



"I have a dream."

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Monday, January 21. Borough offices will be closed in observance.

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South Plainfield Observer

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MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

JANUARY 18, 2008

Council Snubs Mayor, Approves Tax Hike

A special meeting called by the newly installed Republican-controlled council held Monday night ended with the council voting along party lines to raise municipal taxes by an average of \$100, despite pleas from Mayor Charles Butrico and the two Democratic councilmen to hold off the vote and see if they can find another solution other than raising taxes.

According to Council President Rob Bengivenga, the borough is facing a \$1.3M deficit in this year's fiscal budget, which has not yet been officially adopted. Traditionally, the budget is introduced in August and adopted around December after the state gives its approval. The Republicans introduced an amendment to increase revenue by \$1.37M, or about \$100 per household. They explained that the deficit is caused by \$670,000 in land sales held in August which have

not yet closed, and by approximately \$475,000 in tax appeals.

CFO Glenn Cullen stated that the land sale money must be received by the end of the borough's fiscal year on June 30, 2008. The present budget does include \$100,000 for possible tax appeals, and had anticipated several new tax rates being added in October which would cover the cost of those appeals. However, those new tax rates did not come through as planned. Cullen added that previous budgets did not appropriate for substantial tax appeals.

Butrico said that he thought the council was acting too fast and hadn't spent enough time exploring other options. He asked the council to wait a week or until the first meeting in February to make a decision on raising taxes. "I think we need a little more time than just one week," he said. He

"I am extremely disappointed with the Republican Majority for passing this amendment to raise taxes. Clearly, this was a partisan decision with little regard for the taxpayers in South Plainfield.." -MAYOR CHARLES BUTRICO

added that he had reviewed the land sale contracts and they do not require a site plan before closing. He asked Borough Attorney Joseph Sordillo to look over the contracts and take action if necessary. Butrico emphasized time and again that there were options available other than raising municipal taxes. He said his first action after hearing about the special meeting was to reach out to the borough auditor and ask for his advice, which he noted no one on the council had done.

Frank Mikorski wanted to know why it was taking so long for the budget to be passed. Cullen explained

that municipal budgets require state approval and, as in past years, that did not happen until December. Mikorski also questioned putting revenues from land sales in the general fund and then relying on them for expenses.

Councilman Ray Rusnak (Chairman-Administration, Finance and Public Information Committee) said he was relying on the advice and information given to him by Cullen in proposing the amended budget. He felt it would be better to have the extra revenue on hand to have something to fall back on. "Let's have the money in our pockets and if it happens, it hap-

pens. And if it doesn't, it will give us a little bit extra going forward," he said. "As far as the land sale, it amounts to approximately \$670,000. The properties were supposed to close in 90 days; that 90 days was 90 days ago. Now it's going on six months. Whether they close or not is anybody's guess. Maybe somebody is going to forfeit, but with what we see happening in real estate, we don't know what other people are thinking. But at the same time we shouldn't be taking a chance. A \$100 a year increase, I don't think it's all that much. My wife and I went out the other day for lunch and a movie and it cost me \$50. I don't think a \$100 increase for the course of a year is all that much to ask from taxpayers of the borough, to fix a problem that we currently have," he concluded.

Butrico disagreed, saying that there

(Continued on page 10)



The 2008 South Plainfield Borough Council—Seated left to right are Matt Anesh, Mayor Charles Butrico and Council President Rob Bengivenga. Standing left to right are Joe Scrudato, Raymond Rusnak, Tim McConville and Ray Petronko.

Woman Dies After Crash on Park Avenue

Bethel C. Peyser, 47, of Franklin Park was killed on January 10 when the 2006 Hyundai Azara she was driving struck a telephone pole on Park Avenue approximately 250 feet south of Oak Tree Avenue at 7:23 p.m.

Peyser, who was unresponsive when police arrived, was transported to Muhlenburg Hospital where she died at 8:11 p.m.

Three passengers in the vehicle were also injured in the crash. The front seat passenger was Peyser's mother, Sarah Carrington, 89. She was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick with injuries to her arms, legs and back. Also injured were passengers Evelyn Eshleman, 43 of Easton, Pa., who was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital with leg and

arm injuries and Demetra Mannion, 47, of Manville who was transported to John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison where she was treated for facial injuries.

There was no evidence of excessive speed or impaired driving and no other vehicles were involved in the crash.

Statements from passengers indicate that they were returning from the funeral of Nathan John Carrington, the brother of Bethel Peyser and son of Sarah Carrington, who died on January 8.

South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro said the crash may have been caused by a medical event that occurred prior to the crash. He could not say what that medical condition might have been. The Middlesex County Medical Examiner's Office will perform an autopsy.

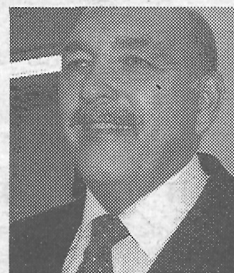
May Speaks at NASA Mtg.

By Libby Barsky

Dr. Kenneth May, principal of South Plainfield High School, has always been the biggest cheerleader for the high school. Even before taking over as principal in 2004, Dr. May repeatedly asserted, "South Plainfield High School is the best kept secret in Middlesex County."

Even with all his efforts, the school may still be the best kept secret in Middlesex County—but not for long. "We are the only school in New Jersey affiliated with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Heliophysics Project Division," said Dr. May.

This month Dr. May attended a service institute in Anchorage, Alaska.



Dr. Kenneth May

The program is sponsored by NASA's Heliophysics Project Division for Outreach and Education, whose director is Dr. Evelina Felicite-Marice.

Dr. May made the two-hour presentation, "Strive to be a Better You: Scheduling, Class-

room Observations, Reports, Reading, Student Incentives, Field Trips, and Innovations." He shared the presentation with Sara Brown, an education specialist in the NASA Heliophysics Project Division.

The presentation alternated with Brown giving a teacher's perspective and Dr. May giving an administrator's point of view. They addressed

(Continued on page 6)

What's Next? Coming Up

Festival of Cultures

Come experience a festival of cultural extravaganza—a celebration of the diverse people who call South Plainfield home, and a celebration of the dance, music, food and more—Monday, Jan. 21, at the Senior Center, 4 to 8 p.m. Events also include Martin Luther King, Jr. tribute and ceremony by Mayor Butrico inaugurating the South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity. Refreshments. All are invited. For information, contact Nehemiah Thompson (908) 756-1044 or Chris Sienkiewski (908) 561-8057.

Empowering the People

Jerry Cantrel, president of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA), a grass roots organization, will speak on what taxpayers can do to empower themselves. He will cover the 10 top property relief proposals. The public is welcome at the Jan. 23, 7 p.m. discussion at the Senior Center.

School Board Candidacy Information Available

George B. Sarnoff, South Plainfield's acting business administrator, has announced that the deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is Monday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the administration building, 125 Jackson Ave., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes the nominating petition and information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy

and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said Kevin E. Ciak, NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider Board of Education membership. Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."



NEW!

January 14 Agenda and Special Council meetings air will air on Comcast Channel 74, Saturdays, Jan. 19 and 26 at 9 p.m.

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

Monday, February 4 Monday, February 11
Tuesday, February 19* Monday, February 25
Monday, March 3 Monday, March 10
Monday, March 17 Monday, March 24

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

planning board

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

Feb. 26*, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Sept. 9, Sept 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 18*, Dec. 9*.

zoning board of adjustment

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

January 24, February 14 and 28, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28, September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30*, December 11*.

board of education meetings

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.

recreation commission

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

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. February 19, March 18, April 5, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16.

environmental commission

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

business advisory group

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

traffic safety advisory commission

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

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

IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

I have been a resident of South Plainfield all my life. I love this town and have enjoyed many aspects of community involvement. I can understand, however, the reluctance of many good, decent people to get involved. Last week this newspaper printed a nasty, venomous letter from the local Republican Chairman Bob Jones. His arrogance and contempt for people who have a differing point of view just jumped off the page.

The tactics displayed by Mr. Jones and his party's faithful cause many people to remain silent. I am not one of those people. Whether I speak from the dais or the audience, I always have and will continue to speak out when I see an injustice.

