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Last day to register for the  
Presidential Primary is January  
15. The Municipal Clerk's  
office will be open until 9 p.m.  
that evening.

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 19

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

JAN 11 2008

JANUARY 11, 2008

## CAPPY AWARD NAMESAKE DIES AT 80



Police Chaplain Reverend Charles Mingle leads the procession after the funeral of Tulio Capparelli at Sacred Heart Church.

### 55 Year Resident Lauded for Volunteerism

Former Deputy Police Chief Tulio P. "Cappy" Capparelli died last week. Cappy was an active member of the South Plainfield community for 55 of its 100-year history. He will be remembered for his dedication to the youth of South Plainfield and his many volunteer services throughout the years.

Capparelli was a humble man, never seeking recognition for his volunteerism. He had a unique way of quietly voicing his views and wishes. Most could not resist any request he made. Most often his wishes included things that would benefit the children of the borough.

"Cappy's" final viewing took place at the PAL, a building he helped to build and served as director of, for 37 years. His funeral was attended by hundreds, and included a bagpiper and an honor guard from South Plainfield and Plainfield police.

In 1953 he began his 30-year career as a police officer with the South Plainfield Police Department. During those 30 remarkable years of loyal service, he was awarded numerous citations for his efforts in protecting the residents of South Plainfield.

In 1959 he helped organize the South Plainfield Police Athletic League, was instrumental in the construction of the PAL building and served as its director for 37 years until 1996. During those years "Cappy" became the cornerstone of youth

sporting activities in the community.

In 1976 the 200 Club of Middlesex County awarded him two notable citations—Outstanding Public Safety Police Officer of the Year and the Valor Award—one of the most prestigious awards given, of which only four South Plainfield Police Officers have ever received in the history of the department.

In 1975 "Cappy" started a program within the police department geared toward children called "Otto the Auto." Otto was a Volkswagen Beetle that spoke to local children about safety awareness.

On October 12, 2002 the South Plainfield Recreation Department, along with the Police Athletic League, recognized Deputy Chief Capparelli by establishing the Cappy Award. The award annually recognizes an individual for dedication and commitment to the youth of the community and to someone who provides inspiration for children to expand their horizons and further develop their mental and physical abilities.

"Cappy" was a veteran of WWII, serving with the U.S. Army. He was an usher at Sacred Heart Church, a trustee and was a member of the Sacred Heart's 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

He was a member of the South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243, South Plainfield Elks Lodge

(Continued on page 14)

## Annual Reorganization The Balance of Power Shifts 2008



Tim McConville is sworn in at the annual reorganization meeting. His son, Sean, holds the Bible while his wife, Gina, and daughters, Caitlin and Julian, look on.



Former Governor Donald DiFrancesco swears in Councilman Ray Rusnak, joined by his wife Robin.

With the Republicans securing two Borough Council seats in November's election, the 4-2 Democrat makeup of the previous year shifted to a 4-2 Republican council. The result was evident when the majority of the professionals providing legal, appraisal, auditing, engineering and insurance services for the borough were replaced at the annual reorganization meeting last Saturday.

The council voted 4-2, along party lines, on most appointments. The positions of insurance/broker consultant, municipal court judge (John A. Jorgenson) and public defender (Edward Santoro) remained the same.

Mayor Charles Butrico said he would withhold signing the mayoral appointment of Paul Garelick of Lombardi & Lombardi to the position of prosecutor in an attempt to discuss reappointing 14-year veteran Tom Lanza. "As mayor, I will assign a prosecutor, Tom Lanza, for 30 days. We can make this an interim period," said Butrico. According to newly appointed Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo, when the council holds its regular meeting in January, they can make a motion for Council President Robert Bengivenga to override the mayor and sign the appointment of Garelick, a 1986 graduate of South Plainfield High School. The borough's new attorney, Joe Sordillo, is a member of the law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer PC.

Former New Jersey Governor Donald DiFrancesco, a partner in the borough's new legal council, administered the oath of office to council members Timothy McConville and

(Continued on page 14)



Shirley Thompson, pictured in the second row, second from the left, with some of the volunteers as they prepare to deliver Christmas dinners for 27 families in South Plainfield. For full story, turn to page 7.





## NEW TIME

### Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8:30 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.

#### council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted.\* All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, January 14	Tuesday, January 22*
Monday, February 4	Monday, February 11
Tuesday, February 19*	Monday, February 25
Monday, March 3	Monday, March 10
Monday, March 17	Monday, March 24
Monday, March 31	Monday, April 7
Monday, April 14	Monday, April 21

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

#### planningboard

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

Feb. 26\*, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May13, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Sept. 9, Sept 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov 18\*, Dec. 9\*.

#### zoningboardofadjustment

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.-Feb. 13, March 12, April 2 Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. 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

#### 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.

#### 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.

## South Plainfield Observer

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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

#### To the Editor:

The Capparelli Family would like to thank the community of South Plainfield for their overwhelming support upon the death of Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli.

Although we always knew that he was an exceptional person, your words and actions have shown us that you knew, too. We never could have imagined such an honorary tribute being bestowed upon him. He would have been proud!

Please know that we will always remember and deeply appreciate even the smallest of gestures. However, there are some that need special mention to you, the community, for their extraordinary efforts: the South Plainfield Police, Police Athletic League, Recreation Department, Fire Department and mayor and council, as well as the Plainfield Police, United States Army, American Legion Chaumont Post #243, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Reverend Charles Mingle and Deacon Joseph Stanczak.

**OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE,  
THE CAPPARELLI FAMILY**

#### To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Junioresettes would like to thank Century 21 Moretti Realty for their generous donation of \$150. This money was used to help purchase gifts for teenage girls in the Middlesex County Foster and Adoptive Family Services. This donation along with our own fundraising efforts has allowed the girls to have a memorable holiday.

Thank you again for your support in helping these teenagers!

**SINCERELY,  
THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
JUNIORESSETTES**

#### To the Editor:

This week, South Plainfield lost a true icon of the community, Tulio "Cappy" Capparelli.

"Cappy" started his career as one of South Plainfield's finest the year I was born. Of course, it wasn't until I was in my teens that I recall knowing who this fine gentleman was. He wore his badge proudly, and certainly overshadowed any story one may read about a law enforcement officer shaming the honor.

When my late brother joined the police force in 1967, "Cappy" was a role model to him and my brother absorbed his words of wisdom like a sponge. One of the most important things he stressed was that all people are human beings and get treated with respect. That was part of the all-important "To Serve and Protect" according to "Cappy."

"Cappy" was a person who spoke when he had something to say and listened when someone else did. At my father's funeral mass, he honored my father's memory by walking to the front of the church and reading a eulogy, not from paper, but from his heart, that spoke of the days gone by and pleasantly surprised my family and myself.

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Corporate Accounts Welcome



## INMYOPINION

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

#### 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.

When I served as public safety chairwoman, "Cappy" would remind me during contract negotiations to treat his "boys" good. When one dealt with "Cappy," there wasn't any such thing as a Republican or Democrat and nothing that couldn't be sealed with a gentleman's handshake. When the lease on the PAL building was up for renewal, the only way that "Cappy" would sign the papers was if the mayor and council promised that the building be used only for the original intention that it was built for: the youth of the community. And believe me, none of us would dare go back on our word!

I also recall sitting at his kitchen table back in 1995 trying to convince him to accept the nomination of grand marshal of the Labor Day Parade. A humble man, "Cappy" told me all of the reasons why he did all of the things he was being honored for—his love of the community and its residents. His wife, Prudence, sat with me and listened and when he finished she looked at me and shrugged her shoulders, which silently told me that no one could argue with him. However, a few days later, I received a call telling me that he reconsidered and gave in to the honor bestowed on him. (To this day, I think Prudence was the one who convinced him!)

To the Capparelli Family, I extend my deepest sympathy on the loss of "Cappy." You are not alone in your loss. And to "Cappy," I leave you with the words that you always left with me...God Bless.

**LINDA DASHUTA**

#### To the Editor:

Last week's paper included an article quoting ex-Councilwoman Thomas. Thomas must be under the misapprehension she was reelected in November, because she spoke about her displeasure with the meetings to choose professionals for 2008 and how she walked out. News flash: Kathy, you lost the election and should not have been part of those meetings to begin with.

After reading Thomas's comments, residents are left to wonder what really happened. Here's the deal. The Democrats were so livid about losing November's election, they decided to do their best to obstruct the new administration's transition.

They started by using the power they still had to unilaterally set deadlines for professional proposals. They pushed the entire interview process into the week between Christmas and New Years, and without getting permission from the new majority, they promised interviews for all 108 applicants. Imagine trying to conduct 108 interviews in two days.

Remember, these contracts total over a million dollars (engineers, attorneys, etc.). It would be irresponsible to pick these professionals based on two days of marathon interviews, so the Republicans did the responsible thing: they started pre-interviewing, calling references, consulting with borough employees and talking to the community (for example, the Business Association).

Thomas and her Democratic cohorts want to make this sound sinister. But then again, under their reign, the most important qualification for a professional position was a large donation to the Democratic Party. There were no interviews, and the community was never consulted.

The Democrats' next step was to throw a temper tantrum at the annual reorganization. This is supposed to be a day when the new council members get sworn in, with family and friends coming to wish them well.

This year, however, Mayor Charles Buttrico repeatedly engaged in partisan bickering and obstruction. In fact, after the council made one of its appointments, he announced he would refuse to sign the contract. This violates his oath of office and New Jersey law, which gives the council the right to make the appointment. By contrast, last year when Republicans were not on the winning side, they respect-

(Continued on page 6)

### Notice

The tax assessment list for the 2008 tax year will be open for public inspection on Monday, January 14, 2008 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. The list can be viewed in the office of the Tax Assessor in the Municipal Building located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

This advertisement complies with New Jersey Statue 54:4-38.

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Information reported in a Statewide Market study conducted by Belden Associates for New Jersey Press Association





Dennis Cerami accepts a proclamation and plaque from Mayor Charles Butrico for his 12 years of service on the borough council.

## Dennis Cerami Honored For 12 Years of Service

During the January 5 reorganization meeting, Dennis Cerami was honored for his 12 years of service as a councilman for the Borough of South Plainfield.

During those 12 years, Cerami always put public safety as his top priority. As chairperson of the Public Safety Committee for most of those 12 years, he met with police, firemen and rescue workers, collected their monthly statistics, learned of their needs and what they needed to update and improve their work environment.

He didn't only listen, he acted. Through his efforts the police department achieved its goal of providing community policing by replacing the old Empire Gas Station at the corner of New Market Avenue and turned it into a satellite police building.

When emergencies occurred, such as severe flooding in town, the borough council meeting room had to be converted into a command post. Cerami pushed for the construction of the Emergency Management Incident Command Center, which is now headquarters for Emergency Management.

He saw to it that the 911 communication system was upgraded to include all of the borough's emergency services and that mobile data terminals were placed in police vehicles.

His efforts extended to the volunteer firefighters, overseeing purchase of new breathing apparatus and a crash/rescue and state-of-the-art pumper truck.

Most recently Cerami helped to outfit the volunteer rescue squad with three new ambulances.

Mayor Charles Butrico called Dennis Cerami his best friend. It was Cerami, who got him involved in politics to try to make the borough better.

Councilman Ray Petronko noted the time and effort Cerami took in researching the three ambulances before the borough purchased them. "It made the council's job so much easier."

"It was an honor serving with you and with your wife, Michelle, on the Public Celebrations Committee," said Councilman Matt Anness.

"I'm going to miss this. It's been an honor to serve as a public official," said Cerami.

Cerami has been a resident of South Plainfield for 26 years. He is a graduate of University of Monmouth College. He is married to wife, Michelle, for 36 years and they have three children.

## Store Owner Foils Attempted Robbery

K-Foods on Park Avenue was the scene of an attempted robbery which was foiled by the owner who chased away two men poised to rob the convenience store.

Owner Chandra Patel told South Plainfield Police that on Saturday, just before 10 p.m., a black male wearing a ski mask and brandishing a small handgun entered the store. Patel grabbed an ax from under the counter and chased the suspect through the store. Patel left the store to pursue the assailant's accomplice standing outside the front door who took off running towards Carlisle Street. As Patel reentered the building, the suspect pushed the door open, almost striking Patel and fled in the direction of Carlisle Street.

The first suspect is described as 5'5" tall, medium build, wearing a black coat with a dark blue checkered shirt and blue jeans. Patel did not get a good look at the other suspect. Nothing was taken from the store.

## Printing Press Fire Evacuates Employees

The South Plainfield Fire Department responded to a fire in the main production area at Innovative Folding Carton on Durham Avenue last Wednesday at around 9:30 a.m. One hundred fifty employees were evacuated from the building due to a heavy smoke condition in the building. The fire, located under several printing presses, had been partially extinguished by employees using dry powder. The fire department continued to put out the fire and ventilate the building.

