



South Plainfield Observer

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MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2008



Firefighters battle a blaze on West Golf Avenue that destroyed a home last Thursday.

Fire Leaves Seven Homeless

Numerous 911 calls to South Plainfield Police last Thursday afternoon reported flames shooting out of a home on West Golf Avenue behind D & D Auto Supply on Park Avenue.

At that time the fire department was at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Hamilton Boulevard. When firemen arrived they reported heavy fire conditions in the rear of the structure. Residents in the area told firefighters there was a possibility occupants might still be trapped in the home. A second alarm was put out for mutual aid companies to respond to the scene. A quick interior entry was made to search for any trapped residents, but none were found.

The heavy fire was mostly contained in the rear corner of the two family home. It eventually burned through into the interior of the structure and kept firefighters from advancing. As crews maneuvered to the second floor, the first floor apartment door burned

through and the fire rolled into the main hallway which was the firefighters' escape route. An evacuation order was given by the incident commander because of the deteriorating conditions. All crews who were inside the burning building were backed out.

Second alarm companies responded and helped knock down any remaining fire. The occupants of the two apartments arrived on the scene and confirmed that no one was home at the time of the fire. Two firefighters reported minor injuries from cuts. The mutual aid companies were released at 4:30 p.m., but South Plainfield firefighters remained for another two hours to completely extinguish the fire.

Responding to the fire were the South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management, Somerset Medical Center EMS, Mercy 6, fire departments from Plainfield, Piscataway North Stelton and New Market, Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge, Iselin, Dunellen

and Middlesex County mutual aid fire coordinators. The South Plainfield Fire Prevention Bureau is still investigating the cause and origin of the fire.

Some of the displaced occupants are members of the the Melendez Family, who have four children attending borough schools. Board of Education member Debbie Boyle quickly enlisted the help of the school principals and PTOs at the children's schools and Social Services Director Marge Ackerman. The family was able to purchase some necessities with the monetary donations and gift cards at local department stores. If you would like to donate, an account has been set up at Commerce Bank on Plainfield Avenue. Checks can be made payable to: The Melendez Family Fund. Monetary donations are also being accepted at the *Observer* office, 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

13-Year-Old Sees Magic in His Future

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Recreation Department holiday luncheon rescheduled to January 27 due to snow was a magical afternoon—literally. South Plainfield eighth grader and magician Anthony Muccigrossi entertained guests with his amazing feats of magic. He moved smoothly from one trick to another like a pro. If no hands went up immediately when he asked for volunteers, Anthony chose someone at random and had them helping before they knew it! His patter during and in between tricks kept the audience engrossed the entire performance.

Anthony, 13, son of Gina and Gary Muccigrossi, is a middle school student with an eye on a career as a professional magician/illusionist. His favorite magicians/illusionists are Lance Burtan and Houdini. His venture into the world of magic began three years ago when a friend showed him a simple card trick.

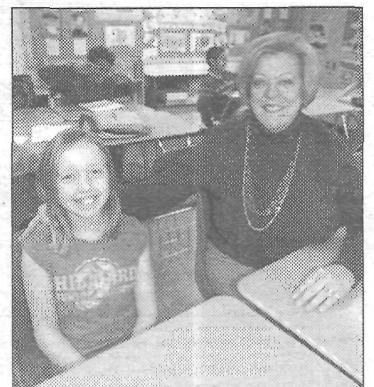
Teacher's Quick Action Saves Student's Life

By Jane Dornick

After 37 years of teaching, Nancy Donahue experienced what she called "the scariest day of my life" when she had to use the Heimlich Maneuver to revive a choking student.

With only a half a day of school on December 21, classes at Grant School were celebrating with parties and fun activities. Donahue's fifth grade social studies class was counting down the last hour before the winter break dismissal when one of the students asked what was wrong with Emily Smith, the girl sitting next to him. Donahue said, "I saw that she was in big trouble and asked if she was all right and she couldn't answer me. She began turning blue and couldn't breathe."

Donahue immediately asked a student to run and get the nurse and tell her that there was an emergency. Not quite knowing what was wrong, she lifted up the limp child, who was slumped over a desk and attempted to perform the Heimlich Maneuver. She pushed harder on her diaphragm the second time and forced a white and red stripped peppermint candy out of the child's mouth and across the room. The school nurse, Dawn Wallis, entered the



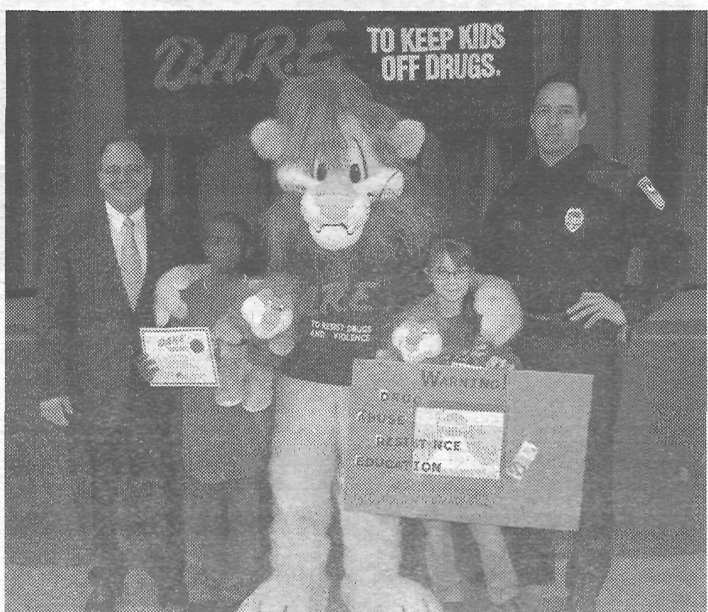
Emily Smith and Nancy Donahue

room and saw that Emily was breathing again. "It was a very emotional moment," said Donahue as both she and Emily began to cry.

As a token of her appreciation, Emily gave Donahue a card that said, "Thank you for saving my life," along with a gold heart pin with an angel on it. "It was just instinct. I've never done that before and I needed to help," said Donahue. At a holiday party she attended shortly after with fellow teachers, they applauded her and called her a hero for her diligence and quick thinking. "I don't want to be a hero. I had an opportunity to help someone and I did. I think I've done it all now in my teaching career."



Anthony Muccigrossi entertains an audience member after the show at the Recreation-sponsored holiday luncheon. See page 5 for luncheon story.