I am first and foremost a resident of this community and I will not be silenced by intimidation.

KATHY THOMAS

To the Editor:

Bob Jones' recent letter stating he had discussed the Republican controlled council's recent changes with the Business Association resulted in quite a few phone calls and E-mails.

First, some history. In my five years as president of the SPBA we made it clear we felt CME's fees were unreasonable. To back this claim, Robert Longo, SPBA vice president and chairman of the Business Advisory Group, did a case study. The results were staggering. In relation to the total cost of construction of a commercial building, CME's fees represented 7.63%. All other municipal inspection fees combined (construction, plumbing, electrical etc.) came to only .24%, or about 3% of CME's billing. To add 7.63% to the cost of construction just to review engineering and oversee certain aspects of construction seems completely unreasonable and unnecessary.

Bob Jones did call me after the election and I discussed this with him and referred him to Bob Longo to confirm the numbers. I know he did speak with Bob Longo as well. I also recommended a smaller engineering firm with strong ties to the community and the Business Association and this was NOT the firm selected. As I knew the borough attorney was to be replaced, I recommended an attorney with similar credentials. He was not chosen either. So while Bob Jones did reach out to the president and vice president of the association, at the time there was no formal meeting with the association and the input of the two mem-

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.

bers contacted seems to have had very little impact on the selection process.

**JACK PEDERSEN,
SPBA, PAST PRESIDENT;
BUSINESS ADVISORY
GROUP MEMBER**

Dear Mayor Butrico,

I am writing in response to your letter in the Observer (January 11). I would not normally write to the paper editorials, but as you asked, I am going to try to do my civic duty and give you my opinion on the political atmosphere in South Plainfield.

I have lived here almost 10 years, but have been visiting family here for the last 30 years. I have grown to like the town and all the great services they have for family and seniors. I have been following the politics here and am not pleased with all that seemed to be going on. I can only imagine your displeasure in what happened at the reorganization meeting. But let me try and explain to you what politics is supposed to be from a layman's point of view.

As a politician, you are supposed to be doing what is best for your constituency and looking out for their best interests. I have not seen this entirely here in the past years. I think when you first ran for town council you had all the right intentions, but lost some of these ideals along the way. That seems to be the pitfall of politicians today. It is not just here, but everywhere in a free democratic society. I guess politicians figure that if they give the people a few scraps of what they need, we will be happy to let them follow their own agendas after that. You have to ask yourself, when the two Republicans were elected to the council, were you, as a truly partisan council member, open to them with information relevant to them to do their jobs and represent us or were you withholding information for the good of the Democratic Party?

If I am to believe what I read in the papers and some of the 'Dear Editor' letters from present and past politicians, and having been to a few council meetings, as well as school board and zoning meetings, I would say that there hasn't been any 'partisanship' here for as long as I have lived in South Plainfield. Only you can truly answer this question. From my standpoint, I

would say not. Some of the letters from both political parties show a total disregard and lack of respect for each other as party members and individuals. We are supposed to show you, as our leaders, a certain amount of respect, but how are we to do that when you don't give that same respect to each other?

What I would really like to see here in town is true partisanship between your two parties, a return to Government Day, and the politicians doing what is right for the people of South Plainfield, not to their parties or to their respective contributors. We are the ones paying for all your political ideas, we should be the ones reaping the benefits. Remember, a true politician represents the will of the people, not their own.

I am glad to have a two-party system here again, as I believe this is the only way to truly represent all people in South Plainfield, not just some of us. This will make everyone work for us, not just vote for the status quo, as an individual party deems fit.

I also challenge the Republican Party to live up to its campaign statements of having a partisan government and work with the Democratic Party in doing the right thing for the people of South Plainfield and not for their own gratification or that of their party. If not, the people in town should GRIP (Get Rid of Incumbent Politicians) until we find the right persons to represent us in town, state and federal governments.

In closing, I invite you to contact me via E-mail anytime to discuss my feelings and to better elaborate on what I have said here, and maybe give a layman's point of view as to how I see the workings of the political machine here in South Plainfield.

JIM ROESCH

Dear Editor,

Honesty and integrity are traits people expect in their elected leaders. Keeping that in mind, I want to comment on Charles Butrico's statement in last week's Observer. He states: The Republicans, without explanation, replaced every professional with ones who are longtime contributors to the Republican Party. Let's examine this comment.

Butrico says every professional was replaced. Yet he knew that the new administration kept the borough's in-

(Continued on page 12)

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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.

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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

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The South Plainfield Fire Department held their annual installation of officers in December. Mayor Charles Butrico gave the oath to the following officers: Chief Lawrence Del Negro, Deputy Chief Thomas Scalera, Deputy Chief John Mocharski, Captain Joseph Abbruzzese, Captain John Reed, Captain John Ferguson, Lieutenant Michael Gallagher, Lieutenant Luke Melick and Lieutenant Adam Tennenbaum. In addition to the new officers, several members were recognized for their extraordinary service during the last year.

Board of Adjustment Names New Professionals at Reorganization Meeting

The Board of Adjustment held their reorganization meeting last Thursday with five newly appointed members taking their seats. They are Alex Barletta, David Miglis, Darlene Pinto, Thomas Crino and Salvatore Esposito.

All those previously providing professional services for the borough were replaced. The board voted to hire attorney William Lane, Paul Ricci from T&M as engineer and Leonard Miller,

also from T&M, as planner. Mary Beth Khidre was reappointed secretary.

Board chairman William Thomas was reappointed and Alex Barletta was named vice chairman.

No decision was made on appointments to the Site Plan Sub-Committee since there are so many new members. The board voted to wait until next month to make that decision.

The board approved the following

meeting dates for 2008: January 24 February 14 and 28, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28, September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 2 and December 11. Meetings are held in the Municipal Council Chambers and begin at 7 p.m.

Site Plan Sub-Committee meetings are scheduled for February 19, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 28 and December 16. Meetings start at 8 p.m.

Planning Board Reorganizes

The South Plainfield Planning Board held their reorganization last Tuesday evening. The make up of the board remained the same as last year.

The members of the board voted to retain Lester Nebenzahl from THP, Inc. as board planner, Rob Russo from CME Associates as engineer and Chris Nelson, Esq. as board attorney. Mary Beth Khidre will also remain as the recording secretary.

Returning as chairman will be Bob Ackerman and vice chairman is Paul Grenza.

The board approved the following meetings dates for 2008: February 26, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22, May 13, June 10, July 8 and 22, September 9 and 23, October 7 and 21, November 18 and December 9. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Borough Hall Council Chambers.

Buttiglieri Removed as Borough Administrator, Cullen Appointed

A resolution that will be placed on next week's agenda to remove Vincent Buttiglieri as borough administrator and replace him with Glenn Cullen, Borough CFO. Buttiglieri will remain in his tenured position as municipal clerk. The po-

sition of borough administrator is not a tenured position, but an appointment made at the pleasure of the council.

The change will take effect after the council officially votes on the resolution at next Tuesday's meeting.

Jerry Cantrel to Speak Next Wednesday

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) and the *South Plainfield Observer* are inviting the public to attend a seminar given by Jerry Cantrel, president of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA), on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. Cantrel will be discussing his association's "Top Ten Property Tax Relief Proposals."

Formerly The Silver Brigade, the NJTA evolved from a group of concerned citizens who initially came together 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 its 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.

Cantrel is a past president of the Randolph School Board, founder of Sanely Tax Our Properties, a Randolph based property tax reform group, and founder of several technology firms. He has been president of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association for the past four years.

If you like paying high taxes, stay home; otherwise come out and find out more about what you can do as a citizen in getting involved. All are invited. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact



NJTA President Jerry Cantrel

Jack Pedersen at (908) 922-2368 or the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010. You can also log on to the NJTA Web site at www.njtaxes.org to find out more about the organization.

In addition, the SPBA and the *Observer* will host four Citizens' Campaign courses at the Senior Center beginning February 6. The courses are designed to empower citizens to become part of the decision-making process in South Plainfield, from making a constructive proposal before our governing body, to taking a seat on an appointed board or commission. The first course will be an introduction on local government. The courses will run on February 6 and 27, and on March 5 and 25, all at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center on Maple Avenue.

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.