According to Fire Chief Larry DelNegro, no one was injured and the fire appeared to be accidental.

### Corrections

In the December 28 issue, we incorrectly identified Nicole Barko as Nicole Barka. The corrected Milestone can be viewed on our Web site at [www.spobserver.com](http://www.spobserver.com).

In the December 28 issue we incorrectly identified Robert Richkus, husband of Kennedy School Principal Kelly Richkus.

In the January 4 issue, we incorrectly reported that the Library Foundation is selling candy bars to raise funds for construction of the new library. The candy sale is an ongoing fundraiser of the Friends of the Library for the library.

We regret the errors.

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John E. Riley School held their annual gingerbread house contest and received numerous outstanding entries from students. This year's winner was Joseph Vargas. His winning entry earned him a \$50 gift certificate from Toys-R-Us. Sabrina Fisher and Sean McConville tied for second place with each receiving a \$25 gift certificate to Toys-R-Us.

## Empowering the People Seminar Announced

Two grass roots organizations, the New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA) and the Citizens' Campaign, have agreed to speak about what taxpayers can do to empower themselves. The public is welcome to attend one or all of the discussions at the senior center, located on Maple Avenue.

The first discussion by Jerry Cantrel, president of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association, will cover the 10 top property relief proposals on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Formerly The Silver Brigade, NJTA evolved from a group of concerned citizens who came together initially in 2000 to formally oppose the out of control property tax increases rampant throughout the state of New Jersey. Since 2004, the organization has expanded on the original mission, now taking a very aggressive role in addressing the overall tax issue and the fiscal irresponsibility and mismanagement that has historically plagued our state. For more information on NJTA log on to their Web site at [www.njtaxes.org](http://www.njtaxes.org).

Also, the Citizens' Campaign will bring their free training program to South Plainfield starting on Wednesday, Feb. 6 with an "Introduction to Local Government." They will follow with the "Path to Legislative Power" on Wednesday, Feb. 27, the "Path to Appointed Power" on Wednesday, March 5 and "The Path to Political Power" on Wednesday, March 26. All programs begin at 7 p.m. For more information on the Citizens' Campaign log on to their Web site at: [www.jointhecampaign.com](http://www.jointhecampaign.com).

If you like paying high taxes, please stay home; otherwise come join the fight. For more information call (908) 922-2368.

## Boy Scout Troop 309 Open House

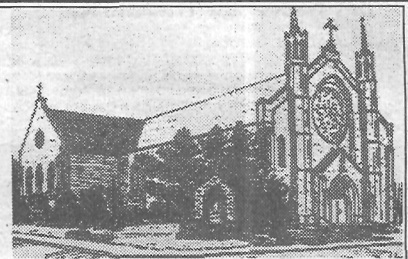
Boy Scout Troop #309 will hold an open house for boys ages 12 and up wishing to join the Boy Scouts. The open house takes place Monday, Jan. 28 from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. No previous scouting experience is necessary to join.

For further information or to make an appointment, contact Jeff Pauls at (908) 755-6133.

## Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

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

## South Plainfield Open House-Sunday, Jan. 13, 1 to 4 p.m.



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# around town

## Pasta Dinner at Sacred Heart

January 12

Sacred Heart School is holding a pasta dinner on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feast on sausage, meatballs, pasta, salad and even turkey, stuffing and gravy, plus desserts and beverages. All for \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and children 6-13. Kids five and under eat free! Family of five or more eat for \$25! Proceeds benefit the Sacred Heart School Athletic Association.

For more information, call Mark at (908) 251-4549. Mangia!

## Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw

January 13

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual free throw championship. Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate. Registration will be held on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart School Gymnasium. Competition starts at 1:30 p.m. All local contestants will be recognized. Participants must 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.

R.S.V.P. to Kathy Sherry at (732) 287-9555, ext. 123.

## SPBA Monthly Meeting

January 17

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold their monthly meet-

What's happening at the  
South Plainfield **SENIOR CENTER**

**JANUARY**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> January 28 - Noon Presentation of Pre-Arrangements by McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, with lunch ... Hunterdon Hills trip to see "Barefoot in the Park" - March 13				Bingo 10am-2pm <b>11</b>
Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am <b>14</b> Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	Bingo 10am-2pm <b>15</b> Ladies Social Group 10am	Aerobics 8:45 am <b>16</b> Listen to Children 9:45am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm	Pathmark Shopping 9am <b>17</b> Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15p Claridge Trip 9am	Bingo 10am-2pm <b>18</b>

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

ing on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner. Guest speaker will be a representative from People Management, Inc.

Contact Debra Leporino, SPBA president, at SPBAPres@aol.com no later than Monday, Jan. 28 if you would like to be a guest speaker at the February meeting.

## GOP Meeting

January 17

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. at Sherban's Diner. All residents are invited to attend and bring their concerns and comments for an open discussion on solutions that could benefit South Plainfield.

## American Legion Pancake Breakfast

January 20

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243, located on Oak Tree Avenue, will be hosting an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 adults, \$3

children and free for kids under the age of six. Everyone is welcome to attend this event benefiting the scholarship fund.

## Inauguration of Coalition of Cultural Diversity

January 21

Mayor Charles Buttrico 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 Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

## AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

January 28

AARP Chapter #4144 will host Maria Linda Manola from JFK speaking "Stroke Awareness" on Monday,

Jan. 28 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the senior center. They are currently knitting 130 lap robes for the Highlands, preemie hats for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128.

Refreshments will be served. New members and guests are welcome.

## Wine and Cheese Business Reception

January 30

The directors and officers of Commerce Bank and 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.

## — Out of Town —

## 2008 Bucks County Dinner Theater

January 11

The Bucks County Playhouse winter schedule opens on Friday, Jan. 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.

## Racial Harmony Mass at St. Francis

January 13

The Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate a Mass for Racial Harmony on Sunday, Jan. 13 at noon in St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen, will be the principal celebrant at the Mass. Bishop Emeritus Edward T. Hughes will deliver the homily. A reception will follow the Mass. All are invited to attend.

For more information, call (732) 562-2461.

## MLK Jr. Celebration

January 20

The New Hope Baptist Church and The NAACP Metuchen-Edison Area Branch presents the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration entitled, "Following in the Footsteps of the Dream," at New Hope Baptist Church, 45 Hampton St., Metuchen at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free.

For further information call (732) 549-7936 or (732) 906-6664.

## Post Katrina Fundraiser

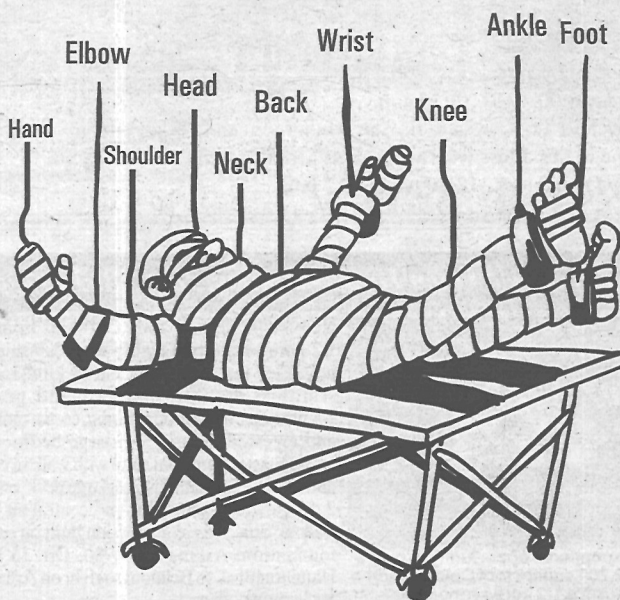
January 26

A fundraiser for post-Katrina reconstruction, "Jazz and Jambalaya," featuring a traditional New Orleans dinner and The Marshalls Dixieland Band will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield.

Tickets are \$40, with \$30 going toward Katrina rebuilding materials (tax deductible receipt will be provided).

For tickets and information, contact Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church at (908) 755-2781 or Cathy Boleyn at (732) 690-2952

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

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

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had a great retail, restaurant or service

experience in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

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

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

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

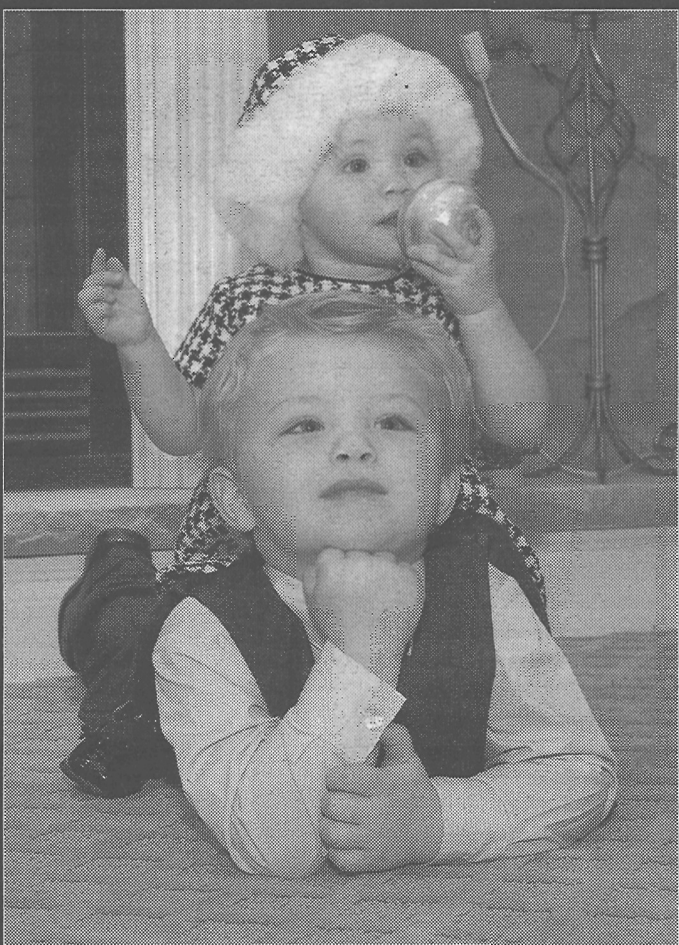
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South Plainfield  
Observer



## Picture of the Week

Submitted by Bill Tuthill



Michael Joseph, 3, and Ava Loren Kurilew, 1, children of Michelle and Mike Kurilew.

## First Annual Festival of Cultures Announced

Come experience a festival of cultural extravaganza on Monday, Jan. 21 at 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's events 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 Sienkiewski (908) 561-8057.

## Edison Valley Playhouse Will Hold Auditions For "Love Letters"

The Edison Valley Playhouse will hold auditions for "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. Director

David Christopher is looking to cast three separate pairs for different performances over the run. Readings will be from the script. Show dates are mid-February to early March.

Auditions will be held at Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Road in Edison.

For more information, call (908) 755-4654 or E-mail loveletters@edvplayhouse.com.

Visit the Observer

on the web at

[www.spsobserver.com](http://www.spsobserver.com)

## Magic/Illusion Show to Benefit Summer Drama Workshop

On Sunday, Feb. 24 the "Art of Imagination," presented by Carson Entertainment will be held at SPHS auditorium. All ticket sales will support South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW).

SDW has become a tradition in South Plainfield. This youth summer theatre program is in its 33rd season. Students have the opportunity to participate in every aspect of a production, from acting, singing and dancing, performing in the orchestra, set and costume construction, make-up, stage crew, lighting, ticket sales and fundraising. Productions are produced through the volunteer efforts of dedicated individuals and under the auspices of the South Plainfield Adult School.

Carson Entertainment presents one of the world's largest magic/illusion shows, featuring the talents of Garry Carson and Kelsey Kara, who have been performing clean family entertainment for the past 10 years.

Born and raised in Colorado, Carson began performing at the age of 10 when he turned to magic as a hobby after a serious snow sledding accident, which resulted in the loss of his left kidney. He had many obstacles to overcome, and by the time he was fourteen, he had become a professional magician. His interest in the art of magic led him to perform for many fundraising events, as well as at numerous other venues. He also created an educational school program called

"Knowing the Magic Words," which provided him with the opportunity to speak to over half a million children throughout the Midwest. All of this he accomplished before graduation from high school!

At the age of 25, Carson was selected from hundreds of magicians worldwide to premiere the opening of the MGM Grand, the world's largest hotel and casino in Las Vegas. His initial six-month contract was extended for over two years performing 8,000 shows.

Garry combines his magical talents with his partner and wife, Kelsey Kara.