Fifth grade students accepted the DARE challenge and graduated from the police-sponsored program. See centerfold for story and photos.

Committee to Review Truck Routes

By Libby Barsky

At their January 22 meeting, the Borough Council authorized the creation of an ad hoc committee to review the Helen Street Extension Project and investigate alternative truck routes to divert truck traffic away from Hamilton Boulevard.

The resolution charges the committee with reviewing and analyzing the

project, researching funding, the need for land acquisitions and the environmental impact of an alternative truck route plan diverting truck traffic from Hamilton Boulevard. After 10 years of development, the previous plan failed to receive the necessary environmental approvals from the Department of Environmental Protection because the plans encroached

(Continued on page 10)



Council meetings air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

The January 16 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. until the next public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Special BOE meeting on Shared Services will air on Saturday, Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.

Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete Borough 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, 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 (N.J.S.A. 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, May 13, 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, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
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*.

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.

siteplanreviewcommittee

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.

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 on the fourth Wednesday of the month 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.

INMYOPINION

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

Dear Editor:

There has been a lot of discussion recently regarding the 2008 budget. The new Republican Majority would like to convince the residents of South Plainfield that there is financial disaster looming here in town. The only disaster happening with this budget is increasing it by \$1.3 million.

The new majority, having been in office less than two weeks, has hit taxpayers with a huge tax increase. This increase is larger than all of the municipal tax increases since 2000 combined and is being done simply to have extra money sitting in the coffers. In last week's article on the budget meeting Councilman Rusnak said, "Let's have the money in our pockets and if it happens, it happens. And if it doesn't, it will give us a little bit extra going forward." To build up large, unnecessary reserves at the expense of the taxpayers of this community is unconscionable.

What is unsettling to me is that during two separate meetings, I pleaded with the Republican Majority to hold off making this rash decision and look harder at cutting expenses. I was joined in this plea by many members of the public. Councilman Rusnak even admitted that he hadn't spent any time looking to cut expenses. We were basically ignored and taxes were raised anyway.

Council President Bengivenga commented that if the council doesn't raise taxes now, next year's deficit could be large. Well, if there appears to be issues in the coming year, start looking for some answers now. Keeping the budget stable takes constant planning and thinking outside the box. It is clear that the Republican Majority has made a choice to take the quick and easy road at the expense of the taxpayers.

**CHARLES BUTRICO,
MAYOR OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

Dear Mr. Champion and Township Leaders:

Perhaps the letter you need to read is that of Mrs. Thomas. Her well written and concise letter was all of three paragraphs long. I would not term it "hysterical" nor a "diatribe," but a brief rebuttal directed at the author of a previous letter that attacked

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.

her credibility.

I can't help but wonder that if such a rebuttal was written by a man it would have been called hysterical. What has become hysterical is how often political diatribes appear in this paper.

I'd like to remind the Republican Party that "you won." You've cleaned house—ridding us of some very astute and valuable public servants, made us all aware of what is wrong with the other party and continue to devote your valuable time writing letters to the editor. What happened to winning gracefully? It's time some dignity returned to our local government. I implore all of our town officials, Democrat and Republican, to turn to the business of running this town and stop the petty public bickering. How are the citizens of South Plainfield supposed to believe that positive change will happen when all we read about, week after week, are letters akin to children fighting in the back seat of mommy's car?

DEANNA FREDERICKS

To the Editor:

Like just about everyone else in South Plainfield, I work hard every day and I come home tired. Every week I unfold this paper to read about what's going on in my hometown. I don't have the patience to wade through political misinformation and spin from my councilmen.

I know that the financial situation that we find our city in was not created by this council, but by its predecessor. Though last week's letter from Mr. Petronko had a lot to say, that hard cold fact, somehow, didn't find its way in. Though we may have different opinions about how to fix our financial situation, the fact is that the previous council spent money they didn't have.

I don't blame Mr. Petronko for his omission. He voted to put us in this position. I wouldn't want to admit it either.

As this financial mess plays out and we struggle through the transition in our local government, I honestly dread the onslaught of misleading claims and

creative renderings that is sure to continue from the politicians.

Gentlemen, rather than playing political 'gotcha,' let's get back to sound governance.

Our city deserves responsible financial leadership. We voted for a change in November. You have difficult choices and hard decisions before you. Put our city back on a sound financial path. That's why we elected you.

**SINCERELY,
BILL GARNER**

Dear Editor:

At last week's Council meeting South Plainfield residents spoke out against the tax increase passed by the Republican Majority. Many residents felt that efforts should have been made to find alternative ways to lower the proposed tax increase. As a member of this governing body who also has offered alternatives to this tax increase, I must agree with them.

At both the agenda and council meetings, I, along with Mayor Charlie Butrico and Councilman Ray Petronko, asked the Republican Majority to hold off voting on the tax increase and take another look at the budget before raising taxes. In spite of our and residents' requests to look for alternatives, they refused to consider that option at both meetings.

At the agenda meeting, both the mayor and myself proposed that the Republican Majority work with our current borough auditor because of the fact that he related there was \$300,000 in a healthcare fund that could have been used to lower the tax increase. The Republicans related they had gone to the new auditor, which is not what should have been done, since the new auditor does not start his position until July of this year. What they should have done was to work with our auditor during the process and not after the fact. This idea could have saved South Plainfield taxpayers money, but it never had the chance to materialize because it was struck down by my Republican counterparts.

The Democrats have always been fiscally responsible for the residents of South Plainfield and have always managed to provide the best services our town needs. I, along with our Mayor Charlie Butrico and Councilman Ray Petronko, are always willing to work with the new leadership to continue in the same vein. But that can't happen if the new leadership is not open to suggestions.

**THANK YOU,
COUNCILMAN JOE SCRUDATO**

South Plainfield Observer

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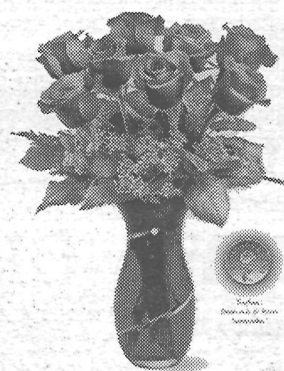
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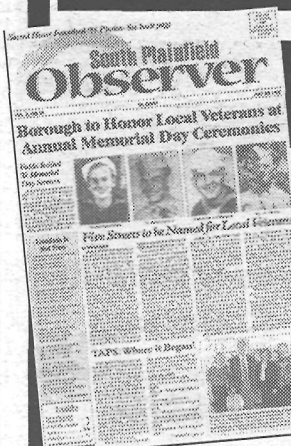
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We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

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1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A car driven by a 15 year-old crashed into a house on W. 7th Steet.