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The First Annual
South Plainfield

Festival of Cultures

January 21, 2008

4pm to 8pm at

South Plainfield Senior Center

Come experience a festival of cultural extravaganza. It will be a celebration of us—we, the diverse people who call South Plainfield home—and a celebration of the dance, music, food, and more that makes us who we are.

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

All are invited.

The Evening Schedule:

4:00 – 5:00 Cultural expo and Music
5:00 – 7:30 Inaugural event and Cultural dances
7:30 – 8:00 Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Refreshments will be available throughout the event

Presented by

The South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity

The South Plainfield Coalition for Cultural Diversity 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.

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around town

Blackrose to Perform

January 19

On Saturday, Jan. 19 at 10 p.m., Blackrose, the band, will be performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits at Rugs and Riffy's, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. No cover charge.

Atlantic City Bus Trip

January 20

An Atlantic City bus trip is planned for Sunday, Jan. 20 to The Showboat. Bus leaves from the Polish Home on New Market Avenue at 9 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30, with \$20 back and \$6 food voucher.

Tickets still available. Call (908) 668-9442 for information and tickets.

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

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

For more information, call Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

SPHS PTA Meeting


January 22

The SPHS PTA will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 22 in the SPHS Tiger's Den, room 110 at 7 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to help prepare for the upcoming auction to benefit Project Graduation for the Class of 2008. If you are able to help out in any way please try to attend this meeting. If

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

JANUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	NJ Taxpayers Association Information Seminar – January 23 at 7 p.m. ... January 28 - Noon Presentation of Pre-Arrangements by McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, with lunch			Bingo 10am-2pm 18
	21 Center Closed for Martin Luther King Day	22 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	23 Aerobics 8:45 am Listen to Children 9:45am 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm NJ Taxpayers Assoc. 7pm	24 Pathmark Shopping 9am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15p
				Bingo 10am-2pm 25
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

you are unable to attend the meeting, contact any executive board member to find out how you can help.

Anyone with solicitation sheets, please bring the updated sheets to the meeting along with any donations you have received. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact me directly or you can drop them off at the high school main office.

NJ Taxpayers Assoc. Invites All Taxpayers

January 23

The South Plainfield Business Association and the South Plainfield Observer will be sponsoring the grass roots organizations New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA) and the Citizens' Campaign for five presentations starting Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at the senior center, located on Maple Avenue.

Jerry Cantrel will present NJTA's "Top Ten Property Tax Relief Proposals." The Citizens' Campaign will hold four courses designed to empower people to become part of the decision-making process in South Plainfield. Those courses run February 6, 27, March 5 and 25, each beginning at 7 p.m. at the senior center.

If you like paying high taxes, stay home; otherwise come join the fight.

VFW Dinner

January 25

The South Plainfield VFW will hold

a chicken paprikash dinner on Friday, Jan. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the South Plainfield VFW. The public is welcome.

Any questions, please call (908) 668-9751.

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.

RSVP to Carolyn Allen at (908) 561-3275.

— Out of Town —

Church Woman United Meeting

January 18

The Church Women United, Plainfield Area, will hold their annual meeting on Friday, Jan. 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Rose of Sharon Community Church, 825 West 7th St. in Plainfield. For information contact Evelyn Troy at (908) 899-8955.

Dinner Dance at Singer Hall

January 19

The Plainfield Gesang and Turn Verein will host a dinner dance on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield. Music will be provided by the Werner Goebel band. Tickets are \$16 for members and \$18 for non-members. New board of officers will be installed.

Call Victor at (908) 276-8572 or Joan at (908) 647-0819.

American Indian Crafts and Games

January 19

Chase away the midwinter blues and learn about traditional American Indian winter crafts and games at the next meeting of Intertribal American Indians of New Jersey on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. in the log cabin at Thompson Park in Jamesburg.

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.

WOW's Open Dance

January 20

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Jan. 20 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The Elks Hall, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Refreshments. All are welcome! Admission is \$10. For more information, contact Phyllis at (732) 381-3255 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

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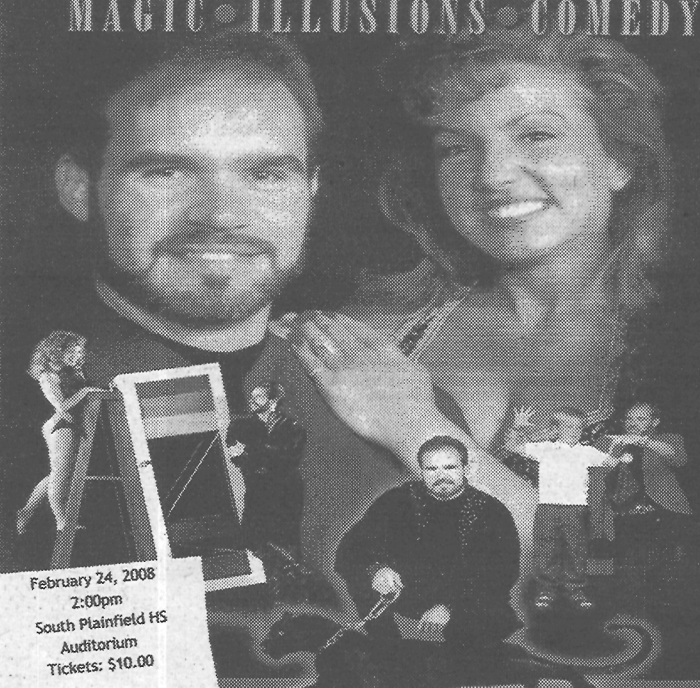
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experience in South Plainfield, share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

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

First Annual Festival of Cultures Announced

Come experience a festival of cultural extravaganza on Monday, Jan. 21 at the South Plainfield Senior Center on 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. The 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.

Adult School Brochures in the Mail

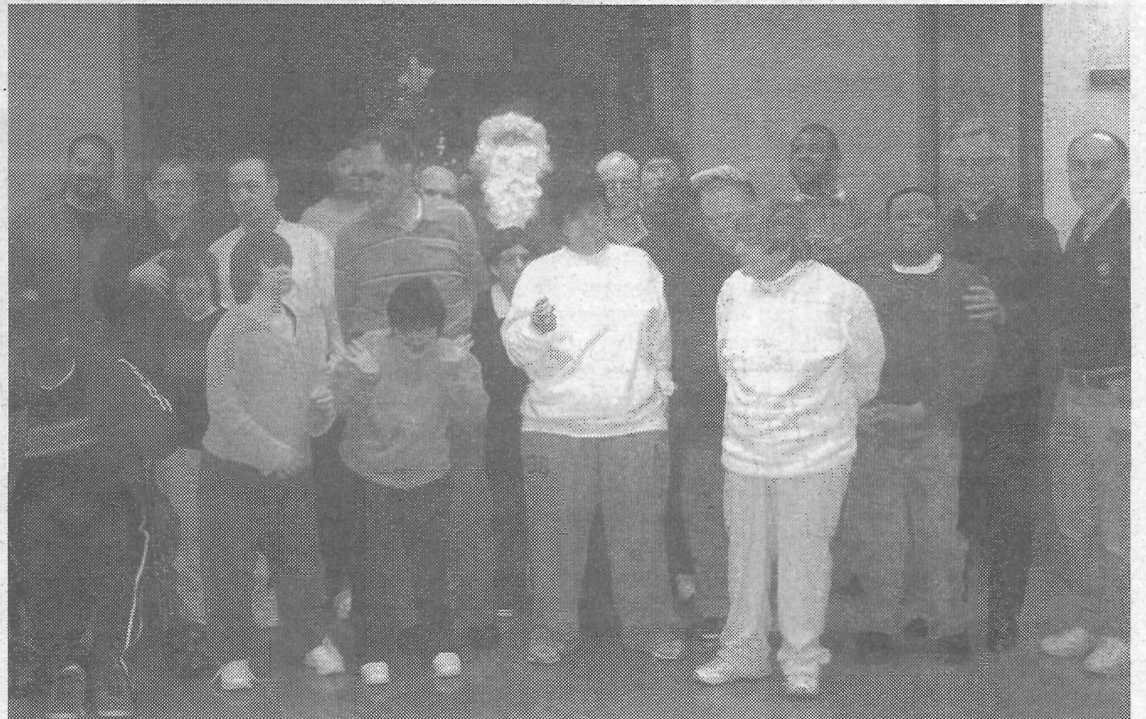
Brochures have been sent to all area residents of the upcoming winter 2008 semester of the South Plainfield Adult School. If you did not receive a brochure and would like one, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213. We welcome all area residents.

