 WHICH WAS INCORRECTLY REFERENCED AS BLOCK 279, LOT 5 IN THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE was presented for after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately after the 7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

December 28, 2007 BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD Public Notice

RETURN OF PERFORMANCE BOND To Gem Estates Inc. for public improvements at Staces Court in South Plainfield Lot 4.01, 5 and 32; Block 77

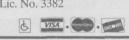
A public meeting has been scheduled by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield to hear objections, if any, to the release of a Performance Bond posted by Gem Estates Inc. for public improve-ments at Stacey Court in South Plainfield know as Lot 4.01, 5 and 32, Block 77 listed on the official tax maps of the Borough of South Plainfield. Said public hearing will be held 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

Gem Estates Inc. 225 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080



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Glenn J. Scarponi, Director, N.J. Lic. No 4411



By Libby Barsky

· 10 ·

When it comes to the spirit of the holiday season, South Plainfield students really pitched in and worked together so that needy families could have a memorable holiday.

Students at the high school held a toy drive, sponsored by the athletic

Final Library Plans Unveiled

(Continued from page 1) meeting room.

The parking lot will accommodate 21 spaces. There will also be a drivethru window to allow patrons to pick up and drop off of books. Additional parking will be available in the municipal parking lot. A sidewalk will be

constructed along a path to the municipal lot. The present library is located next to the municipal building and shares the parking lot with all who use the facility, including the municipal court. According to Thomas, now that the

final plans are in place, it means

fundraising can begin in earnest. The

borough has roughly half a million

dollars in grants that can be used for elevators and handicapped access. If the 2008 council supports the plans, the project could go out to bid in January or February and ground-

breaking may occur in the spring.

department, the Athletic Boosters and the Heroes and Cool Kids organization. Bringing in a new toy to the athletic department meant receiving a free ticket to an upcoming home game. The drive ended on December 14.

There was such a great response that we needed three trucks to take the over 300 new toys to Borough Hall where Social Services Director Marge Ackerman administered their distribution to needy families," said Gregg Genz of Heroes and Cool Kids.

In November, Peer Leadership students from the middle school and Student Leadership members in the high school supported the "Adopt-A-Family" program, reaching out to 10 needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Adopt-A-Family program began 10 years ago with students from Student Leadership, under the direction of former Staff Director Mary Ellen Martko. When Martko started the Adopt-A-Family program there were only 15 student leadership members. Approximately 100 students are involved in this year's project which has grown to 10 families, with three of the families being sponsored by those in the administration building.

As the student leadership group grew, Martko trained student leadership advisors, including high school teachers Anthony Encinas, Kevin Hajduk, Jessica Marconi, Angela Raimondo Hajduk, Marla Vandermark and Tammy Zurka. Martko retired in June and passed on the Adopt-A-Family project to the advisors to take charge and organize the students. For Thanksgiving, the advisors oversaw the collection of food to fill the pantry and provided the makings for a holiday dinner for Thanksgiving and made sure the food was taken to the homes. At Christmas, the students redoubled their effort, adding five gifts for each family member and decorations as well as food for the holiday.

On December 18 the students wrapped five gifts for each member of their "adopted" family and with the help of the student leadership advisors, transported the gifts, food for the pantry and a holiday dinner and topping it off was a Christmas tree, courtesy of Wayne Bizup.

Most deliveries went out December 18, but not everyone was home. A group, made up of Jimmy Cox, Ashley Alvarado, Jessie Gray, Gina Viola and Tina Foscolo, came back with their packages. Jimmy Cox couldn't make it, but another member of the group, Steven Wieczorek, took his place when they returned the following day. Jessie Gray had the idea to place the gifts in large sturdy laundry baskets so they could serve a double purpose and that's how they transferred the gifts when they got to the house.



December 28, 2007

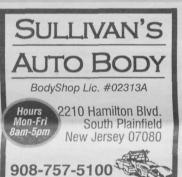
Student Leadership members get ready to take gifts to the family they adopted for Christmas. Pictured: Tina Foscolo, Gina Viola, Jessie Gray, Ashely Alvarado and Jimmy Cox.

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From the South Plainfield Library

By Chris Grippo

An important new policy has been adopted by the South Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees regarding internet usage. As of January 1, no one 14 years old or younger will be allowed to use the Internet without a parent or guardian present. Children 14 and under will still be able to use a computer for word processing without an adult present. In either case the child must have computer access approved on their library card by a parent or guardian. No one can sign to approve computer access for a minor unless they are that minor's parent or legal guardian. The library is open seven days a week for an adult's convenience to come in and sign the appropriate forms. Furthermore, all computer users who are South Plainfield residents are required to have in their possession their library card to use library services (including computers). Library policy forbids the staff to give out library card numbers so you must bring your library card with you to the library. If you have lost your card you can obtain a replacement card for \$2 (if you are under 18 you will

need your parent or guardian present to get a replacement card). The Library Board of Trustees has implemented these policies for the protection of our patrons since each library cardholder is responsible for whatever materials are checked out on their card and stealing one's library card number would be a form of identity theft. Furthermore, the library now filters its Internet computers.

Finally, many new materials have come into the library these last few weeks. DVDs include "Shrek the Third," the latest Bourne movie, recent seasons of "Alias," "Numbers," "30 Rock" and many others. Also new books by David Baldacci, Danielle Steel, Patricia Cornwall and James Patterson have arrived. And don't forget our wide selection of magazines, especially the one's on cooking for all those holiday leftovers ("Every Day with Rachel Ray," "Vegetarian Times," "Cooking Light," and for those who overdid it, "Weight Watchers").

We hope you have a Happy New Year and we look forward to serving you in the coming year.

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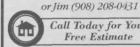
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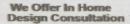


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