Kelsey Kara, former Miss Nevada, has been singing and dancing since the age of three. She began sharing her talents professionally at fourteen when she appeared on the New Mickey Mouse Club. Later, she went on to the Miss America stage in Atlantic City. After traveling and performing internationally for four years as a singer and dancer on a world tour of Legends in Concert, Kelsey returned to Las Vegas to work with Garry at the MGM

Grand Hotel and Casino.

They decided to combine their talents and hearts together in marriage and have since been featured in national and international publications as "...incredibly talented performers who perform under, at times, impossible conditions." They have delighted audiences in over 40 countries displaying their unique style of magic and illusion.

Garry and Kelsey have also filmed many TV specials before live audiences in the United States, Europe and Australia. Their most recent is called "Master of Illusions," produced by Gay Blackstone, wife of the late legendary magician Harry Blackstone, Jr.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for the 2 p.m. show. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the *Observer* office ((908) 668-0010), located at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. or at Jay Bees Screen Printing ((908) 668-1185) on New Market Avenue.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact (908) 561-5255 or [info@spsdw.com](mailto:info@spsdw.com).

## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



James Veiga and Amy Lynn Cotone

### Amy Lynn Cotone, James Veiga Announce Engagement

Ralph and Margie Cotone of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Lynn Cotone, to James Veiga, son of Flor and Jaime Veiga of Brooklyn, N.Y. on Christmas Day.

A 2009 wedding is planned.

## Mass for Racial Harmony

The Diocese of Metuchen will celebrate a Mass for Racial Harmony on Sunday, Jan. 13 at noon in St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen, will be the celebrant. Bishop Emeritus Edward T. Hughes will deliver the homily.

Initiated in 1991 by Bishop Hughes, the annual event is intended to celebrate the dignity of every human person, to commemorate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to promote the civil rights leader's message of social change through non-violence. It also conveys to participants the diversity within the diocese which serves over a half million Catholics in Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties.

The Racial Harmony Mass is being sponsored by the Diocese's Commission for Black Catholic Ministry. A reception will follow the Mass. All are invited to attend.

For more information, call (732) 562-2461.

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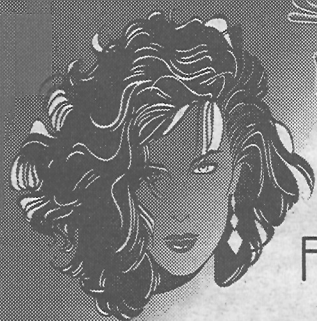
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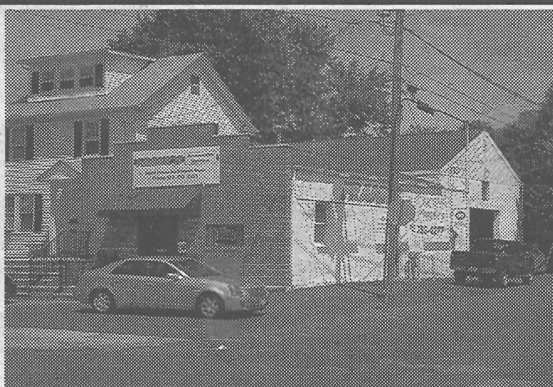
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Natalie Bergen, fundraising chairman of the Suburban Woman's Club, delivered another 27 handmade Teddy bears to Police Chief John Ferraro before Christmas, bringing the total number of bears donated this year to 100. The bears are kept in the trunks of police vehicles and given to small children who are involved in incidents which are scary for them or in which they have been injured. Club members spend countless hours making the bears, with one sewing, another stuffing and another one painting faces on them.

## policereport

- On December 25, Michele Baker, 44, of Dunellen was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.
- SRI Discount Liquors on Hadley Road reported that the front glass door of the store had been smashed and \$1,000 in cash, a case of Newport cigarettes worth \$1,200 and N.J. State lottery tickets worth \$100 were taken.
- On December 26, Michael A. Everett, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a weapon.
- Kendall T. Brown, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.
- On December 27, Normand Lefebvre, 42, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to stop prior to a turn.
- Chuckie P. Matugas, 21, of Somerville, was arrested at Quick Chek on Sampton Avenue for shoplifting a case of Red Bull worth \$55 and Dutch Master cigars worth \$16.
- On December 28, a Wood Street resident reported that their Christmas lights had been cut.
- On December 29, Ceila Johana Casco Moncada, 26, of Plainfield was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting various items worth \$40.
- On December 31, an Oakland Avenue resident reported that the right front tire of their vehicle had been slashed.
- An Edison resident reported that the driver's front door of their vehicle had been scratched with an unknown object.
- On January 1, Sheila D. Williams, 42, of Englewood was arrested for speeding, no insurance and six outstanding warrants.
- On January 3, RJP Repair Service on Roosevelt Avenue reported the theft of four pickup truck radiators, a hub assembly and a 50 gallon drum of aluminum from various locations inside and outside the shop.
- A Marlboro resident reported that a golf ball had broken the rear hatch window of their vehicle while parked at the Home Depot office parking lot.
- On January 4, two residents on Central Avenue reported the theft of cash, change and a storage box from their unlocked vehicles.
- A Piscataway resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been broken while parked at 1 Cragwood Rd.
- On January 5, Rhina Garcia, 44, of Dunellen was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting three bottles of shampoo worth \$14.
- Rudolph L. Montford, 33, of South Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- On January 6, a Wood Avenue resident reported that their Christmas lights had been cut again.
- On January 7, a Pershing Place resident reported the theft of \$2 in change from their unlocked vehicle.
- A Bullard Place resident reported the theft of \$1 in change from their unlocked vehicle.
- A Wood Avenue resident reported the theft of a 2003 Toyota Corolla from in front of their house.

(Continued from page 2)

fully voted no without commenting on appointments they disagreed with, not wanting to spoil the mayor's swearing in.

Sometimes politicians lose with dignity and sometimes they lose with bitterness. I think it's apparent into which category the South Plainfield Democrats fall.

BOB JONES

Dear Editor,

It is difficult to express the depth of my disappointment at the shameful political performance of the Republican majority at South Plainfield's council reorganization meeting on January 5. The Republicans, without explanation, replaced EVERY professional with ones who are long time contributors to the Republican Party. The Republican chair, Bob Jones and the new Council President Robert Bengivenga, actually bragged of this shameful approach in effect saying, "To the victors go the spoils." In their scorched Earth approach to appointments, the Republicans replaced the borough engineer, borough auditor, borough appraiser, bond counsel, planner and redevelopment attorney who served the borough with distinction for over a decade.

The most outrageous action the politically-motivated new majority took was the nomination of a totally inexperienced attorney to replace our long serving Municipal Court Prosecutor Thomas Lanza. The individual nominated has never served one day as a prosecutor as compared with Mr. Lanza's 14 years of experience. The only qualification of the Republican nominee is that he is a personal friend of party boss Bob Jones.

I dislike partisanship in government. Anyone who knows me and my family is well aware of my belief that things are better worked out through conversation than through fighting. I have vetoed the appointment of the Municipal Prosecutor nominated by the Republicans which means that Mr. Lanza will continue to serve for 30 days after which the council may vote on its nominee. I urge them to reconsider this unwise decision and support the reappointment of Thomas Lanza as prosecutor. Based on their arrogance and lack of regard on Reorganization Day, I don't believe this will happen without public input.

I urge every resident to write, E-mail or call me and simply state the

## IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Fellow Residents,

On Saturday, I was privileged to be sworn-in as a member of the Borough Council. Upon taking my oath, I was asked to chair the council's finance committee, which I was honored to do.

I knew there would be challenges, but I was surprised by how quickly they came to light. We are now six months into the budget year, which started in July, and the budget has yet to be adopted. This is the same budget that includes the last administration's purported tax cut. They advertised a tax cut, but they never adopted the budget, so in reality, there was no tax cut. I can't think of anything more irresponsible.

More importantly, though, in the prior administration's zeal to make their promise, they left the new administration with a huge \$1.1 million hole. In other words, if we were to adopt the budget as is, it would be

short more than a million dollars. This is because the prior administration 1) failed to budget a single penny for tax appeals, which will total about \$500,000, and 2) included money as revenue that never materialized (\$600,000).

On top of this, while the public was promised the budget did not include money from the sale of land, this was not true. The budget included \$1.3 million in land-sale money. Finance experts warn against using land sales in a budget, because it sets taxpayers up for a large tax increase the following year when land-sale money is unavailable. In addition, if you sell land again the following year, you start an addiction that gets worse and worse.

I've spoken to some of my fellow council members, and we felt it important to be frank with the public about what's happened. Failure to immediately remedy this fiscal mess could mean as much as a 20-point tax increase and layoffs next year. Our initial plans should not only include freezing spending for 2008, but recasting the budget as quickly as possible.

It's unfortunate to have to break this news as one of my first acts on the council. I can say, however, that we will work diligently to solve these problems and get us on a path toward fiscal responsibility. I will also keep the public updated as we go.

COUNCILMAN RAY RUSNAK

## Tri-County Red Cross Offers CPR Courses

The Tri-County Red Cross is offering the following CPR courses:

Adult CPR/AED and Standard First Aid will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course will cost \$55 and be held at the American Red Cross office at 332 West Front St. in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer will be held on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The course will cost \$70 and will be held at the Tri-County Red Cross office at 16 Jefferson Ave. in Elizabeth.

Adult CPR/AED, Child CPR/

AED, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course will cost \$65 and be held at the Tri-County Red Cross office in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

Adult CPR/AED Child CPR/AED, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Spanish. The course will cost \$65 and be held at the Tri-County Red Cross office in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

To register or for more information, call Rose at (908) 756-6414, ext. 10.

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## Giving is Second Nature for Local Family

### Thompsons Spend Fifth Year Making Christmas Special for Others

Shirley Thompson and her extended family just completed their fifth year of making the holidays brighter for many local families who would have little or no holiday joy this year. This endeavor could not have been a success without the help of so many generous people.

**"My husband, who carved 13 turkeys, made me promise not to cook a turkey dinner for a long time,"**

— Shirley Thompson —

Starting after Thanksgiving and continuing through December 22, the group delivered gifts to 27 homes and for 57 children. Thompson's neighbors, Carmen and Michelle Petriello, own a vacant house where the gifts were stored, sorted and wrapped.

A neighbor, Cathy Herman, kept track of all the presents. They would ask her, after wrapping several hundred gifts, what was in each package, and somehow she always knew the answer.

After the gifts were delivered, Thompson and her crew prepared the Christmas dinners. Due to the limited space available to store the food, shopping for the meals was done on December 22.

Christmas Eve has always been celebrated at the Thompsons' with family and friends and lots of food and fun. At around 11 p.m., clean up from the celebration was done and preparation for the food for Christmas Day started. Neighbors, family and friends began by filling fruit cups, packing cranberry sauce and bagging fresh fruit and rolls. Then the cooking began. By Christmas morning the food was ready and deliveries began at 11:30 a.m. The deliveries were made in record time this year despite the increased number of meals served, and all food was hot and fresh off the stove.

The group cooked 13 turkeys which were accompanied by stuffing, gravy, string beans, roasted potatoes, fresh fruit and fruit cups, cranberry sauce and dinner rolls. In addition to the meals, the elderly recipients received homemade cookies thanks to Betty Herman and Linda Rodriguez, who spent many hours baking.

Special thanks are due to Social Services Director Margaret Ackerman who helps get the project started each year. She does so much more with needy children and families than most realize. She spent many hours of her own time organizing, and always had the time to answer all questions asked of her. Her job of helping people is

not just one she does at Christmas time, but all year long.

Thompson said, "I don't know how to thank my family and extended family for all that they do, but without them this project would not be possible. My husband John, who carved 13 turkeys, made

me promise not to cook a turkey dinner for a long time. A special thanks to my mother, Stella, for all the help she gave me and for her jokes along the way that keep us laughing. My son Jerry, helps with the use of his oven and is a tremendous help in the kitchen with his serving skills. He helps me to ensure that everything comes out hot and on time. Special thanks to my son, John, and daughter-in-law, Deneen, for all of the Black Friday games and toys and for all of their help sorting, wrapping, cooking and serving. Thanks to Candy and Matt for wrapping and delivering all of the toys and my daughter, Heather, who has made me very proud, not only for the amount of work she puts into this project, but for the kind and giving person she is. I know that after five years of doing this, my family could take over and do this on their own if they needed to. I also want to thank my grandchildren Kasi, Daniel and Anthony who, every Christmas morning, put their gifts aside and come to help deliver food to the elderly. This is a great start in their lives and I am so proud of all three of them and love them very much."

Shirley would also like to give a special thank you to Jamie Larson at Sensient Cosmetics for the toy and food drive, and all the staff who gave so generously.

In addition to her family, there are many people to thank. Many families and individuals helped with buying gifts for the children and/or donated non-perishable foods which were distributed to the families as well.