The Adult School offers a variety of classes including typing, computers, Tai-Chi, yoga, exercise, dance, painting, volleyball, golf and craft classes.

You may register over the phone with either a Visa or MasterCard, or

come to the Adult School Office in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Avenue, between 8 and 4 p.m. Most classes commence the week of January 28.

Tickets are on sale now for the Philadelphia Flower Show on Sunday, March 2. The price is \$60 and includes transportation and admission. For more information on this and many other trips, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.



The Knights of Columbus hosted a Christmas party for the residents of the Keystone Community.

Knights Host Keystone Christmas Party

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held their 2007 Keystone Community Christmas party on December 26.

More than 60 Keystone residents were treated to a hot dinner and a visit from Santa, who delivered many gifts

to the residents.

The Knights of Columbus have been hosting this dinner annually for over 20 years.

The Knights would like to thank all of members and their families who attended and either cooked or served the

residents dinner.

A special thank you to our own brother, Knight Bill Thomas, for his support for playing Santa.

Co-organizers for this event were Bill Thomas and Past Grand Knight Joe Scrudato.

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Ashleigh Gaspari Named to President's List

Ashleigh R. Gaspari of South Plainfield has been named to the president's list at Coastal Carolina University, for the fall semester.

To qualify for the president's list, a student must earn a 4.0 grade point average and be enrolled full time.

Bucknell Students Named to Fall Dean's List

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2007/2008 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Students who met this standard are Samantha A. Deffler, daughter of John and Marie Deffler and a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School, and Ryan M. Smith, son of Martin and Nancy Smith and a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

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Diocese of Metuchen to Present Pro-Vita Awards

The Diocese of Metuchen will honor three pro-life advocates with the 2008 Pro-Vita awards at its annual Respect Life Mass to be held Sunday, Jan 20 at noon at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen. The recipients include Rev. Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., Joan Fasanello and Celeste Fitzgerald.

Fr. Pacholczyk is being recognized for his leadership in educating individuals about the moral and ethical concerns surrounding stem cell research as well as other life issues.

A priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., Fr. Pacholczyk earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University, where he focused on cloning genes for neurotransmitter transporters which are expressed in the brain. A nationally recognized expert on stem cells, he has testified before members of the Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Virginia and North Carolina state legislatures during deliberations over stem cell research and cloning.

Director of Life Choices, Inc. in Phillipsburg, Fasanello is being honored for reaching out to help pregnant women and their families who are in need.

Fasanello is the founder and director of Life Choices, Inc. of Phillipsburg. Under her leadership, Life Choices' programs have been developed to directly address the concerns of women in crisis pregnancy. Besides serving as a guest speaker at various parishes and schools

throughout the Diocese of Metuchen, Fasanello has also helped to bring the chastity message to the youth in the diocese.

Celeste Fitzgerald is receiving the Pro-Vita award for her commitment and hard work to abolish the death penalty. She is director of New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NJADP), a grassroots statewide organization with 12,000 members.

In 1999 Fitzgerald and NJADP launched a campaign to replace New Jersey's death penalty with life without parole. That campaign led to passage of two historic and bipartisan bills. The first suspended all executions in New Jersey and created a thirteen-member commission to examine all aspects of capital punishment. Following the release of the report by the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission, which recommended that the death penalty in New Jersey be replaced with life in prison without parole, the New Jersey's Legislature passed in 2007 the bipartisan death penalty abolition bill.

Celeste has also worked closely with the NJ Catholic Conference and has helped to educate others about the death penalty at various conferences and seminars held in the Diocese of Metuchen and throughout the state.

All are invited to the Pro-Vita Mass and reception which will follow in the Cathedral Community Room.

For more information call the diocesan Pro-Life Office at (732) 562-1990, ext. 1629.



The 2008 officers of the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad are sworn in by Mayor Charles Butrico.

Volunteer EMS Announces 2008 Officers

On January 4 the elected officers of the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad were sworn in by Mayor Charles F. Butrico, Jr., at the Primavera Regency in Sterling.

The line officer, which handles the day-to-day operations of the Rescue Squad, will be led by Captain Edward LaFerrera. Gregory Rowlands will serve as first lieutenant, Robert Cubala as second lieutenant and Jenna Ferlazzo and Andrew Batshaw as operational sergeants.

Keely Heyman was sworn in as president of the organization. She will be aided by Vice President Sue Forster, Glenn Ewing as treasurer and Robert Dolan joins Gary Toth and Jose Heavens as trustees of the organization.

The rescue squad would like to extend a special thank you to Brian Anderson who served as president of the organization for more than a decade. Brian will continue to serve the residents of South Plainfield as an active riding member. He was also elected to the position of delegate to the New Jersey State First Aid Council.

In addition to the swearing in of officers, special service awards were presented as well. Heyman and Rowlands were presented with Life Membership to the rescue squad after completing 10 years of active service. Heavens and Ewing were recognized for 15 years of active service. Lieutenant Rowland was presented with the Presidents Award for Outstanding

Service in 2007, and Sergeant Batshaw was presented with the Captains Award for Outstanding Service in 2007. EMT Hackett was recognized with an Outstanding Service Award for going above and beyond as a member of the Rescue Squad. Hackett will also serve as the squad historian for 2008.

The night was filled with food, music and plenty of dancing to bring in the new year. The Rescue Squad will be hosting their annual comedy night fundraiser at the Stress Factory in New Brunswick on Sunday, April 6. Tickets are \$35, and can be purchased by contacting the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad at (908) 754-2343. The evening will include dinner before the show, a hilarious set by Stress Factory owner and friend of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad Vinnie Brand, as well as an additional set by a surprise comic. Last year's show was a great success and we plan on an even better show this year. The members of the Volunteer Rescue Squad would like to share their deep appreciation and thanks to all their supporters.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Rescue Squad in either an operational or administrative position can contact the squad at (908) 754-2343, or visit our membership page at www.southplainfieldnj.com/rescue_squad/join.htm.

Dr. May, SPHS Principal, Goes to Alaska

(Continued from page 1)

their talk to college students along with teachers and administrators from the Boston, Washington D.C. and Virginia. The program went over how we acclimate teachers, share job descriptions needed for student manage-

ment and go through the lesson application.

Dr. May also gave a speech on "Partners in Student Success" as a work session helping to identify the success, and evaluate success or lack of it, in schools.

"Every high school has the same components, but some are more successful than others. In this presentation, I will tie in all our programs that have been successful with in SPHS to validate the mission statement of the school. This will be my show and glow. I will compare the statistics of 10 years and 20 years between our attendance, tardy and discipline rates. Ten years ago we averaged 42% of kids getting B's or better and 58% getting C's or better. In June of '07, 92% of the students had a GPS of 2.0 or higher. We used to have 68% of kids going to college, now it's closer to 90%.

"We found the more students we can get involved in school activities—athletic, fine arts programs and volunteer efforts [with senior citizens, senior project and others], the more the

students take ownership and change the culture of the school," said Dr. May.

Dr. May first learned of the NASA summer workshop program for administrators from Kevin Hajduk, who had attended a workshop for teachers four years ago. For the past three summers other teachers have also attended the workshops including Janet Donnelly, Gerry Heim, Gene Kern, Tiffany Lacey, Patty Porzio and Angela Raimondi.

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Congratulations!
2007-08
JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Natasha Jani, mom Purvi, father Bhargav and brother Ishaan.

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Students Sought for Youth Conservation Corps

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

Conservation Corps crew members earn \$8.50 per hour and will work Saturdays from March 29 to June 14. Work will primarily take place at county open spaces in Old Bridge, Monroe and South Brunswick. Students age 16 and over are encouraged to apply.

Activities include trail building, litter clean-up invasive species removal and wildlife habitat improvements. Applicants should be enthusiastic, self-motivated and willing to work and learn as a part of a team. Also, applicants must have the capacity to walk several miles and stand for extended periods of time, willingness to get dirty and work outdoors in various weather conditions and the ability to use various hand tools.