Police Chase Ends in Car Crashing into House

A stolen vehicle driven by a fifteen-year-old, which was being pursued by Plainfield Police, ended with the 2001 GMC Yukon crashing into the home of Daysi Aquilar on W. Seventh St. in South Plainfield.

The vehicle was traveling south-bound on Harvard Street in Piscataway and attempting to elude Plainfield Police when it approached the intersection of Harvard and W. 7th. The Yukon struck the curb in front of the home, entered the garage and

struck the vehicle parked inside. After a short foot pursuit, Plainfield Police arrested the Plainfield male driver.

South Plainfield issued summons to the minor for being an unlicensed driver, failure to turn, failure to stop or yield, careless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, using a motor vehicle without the owner's consent, reckless driving and improper entry into a garage.

The occupants were home at the time of the crash, but were not harmed.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

My LibraryDV gives a whole new meaning to watching movies and television shows at home. It is one of the library's newest services online that only the library can provide for you 24/7 and it's free of charge to our patrons with library cards. It is also my family's latest obsession and I download videos several times every week.

My LibraryDV is a program online that exclusively provides over 500 streaming videos to be watched on personal computers. You can take out up to 10 videos at once and the loan period is seven days. It is similar to downloading audio books online and when your loan period is complete the file will disappear from your computer. There are no late fees and you may take out the same titles over again. If you have an Internet connected computer that runs Microsoft Windows 2000 or later then you are just minutes away from watching videos of your choice. All you have to do is go to our homepage, www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us, and click on the My

LibraryDV link under the Online Resources column on the left. There you will find an FAQ, the full list of videos and the download manager to watch your videos on.

There are eight different kinds of video genres—movies, how-to, kids, travel, food, health and fitness, literature, and documentary. In these categories you will find videos such as foreign and classic films, "Antique Road Show," "Globe Trekker," "Caillou" and "Fitness on Demand." Many of these videos are neither issued on DVD or VHS, nor located on online video sites such as YouTube. I was able to watch several movies that I wouldn't otherwise have access to. So treat yourself to this wonderful free service provided only through your public library. Keep an eye out for how-to-use My LibraryDV workshops in the next month.

Miss Linda and Miss Mija have their regularly scheduled story times this week. For children three years old and up Story and Craft times are Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Times for 2s are Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Books 'n Babies is on Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Our ongoing free adult program, Organizing and Decluttering, by Eva Abreu will have its final meeting on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. There is no required registration however we encourage you to come early since seating is limited and always fills up.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the library at (908) 754-7885

Shared Services Feasibility Study Approved

At a special meeting held Monday night the Board of Education voted to pay for the cost of a feasibility study to be conducted by the Rutgers Management School to explore the possibility of shared services between the borough and the BOE. The total cost of the study is \$5,000 and will be shared equally between the two parties.

Present for the special meeting were South Plainfield CFO Glenn Cullen and Councilmen Rob Bengivenga, Matt Anesh and Ray Rusnak.

The feasibility study will help the borough and the board explore ways they can share future costs, such as snow removal, fuel, transportation, maintenance and computer services. Several other municipalities have done similar studies and have found it highly successful and saved money.

It was also decided that a subcommittee will be formed and meet once a month to study shared services that can be initiated immediately while the feasibility study is taking place. The subcommittee will consist of one BOE member and one Council member, along with both entities' business administrators.

BOE member Bob Jones said that he had done some research and there are grants that can be applied for that may pay part or all of the study.

Arrest Made in Lexington Ave. Burglary

Jerome Brooks, 18, of 1611 Maple Ave. was arrested on January 22 for conspiracy to commit burglary and the use of a 17-year-old, or younger, to commit an offense. Along with Brooks, a 16-year-old male juvenile, whose identity is being withheld due to his age, was charged with burglary and aggravated assault and taken into custody.

The arrests were a result of an investigation which Sergeant Dan Noonan and Detective James Darby were conducting as a follow up to a burglary of a residence which occurred on January 16 at the 300 block of Lexington. A 71-year-old female resident was injured by one of the assailants.

Brooks, listed as a wanted person for approximately one week, was eventually arrested in Edison for the outstanding warrants. Brooks was released upon posting a \$17,500 bond.



The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling Entertainment books. Cost is \$25. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.



Board of Education member Debbie Boyle, South Plainfield Business Association President Debbie Leporino, Mayor Charles Butrico and N.J.T.A. President Jerry Cantrell at the seminar.

Empowering the People Free Seminars Continue

Last Wednesday evening Jerry Cantrell, president of the New Jersey Taxpayers Association (NJTA), presented a seminar at the senior center focused on how residents can empower themselves to get a handle on their taxes. He spoke on municipal and state taxes, as well as school taxes and the increasing trend of borrowing money.

Cantrell explained that his grassroots group was formed to get a handle on the hundreds of taxes that are passed on to the taxpayers each year—not only the taxes on our property and income, but taxes on tires, real estate transactions, travel, entertainment, tolls, liquor, tobacco and practically every purchase we make. There are hundreds more taxes assessed, and according to Cantrell, we need to find a way out of the tax and borrow cycle.

"The biggest problem we face is the mere fact that the average citizen is frustrated and doesn't feel there's anything that can be done. While far from the truth, it's the rut I find most people seem caught in. But, with your efforts, we can change the rules in Trenton and right this ship in the next few years," explained Cantrell.

He gave several examples of how government wastes our tax dollars and then borrows more money and taxes us some more. The NJTA is trying to get several pieces of legislation passed that would stop some of the wasteful spending, which includes tighter Pay to Pay laws and an independent audit

of each school district and municipality. Independent audits would show if there is wasteful spending and how to correct it. Currently, audits are conducted in house by the auditor hired by a town or school board.