She would like to acknowledge the help of the following: *The Observer*, Rev. Charles and Jean Mingle, Elly and Ted Stockton, Tom and Genie Cassio, Betty and Don Herman, Linda Rodriguez, Pollack Family, Phil and Amy Battista, Smithline Family, Sorrentino Family, Schleck Family, Vivian Coyle, Twin City Pharmacy, Mr. and Mrs. Scudato, Emily Mazellan, Sister Irene Gormley, Carmen and

Michelle Petriello, all of her neighbors for their donation of non-perishable food, Sisters of Mercy-McCuley Hall, Jacqueline Regan, Tina and Tony Puleo, Bill and Jackie Weaver, Collis and Peggy Moore, Becky Moore, Cindy and George Zielenbach, John Weiser, Florence and Robert Vincent, Donald and Patricia Jackson, Riley School (Wacky Hair Day Donation), Diane Lockhart, Orlandini Family, Marie and Joseph Dolinsky, Kingsley and Holly Beahr, Keith Ducker, Barry and John Ducker, Hillary Pease, Scott and Lisa Robinson, JoAnn and Harry Robinson, Rob and Arlene Richie, Schweers Family, George and Betty Coyne, Dorsi Lant, Michelle Bartell, John and Maureen Terhune, Timothy Grey, The Negrons, Greg Watts, Darr Family, Lampasona Family, Heckel Family, Heilmann Family, Pompilio Family, Sacco Family, Wylam Family, McMahon Family, Cotone-Smith Family, Nick Vallone, Rosemary, Anthony, Rocco and Jordan Petriello, Danielle, Tony, Daniel and Anthony DiMaria-Sadorski, Doreen DiMaria, Devon DeMaria, Denise DiMaria, Doreen and Scott Lessing and family, Martin Family, Rich and Linda Gaul, Dominick and Jen Buffalino, Rossi Family, JoAnn Hoover, Barry Christ, Nora and Tommy Sikanowicz, Cathy Herman, Bob and Patty Wagner, Joyce, Brian and Amanda Schweers, Cathy Smith, Cindy Eichler, Rose and Thom Trivigno, Barbara Gillan and family, Lisa Condran, Dawn and Steve Pasch, Siobhan Burke, Carolyn Schweers, Matt Bernstein, Lindsey Bechtel, Jersey Tank Fabricators, Inc. and Sensient Cosmetic Tech.

If anyone was omitted from the list, Shirley extends her regrets and greatly appreciates their kindness and generosity.

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST

### Natasha Jani Named Junior Journalist!

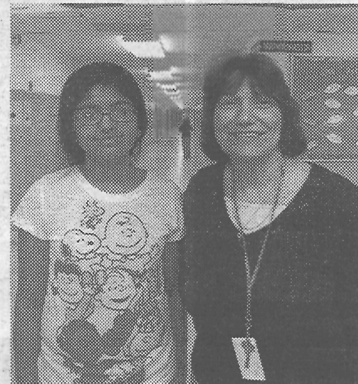
Natasha Jani, Grant Elementary sixth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plainfield *Observer* sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with her letter, "Dear Mother Earth."

Natasha 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 can 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



Junior Journalist winner Natasha Jani with Language Arts teacher Camile Deutsch.

*Observer* at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

### Dear Mother Earth,

Tell me about when the Earth was full and flourishing. Show me how clouds cry, growing the plants, filling the lakes. We've added so much to your world- Love and Care, Sadness and Cheering them up again, a few of the many things we share. We've added roads, we discovered fire, we created technology. Give me warm weather, so we can be with our families. Give me cold weather, so we can leap in leaves and make men in the snow. Thank you for your love and all you do!

Yours truly,  
Natasha Jani

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South Plainfield  
Summer Drama  
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# JANUARY 5, 2008

## Borough Reorganization



Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Thompson delivers the invocation.

Taylor Kurilew sings "The National Anthem."

### Mayoral Appointments

By Virtue Of The Power Vested In Me As Mayor Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, And Pursuant To Ordinance #728 And N.J.S.A.40:55d, I, Charles F. Butrico, Do Hereby Appoint:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Marc Sternersen	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2008
Frank Furino	Environmental Commission	December 31, 2010
Dorothy Miele	Environmental Commission-Chair	December 31, 2008
Joseph Scrudato	Environmental Commission-Planning Bd.	December 31, 2008
Kathleen Thomas	Mayor's HCD Representative	December 31, 2008
Kathleen Thomas	Mayor's Rep. Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2008
Kerry Brown	Planning Board-Class II	December 31, 2008
Michael Alvarez	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2012
Calvin Gross	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2012
Christine Buteas	Recreation Commission	December 31, 2012
Matthew Anesh	Traffic Safety - Council Liaison	December 31, 2008
Vincent Buttiglieri	Mayor's Rep. - Middlesex County Transportation Coord. Committee	December 31, 2008

Councilman Rob Bengivenga is sworn in as Council President while his family looks on.



### 2008 Council Meeting Dates

Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
January 14	January 22 (Tue.)	June 16	June 23
February 4	February 11	July 7	July 14
February 19 (Tue.)	February 25	August 4	August 11
March 3	March 10	September 2 (Tue.)	September 8
March 17	March 24	September 15	September 22
March 31	April 7	October 6	October 14 (Tue.)
April 14	April 21	October 20	October 27
May 5	May 12	November 3	November 10
May 19	May 27 (Tuesday)	November 17	November 24
June 2	June 9	December 1	December 8

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

### Mayor Appointments

With Advice And Consent Of Council

Be It Resolved By The Governing Body Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, New Jersey, That:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Frank Schneider	Construction Board of Appeals	December 31, 2010
Joseph Abbruzzese	Construction Board of Appeals	December 31, 2010
Steve Druga	Construction Board of Appeals-Alt. Architect	December 31, 2010
Jim Franchetti	Construction Board of Appeals-Alt. Plumbing	December 31, 2010
Lawrence Del Negro	Construction Board of Appeals-Alt. Fire	December 31, 2010
Suzanne Lyte	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2010
David Joshi	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2010
Frank Furino	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2010
Robert Bengivenga, Sr.	Cultural Arts Committee	December 31, 2010
Patricia Parente	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2010
Marie Dolinski	Health Advisory Board	December 31, 2010
Eric Aronowitz	Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2012
Carolina Rohrer	Library Board of Trustees	December 31, 2012
Patricia Massey	Library Board of Trustees - Bd. of Ed Rep.	December 31, 2008
Frank Schneider	Property Board of Appeals	December 31, 2010
Joseph Scrudato	Public Celebrations	December 31, 2010
Donald Alexa	Public Celebrations	December 31, 2010
Matthew Anesh	Public Celebrations	December 31, 2010
Richard Petrone	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2010
Frank Mikorski	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2010
Anthony "Jake" Cataldo	Taxpayers Advisory Group	December 31, 2010
Timothy Morgan	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.-Bd. of Ed Rep.	December 31, 2008
Lt. Kevin Murtagh	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.-Police Rep	December 31, 2008
Joseph Glowacki	Traffic Safety Advisory Comm.-DPW Rep.	December 31, 2008
Dennis Scalera	Traffic Safety Advisory Commission	December 31, 2010
Matthew Anesh	Youth Guidance Council-Council Liaison	December 31, 2008
Officer Christopher Colucci	Youth Guidance Council-Police Rep.	December 31, 2008
Alexander Barletta	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2011
David Miglis	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2011
Darlene Pinto	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2011
Thomas Crino	Zoning Board of Adjustment	December 31, 2011
Salvatore Esposito	Zoning Board of Adjustment-Alt. I.	December 31, 2011



Municipal Clerk Vincent Buttiglieri swears in appointees to boards and commissions.

### Council Appointments

Be It Resolved By The Governing Body Of The Borough Of South Plainfield, New Jersey, And Pursuant To Ordinance #728 And N.J.S.A. 40:55d That:

NAME	BOARD	EXPIRATION
Joseph Scrudato	Affordable Housing Committee -Council Liaison	December 31, 2007
Robert Bengivenga, Sr.	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2010
Carolyn Allen	Business Advisory Group	December 31, 2010
Kerry Brown	Business Advisory Group - Zoning Rep.	December 31, 2008
T & M Associates	Business Advisory Group - Engin. Rep.	December 31, 2008
Alice Tempel	Greenbrook Flood Control Commission	December 31, 2008
Joseph Scrudato	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm. - Alternate I	December 31, 2008
T & M Associates	Greenbrook Flood Control Comm. - Alternate II	December 31, 2008
Robert Bengivenga, Jr.	Council's HCD Representative	December 31, 2008
Joseph Scrudato	Planning Board - Class III	December 31, 2008
Robert Bengivenga, Jr.	Office on Aging Advisory Committee - Liaison	December 31, 2008
Joann Graf	Coordinator - Office on Aging Advisory Comm.	December 31, 2008
Filomena Viola	Office on Aging Advisory Committee	December 31, 2010
Joseph Zekas	Office on Aging Advisory Committee	December 31, 2010
Lillian Smith	Office on Aging Advisory Committee	December 31, 2010
Owen Kelly	Office on Aging Advisory Committee	December 31, 2010
William McAllister	Office on Aging Advisory Committee	December 31, 2010



## 2008 Reorganization Speech - Mayor Charles Butrico

JANUARY 5, 2008

**T**hank you all for joining us today in this annual celebration of our democracy. While all around the world dictators jealously hold onto power and repress the right of their people to freely choose their leaders, here in the United States, that right is preserved through the simple process of placing one's hand on the Bible and taking the oath of office.

But that right does not come without a cost. It is because of heroes who willingly put their lives on the line that this great land of ours remains the beacon of freedom lighting the way for democracy around the world. In 2007 one of our own young heroes lost her life in Iraq so that days like today will continue. Let us all stand for a moment of silence in memory of Trista Moretti and those nearly 4,000 young Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although today we see a change in the council majority, we are all fortunate to be citizens of the greatest country in history and agree that we are blessed to be Americans. Welcome council members McConville and Rusnak. I know I don't have to tell you that you have today achieved the highest honor anyone in a free society can claim, the position of a representative of the people. Continue to listen and work hard and you will succeed.

Best wishes to council members Dennis Cerami and Kathy Thomas. You have served the residents of South Plainfield with honesty, dignity and respect. Our borough is better off because of that service. For his entire 12 years on the council Dennis was chair of Public Safety. Our police department, fire department, rescue squad and Emergency Management department are recognized as among the best in the state. That status was achieved not only because we are served by outstanding officers and volunteers, but because they had a tremendous advocate in Council President Dennis Cerami. Whether it was equipment needs or manpower issues, Dennis always made sure that these essential departments got the support they needed from the governing body. Thank you Council President. I will continue to call on you for guidance in this essential area of public safety. Although council member Thomas only served on the council for three years, she has made an impact which will last for decades. As a result of her leadership as chair of Administration and Finance our homeowners were the only residents

in Middlesex County to receive a tax cut on the municipal portion of their property tax bill this year. In addition South Plainfield's municipal debt is amongst the lowest in the state and our operating expenses have remained flat. South Plainfield's fiscal health is sound because of council member Thomas' leadership. Kathy's greatest legacy, however, is the beautiful new library which will be built almost next door to borough hall. The difficult engineering and architectural design stage of the project is complete and nearly a half million dollars in grants have been awarded for the project. In addition, a nonprofit foundation has been formed to help offset costs. I urge the new council to put the financing in place as soon as possible so that construction can begin this spring. Thank you council member Thomas for your excellent work.

2007 was an outstanding year for South Plainfield. Phase II of the Hamilton Boulevard project was completed establishing four lanes all the way from the intersection of Durham Avenue to Stelton Road with a traffic light at South Clinton Avenue. In addition, with the help of Assemblyman Diegnan, the State Department of Transportation reconfigured the exit ramp off 287 to provide for two right turning lanes. These improvements have made a tremendous improvement in traffic flow on this intensely traveled route. We also widened the intersection of South Clinton Avenue and New Market Avenue to allow for an improved turning radius for trucks. Most importantly we acquired and demolished the properties at the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard and New Market Avenue. We have also instituted condemnation proceedings to acquire the necessary property from the former Cornell-Dubilier site to extend New Market Avenue. The condemnation hearing is scheduled for early March. The engineering design for the New Market Avenue extension is complete. The only remaining items are passing the necessary bond ordinance and awarding the contract to begin construction. I promised last year that the New Market Avenue project would be under construction by the summer of 2008 and everything is in place to do so. Now that this project is ready to go, there is absolutely no reason to return trucks



to Hamilton Boulevard. The incoming council majority has been unclear on its intention concerning putting trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard. Let me make myself crystal clear. I will do everything in my power as mayor to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard. The residents of the south side deserve to live in a safe, residential neighborhood, free of 18 wheelers.