Space is limited. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and application for employment to Rick Lear, Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 661, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. Applications can be downloaded at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/personnel/index.asp. The deadline is February 20.

For more information or to obtain a complete job description and application, call (732) 745-5988.

New Cell Phone Use Law Takes Effect March 1

The state of New Jersey has just made driving while using a cell phone a primary offense beginning on March 1. This means that a police officer can pull you over solely because you were talking on the phone. This also includes text messaging.

A conviction (or guilty plea) to this offense will be considered as a conviction/plea for "unsafe driving." While this is a no-point violation, it carries a \$250 surcharge meaning the ticket can cost anywhere from \$380 to \$439 for a first offense.

Also, note that this first use of "unsafe driving" has a secondary effect.

When you get a speeding ticket or some other moving violation and go to court to try and get it reduced, the prosecutor may offer a no-point reduction to the unsafe driving provision. However, if you were previously accused on a cell phone charge, your no-point fine will now cost well over \$500. And, once you use this provision for the second time, you must wait five years before you use it again. This means that if you burn a no-point reduction on a cell phone, you will be facing the likelihood of full points on all tickets you get in the five year waiting period.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

School will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will host a wine and cheese tasting party tentatively set for Friday, March 14 at the South Plainfield Italian/American Club.

The Middle School PTO is having a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the school. The February PTO meeting will also be held the same evening at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Co-Presidents Debbie Boyle or Linda Didario at (908) 791-9439.

The high school exam review will be from Tuesday, Jan. 22 through Thursday, Jan. 24. Exams will be held Friday, Jan. 25 through Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Roosevelt School's Multicultural Day will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Grant School DARE graduation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 8:45 a.m.

Applications for residents wishing to run for a seat on the BOE are available in the business office in the administration building on Jackson Ave. The filing deadline is Friday, Feb. 25.

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Zachary Prehn Named Junior Journalist!

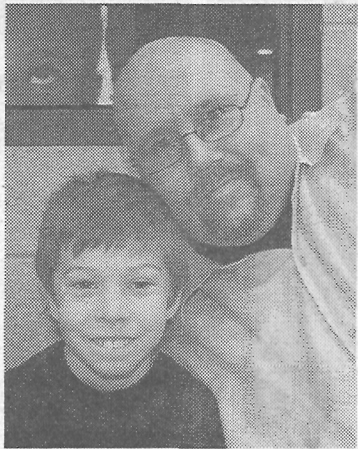
Zachary Prehn, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plainfield *Observer* sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with his poem, "Winter."

Zachary will be the recipient of a dinner for his family courtesy of Hometown Heros. He will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, he 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 *Observer* at (908) 668-0010, stop by



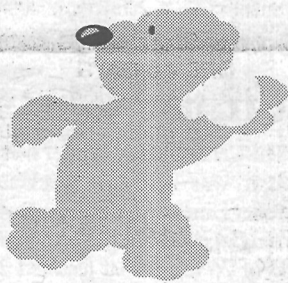
Junior Journalist winner Zachary Prehn with third grade teacher Michael Bertram.

Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

Winter

By Zachary Prehn

Winter is my favorite season,
for one reason,
it's cold fun!
In the snow
you can make snowballs.
Hit them with a bat,
CRACK!
Go back inside through
the hall,
to the kitchen,
and slurp down
a mug of
hot chocolate.



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Sports

SPHS BOWLING

Submitted by Ralph Fech

Pryor (610), Yon, Kukuch Qualify for GMC Finals

More than 350 bowlers filed into Carolier Lanes for the GMC Individual Tournament Qualifying Round, each with their own distinct motivation, but all the same goal of becoming the 2008 champion. The ultimate winners will be decided next week after the qualifiers will again bowl three games before the top five cumulative scorers will enter a step-ladder final.

Congratulations to Jeff Pryor, Katie

Yon and Jackie Kukuch as they were the only Tigers who qualified in the highly competitive event.

Senior Katie Yon fired games of 182-170 for a 500 set. Teammate Jackie Kukuch posted 192-166-493 set.

Senior Jeff Pryor stroked games of 192-161 and a booming 257 game for a 610 total to capture the last qualifying position.

Congratulations bowlers.

Tiger Bowlers (3042), Dandola (706) Earn Hard Fought Tie

2	SPHS	1110	970	962—3042
2	Carteret	879	973	973—2825

The boys bowling team rolled its high series of the season, but a scrappy Carteret squad fought back and salvaged a tie.

The Tigers' Mike Dandola fired

games of 266 and 258 enroute to an eye-popping 706 set. Chris Esposito zoned in with 207-204-245 for a big 656. Jeff Pryor chipped in with a 204 game.

Lady Tigers Upended by #2 State Ranked Carteret

0	SPHS	752	786	785—2323
4	Carteret	910	939	953—2802

Katie Yon bowled games of 181 and 190 on her way to a solid 524 set but the Lady Tigers were no match for

State Champion Carteret.

Gina Curcio chipped in with a 170 game.

Tigers Scorch the Lanes in Winter Classic XXVII

The Central Jersey Winter Bowling Classic was held last weekend at Carolier Lanes with the Tiger Bowlers turning in a red-hot performance in a field of 76 teams that featured 20 of the state's top ranked teams.

SPHS 1039-956-1010—3005

The boys bowling team posted a 10th place finish as they broke the 3,000 pin barrier. Chris Esposito led the solid team effort crushing the pocket for a 681 high set on games of 212-223-246. Teammate Mike Dandola was close behind with games of

232-223-206 for a 661 set. Other high scores were turned in by Ryan Pauls 253, Jeff Pryor 235 and Tim Moskal 207. Eric Haas 300 game led Brick Memorial to the championship.

SPHS 882-840-845—2567

Katie Yon's 224, third high game in the tournament, coupled with 204 and 171 for a 619 total, led the girls to a 12th place finish. Jackie Kukuch added a 193-200 and Kelly Pauls a 206 game. Howell won the title while GMC rivals Carteret and Woodbridge finished third and sixth respectively.

Free Basketball Clinics Nightly at TBSA

As part of our continuing effort to educate children in the sport of basketball TBSA is offering free basketball clinics. These informative "hands-on" clinics are held Monday through Thursday nights for ages 10 through 15 as part of the \$10 open gym fee from 6 to 8 p.m. Anyone who enters the facility and takes part in the \$10 open gym session on these nights can shoot from 6 to 7 p.m. and are welcome to participate in our 7 to 8 p.m.

clinics at no charge. There is also a one hour clinic included as part of their \$10 Sunday open gym session, noon to 2 p.m. Open shooting is noon to 1 p.m. The clinic is from 1 to 2 p.m.

For younger children who want to learn and play basketball, there are clinics Sunday mornings for ages five to nine from 11 to noon. The instruction is free when children participate in the Sunday morning \$10 open gym.

As a reminder, regular open gym

More Than 100 Attend PBA Benefit Golf Tourney

South Plainfield Police PBA Local 100 held its 13th annual golf tournament under sunny skies at the Concordia Golf Club in Monroe in October. The golf outing helps the PBA raise money and allows them to support many worthwhile causes, including: providing for sick and injured police officers, sponsoring youth sports teams, the Special Olympics and scholarships for local students.

This year's event was attended by over 100 golfers and the generous donations of numerous local businesses and individuals raised many thousands of dollars. The golfers enjoyed a full day of fun at the course, which started with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. All golfers had a chance on the fourth hole to win a new car courtesy of Flemington Buick Chevrolet Pontiac GMC, Rt. 202/31 in Flemington. Breakfast and lunch were offered at the course and golfers competed for many prizes and awards during the day.

The day concluded with an awards banquet in the Crystal Room at The Polish Home. The golfers enjoyed a full buffet and open bar.

Door prizes included two televisions, radios CD players, golf equipment and apparel.

Special thanks goes to Hall's Fast Motor Freight, Di-Lex Trucking, Zizzi & Associates, V.A. Designs and Sal's Spirit Shoppe for their extremely generous donations. Each were presented with special appreciation plaques. The day concluded with the raffling of a framed autographed photograph of Yankees great Mariano Rivera and four Yankees playoff tickets courtesy of Sara Chysanth of V.A. Designs.