Educating citizens to get them more involved and ask more questions is the only way to stop the tax cycle. New Jersey debt is growing each year and today the debt amounts to about \$16,000 per resident. Future generations will be paying for years and there is no end in sight to limit the borrowing. For more information about the New Jersey Taxpayers Association, log on to their Web site at: www.njtaxes.org

It was the first of five, free seminars sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association and the *Observer*. Next Wednesday, Feb. 7, the second seminar will be presented by the Citizens' Campaign. It will take place at the Senior Center at 7 p.m. The topic for the evening will be, "The Structure of Local Government and How to Effectively Participate Within." On February 27 the topic will be "Learn Effective Techniques to Advocate for Issues Before Your Local Government," on March 5 "Path to Appointed Power," and on March 26, "The Path to Political Power."

To find out more about the Citizens' Campaign log on to: www.jointhecampaign.com.

For more information about the seminars, call (908) 922-2368 or (908) 668-0010.

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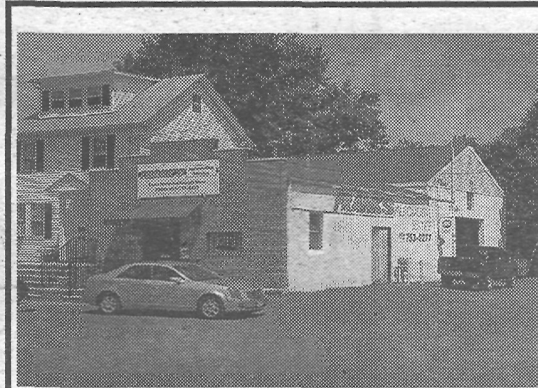
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around town

"Don't Cook on Friday" Dinner

February 1

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "Don't Cook Friday" Italian dinner on Friday, Feb. 1 at the Knights Hall on Hamilton Blvd. from 4 until 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12. Dinner includes pasta, sausage, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert with coffee/tea. Proceeds benefit the Knights local charities fund. Come out, have a delicious meal and support this worthy cause. For information, call Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

Filipino-American Dinner Dance

February 2

The Filipino-American Association of Sacred Heart will be celebrating its 10th dinner-dance on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Pines Manor in Edison.

Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Church and Sacred Heart School and for other community activities. For information, call (732) 248-8372.

Country Breakfast

February 3

The South Plainfield VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 3 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Public is welcome. For questions, call (908) 668-9751.

Is your organization holding an event? Publicize it in "EVENTS AROUND TOWN."
Send your event to us at spobserver@comcast.net.

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

FEBRUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS February 4 - 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 1
4 Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am Program by McCrisky on Pre-planning w/lunch	5 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Presidential Primary	6 Aerobics 8:45 am Computer 10 am 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm Taj Mahal trip 9am	7 Pathmark Shopping 9am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15p	8 Bingo 10am-2pm
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart

February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7 & 14

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Church will be sponsoring their Lenten fish dinners during Lent on Friday, Feb. 8, 15, 22, 29, and on March 7 and 14. Dinners are served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave., 5 to 7 p.m. The menu features fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan), cheese ravioli, manicotti, linguini, pizza, garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, plus dessert.

For information, call parish center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

4th Anniversary Open House at Curves

February 9

Curves will be celebrating their 4th anniversary with an open house on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take advantage of their one day only anniversary special-no membership fee for new members and save \$199, as well as a free figure analysis, games, prizes and more. Curves is located at 27 South Plainfield Ave.. Call (908) 757-4422. Call or just walk in.

Middle School Blood Drive

February 12

Their will be a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 12 in the middle school cafeteria from 3 to 8 p.m. Please come out and help save a life. The middle school PTO will also hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

SPBA meeting

February 21

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner, located on Front Street. The "Highlights on Small Business" speaker will be Tom Stillman of Stillman Photography. As a member of SPBA, feel free to offer incentives for your business or be a guest speaker at our monthly meetings.

Contact Debra Leporino, president at SPBAPres@aol.com by Friday, Feb. 29, to be a guest speaker at the March general meeting.

Pancake Breakfast

February 24

The South Plainfield Elks #2298,

in conjunction with the South Plainfield Girl Scout community, will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon. The menu will feature pancakes, eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. Prices are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 3-12 and two and under free. The South Plainfield Elks lodge is located at 1254 New Market Ave. For information, call (908) 668-9750.

SDW Fundraiser Magic/Illusion Show

February 24

On Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. the "Art of Imagination" will be presented at SPHS auditorium. All ticket sales support the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW). Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Purchase tickets at the *Observer* office, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. or Jay Bee Screen Printing on New Market Avenue.

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

— Out of Town —

Willow Grove's Mardi Gras Jazz Worship

February 3

To celebrate the religious roots of Mardi Gras, Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites the public to its Mardi Gras Jazz worship service on Sunday, Feb. 3, at 10:30 a.m. Child-care and children's classes are provided during the worship service. A free brunch will follow.

Reservations are appreciated. Call the church office at (908) 232-5678.

Middlesex East WOWs Meeting

February 4

The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will conduct their business meeting on Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center located at Pershing and Cooke avenues. Light refreshments. For information, call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Supportive Seminar for Caregivers

February 7

Caregivers for loved ones with incurable illnesses are welcomed to a program offered by the Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care on Thursday, Feb. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Center For Hope Hospice, located at 1900 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains.

RSVP if you wish to attend to Laura Bradley at (908) 288-9136.

Prodigal Foundation Pancake Breakfast

February 10

Prodigal Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children affected by cancer throughout Middlesex County, is hosting their first pancake breakfast at the Woodbridge Elks, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 8 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for ages 5 to 10; kids under 5 are free.

For information call (732) 636-9200 or visit www.prodigalfoundation.com.

Antique Valentines Lecture and Exhibit

February 10

The Center for Raritan Valley History will present the free slide/lecture "Antique Valentines 1860-1930" on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. with collector Ilse Vliet at Old Towne Village. The talk supplements the exhibit, "Valentines from the Past" opening the same day and on display through Sunday, March 16. The exhibit is open to the public during regular Village hours.

Metuchen-Edison Women's Club Meeting

February 13

The Metuchen-Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Ave. in Edison. The program, "Healthy Cooking" will be presented by Lydia. Guests are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

For additional information, contact Mary at (732) 494-5649.

"Freeze Frame" Photography Exhibit

February 24

The Edison Arts Society will hold "Freeze Frame," a photography exhibit for members only, on Sunday, Feb. 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Middlesex County College. Call (908) 753-2787.