In 2007 we saw the demolition begin on the Cornell Dubilier site and to date 15 of the 18 buildings have been removed. The remaining buildings will be demolished by the spring and the EPA is in the process of completing the plans to clean up the soils. Although the cleanup will take some time, once completed, we will have a property free of dangerous contaminants.

In 2007 we again expanded our 'pay-as-you-go' road improvement program. South Plainfield was the first town to repave our roads as a cooperative venture with Middlesex County. To date we have repaved over 40 miles of roads on a 'pay-as-you-go basis'. I encourage the new council to continue this program.

In 2007 we put in place the process to extend the decorative lighting and pavers across the overpass and all the way to borough hall. With the new council's support, installation will begin in the spring. We have also received a grant from Middlesex County to install a safe pedestrian crossing on Plainfield Avenue between Monument Park and Spring Lake Park. I ask for the council's support to extend the jogging/walkway all the way behind the senior center and around the entire perimeter of Veterans Park. This can be completed for very few dollars by our public works department and would tie all of the parks together.

I have begun discussions with Freeholder John Pulomena to explore the possibility of putting decorative lights and pavers on Park Avenue. I think that would really beautify that gateway to our borough as it has done on Hamilton Boulevard.

Last year more open space was preserved in South Plainfield than ever before. We acquired the former bus lot on New Market Avenue and demolished that eyesore. In addition, we just closed on the former WERA parcel on Oak Tree Avenue

which was bought by Hall's Trucking. At one time 20 condominiums were proposed for that site. We are also under contract to purchase over 20 acres on the former Texas Eastern site. Over the last decade South Plainfield has permanently preserved many acres from development through funds made available through the Middlesex County Open Space program. I ask the new council, as expeditiously as possible, to identify parcels for open space designation.

Without doubt the one achievement which sets South Plainfield above virtually any other municipality in the state is our outstanding finances. Our debt has been reduced in half over the last decade and will be reduced further in the upcoming fiscal year even with the bonding for the library and New Market Avenue. We have reduced our work force without sacrificing efficiency and we have followed pay as you go. This year that fiscal discipline led to a tax decrease and in five of the last seven years it resulted in municipal budgets without a tax increase. Although the Democrats are no longer the majority party I will do everything I can as mayor to see that conservative financial policies remain the standard in South Plainfield. I realize that we are in an economic downturn and it is unreasonable to never see a property tax increase. However, let me put the council on notice that I will not accept a budget that includes a large property tax increase. Sharpen your pencils and get out your erasers. Our homeowners deserve no less.

Although I have been disappointed by the partisanship that the new majority demonstrated in appointments today I can assure you that Council members Petronko, Scudato and I are committed to put party labels aside and work with all members of the council to achieve positive results for our wonderful borough. As someone who was born, raised and educated in South Plainfield, I know what a special and unique place this is to live and raise a family. We must all remember that we are servants of the people and not of a particular political party. Let us today pledge ourselves to always remember the sacrifice which so many before us have given to keep this country strong and free. If we always do what we know in our hearts to be right we can never go wrong.

May God bless you and your family in 2008 and may God bless and protect all of those in the armed forces around the globe.

# 2008

## Let's Build a Better South Plainfield

From Council President Robert Bengivenga, Jr.

**I**n 2006 when I addressed our Borough's annual reorganization, I sat here with a sense of optimism. I spoke of the many things for which South Plainfield can be proud: Its fine schools, its abundant and tireless volunteers, its rich history and its sense of community.

For decades, young families searching for the perfect place to raise their sons and daughters came to South Plainfield, and they continue to come to South Plainfield. They do so because they know it is a safe, affordable community where their children will enjoy unrivaled opportunities. These opportunities are why so many of these sons and daughters chose to stay here to raise their own families. South Plainfield is not just a town; it's a close-knit community.

Yes, South Plainfield has much to be proud of. We also have opportunities and challenges. We need to get a handle on traffic and overdevelopment; we need to repair the public's trust in its local government and we need to make sure our families and seniors can afford to stay here. Let's take these one by one.

Controlling traffic and over development must be this governing body's top priority. Former Council President Joann Graf has volunteered to head a committee that will steer us in the right direction by finding a route that takes trucks safely off Hamilton Boulevard. Joann, you and your committee will have the full resources of the borough at your disposal. I'm asking our new borough attorney to draft a resolution that gives your committee the authority to proceed full throttle toward making a Hamilton Boulevard bypass a reality, and I'm also asking T&M Associates, our engineer, to work hand-in-hand with you.

Let's not be fooled though. A Hamilton Boulevard bypass will not happen overnight. In the

meantime, we need to look closely at whether the truck detour has made our residents less safe. I've spoken to Councilman Matt Anesh, who now chairs public safety, and we'll be asking our town's Traffic Safety Advisory Board to present to the council its assessment of the truck detour. Regardless of the solution, I hope we can all agree that safety for our residents is vital.

A second priority is enacting ethics reform and restoring trust in our local government. I'm proud to announce that pay to play in South Plainfield is a thing of the past. Not one professional appointee on today's agenda is listed as a donor on the reports filed by the South Plainfield Republicans with the state's Election Law Enforcement Commission.

But even that's not good enough. In addition, I'm asking Finance and Administration Chairman Ray Rusnak to begin work on a tough, new pay to play ordinance that can replace the flawed one that now exists.

I'm also proud to tell you that advertising of professional positions—which Councilman Anesh and I suggested when we were first elected—was a huge success. We received 108 responses—nearly five times what was received last year. Several professionals submitted rates that are lower than we are currently paying, which means a savings for the taxpayer. I think even the members of the council who were against making this a competitive process now see the benefits.

Rebuilding the trust of the public also means challenging the council to begin a new era of bipartisan cooperation and communication. As a first step, the council majority has asked both



Ray Petronko and Joe Scudato for their input on today's appointments for boards and agencies. This was never done in the past.

Ray and Joe: Like us, you were elected to serve the residents of South Plainfield. While I know there will be times when we don't agree, we should still strive to work together as colleagues.

One way to do this, I believe, is by having our agenda sessions the week before each regular meeting. This arrangement

will foster a more accessible and open government, not just for the minority members of the council, but also for the public, which will have ample time to digest proposals before the council votes on them.

Communication between the community and its public officials is vital. That means being frank with the public when the news is good and when it's not so good. This leads me to one of the first challenges that will face the new council.

In the prior administration's eagerness to promise a tax cut, they left us with a 1.1 million dollar hole that needs filling. The budget did not set aside any money for tax appeals, which will total about \$500,000. In other words, we must repay nearly half a million dollars to businesses that prevailed in court, even though the budget does not contain one penny with which to do this.

In addition, while members of the public were repeatedly promised that land sale money was not used in the budget, in actuality the budget contains 1.3 million dollars of land sale money. Experts in government finance will tell you that propping up a budget with one-time revenues,

like land sale money, is fiscally unwise.

But even putting the wisdom of this scheme aside, we are now six months into the budget year, and the property sales have not closed. We're still owed about \$600,000 in payments, which legally must be in our hands in less than six months.

We simply cannot put the borough at risk like this. Failure to act could mean layoffs, and as much as a 20-point tax increase next year. This is simply unacceptable.

Getting past these financial obstacles will not be easy. I have great confidence in our CFO, Glenn Cullen, and have asked him to meet with the administration and finance committee on Monday to develop a plan to close the budget gap.

I'd also like to wean us off reliance on land sales. Unfortunately, to do that cold-turkey would result in a large tax increase. I would like, however, to reduce reliance on land-sale money in next year's budget and to totally eliminate the practice of using land sales within two years.

Getting our financial house in order is vital to the progress that will surely follow. There's much to be done. We haven't forgotten the need to expand our parks, revitalize our business districts, and encourage greater public participation through programs like Democracy Day. Plans will begin shortly to get these ideas off the ground.

I said earlier that when I spoke to you in 2006 I was optimistic for South Plainfield's future. As I sit here today, that optimism is not only renewed, it's redoubled. Building an even better South Plainfield will not be easy. But with the help of our residents, our hard-working borough employees, and the volunteer members of our boards and agencies, I know that a better South Plainfield is right around the corner.

Here's to 2008 being a year of health, happiness and progress for the people of South Plainfield.



# Sports

## SPHS BOWLING

Submitted by Ralph Fech

### Ladies Wallop New Brunswick

Kelly Pauls Rallies to Tie Sayreville

2	SPHS	725	801	892—2418
2	Sayreville	741	845	814—2400

The girls bowling team bowled its high series of the season but failed after losing the first two close games.

The Tigers rallied with an outstanding third game and claimed the pinfall to salvage a hard fought tie with the scrappy Bombers. Jackie Kukuch led the team with 217 high-game and 515 set. Also scoring were Katie Yon 171-487, Kelly Pauls 176-480, Lyndsay Murtagh 182-479 and Gina Curcio 170-451.

4	SPHS	869	876	830—2575
0	New Brunswick	489	526	521—1536

The girls bowling team cruised past New Brunswick and evened its record at 4-4 and 1. Freshman Kelly Pauls took scoring honors with games of 229-192 and 567 set. Gina Curcio was right behind with 214-178 and a solid 553. Katie Yon posted a 501, Jackie Kukuch 481 and Katie Salvatore a 182 game.

### Bowlers Crush New Brunswick

Dandola Bowls Well in Loss to Sayreville

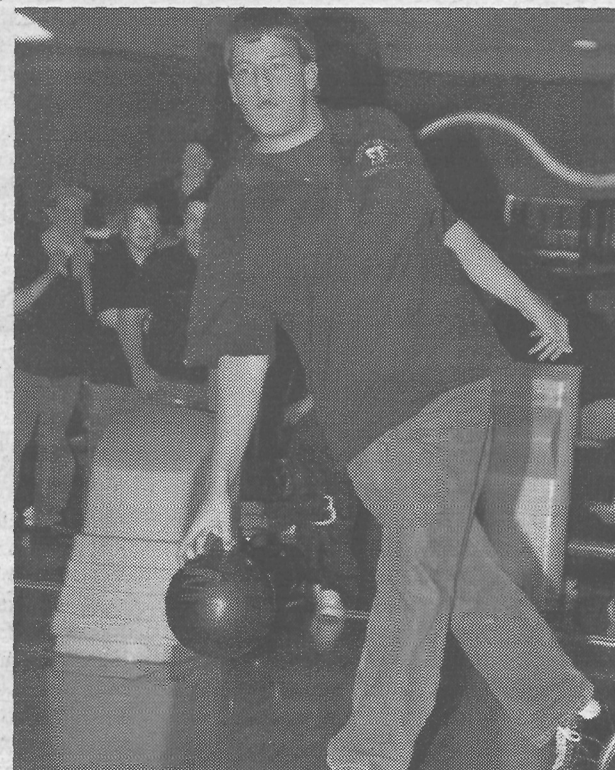
0	SPHS	941	936	963—2840
4	Sayreville	1021	1156	968—3145

The Boys Bowling Team bowled well, but lost two close games to state ranked Sayreville and were defeated despite a solid team effort. Mike Dandola took scoring honors as he fired games of 211-204-196. Chipping in were Ryan Pauls 233-591, Tim Moskal 204-201-579 and newcomer Kevin Revieello 206-571.

4	SPHS	1032	1062	877—2978
0	New Brunswick	729	634	715—2078

The boys bowling team sizzled, sweeping all three games, as they coasted to an easy win over the Zebras of New Brunswick.

The Tigers set a blistering pace with Ryan Pauls firing games of 246-244 and a 669 set, Chris Esposito 211-223 for a 614, while teammate Mike Dandola unloaded games of 527-248-200 for a booming 705 high set. Also chipping in were Dylan Papa, 206, Kevin Revieello, 187, and Frankie Diaz, a 169 game.



Junior Tim Moskal firing games of 174-204-201 for a solid 579 set as the Tigers were beaten by pre-season favorite Sayreville.

## SPHS BASKETBALL

### Tigers Struggle Against Holmdel

By Jeremiah Magpile  
Sportswriter

The South Plainfield High School Tigers put forth a valiant effort in Holmdel last Saturday at the Holiday Tournament, losing by a score of 49-42.

Led by team captain and point guard Mike Burton and forwards Christian Cole and Benny Gibson scoring 10 points each, the Tigers rallied against a strong Holmdel varsity team. Adding to the mix were center Troy Russell scoring six points and guards Aaron Wright and Darren Campbell scoring four points and two points, respectively.

The Tigers could not connect early in the game and

found themselves down 13 to 23 at halftime. The 10-point deficit, however, slowly faded in the third quarter as the Tigers battled back, outscoring the Hornets 19-11. Trailing by only four points at the end of the third, the Tigers continued their streak into the fourth quarter to tie the score at 35, with only minutes into the quarter. But excessive fouling continuously sent the Hornets to the foul line and allowed them the opportunity to regain the lead and in the end win the game. Holmdel forward Jason Samuels, who scored 23 points, attempted 20 foul shots and scored 11 from the line.