The following awards and trophies were presented: Low Score Team 4 Man Best Ball—Joe Glowacki, Tim Fech, Tom Kaufman and Mike Colicchio; Longest Drive—A.J. Farkas, 280 yards; Straightest Drive—Steve Ungeheyre, less than six inches; and Closest to the Pin—Tom Sudo, 6 feet 2 inches.

PBA Delegate and Golf Committee member Brian Iarrapino thanked all the golfers, individuals and local businesses that attended or donated to this worthwhile cause. He stressed that the event could not have been a success without them.



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Nancy McMahon

Hope you all had a wonderful start to 2008. We hope you enjoyed your time with family and friends during the holidays.

Just a reminder to mark your calendars. The Parents' Ponytail Association meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 22 and begins at 7:30 p.m. at the PAL building. We will be discussing improvements to Pitt Field, continuous maintenance on the fields, brand new committees, coaches for traveling All-Stars and other topics of interest.

We will also be recognizing new

leadership within the association and commending/thanking the previous leaders for all their hard work and dedication they have put forth in this association. We hope they will stay on as members and continue to support the Ponytail Association.

We continue to encourage new members and fresh ideas. You can make a difference! We hope to see you all there! Remember to visit our Web site at www.spponytail.com.

Play Ball!

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

January 11, 2008—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 10, 2008.

A. Case #61-05/S/U—Scott Delvecchio, Block 535; Lot 10.01; 2801 Hamilton Boulevard. The applicant's request for the expansion of a use variance to permit limited retail sales was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #33-07—Fox and Fox Real Estate, Block 188; Lot 49; 2449 Plainfield Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance, lot width variance, minor subdivision approval and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

C. Case #43-07/Use—The Tabernacle, Block 308; Lot 14; 1253 New Market Avenue. The applicant's request for a conditional use variance and amended site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary—Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$34.20 January 18, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

January 9, 2008—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on January 8, 2008.

A. Case #07-01/M—Dennis Korkowski, Block 427; Lot 4.02; 171 New York Avenue. The applicant's request that this application be dismissed without prejudice was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #710/Site/Sub/V—3500 Hadley Road, LLC, Block 528.01; Lot 46.06 and 46.08. The applicant's request for (2) waivers as well as preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary—Planning Board

\$25.00 January 18, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the South Plainfield Planning Board, at its January 8, 2008 public meeting, adopted a resolution granting the undersigned the relief described below in connection with the construction of an industrial building containing approximately 219,065 square feet, with associated parking and loading facilities, on property located at 3500 Hadley Road and identified as Lots 46.06, 46.07, and 46.08 in Block 528.01 on the Tax Maps of the Borough of South Plainfield (the "Premises"). The Premises is located in the M-2 Zone, and industrial uses are permitted. The relief granted is as follows:

1. Preliminary and final major site plan approval.
2. Waivers to allow banking of approximately 316 of the required on-site parking spaces, and from the submission requirement of an environmental impact statement.

Copies of the resolution, application, plans and other supporting documents are on file in the office of the South Plainfield Planning Board at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080 and are available there for inspection Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

3500 Hadley Road, LLC
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\$53.00 January 18, 2008

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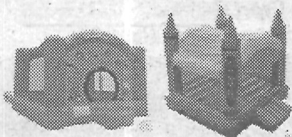
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Diegnan Proposes Tax Credit For Frequent Toll Road Users

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., has announced plans to introduce legislation this month to provide commuters with an income tax credit to help mitigate the effect of future toll increases.

Diegnan (D-Middlesex) said his bill would provide a direct credit to residents on their state income taxes equal to the amount of annual toll payments made in excess of \$100 over any increase which may take effect.

"If tolls are to be increased, New Jerseyans who drive the Turnpike, Parkway, or Atlantic City Expressway to-and-from work daily should be protected," said Diegnan. "We must work to minimize the impact of higher tolls on everyday commuters."

The credit would not be available to commuters who receive reimbursement for tolls from their employer or who can claim tolls as a business deduction on their federal tax returns.

Assemblyman Diegnan said his plan is one way Gov. Corzine could ensure regular commuters are not unduly im-

pacted by future toll increases. At a town hall meeting in Livingston on Saturday, the governor likened commuters to frequent airline fliers and told the audience his plan would include discounts for regular users of the state's toll roads.

"Governor Corzine has produced a bold plan for helping New Jersey climb out of debt, but now we must review it from every angle to ensure it could be enacted equitably and efficiently," said Diegnan. "Freezing state spending and increasing accountability are essential elements of the plan which all residents should support. However, we need to spend the time necessary to closely examine the governor's toll road plan and propose ways to help commuters. A tax deduction should be part of that discussion."

Diegnan said he hopes to have his bill ready for introduction by the time the assembly convenes for its first committee meetings of the new legislative session, currently scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 24.

Allstate Insurance Sponsoring Young Writers Contest

Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company encourages Garden State high school students to share their voice by participating in its Black History Month Young Writers Contest.

Every young person has opinions about the world they live in—what they love about it, what they loathe about it, and what they hope to change. Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company (ANJ) is giving Garden State teens the opportunity to share their voice and their vision to positively impact the communities in which they live.

For the sixth consecutive year, ANJ is sponsoring its Black History Month Young Writers Contest. The theme of this year's contest is "Dear New Jersey Leader..."

From now until the contest deadline, Saturday, Jan. 26, entrants will have the chance to address a local or

state leader and share their thoughts on issues such as tolerance, safe and vital communities, and economic empowerment. Through the Writers Contest, high school students will be able to creatively express their concerns on the issues facing their communities and share their suggestions with New Jersey's leadership on how they would enact change.

A total of \$10,000 in prizes to high schools and students is being offered in this year's contest: first prize is \$3,500 for a 529 College Savings Plan; second prize is \$2,000 for a 529 College Savings Plan; third prize is \$1,000 for a 529 College Savings Plan and fourth through eighth prizes is a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

The first prize winner's high school will receive \$2,000 toward educational programs that promote The Allstate Foundation focus area of safe and vital communities. The second and third place winners' school will also receive \$500.

ANJ has sponsored the contest for the last five years to offer urban youth and young people an opportunity to express themselves through creative writing. Winners will be announced during Black History Month in February 2008.

For more information on the contest, contact: ANJEssay@allstate.com.

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Obituaries

Yolanda S. Maglione, 82

Yolanda S. Maglione died on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at the Berkeley Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Paris, France, she came to the United States in 1953, living in Jersey City before settling in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Maglione had been employed by Universal Transport of Middlesex, working in the accounting department. In addition, she is a former member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Vincent, who died in 1982.

She is survived by two children, Jim Maglione and wife Pat of Pittstown and Loretta Hansen and husband Donald of Flower Mound, Texas. She is also survived by four grandsons, Vincent and Michael Maglione and Donald and Mark Hansen.

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

Nick Bruno, 77

Nicholas J. Bruno died suddenly on Friday, Jan. 11 at his home.

Born in Scotch Plains, Nick had been a resident of South Plainfield for the past 45 years.

A veteran of the United States Army, Nick served during the Korean Conflict before being honorably discharged.

Initially employed as a salesman, he later owned and operated the former Lakeside Tavern in South Plainfield.

Surviving is his wife, Joanne; two sons, David and Michael and a daughter, Sharon. Also surviving are three brothers, Sam, Michael and Joseph and two grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Robert A. Stuhldreher, 41

Robert A. Stuhldreher of South Plainfield passed away at home on Saturday, Jan. 12.

He was born in Plainfield and was a resident of South Plainfield most of his life.

Robert was predeceased by his brother, Dennis Stuhldreher.

He is survived by his parents, Harry and Joyce Stuhldreher of South Plainfield; three daughters, Ashley, Hope and Nicole; a son Robert; a brother, William Stuhldreher of Bath, Pa. and two sisters, Karen Cortese of Whitehouse Station and Patricia Yulick of Piscataway.

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

Frank E. Franchak, 76

Frank E. Franchak died on Monday, Jan. 14 at home.