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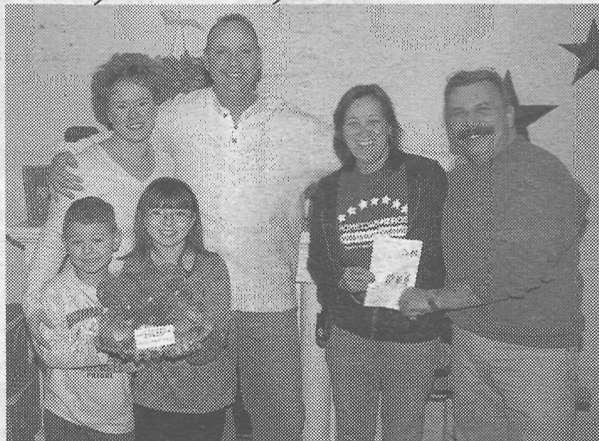
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Congratulations!

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Emily Mazellen, her mom Maryann, dad Brian and brother Brian.

SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES

The Jazz Ensemble and our "Silver Dreams" Winter Guard are starting competition. We encourage everyone to come to one of their local shows to see just how amazing our students are. Check the high school music department Web site for updates on times.

Jazz Ensemble schedule is Friday, Feb. 8 at Edison High School, Friday, Feb. 29 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Friday, March 7 at South Brunswick High School.

"Silver Dreams" Winter Guard schedule is Saturday, Feb. 9 at Bridge-water-Raritan High School; Saturday, Feb. 23 at JP Stevens High School and Saturday, March 8 at South Brunswick High School.

The mid-winter concert is Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. This will be a combined event with our entire music department. Refreshments and promotional items will be available for sale.

Valentine's Day is coming. Why not give two gifts in one? Make your Val-

entines purchase online using School Pop. Your purchases can help support our music students. Log on to www.schoolpop.com and click "join." Choose "South Plainfield High School Music Boosters" to receive credit for your purchases. This is a secure Web site. The more you shop with Schoolpop, the more you earn for our students.

If anyone is interested in leadership opportunities, please come to our next meeting. Many of our senior parents and executive board members will be leaving the boosters in June and we need members to fill much needed positions. Remember, in order to vote in the boosters May elections, you must be a member and have attended three meetings. Membership is \$3 for individuals or \$5 per family.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the chorus room—join us!

Submitted by Pamela Hussey, Co-President, SPHS Music Boosters

NEWS FROM THE

Suburban Woman's Club

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield has announced that their guest speaker at the Thursday, Feb. 7, meeting will be Jeff Cohen, well-known writer who has authored more than 20 feature-length screenplays. His latest book is the first of the series called Double Feature, which take place in Midland Heights, New Jersey. The movie theater's specialty is classic comedy. Cohen is a fan of the Marx Brothers, Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy, sometimes W. C. Fields and Mae West among others.

The main character in his newest book, "Some Like Hot-Buttered," is Elliot Freed, a theater owner who gets involved in the investigation of a patron's murder in his movie house. The story is sprinkled with reference to Cohen's old time favorites and some New Jersey humor, which he says has a sarcastic streak and is the national language of New Jersey.

This new book is a departure from the Aaron Tucker series he has written in the past. However, some locals and personalities are carried forward.

Cohen has written two non-fiction books: "The Asperger Parent: How to Raise a Child With Asperger Syndrome and Maintain Your Sense of Humor" and "Guns A' Blazing: How Parents of Children on the Autism

Spectrum and Schools Can Work Together—Without a Shot Being Fired."

On the personal side, Cohen lives in Highland Park with his wife and two children, a son and a daughter. He is a graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in English and communications. He has said that he would very much like to meet and talk with Mel Brooks, Gene Wilder and Paul Reiser. That statement alone gives you an insight into his personality and sense of humor. The meeting should be very enjoyable.

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield is part of the College District of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. The district held their Council and Programs Assistance Day on January 24 at federation headquarters in New Brunswick. Members of the club attending the meeting were: Mary Ann Iannitto, president; Marge Ready, vice president and Frieda Walker, federation and corresponding secretary.

Any women interested in attending a meeting is cordially invited to come to their February 7 meeting at 1 p.m. at American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Avenue. Cake and coffee will be served, please come and join us.

Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning, Publicity Chairman

Senior Holiday Lunch Held a Bit Late

By Patricia Abbott

The Recreation Department senior citizen lunch scheduled for mid-December was held last Sunday. The original event was canceled due to bad weather.

Approximately 150 residents enjoyed a buffet style meal at the Senior Center. The luncheon, catered by Flanagan's Restaurant consisted of a choice of meatballs, chicken, rice, mixed vegetables, pasta salad, potatoes, assorted fruit, green salad, bread and assorted hot and cold beverages.

A unique method was used for calling tables to the buffet line; instead of simply going in order bingo balls were used to designate which table was next.

After lunch was served, guests were entertained by magician Anthony Muccigrossi (pictured below). He is an eighth grade student at the middle school and the son of residents Gina and Gary Muccigrossi. Anthony entertained and astonished the residents with his feats of magic. He performs at birthday parties and other events.

In attendance were Councilmen Rob Bengivena and Ray Rusnick. After a magic show, guests enjoyed dessert and Senior Center Director Joann Graf pulled the winning tickets for the 50/50 and other prizes, including a trip to Atlantic City.



How Would You Respond In A Time Of Crisis?

Ordinary citizens have the power to effect change. Learn how at a series of free seminars designed to empower South Plainfield citizens to become part of the decision-making process in local government, from making a constructive proposal before our governing body, to taking a seat on an appointed board or commission. The first course on Feb. 6 will be an introduction on local government.

Seminar #1 – February 6, 7 p.m.

Learn About the Structure of Local Government And How to Effectively Participate Within

Citizens can be a catalyst for change, if they have the "know how." This course will teach about the four main "Power Centers" within your community, and how to effectively navigate within to become a part of the decision-making process in your town and beyond.

Coming Up...

- February 27 – Learn Effective Techniques to Advocate For Issues Before Your Local Government
- March 5 – Leadership—Path to Appointed Power Forum
- March 26—Path to Political Power

The Academy for Citizen Empowerment (ACE) is the teaching arm of the Citizens' Campaign. ACE was founded on the principle that civic education can be the touchstone which will assist a civic renewal and which will help transform our cities and communities into examples of enlightened civic involvement.