When asked about his team's performance at this time in the season, Tiger Coach Bill

Schulte's only qualm was the fouling. With the past few games being lost by marginal scores, the coach explained that maintaining the intensity throughout the last quarter is key. "We need to execute in the end of the game," says Coach Schulte. "There's too much fouling and you can't have that."

The Tigers now stand at a 1-5 win-loss record, but the team remains optimistic. "The kids are playing with intensity," Schulte said. "Last year we won a lot of close games and this year I think we'll be fine. It's a learning experience. It's a young team this year with only two guys back with varsity experience, but I think we can bring it back to .500 very soon."

## RECREATION WRESTLING

Submitted by Joe Sacco

### Central Jersey Recreation Wrestlers Sweep the Competition

The Central Jersey Recreation Wrestling Team improved its record to 6-0 on the season by winning four matches last weekend.

On Friday night, the wrestlers beat a strong Kenilworth team by a score of 42-30, followed by wins over North Plainfield 70-9, Roselle Park 48-27 and a thrilling come-from-behind victory over Watchung 41-40 on Sunday.

Going 4-0 for the young Tigers were Joey Heilmann, Jake Hoffman and Raymond Jazikoff.

Three matches were won by Jacob Painton, Jake Giordano, Ryan Walsh, Antunee Adams and Matthew Hurst.

Two wins were scored by Joey Penyak, Will McLaughlin and Danny Hedden. Contributing with a win each were Kyle Bythell, Desmond Santos,

Christopher Maszczak, Christian Gonzalez and Dakota Pauls.

In Raritan Valley action, while giving up five forfeits, the team lost to Bridgewater 52-30. Winning by pin were Tommy Fierro, Michael Marro, Desmond Santos and Rajan Orphee. Winning by decision were Ricky Pellegrino and Kyle Davison.

### Elks Hold Hoop Shoot Contest

On December 23, the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 hosted their annual Hoop Shoot for the youth of the community. Fifteen boys and girls participated. Winners from the Hoop Shoot went on

to compete at the District Hoop Shoot on January 5 at the Conackamack Middle School in Piscataway.

The Hoop Shoot free-throw contest is the largest, non-commercial, co-educational sports program in

America sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Winners of the district shoot will advance to compete at the state shoot to be held at Woodbridge Elks Lodge on February 10.

The program is designed to teach young people the importance of integrity, respect, dedication and self-esteem. It also teaches life skills such as discipline, hard work and practice. It is a shared family event where families cheer on the participants and likewise, it encourages good sportsmanship between the contestants.

The winners of the December South Plainfield Elks Hoop Shoot were: (ages 8 and 9) Sarah Cargill and Ryan Stankan; (ages 10-11) Kyle Moroney and (ages 12-13) Justin Marks.

The youth activities committee is co-chaired by Bill and Sharon Reuter. A special thank you goes out to members Joe Rauh, Lou Peralta, Bill Breyer and Tim Kelly for their assistance at the shoot. If you are interested in becoming involved with youth activities or becoming a member of the Elks, please feel free to contact us at (908) 668-9750. Become involved and help to continue our legacy of Elks care-Elks share!

—Submitted by Exalted Ruler, Debra Czech

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by John Snogans requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit proposed addition to the rear of the home. Lot coverage permitted is 25%; 29% being proposed, and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 113 Elizabeth Court, Block 137, Lot 31 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 14, 2008 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 8:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. \$38.50 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

#### ORDINANCE 1805

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

Ord. 1805 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 157 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "SEWERS" was presented for adoption after a Public Hearing was held by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield on Thursday, December 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk  
\$25.26 January 11, 2008

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Natalie Bergen, fundraising chairman of the Suburban Woman's Club, delivered another 27 handmade Teddy bears to Police Chief John Ferraro before Christmas, bringing the total number of bears donated this year to 100. The bears are kept in the trunks of police vehicles and given to small children who are involved in incidents which are scary for them or in which they have been injured. Club members spend countless hours making the bears, with one sewing, another stuffing and another one painting faces on them.

## policereport

- On December 25, Michele Baker, 44, of Dunellen was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.
- SRI Discount Liquors on Hadley Road reported that the front glass door of the store had been smashed and \$1,000 in cash, a case of Newport cigarettes worth \$1,200 and N.J. State lottery tickets worth \$100 were taken.
- On December 26, Michael A. Everett, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a weapon.
- Kendall T. Brown, 19, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.
- On December 27, Normand Lefebvre, 42, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to stop prior to a turn.
- Chuckie P. Matugas, 21, of Somerville, was arrested at Quick Chek on Sampton Avenue for shoplifting a case of Red Bull worth \$55 and Dutch Master cigars worth \$16.
- On December 28, a Wood Street resident reported that their Christmas lights had been cut.
- On December 29, Ceila Johana Casco Moncada, 26, of Plainfield was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting various items worth \$40.
- On December 31, an Oakland Avenue resident reported that the right front tire of their vehicle had been slashed.
- An Edison resident reported that the driver's front door of their vehicle had been scratched with an unknown object.
- On January 1, Sheila D. Williams, 42, of Englewood was arrested for speeding, no insurance and six outstanding warrants.
- On January 3, RJP Repair Service on Roosevelt Avenue reported the theft of four pickup truck radiators, a hub assembly and a 50 gallon drum of aluminum from various locations inside and outside the shop.
- A Marlboro resident reported that a golf ball had broken the rear hatch window of their vehicle while parked at the Home Depot office parking lot.
- On January 4, two residents on Central Avenue reported the theft of cash, change and a storage box from their unlocked vehicles.
- A Piscataway resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been broken while parked at 1 Cragwood Rd.
- On January 5, Rhina Garcia, 44, of Dunellen was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting three bottles of shampoo worth \$14.
- Rudolph L. Montford, 33, of South Plainfield was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- On January 6, a Wood Avenue resident reported that their Christmas lights had been cut again.
- On January 7, a Pershing Place resident reported the theft of \$2 in change from their unlocked vehicle.
- A Bullard Place resident reported the theft of \$1 in change from their unlocked vehicle.
- A Wood Avenue resident reported the theft of a 2003 Toyota Corolla from in front of their house.

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(Continued from page 2)

fully voted no without commenting on appointments they disagreed with, not wanting to spoil the mayor's swearing in.

Sometimes politicians lose with dignity and sometimes they lose with bitterness. I think it's apparent into which category the South Plainfield Democrats fall.

**BOB JONES**

Dear Editor,

It is difficult to express the depth of my disappointment at the shameful political performance of the Republican majority at South Plainfield's council reorganization meeting on January 5. The Republicans, without explanation, replaced EVERY professional with ones who are long time contributors to the Republican Party. The Republican chair, Bob Jones and the new Council President Robert Bengivenga, actually bragged of this shameful approach in effect saying, "To the victors go the spoils." In their scorched Earth approach to appointments, the Republicans replaced the borough engineer, borough auditor, borough appraiser, bond counsel, planner and redevelopment attorney who served the borough with distinction for over a decade.

The most outrageous action the politically-motivated new majority took was the nomination of a totally inexperienced attorney to replace our long serving Municipal Court Prosecutor Thomas Lanza. The individual nominated has never served one day as a prosecutor as compared with Mr. Lanza's 14 years of experience. The only qualification of the Republican nominee is that he is a personal friend of party boss Bob Jones.

I dislike partisanship in government. Anyone who knows me and my family is well aware of my belief that things are better worked out through conversation than through fighting. I have vetoed the appointment of the Municipal Prosecutor nominated by the Republicans which means that Mr. Lanza will continue to serve for 30 days after which the council may vote on its nominee. I urge them to reconsider this unwise decision and support the reappointment of Thomas Lanza as prosecutor. Based on their arrogance and lack of regard on Reorganization Day, I don't believe this will happen without public input.

I urge every resident to write, E-mail or call me and simply state the

## IN YOUR OPINION

following: stop the politics and reappoint Prosecutor Lanza. In order for your voice to count, it will be necessary to give your name and address. My mailing address is 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. My E-mail address is cbutrico@spboro.org and my phone number is (908) 226-7601.

**THANK YOU,  
MAYOR CHARLES BUTRICO**

Dear Fellow Residents,

On Saturday, I was privileged to be sworn-in as a member of the Borough Council. Upon taking my oath, I was asked to chair the council's finance committee, which I was honored to do.

I knew there would be challenges, but I was surprised by how quickly they came to light. We are now six months into the budget year, which started in July, and the budget has yet to be adopted. This is the same budget that includes the last administration's purported tax cut. They advertised a tax cut, but they never adopted the budget, so in reality, there was no tax cut. I can't think of anything more irresponsible.

More importantly, though, in the prior administration's zeal to make their promise, they left the new administration with a huge \$1.1 million hole. In other words, if we were to adopt the budget as is, it would be

short more than a million dollars. This is because the prior administration 1) failed to budget a single penny for tax appeals, which will total about \$500,000, and 2) included money as revenue that never materialized (\$600,000).

On top of this, while the public was promised the budget did not include money from the sale of land, this was not true. The budget included \$1.3 million in land-sale money. Finance experts warn against using land sales in a budget, because it sets taxpayers up for a large tax increase the following year when land-sale money is unavailable. In addition, if you sell land again the following year, you start an addiction that gets worse and worse.

I've spoken to some of my fellow council members, and we felt it important to be frank with the public about what's happened. Failure to immediately remedy this fiscal mess could mean as much as a 20-point tax increase and layoffs next year. Our initial plans should not only include freezing spending for 2008, but recasting the budget as quickly as possible.

It's unfortunate to have to break this news as one of my first acts on the council. I can say, however, that we will work diligently to solve these problems and get us on a path toward fiscal responsibility. I will also keep the public updated as we go.

**COUNCILMAN RAY RUSNAK**

## Tri-County Red Cross Offers CPR Courses

The Tri-County Red Cross is offering the following CPR courses:

Adult CPR/AED and Standard First Aid will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course will cost \$55 and be held at the American Red Cross office at 332 West Front St. in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer will be held on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The course will cost \$70 and will be held at the Tri-County Red Cross office at 16 Jefferson Ave. in Elizabeth.

Adult CPR/AED, Child CPR/

AED, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The course will cost \$65 and be held at the Tri-County Red Cross office in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

Adult CPR/AED Child CPR/AED, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Spanish. The course will cost \$65 and be held at the Tri-County Red Cross office in Plainfield. Some or all portions of the course may be taken.

To register or for more information, call Rose at (908) 756-6414, ext. 10.

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# Obituaries

## Charles A. Gover, 83

Charles A. Gover died on Monday, Dec. 31 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.



**Charles A. Gover** Born in the Bronx, he resided in Maywood before settling in South Plainfield in 1964.

Charles attended St. John's University in New York where he earned a bachelor's degree in marketing. He had been working as a real estate agent for Weichert Realty in Edison for 25 years before retiring in 2002.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served during WWII. He and his wife have been longtime parishioners of Sacred Heart Church.

Surviving are his wife, Silvana "Sil" Gover; two daughters, Diane and husband Rick Pagan of Bethlehem, Pa. and Patricia and husband Bruce Grand-Jean of South Plainfield; two sons, James and wife Sandra Gover of Bridgewater and Paul and wife Teresa Gover of Frenchtown. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the N.J. Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, P.O. Box 3013, 132 Evergreen Rd., Edison, N.J. 08818 or National Parkinson Foundation, Inc., Office of Development, 1501 N.W. 9th Ave./Bob Hope Rd., Miami, Fla. 33136.

## George S. Nemchick, 74

George S. Nemchick passed away on Thursday, Jan. 3 at home.

Born in Eckley, Pa., he grew up in Freeland and moved to Bound Brook

in 1951. He later lived in Manville before settling in Piscataway 35 years ago.

A popular young man, George served as captain of his high school baseball and basketball teams and was selected president of the student body.

He had been employed with Union Carbide's Bound Brook facility in their R&D department as a technician and chemist, working his entire career in quality control. He retired in 1992 after 41 years and was a member of their Quarter Century Club.

In addition, George attended night school at Rutgers University, taking special courses through the years. He was a social member of the Freeland VFW and had been an active communicant of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway, where he was president of the Holy Name Society, served as an usher for more than 30 years and assisted with the annual feast.

He was predeceased by 11 brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his friend, Evelyn McCoid; two sisters, Irene Yadsko and Agnes Cammisa; a brother, Paul Nemchick and many nieces and nephews.

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

## Stephen "Al" Krajewski, 78

Stephen "Al" Krajewski died on Tuesday, Jan. 1 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., he moved to Plainfield as a young man, residing in Plainfield's West End until he settled in South Plainfield in 1967.