Born in Perth Amboy, Mr. Franchak grew up in the Woodbridge area. He lived in Philadelphia where he received his B.S. from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science graduating in 1959. After graduation Frank moved to South Plainfield where he resided for the past 49 years.

For nearly 30 years Frank worked as a pharmacist for the Schering Plough Corp. in Kenilworth. He was

a member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203. He also served with the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

Mr. Franchak enjoyed fishing, crabbing and playing golf.

Surviving is his wife, Marie (Sutter); two daughters, Beth Gallant and husband Raymond of South Plainfield and Judy Franchak and husband Tom Lokos of Piscataway; a son, David and wife Elvira of South Plainfield; eight grandchildren, Matthew, Melissa and Jake Gallant, Ashley, Zach and Luke Franchak and Craig and Kim Kulick; a great grandson Ryan; a brother; two sisters; a sister-in-law and husband Georgean and Ted Pichalski of Edison and two brothers-in-law, John Sutter of Mt. Laurel and Ricky Sutter of Arizona. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation, 150 New Providence Rd., Mountainside, N.J. 07092.

Florence M. Tietz, 78

Florence M. Tietz died on Friday, Jan. 11 at Arista Care at Cedar Oaks in South Plainfield.

Born in West Berlin, Flo was one of 11 children born to Emma and John Zulkar. She resided in the Central Jersey area, including Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Piscataway before entering the care center.

She was the owner and operator of the former Flo's Snack Bar in the Blue Star Shopping Center in Watchung.

Her husband, Charles, died in 1981.

Surviving are two daughters, Janice Kenvin of Freeland, Pa. and Norma Jean Gildea of Piscataway.

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

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Council Approves Tax Increase

(Continued from page 1)
are many seniors in South Plainfield on fixed incomes who will feel the \$100 increase is a lot.

Council President Rob Bengivena commented that if the council doesn't raise taxes this year, next year's deficit will be even larger and could mean a 20-point tax increase and layoffs.

Butrico countered that each year he has been on the council there was always some unexpected expense that needed to be addressed, but the council always found a way to avoid raising taxes. He asked the council again to table the amended budget until the

borough attorney had time to study the land sale contracts and report back to the council. He added that the borough could mail out an estimated tax bill and amend it later.

Joann Graf asked the council to try to work together to find a middle ground on the tax increase and put blame and politics aside.

Jack Pedersen suggested that the council only increase the budget to cover the tax appeals, saying the land sale money will come through since the buyers signed a contract. He also stated that this was a perfect time for council members to find a compro-

mise. "It's not about who's right, but what's right," Pedersen said.

When it came time to vote on the mayor's suggestion to hold off on the tax increase until the February meeting, the council voted along party lines and rejected his suggestion. The council then proceeded to introduce the amended budget, which included the \$100 tax increase. The amendment was approved by a 4-2 vote, also along party lines.

"I am extremely disappointed with the Republican Majority for passing this amendment to raise taxes. Clearly, this was a partisan decision with little regard for the taxpayers in South Plainfield. In my opinion, this was a rash decision and should have been further reviewed and could have been averted by implementing some of the suggestions I offered. There would have been no impact in delaying this decision a couple of weeks until further research could be done, but instead, the Republican councilmen felt it was no big deal to raise taxes," said Butrico.

A public hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at next week's council meeting. The public will be able to give their input on this matter before a final vote is taken.

policereport

- On January 8 Oscar Angulo-Gutierrez, 22, of North Plainfield was arrested for no insurance, fictitious plates and two outstanding warrants.

- Jose Medina, 38, of Plainfield was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

- On January 9, William A. Kalleta, 52, of Piscataway was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and driving with an unsafe load in the trunk of a vehicle.

- Michael A. Berardinelli, 26, of Kenilworth was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

- Victor Hernandez, 20, of North Brunswick was arrested for hindering apprehension.

- Srikumar Nangavaram Lakshminaray Anan, 38, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to a breath test, careless driving, no insurance and failure to exhibit documents.

- A Grant Avenue resident reported that their vehicle had been entered and rummaged through. A small amount of change may have been taken.

- A Kissam Court resident reported that the passenger side door

handle of their vehicle had been damaged, possibly by a screw driver. No entry was gained.

- A Pershing Place resident reported that their unlocked vehicle had been entered and was rummaged through. Nothing was taken.

- A Greenwich Street resident reported that their unlocked vehicle had been entered and a gasoline credit card was taken.

- On January 10 Gbolahan Sonariowo, 20, of New Brunswick was arrested for no license and two outstanding warrants.

- Solomon J. Jones, 29, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

- A Fairmount Avenue resident reported that their windshield had been struck by an unknown object and shattered while driving on Lakeview Avenue.

- A Barnosky Court resident reported that their front windshield was broken and there was evidence of fireworks residue on the vehicle that had been parked on Tompkins Avenue.

- On January 13 an East Golf Avenue resident reported that the front porch of their home had been egged.

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Sen. Barbara Buono Named Chair of Senate Budget and Appropriations Panel

Sen. Barbara Buono will be chair of the powerful Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

"Senator Buono has the leadership skills and the fiscal abilities needed for this difficult assignment," said Sen. Richard Codey. "I also have confidence that she will be able to resolve any conflicts that may arise throughout the budget process."

"I am grateful to Senator Codey for this expression of confidence," said Sen. Buono. "It will be a challenging budget year, but I believe we will move

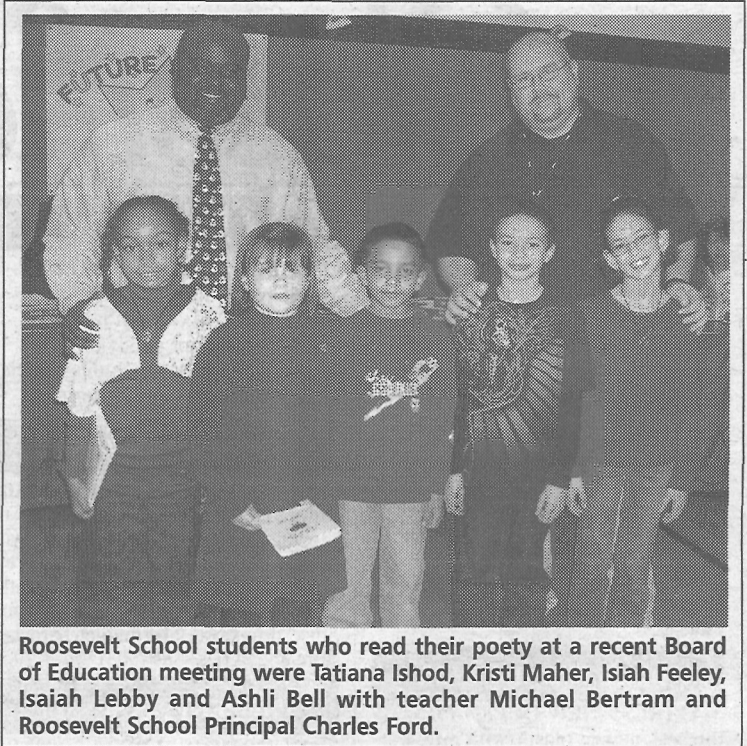
forward and work together in a bipartisan effort to deliver a fiscally sound and responsible spending plan for the coming year."

Sen. Buono said she also believes that Gov. Corzine's approach to explaining his debt reduction and fiscal restructuring proposal—with help from former Republican Congressman Bob Franks—will improve the likelihood that "workable solutions" will evolve to deal with the state's current fiscal crisis.

"Jon Corzine is sending out the

correct message that we have to put aside the rhetoric of politics because the necessity to work our way out of debt and stop runaway rates of rising property taxes is greater than the gains of partisanship," she said. "We need answers that work for the people we are here to serve and we need to change from a game of political tactics to bipartisan problem solving. The governor was right to start the process this week."

The Budget and Appropriations panel will convene for several months after Gov. Corzine unveils his spending plan on February 26 for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Sen. Buono will then lead her panel in reviewing the spending plan and making legislative revisions before submitting a final budget bill by the end of June.