Our nation's population is increasingly more apathetic and less engaged in the public sphere today than at any point in recent history. Civic and political participation is plummeting at unprecedented rates with severe repercussions for our quality of life and that of our children. We're in a "Crisis of Civic & Political Engagement." The American public is more educated and has greater access to information than at any point in history; yet, since the mid-60s, Americans have become roughly 25 percent less likely to vote, roughly 35 percent less likely to attend public meetings (both partisan and non-partisan) and roughly 40 percent less engaged in party politics and indeed in political and civic organizations of all sorts. In short, we remain reasonably well-informed spectators of public affairs, but few actually partake in the game.

Join us for this free seminar on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center

SPONSORED BY

South Plainfield Business Association & South Plainfield Observer. For information, call (908) 922-2368 or (908) 668-0010.

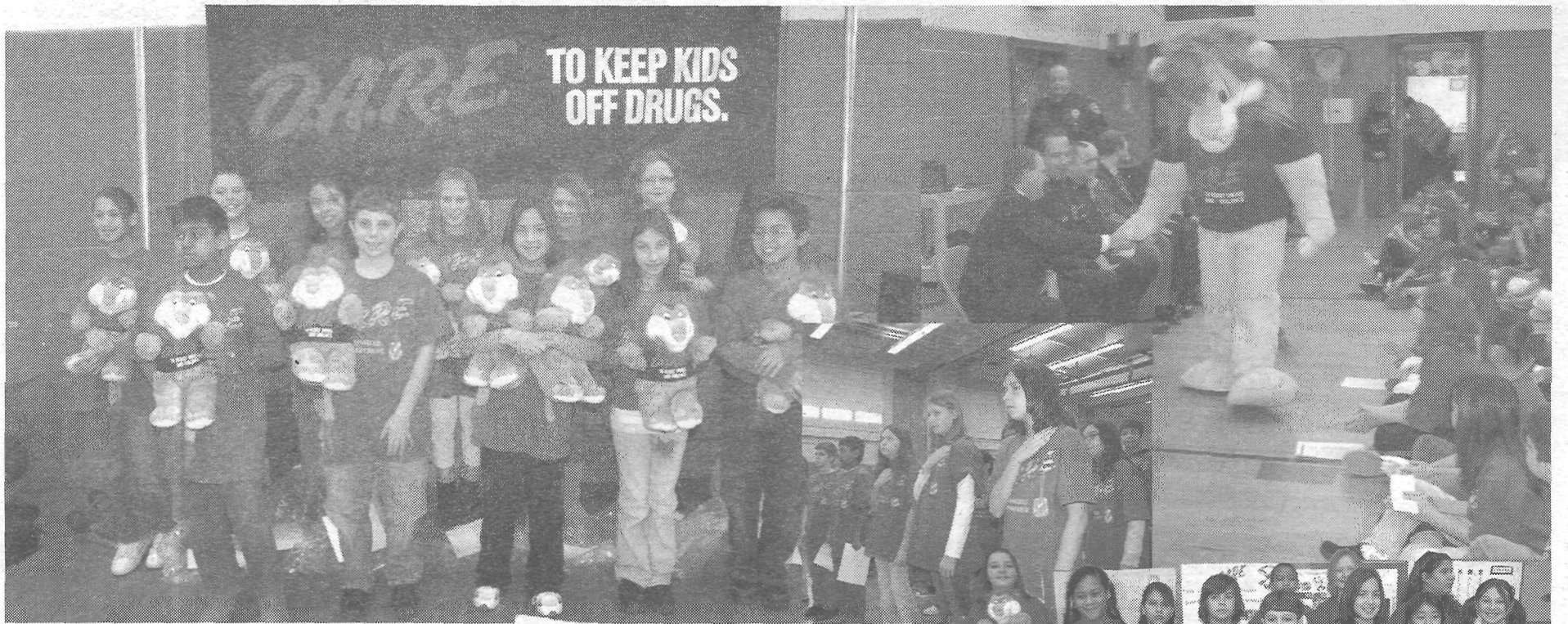
MAGIC ILLUSIONS COMEDY

February 24, 2008
2:00pm
South Plainfield HS
Auditorium
Tickets: \$10.00

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Grant School Honors DARE Graduates

The highly acclaimed DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program was presented to fifth grade students at Grant School through the South Plainfield Police Department. Specially trained Police Officers Allen LaMonda and Dave Franchak teach 17 weeks of one-hour classes that give the youngsters the skills needed to avoid negative influences, focus on their strengths and potential and to live drug- and violence-free lives.

A graduation ceremony was held at the school last Thursday which began with high school student Laine Harris singing "The Star Spangled Banner." Officer Franchak introduced the many borough and school officials who come to support the program's graduates. Attending the

ceremony were Police Chief John Ferraro, Capt. Paul Brembt, Lt. Chuck Siedenburgh, Rev. Charles Mingle, Mayor Charlie Butrico, Councilmen Rob Bengivenga, Matt Anesh and Ray Petronko; Borough CFO Glenn Cullen, Court Administrator Pat Vargo, Assistant Superintendent Fred Oberkehr and Board of Education member Debbie Boyle.

As a final project, each student is asked to write an essay on what they learned and to create a poster. A winner is chosen from each class. The essay contest winners had the opportunity to read their essays to their fellow students and audience members and the poster contest winners' works were displayed on the wall. All the winners received a replica stuffed animal of Daren the

Lion, movie tickets and handshakes from officials. The essay contest winners were Neil Budhan, Alexis Cavaliere, Shayna Hodge, Christopher McNeil, Kristopher Valentin, CJ Dudek, Kasey Walsh, Carl Cirilli, Kayla Fisher, Poala Lopez, Hannah Abrego and Ashley Franchak. Poster contest winners were Katelyn Wolak, Morgan Evans, Diana Pender, A'Jani Kenyatta, Dominika Kopolka, Bertha Calderone, Elissa MacKenzie, Cynthia Coyes, Bryan Gillen, Michael DelBeni, Hannah Abrego, Courtney Maino and William Garner.

Thanks to Hall's Fast Motor Freight, South Plainfield Elks and Regal Cinema for their support each year in helping to conduct the program and contribute to the year-end picnic held in June.



The Grant School Dare Graduates...