Al graduated from Plainfield High School in 1948 and later entered the United States Army, where he served in Korea as a Sgt. First Class before his discharge in 1953.

He had been employed by the former K&S Television of South Plainfield and later worked as a crossing

guard at the intersection of Plainfield and Lane avenues.

A member of the South Plainfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763, Al also enjoyed spending time reading and woodworking.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Joseph and Vince.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Irene (Stasko) Krajewski; two daughters, Joanne Esposito and her companion Fred Behr of South Plainfield and Karen Manney and husband Bob of Freehold; a sister, Helen Goulick and a brother, Henry Krajewski.

Also surviving are four grandchildren, Robert, Joseph, Stephen and Nicole Michelle.

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

## William C. Morgan, 72

William C. Morgan, a teacher for many years at South Plainfield High School, passed away at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, Pa. on Monday, Dec. 31.

Born in Taylor, Pa., Mr. Morgan was a longtime resident of Piscataway before his retirement to Honesdale in 1992. A graduate of East Stroudsburg University and holder of a master's degree from Clarkson University, he taught chemistry, as well as coaching the track and field team, at South Plainfield High School. He taught there from 1957 until 1991.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce M. Morgan of Honesdale; five sons, W. Bruce Morgan and wife Marie of Phillipsburg, Patrick D. Morgan of Piscataway, Donald V. Morgan and wife Kim of Bedminster, Kenneth E. Morgan and Brian S. Morgan; six grandchildren, Duane Morgan and wife Stacey of Bethlehem, Pa., Ronnie and Billy Morgan of Phillipsburg, Kelly Stallings and husband Michael of Alpha and Nicole and Donald Morgan, Jr., both of Bedminster and two aunts, June and Rachel Morgan, both

of Dunmore, Pa.

As per the family's wishes, there was no funeral service. A memorial service will be held in the Honesdale area in the spring. Details are pending.

Donations in Bill's memory may be made to either Hydewood Park Baptist Church, 100 Norwood Ave., North Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or to the Oakley Kimble Gospel Tape Ministry, 274 Manning Ave., North Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family care of the Bryant Funeral Home, 1228 Main St., Honesdale, Pa. 18431.

## Emila Jayne Spisso, 78

Emila Jayne Spisso of New Braunfels, Texas passed away on Sunday, Dec. 30 at McKenna Memorial Hospital.

She was born February 27, 1929 in Chatham, N.Y. to Verner E. Frink and Emila Jane (Biggs) Frink. Jayne was a devoted mother and grandmother, an avid gardener, an excellent baker and seamstress and, in addition, enjoyed knitting and crocheting and vacationing at the Jersey Shore.

She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Daniel J. Spisso, Jr.; three brothers, Verner Frink, William Frink and Pete Frink and two sisters, Marjorie Van Scoy and Hildred Hilton.

She is survived by three children, Susan Kellman and husband Peter of Colonia, Deborah Matthews and husband Merle of New Braunfels, Texas and Thomas Spisso, Sr. and wife Donna of Toms River; 10 grandchildren, Patrick Mann and wife Stephanie, Heather Mann, Kristin Mann, Thomas Spisso, Jr., Michael Aurora and wife Sharron, Matthew Aurora and fiancée Gillian, Timothy Aurora and wife Erica, Anthony Spisso, Christa Spisso and Christopher Pine; two great grandchildren, Megan and Sera Mann; two great-granddaughters soon to be born; her loving compan-

ion Fido and numerous extended family members and dear friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Lung Association.

## Francis Patrick Cornell, 81

Francis Patrick Cornell died on Tuesday, Jan. 1 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth on February 21, 1926, Frank graduated from St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth in 1943.

In 1946 Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army and served two years in Europe and in 1949, he graduated from Seton Hall University in South Orange.

After college, he worked for The Singer Co. of New York for 35 years in various positions. His last position was the director of real estate for the East Coast.

After retirement he became active in several community affairs in South Plainfield, serving on the library board, the board of education, as well as the housing authority.

Frank was a longtime member and volunteer at Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church.

Surviving is his wife Marie (Grampp); two daughters, Mary Bladley and husband Conrad of Linthicum Heights, Md. and Catherine Cornell of Scotch Plains; a son, Patrick and wife Dawn of Marlboro and three grandchildren, Margaret Bladley and Ryan and Megan Cornell. Also surviving are four sisters, Agnes Cassulo, Frances Bieljeski, Ann Slizewski and Eleanor Coleman.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the charity of choice.

(Continued on next page)

## LEGAL NOTICES

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for the services of bond counsel for the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with McManimon & Scotland for the year 2008.
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Bond Counsel.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.00 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

EDWARD SANTORO, ESQ.

is hereby appointed Public Defender for a one (1) year term expiring on December 31, 2008 at a salary as set forth in the Borough salary ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that health benefits are not being provided as part of the compensation for this position.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$25.00 January 11, 2008

## Mind Your Business.

Advertise your business for \$16.50 a week in the B&P section of the Observer. Isn't your business worth the investment? Call 908-668-0010 for information.

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm for matters dealing with site assessments, site remediation and brownfields development and for all matters regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the year 2008; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with T & M Associates.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$40.85 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, THAT:

WHEREAS there exists a need for the services of a Registered Municipal Auditor to conduct an audit of the Borough of South Plainfield, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Suplee, Clooney & Company for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by Law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$36.10 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield requires the services of a licensed appraisal company for the year 2008; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. This Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Sterling DiSanto & Associates.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.00 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining a professional planner to review land use and land development, preparation of master plan, housing element and fair share plan and to represent the Borough before the Council on Affordable Housing for the year 2008; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with T & M Associates.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$39.90 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an engineering firm to act as Borough Engineer for the year 2008; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with T & M Associates.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.00 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for certain legal services to deal with certain matters of redevelopment for the year 2008, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with McManimon & Scotland
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Redevelopment Attorney.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$39.90 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS there exists a need for certain legal services for the Borough of South Plainfield for the year 2008, and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer, P.C.
2. This contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation for the position of Borough Attorney.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$37.05 January 11, 2008

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the Borough of South Plainfield in need of retaining an insurance brokerage and consulting firm that will handle the implementation of the employee benefits as well as negotiation with the various benefit providers for the year 2008; and

WHEREAS the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of the contracts as "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Insurance Buyers Council, Inc.
2. This contract is being awarded pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
3. Health Benefits will not be provided as part of the compensation package for this position.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published in The Observer as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

ATTEST:  
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

39.90 January 11, 2008



## Obituaries

### Matty (Abraham) Muglia, 80

Matty (Abraham) Muglia died on Tuesday, Jan. 1 at Somerset Regional Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Elizabeth, she had lived in numerous communities in New Jersey, including Roselle Park, Sea Bright, Monmouth Beach, Menlo Park, Union and Linden, before moving to Warren in 1970.

Matty had been a bookkeeper and a restaurant hostess and worked in the former Herms Restaurant in South Plainfield, Townley's Restaurant in Elizabeth and the former Washington House of North Plainfield. While in Sea Bright, she managed the Driftwood Beach Clubhouse for seven years.

After moving to Warren, she began working as a bookkeeper for Art Muglia, owner of Muglia Enterprises in South Plainfield. In 1970, she married Art and was married for 33 years, prior to Art's passing in 2003.

In addition to her husband Art, she was predeceased by two sisters, Mavis Alexander and Frances Beeman.

Surviving are a daughter, Margaret "Peggie" Morbee of Placentia, Calif.; a brother, John Abraham of Winona Lake, Pa. and four grandchildren, Shawna, Darlene and Charles Villa and Amanda Funusz. Also surviving is a great-grandson, Charles Arthur Villa.

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

Donations in her name can be made to The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

### Arlene "Boots" Lizak, 59

Arlene Lizak died on Tuesday, Dec. 25 at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison after a long battle with cancer.

Born in Brooklyn, she resided in South Plainfield most of her life. She was employed by Nissan in Piscataway.

She was predeceased by her father, John F. Lizak.

She is survived by her mother, Mary (Kalmanir) Lizak of South Plainfield and a brother, Richard and wife Monica of Florida.

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

### Lucy Vannelli, 91

Lucy Vannelli passed away on Sunday, Dec. 30 at The Woodlands Care Center in Scotch Plains.

Born in Paris, Tenn., she resided in Paducah, Ky. until moving to South Plainfield in 1958.

Mrs. Vannelli was a housewife and was employed part time at Tepper's Department Store in Plainfield.

Lucy was predeceased by her beloved husband, Giuseppe, who passed away in 1967; a brother, Murray Gordon and a sister, Ludene Mangrum.

She is survived by a son, Ronald Vannelli of Edison; a daughter, Carol Vannelli of Monroe Twp.; two sisters, Treva Gordon and Ruby Lyles and a niece, Janet Walker, all of Paducah, Ky.

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

The family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Mrs. Vannelli's name to The Alzheimer's Association Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Avenue, Den- ville, N.J. 07834.

### Mary C. (Lynch) McKnight, 84

Mary C. (Lynch) McKnight died on Thursday, Jan. 3 at home. She was the daughter of the late Bertha and Lou Williams.

Born in Newark, she moved to East Orange and settled in South Plainfield in 1953. Mary worked as a crossing guard for Kennedy and Sacred Heart Schools in South Plainfield for 45 years, retiring in 2006. She was also a member of Sacred Heart RC Church.

Mary was predeceased by a sister, Beatrice Jaszczut and a brother, James Lynch.

Surviving is her husband, Charles McKnight; two sons, Gary and wife Gerilyn of South Plainfield and Kevin and wife Linda of Oxford and a sister, Dorothy Dunn. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Matthew, Jeffrey, Christopher, Jessica and Kimberly, along with many nieces and nephews.

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

### Albert Juttner, 76

Albert Juttner died on Thursday, Jan. 3 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Vasarosmeny, Hungary, Mr. Juttner came to the United States in 1957. He lived in Woodbridge prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1964.

He worked for Siemens in Woodbridge and Cherry Hill as an electronic technician for more than 20 years.

Albert was an active member of the

Hungarian American Citizens Club in Woodbridge.

He was predeceased by his brother.

Surviving are two children, Andy of Scotch Plains and Anton of Piscataway; his companion, Margaret Moricz of Avenel; his former wife, Catherine Juttner of Piscataway; two sisters, one niece and five nephews, all of Hungary.

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

### Ishera Elkhori, 81

Inshera Elkhori died on Sunday, Jan. 6 at the AristaCare at Cedar Oaks Care Center in South Plainfield.

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

### Frank "Foot" A. DiGiovanni, 83

Frank "Foot" A. DiGiovanni passed away on Sunday, Jan. 6 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, he had resided in South Plainfield since 1950 and served in the United States Marines during World War II.

He was employed by Mack Trucks in Bridgewater, where he worked as a millwright for 44 years until his retirement.

Frank was a coach for the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for many years and he was very proud of his accomplishments.

He was predeceased by two sons, Frank and Louis DiGiovanni.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Josephine DiGiovanni; two daughters, Angela D. Weir of Tucson, Az. and Karen D. and husband Richard E. Parkhurst of Tucson Az.; a daughter-in-law, Mary DiGiovanni of Hampton; a brother, Alex Garzillo of Toms River and three grandchildren, Stephanie DiGiovanni, Dominick Parkhurst and Jessica Parkhurst and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to the St. Jukes Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

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Updated every Thursday  
Classifieds, Events, Sports,  
Obituaries and more

### Catherine Doyle, 52

Catherine Doyle (Cathy Janus) passed away on Saturday, Jan. 5 after a long illness.

Catherine was born in Newark in September 1955. She was raised and went to school in South Plainfield. She married and moved to Pennsylvania.

She leaves behind two daughters, Tracy and Michelle and a son, Jay. Also surviving are six grandchildren.

She also leaves behind three brothers, Walter, Mark and Joe, and a sister, Susie.

Catherine is the daughter of Pat and Walter Janus of South Plainfield.

R.I.P. Love you Cathy.

### Tulio "Cappy" P. Capparelli, 80



Tulio "Cappy" P. Capparelli died on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway. Born and raised in the Bronx, "Cappy" resided in South Plainfield for more than 55 years.

In 1953 Cappy began his 30-year career as a police officer with the South Plainfield Police Department. During those 30 remarkable years of service and loyalty, he was awarded numerous citations for his efforts in protecting the residents of South Plainfield.

In 1976 "Cappy" was bestowed by the 200 Club of Middlesex County with two notable citations. One, as the Outstanding Public Safety Police Officer of the Year and the Valor Award, one of the most prestigious awards given, of which only four South Plainfield police officers have ever received in the history of the department.

In 1959 Tulio helped organize the South Plainfield Police Athletic League (P.A.L.). He was instrumental to the construction of the PAL and served as the director until 1996.