Roosevelt School students who read their poetry at a recent Board of Education meeting were Tatiana Ishod, Kristi Maher, Isiah Feeley, Isaiah Lebby and Ashli Bell with teacher Michael Bertram and Roosevelt School Principal Charles Ford.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY RESOLUTION TO AMEND SFY 2008 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET			
WHEREAS, the State Fiscal Year 2008 Budget was approved on the 7th day of August, 2007, and			
WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised, and			
WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget,			
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, that the following amendments to the approved State Fiscal Year 2008 Budget be made:			
	Aye	Nays	Abstained
	(((
	(((
	(((
Recorded Vote	(((
(Insert last names)	((Absent
	(((
CURRENT FUND BUDGET			
		From	To
Anticipated Revenues:			
General Revenues:			
3. Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F: Public and Private			
Safe & Secure Grant		60,000.00	4,708.00
Senior Information Assistance		0.00	7,434.00
Municipal Alliance		6321.54	17,851.36
Recycling Grant		900.00	25,235.01
DDEF		0.00	8,598.57
Benjamin Fund		0.00	25,000.00
Body Armor Grant		0.00	6,049.16
911 Grant		0.00	21,183.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F		<u>75,553.06</u>	<u>124,390.62</u>
3. Miscellaneous Revenues - Section G: Other			
Sales Contract Receivable		\$1,344,115.00	\$675,000.00
Reserve for Self Insurance		203,731.43	0.00
Ferna Reimbursement		64,446.73	71,682.21
Reserve for Public Defender		14,000.00	0.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues - Section G		<u>2,755,626.73</u>	<u>1,876,015.78</u>
Total Miscellaneous Revenues		<u>8,622,429.79</u>	<u>7,791,656.40</u>
5. Subtotal General Revenues		<u>11,440,483.06</u>	<u>10,609,709.67</u>
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes:			
(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes			
Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		<u>14,215,500.00</u>	<u>15,581,765.95</u>
7. Total General Revenues		<u>25,655,983.06</u>	<u>26,191,475.62</u>
Appropriations:			
8. General Appropriations:			
(A) Operations within "CAPS"			
Celebrations & Events		\$40,000.00	\$43,000.00
Total Operations Within "CAPS"		<u>17,866,016.00</u>	<u>17,869,016.00</u>
Total Operations Include. Contingent Within "CAPS"		<u>17,871,016.00</u>	<u>17,874,016.00</u>
Detail:			
Salaries and Wages		9,256,090.00	9,256,090.00
Other Expenses		<u>8,614,926.00</u>	<u>8,617,926.00</u>
(H-1) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Within "CAPS"		<u>18,296,106.00</u>	<u>18,299,106.00</u>
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"			
Police & Fire Retirement System		\$1,085,000.00	1,088,111.00
Tax Appeals		\$ 0.00	\$350,000.00
Total Other Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"		<u>3,501,317.00</u>	<u>3,854,428.00</u>
(A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"			
Public and Private Programs Offset By Revenues			
Safe & Secure Grant		60,000.00	4,708.00
Senior Information Assistance		0.00	7,434.00
Municipal Alliance		6321.54	17,851.36
Municipal Alliance Grant Match		0.00	5,544.00
Recycling Grant		900.00	25,235.01
DDEF		0.00	8,598.57
Benjamin Fund		0.00	25,000.00
Body Armor Grant		0.00	6,049.16
911 Grant		0.00	21,183.00
Total Public and Private Programs Offset By Revenues		<u>87,553.06</u>	<u>141,934.62</u>
Total Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"		<u>3,588,870.06</u>	<u>3,996,362.62</u>
Detail:			
Other Expenses		<u>3,056,904.06</u>	<u>3,464,396.62</u>
(H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded from "CAPS"		<u>6,409,877.06</u>	<u>6,817,369.62</u>
(O) Total General Appropriations- Excluded from "CAPS"		<u>6,409,877.06</u>	<u>6,817,369.62</u>
(L) Subtotal General Appropriations		<u>24,705,983.06</u>	<u>25,116,475.62</u>
(M) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		<u>950,000.00</u>	<u>1,075,000.00</u>
9. Total General Appropriations		<u>\$25,655,983.06</u>	<u>\$26,191,475.62</u>
SEWER UTILITY FUND BUDGET			
10. Dedicated Revenue From Sewer Utility			
Sewer Utility			95,350.00
Additional Sewer Rents			
Total Sewer Utility Revenues		<u>\$5,239,883.90</u>	<u>\$5,335,233.90</u>
11. Appropriations For Sewer Utility			
Other Expenses		<u>4,143,833.90</u>	<u>4,239,183.90</u>
Total Sewer Utility Appropriations		<u>5,239,883.90</u>	<u>5,335,233.90</u>
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for certification of the State Fiscal Year 2008 budget so amended.			
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this complete amendment, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-9, be published in the Observer in the issue of January 18, 2008, and that said publication contain notice of public hearing on said amendment to be held at the Council Chambers, Borough Hall on January 22, 2008, at 7:00 o'clock p.m.			
It is hereby certified that this is a true copy of a resolution amending the budget, adopted by the governing body on the 14th day of January, 2008.			
ATTEST:			
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk			
\$279.22			
January 18, 2008			

IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

insurance consultant, judge, and public defender. These professionals were all Democratic appointees, and in fact, the public defender is a former Democratic chairman. Butrico can't deny knowing that these professionals were reappointed. Thus, it's apparent that he made his comment knowing it was untrue.

The part about contributors is also deceptive. To check, simply go the state's campaign reporting Web site at www.elec.state.nj.us. I can tell you what you'll find. Not one appointee is on the South Plainfield GOP's campaign reports, although one is actually on a Democratic report. That the Republicans appointed someone who supported their rivals shows how for the first time appointments were actually made on merit.

Butrico went on to attack the new prosecutor, calling him an inexperienced attorney. A little about Paul Garelick: Paul was raised in town and graduated from SPHS. After law school he earned a prestigious clerkship with the chief judge in Middlesex County and a year later joined a well-known litigation firm.

Paul has almost 15 years experience as a trial attorney and has glowing references from some of the top legal minds in Central Jersey, including three prominent retired judges, a former county prosecutor and the state's former director of law/assistant attorney general. Paul is the public defender in Keansburg (something Butrico left out) and the police chief

there gave him a stellar recommendation.

It's sad that Butrico felt the need to misinform the public, both about the new administration and about Paul Garelick. He should accept that his party lost and try to work with the new administration. The members of new majority have an obligation to choose professionals with whom they feel comfortable. It's no different than a new president or governor choosing his or her team upon assuming office.

My message to the mayor is straightforward. Be truthful with the public and act with the dignity your office deserves. You'll find that it serves you well and earns respect you might otherwise lose.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ROBERT A. BENGIVENGA, JR.**

Dear Editor,

Many people read last week's letter by Councilman Ray Rusnak setting out the fiscal mess the new administration inherited when taking office. I'm not going to repeat everything Ray said, but I can boil things down to make it easy. Because the last administration left a \$1.1 million deficit, South Plainfield is in real financial trouble.

We are almost seven months into the budget year, and to date, the town has paid out nearly \$500,000 in tax refunds from tax appeals. On average, the town has given two to three refunds a month and more are in the pipeline. Despite this, not one penny was budgeted for these tax appeals.

Another problem is the prior ad-

ministration's use of land sales to prop up the budget. A resident repeatedly asked about this at council meetings and was told that land sale money was not in the budget. He was not told the truth.

It bears repeating that using land sale money in a budget is risky and foolish, because you have to make it up the next year or face a huge tax increase. The budget contains a whopping \$1.3 million in land sale money. What concerns me even more is how we still don't have all the money more than half way into the budget year.

The other side is gearing up to downplay the seriousness of these problems. Yet they created them and ignored them, all the while promising a tax cut to the public. In reality, they did not do the things necessary for a real tax cut, but instead, simply under-funded the budget and made an empty promise.

The first answer most people want to hear when told about a problem like this is "cut spending." I agree. There's a problem though. Practically all the money has been spent.

We are more than halfway into the budget year, so even drastic cuts won't solve the problem. This is not to say that cuts won't happen; they will. But in reality they will only help for the 2009 budget.

We need to be honest about the budget and not balance it with gimmicks or one-time fixes. Only then will we be able to get South Plainfield on the path toward fiscal responsibility.

COUNCILMAN TIM MCCONVILLE

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