Elizabeth Abate, Hannah Abrego, Kevin Abreu, Katie Addario, Andrew Akpan, Evelin Alvarado, John Amini, Jhordanne Anderson, Philip Aquilina, Tania Arias, Rebecca Armand, Jada Armbrister, Jose Barahona, John Barcia, Brooke Barry, Daniel Beaufort, Matthew Belanger, Melissa Benitez, Joseph Bermudez, Jamie Bilak, Rebecca Birath, Kayla Bishop, Wiktorja Blazejowicz, Wesley Bowe, Brianna Boyce, Taylor Brinks, Melanie Budhan, Neil Budhan, Kevin Buschan, Mark Butrico, Vincent Butrico, Nicole Bythell, Ryan Bythell.

Bertha Calderon, Jenna Calderone, Leonardo Calix, John Calvi, Alyssa Capone, Angela Cardone, Azalah Carter, Nicholas Castagno, Kevin Casteblanco, Gabriela Castillo, Alexis Cavaliere, Valerie Cecchetti, Sheehan Chaudhuri, Melanie Cheng, John Chillemi, Annika Ciccariello, Christopher Cieszkiewicz, Carl Cirilli, Ben Cochrane, James Colapietro, Zaire Cone, Zakaya Cone, Katherine Cooper, Hunter Czarnik.

Jessica Dandola, Michael DeLaCruz, Holly DeLair, Danielle DeVizio, Christina Deepan, Michael DelBeni, Jose Deligne Jr.,

Brianna DiMenno, Christopher Diaz, Lauren Dicellis, Kyle Dickerson, Kimberly Dornick, Hayley Dow, CJ Dudek, Tommy Dunn, Nicole Eager, Anthony Eggert, Ian Elliott, Sean Erhardt, Alyssa Esposito, Rachel Estrella, Bryan Evans, Morgan Evans, Patrick Evans, Jack Falato, Khalil Farid, Jack Feldman, Frank Ferraro, Kayla Fisher, James Flasser, Shannon Fonti, Ashley Franchak, Melanie Freire, Alexis Fuentes.

Taylor Gabrielli, Karina Gaitan, Eric Garcia, Jeremy Garcia, John Garcia, Moriah Garcia, William Garner, Jalyssa Garvin, Rebecca George, Tommy Ghanem, Bryan Gillen, Nerissa Goolsarran, Imrin

Goraya, Cynthia Goyes, Kyrsten Grabinsky, Nicholas Grasso, Christopher Graves, Ashley Gruver, José Guardado, Claire Hageman, Jordan Handwerker, Amanda Harper, Tiffany Harvey, Rosalind Heim, Thomas Heim, Zachary-James Henderson, Domonique Hessing, Shayna Hodge, Casidhe Holoboski, Chelsea Housel, Sean Hutchison, Marvin Islas.

Kevin Jacobs, Kylie Janiszewski, Spoorthi Jeedigunta, Celeste Johnson, Erin Jones, Sara Kamal, Mukund Kamatnhamai, Dominika Kapolka, A'Jani Kenyatta, Soha Khan, Aaliyah King, Mercy Koyongian, Dominic LaBrutto, Anthony LaFond, Alexandra Lacasale, Danielle Lapolla, Casee Le, Megan Leepin, Paul Licato, Matthew Lind, Cheyenne Locklear, Paola Lopez, Edward Lopez III.

Elissa MacKenzie, Charlotte Macchia, Matthew Maher, Courtney Maino, Taylor Maistickle, Robert Mammone, Jordan Mandel, Michael Mandes, Megan Mann, Gianna Marcovecchio, James Markey, Alexis Marrero, Christopher Marrero, Jasmine Martin, Antonio Martinez, Diana Martinez, Kayla Massaro, Kevin Mayorga, Patrick McCoid, Elizabeth McCormick, Christopher McNeil, Naomi McNeill, Devon Medina, Briell Melendez, Steven Merrill, Rohanie Mohan, Erika Mont, Yesenia Montalvo, Marcela Naranjo, Nicole Naranjo, Loc Nguyen, Caitlin Nolty, Nina Nunez.

Kelley O'Brien, Matthew O'Brien, John O'Sullivan, Andres Ochoa, Daniel Pacheco, Brendon Paillere, Ronny Palathinkal, Richard Pangborn, Ryan Parks, Deep Patel, Het Patel, Shivam Patel, Kush Pathak, Dakota Pauls, Shakira Pearyer, Rachael

Pedersen, Vincent Pellegrino, Diana Pender, Christopher Perrette, Jihad Perry, Nathaniel Persad, Deborah Persaud, Jade Peters, Emma Piedilato, Irys Pineda, Susan Pipolo, Alexa Plasse, Kara Podlovits, Thomas Pornovets, Kenneth Quin.

Melanie Rajpal, Jason Rambharose, Samantha Randazzo, Caroline Ratti, Warren Reels, Sara Reineke, John Restrepo, Brandon Rickert, Joseph Risoli, Sarmad Rizvi, Devora Rodriguez, Alexandra Rose-Leibowitz, Aubrey Rosiak, Anthony Rovayo, Robert Rudnick, Brianna Saffold, Alex Salazar, Jonathan Sanabria, Anthony Santone, Allison Scarinci, Leonard Scarpitto, Jennifer Scavone, Brian Schillaci, Dominique Schoen, Kimberly Schuetz, James Schultes, Amanda Scofi, Riley Sella, Kelly Shea, Edward Sheaffer, Mary Simmonds, Kelly Simpson, Arshan Singh, Karishma Singh, Christopher Smith, Emily Smith, Shannon Smith, Victor Solano, Nicole Sottiriou, Kimberly Stanczak, Jalen Stewart, Zoe Strong, Leonard Suriano, Kori Szabo-Smith, Matthew Szeman.

Rebecca Tallman, Claudia Tantillo, Gina Tartza, Jennifer Teece, Brett Temple, Samantha Tercek, Kenyan Toro, Dung Tran, Justin Tran, Kevin Tran, Jennifer Truong, Allison Tuyp, Kristopher Valentin Jr, David Vargas, Matthew Vargas, Vincent Vetusch, Carey Villagomez.

Abdulla Waheed, Hamid Walli, Kasey Walsh, Ryan Walsh, Yameni Watts, Laura Weinberger, Justin Williams, Xavier Wilson, Christian Wizda, Katelyn Wolak, Brittany Woodridge, Jason Worthem, Lauren Zekas.

Come celebrate our success with some of your own.

We're celebrating our 4th anniversary.

That's how long we've been helping women in our community achieve their fitness goals. And there's a lot of success to celebrate! So stop in and join us for games, prizes and fun at our Open House. It's time to have a success story of your own.