On October 12, 2002 the South Plainfield Recreation Department, along with the South Plainfield Police Athletic League recognized Deputy Chief Capparelli by establishing the Cappy Award, for his dedication and commitment to the community. The honor of receiving the Cappy Award focuses on the youth of South Plainfield and is awarded to those who provide inspiration for children to expand their horizons and further develop

their mental and physical abilities.

A veteran of WWII, "Cappy" served with the U.S. Army. He was a longtime and faithful communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church. He served as an usher, a trustee and as a committee member of Sacred Heart's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

He was a member of American Legion Chaumont Post 243, Elks Lodge #2298, the Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association, Plainfield's UNICO Chapter, where he received the "Man of the Year" award and the former South Plainfield Jaycees.

Deputy Chief Capparelli is a Gold Life Member of the P.B.A. and an Honorary Life Member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. He served as the honorary grand marshal of the 1995 Labor Day Parade and was the 2006 grand marshal of the junior baseball club opening day parade.

Tulio enjoyed music. He played various instruments while playing in the "Howard Mundy Band."

Always humble and supportive, "Cappy" was a generous and inspiring man who had a heart of gold.

He was predeceased by a sister, Auerlia Limuli.

Surviving is his loving wife of 53 years, Prudence (Lemmo); two daughters, Debbie Capparelli of South Plainfield and Donna Hanley and husband Frank of Bridgewater; three sons, Bobby and wife Eileen of Forked River, Brian and wife Dina of South Plainfield and Billy also of South Plainfield; a sister, Tisbe Tagliaferri and husband William of Yonkers, N.Y. and a brother, Angelo and wife Virginia of Sea Girt.

Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, Heather, Michael, Brian and Nicolette Hanley, Jennifer, Ashley, Cassie, Trisha, Grace and Anthony Capparelli.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Donations can be made to the South Plainfield P.A.L., c/o the Cappy Scholarship Fund, Attn: P.A.L. President, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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## 2008 Reorganization (Continued from page 1)

Raymond Rusnak. DiFrancesco also served as former president of the New Jersey State Senate and became governor when Christine Todd Whitman resigned to join the Bush Administration.

This year, the reorganization meeting itself was subject to change. Usually held in the council chambers in borough hall, the meeting venue changed a few days before to the senior citizen center and started one hour later than planned due to the funeral

of former Deputy Police Chief Tulio Capparelli held that morning.

Taking over for Retired Pastor Rev. Charles Mingle, Pastor Nehemiah Thompson of Wesley Church gave the invocation and high school student Taylor Kurilew sang the National Anthem. Because of the time change, outgoing Councilwoman Kathy Thomas was not present because of a prior family commitment. Councilman Dennis Cerami received a plaque and

was praised for his leadership for 12 years as the Public Safety Committee chairman, during which time the 911 system was upgraded and three new ambulances were added to the rescue squad. Thomas will receive her plaque at the first council meeting in January.

In his yearly mayoral report, Mayor Butrico repeated his commitment to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard and having engineering plans completed for the New Market Avenue extension. He added that bonding is needed for the New Market Avenue Extension Project to proceed, as well as the new library.

Newly appointed Council President Robert Bengivenga, Jr. also listed priorities, such as creating a "Hamilton Boulevard Bypass" alternate truck route project, enacting tougher ethics reform and restoring trust in local government. Bengivenga said he will be appointing Councilman Matt Anesh to make an assessment of the truck route presently used on New Market Avenue to establish how safe it is for residents. The council will also be passing a resolution endorsing a "Hamilton Boulevard Bypass" committee to be chaired by Senior Center Director Joann Graf, who will work

with the new borough engineering firm of T&M Associates. The council will also work on a new pay-to-play ordinance to replace the one enacted last year.

Bengivenga defended his party's pre-interviewing for professional positions saying there wasn't enough time noting, "there were 108 responses—five times as many as last year—and several submitted rates lower than we are currently paying, which means a savings for taxpayers."

Calling for 'a new era of bipartisan cooperation,' Bengivenga said the Republican majority for the first time consulted Democratic Councilmen Ray Petronko and Joe Scrudato for their input on hiring new agencies and committee appointments.

"Communication between the community and its public officials is vital," said Bengivenga, who then announced the borough's \$1.1M budget deficit. "In the prior administration's eagerness to promise a tax cut, they left us with a \$1.1M budget gap. The budget did not set aside any money for tax appeals, which will total about \$500,000. In other words, we must repay nearly half a million dollars to businesses that prevailed in court, even

though the budget doesn't contain one penny to do this," said Bengivenga. "Despite the promise that money from land sales wouldn't be placed in the current budget, in actuality, the budget contains \$1.3 million of land sale money of which we are still owed about \$600,000 in payment, which legally must be in our hands in less than six months."

Councilman Ray Rusnak called upon CFO Glenn Cullen to meet with council members immediately to discuss the shortfall in order to finalize the budget which has yet to pass state approval. The determination will be announced at the Monday, Jan. 14 agenda meeting.

Borough Council meetings have been moved from Tuesdays to Mondays and the agenda and regular meetings will be held a week apart, rather than on the same evening as was done in the past. The agenda meetings will now be held on the first and third Mondays of the month and the regular public meetings on the second and third Mondays, with a few exceptions. All meetings start at 7 p.m. and are held in the council chambers. Meeting dates for 2008 can be found on page 8 of this week's *Observer*.

## "Cappy" Dies at 80

(Continued from page 1)

#2298, the Middlesex County Chiefs of Police Association, Plainfield's UNICO Chapter, where he received the "Man of the Year" award and the former South Plainfield Jaycees, which also recognized him as "Man of the Year."

In addition, Capparelli was a Gold Life Member of the P.B.A. and an Honorary Life Member of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. He served as honorary grand marshal of the 1995 South Plainfield Labor Day Parade

and was grand marshal of the 2006 South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club Opening Day Parade.

Capparelli's family has asked that any donations in his name be made to the South Plainfield PAL, c/o the Cappy Scholarship Fund, Attn: P.A.L. President, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.



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Plainfield Animal Hospital collected food for needy pets during the holiday season. Pictured standing are Dr. Scott Linick, director of Plainfield Animal Hospital and Diane Eaton, Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART). Seated are John Antonucci and Camille Manfredonia from Rawhide Rescue.

## Animal Hospital Sponsors Successful Food Drive

The Plainfield Animal Hospital, located at 2215 Park Ave., collected over 1,000 pounds of pet food this holiday season and distributed it to the Plainfield Area Humane Society, Rawhide Rescue and HART, non-profit organizations dedicated to rescuing and fostering unwanted pets.

"The spirit of the holiday season and generosity was truly overwhelming," stated Dr. Scott Linick, director of the animal hospital. "We would like to thank everyone who donated food, for making life a little better for our less fortunate stray and unwanted furry friends."

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**NEW 2006 GMC W4500 CREW CAB-190**  
HP Diesel, Auto, Air, Power Locks & Win-  
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Body... Last pre-emission in stock!!  
**4 YEAR WARRANTY-NO CHARGE.**

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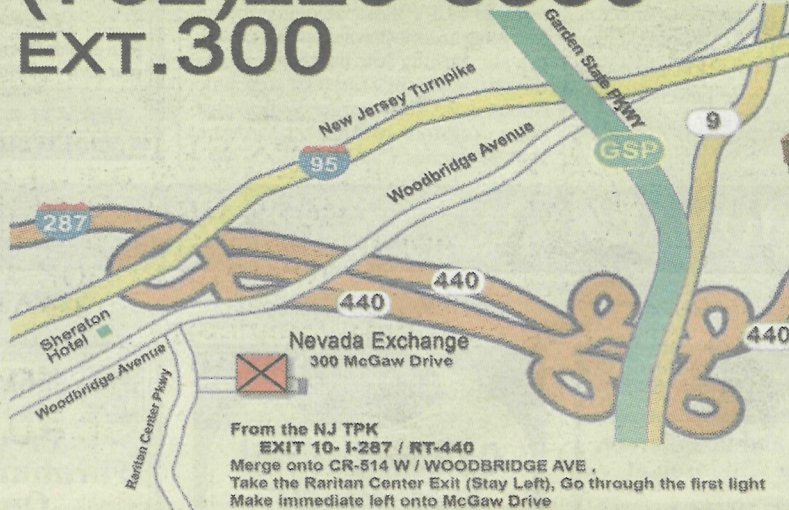


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# WAREHOUSE SALE !

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**RARITAN CENTER**  
**300 McGAW DRIVE,**  
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**EXT.300**



**FROM ROUTE 287**  
 Take 287 South till it becomes NJ-440N  
 Exit CR-514 W / WOODBRIDGE AVE  
 toward BONHAMTOWN (1st exit after NJ TPK)  
 Take the Raritan Center Exit (Stay Left)  
 Go through the first light  
 Make immediate left onto McGaw Drive

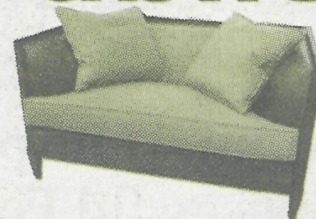
**FROM THE GSP**  
 EXIT 127- RT-440/ toward I-287.  
 Bear right and merge onto  
 CR-514 W / WOODBRIDGE AVE.  
 Take the Raritan Center Exit (Stay Left)  
 Go through the first light  
 Make immediate left onto McGaw Drive  
 Follow McGaw to end in cul de sac

**Needlepoint Rug**  
 Regularly \$540  
 Sale Price \$100

**Hand-Knotted Kazak Rugs**  
 Regularly \$450  
 Sale Price \$95



**Bar Stools**  
 Regularly \$725  
 Sale Price \$175



**Kravet Furniture**  
 Regularly \$4000  
 Sample Sale Price \$1200



**Oil Painting in a Gold Metal Leaf Frame**  
 Regularly \$2575  
 Sale Price \$325



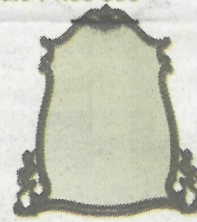
**Kravet Furniture**  
 Regularly \$1400  
 Sample Sale Price \$475



**Oil Painting**  
 Regularly \$349  
 Sale Price \$50



**Screen**  
 Regularly \$2600  
 Sale Price \$1475



**MIRRORS**  
 Regularly \$380  
 Sale Price \$100

**Thousands of Handmade Oriental Rugs in Stock.**



**Kravet**  
 Over 2000 Different Closeout Fabrics in Stock  
 Regularly from \$300  
 Sale Price \$15 Per Yard  
 Minimum of 15 Yards



**Brass**  
 Regularly from \$265  
 Sale Price \$65



**Carved Desk**  
 Regularly \$4560  
 Sale Price \$365



**Arm Chair**  
 Regularly \$765  
 Sale Price \$65



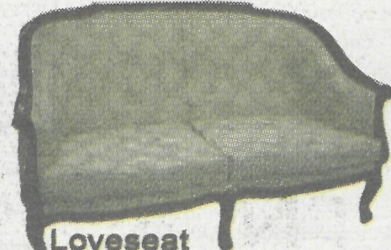
**Bed Bench**  
 Regularly \$4550  
 Sale Price \$225



**Urn**  
 Regularly \$450  
 Sale Price \$75



**Porcelain**  
 Regularly \$450  
 Sale Price \$65



**Loveseat**  
 Regularly \$4845  
 Sale Price \$895



**Round Table**  
 Regularly \$850  
 Sale Price \$200



**Kravet Furniture**  
 Regularly \$2850  
 Sample Sale Price \$1500

**Exclusive D'Angelico EXL-1DP**  
 Regularly \$4599  
 Sale Price \$850  
**NY-SD**  
 Regularly \$4599  
 Sale Price \$995  
 and more...

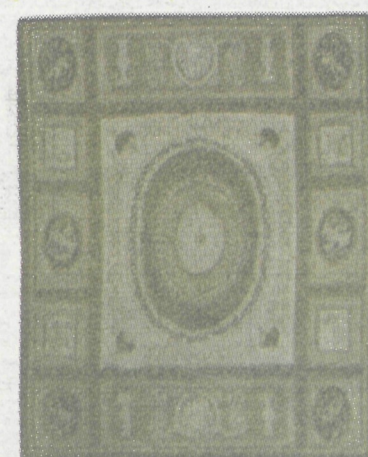
**Buffet Louis 16 w/Beveled Glass**  
 Regularly \$20,000  
 Sale Price \$5,500



**Belgian Armoire**  
 Regularly \$9650  
 Sale Price \$700



**Aubusson - Over a Hundred Available**  
 8x10 Regularly \$2400  
 Sale Price \$595  
 9x12 Regularly \$3250  
 Sale Price \$795  
 10x14 Regularly \$4200  
 Sale Price \$995



**Aubusson Pillows**  
 Regularly \$650  
 Sale Price \$50

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