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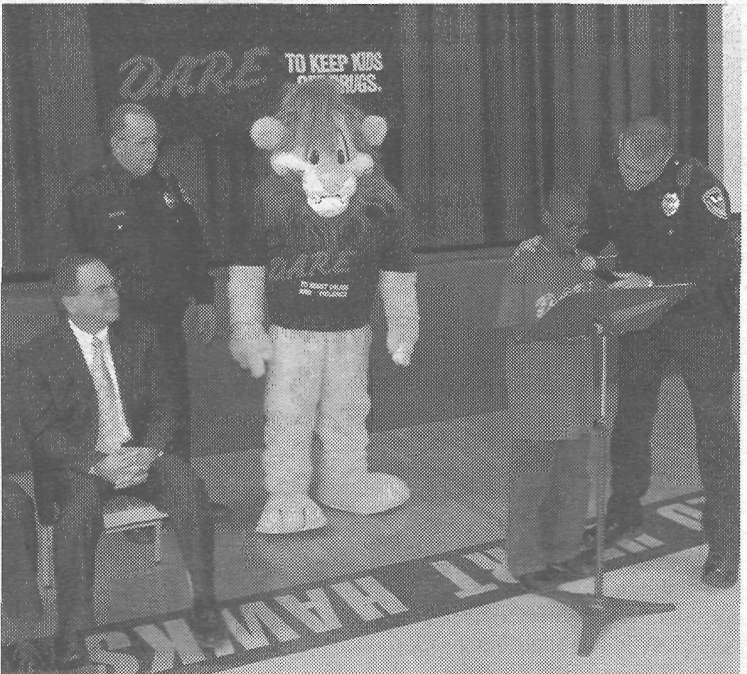
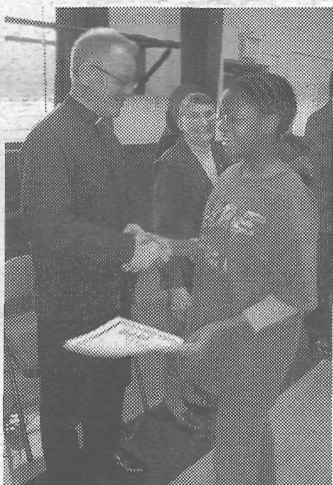
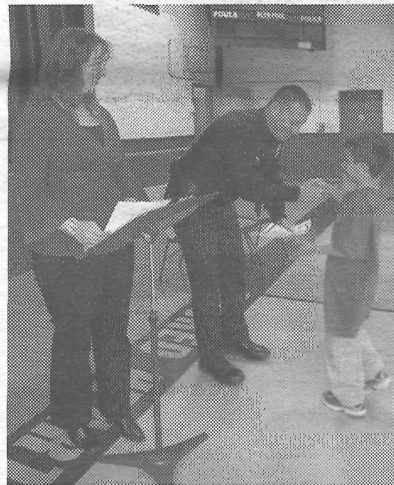
Sacred Heart DARE Students Say No to Drugs



Sacred Heart School annually participates in the DARE program with South Plainfield Police Officers Allen LaMonda and Dave Franchak teaching the drug awareness program to fifth grade students. The school held their graduation last Wednesday graduating eighteen youngsters.

On hand to congratulate the graduates were Mayor Charlie Butrico, Councilmembers Rob Bengivenga and Matt Anesh, Superintendent Jose Negrón, Borough CFO Glenn Cullen, Court Administrator Pat Vargo, Chief John Ferraro, Captains Paul Brembt and Robert Barrone and Lt. Chuck Siedenburgh.

The DARE graduates from Sacred Heart School are: Erin Buckley, Josephine Buckley, Italo Cardoso, Peyton David, Samantha Dimaano, Justin Durham, Shabey Joseph, Angela LoBosco, Morgan Miller, Savannah Miller, Eric Nguyen, Giovanna Nolan, Virginia Novak, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Robert Ruiz, Brenden Russell and Justin Weekes. The poster contest winner was Giovanna Nolan and the essay contest winner was Justin Weekes. Each received a replica stuffed animal of DARE lion and movie tickets from Regal Cinema. Jeff Kertes was the DARE mascot Daren the Lion.



Edison Valley Playhouse Auditions

The Edison Valley Playhouse (EVA) will be holding auditions for their upcoming production of "Antigone" by Sophocles, directed by Todd W. Jones. EVA is located at 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison.

The auditions will take place on Sunday, Feb. 3 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. with possible callbacks on Monday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. The show is scheduled to run March 28 and 29, April 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12.

All rolls are open. No appointment needed. Audition will be reading from the script. Bring a current resume; headshots are helpful but not required.

If you have any questions, call (908) 755-4654 or Todd Jones at (908) 477-3270, or email antigone@evplayhouse.com.

We look forward to seeing you!

Correction

Bob Golon's name was spelled incorrectly in last week's article in the Milestone column. We apologize for the error.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



This photo speaks for itself. This sign is posted on the corner of So. 10th and McDonough streets. To be considered for our "Picture of the Week" feature, submit your high resolution photos to spobserver@comcast.net.

Wanted: Active Military Residents

The Community of South Plainfield would like to honor our residents who are in the military. To honor a family member or a friend, please send a photo of the person to The Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 to the attention of Marie Smith or contact her at (908) 226-7604.

Please enclose a brief description

with the photo, such as branch of service, name and rank. Once received the photo will be framed and placed on the "Wall of Heroes" in the court room in the municipal building.

The many residents in the military deserve to be recognized, so please help fill the wall. The wall is open daily and the public is welcome to visit.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

From a Busy Busy Mom



The middle school PTO is having a used clothing drive on Saturday, Feb. 23 in the parking lot from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a good time to clean out your closets of unwanted clothing items, shoes, purses, ties toys and stuffed animals that will be sent to Russia and Poland for less fortunate families. Look for the Roma Food truck. Their will also be a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 12 in the cafeteria from 3 to 8 p.m., so please come out and help save a life. The PTO will also hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. A dance has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, Feb. 22.

The South Plainfield Education Association will sponsor a wine and

cheese tasting party on Friday, March 14 at the Italian/American Club. Cost per person is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

The high school wrestling districts are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 22 through Sunday, Feb. 24. The athletic boosters are in need of volunteers to man the snack stand. Please contact Teri Pileggi to volunteer.

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2008/2009 school year will take place between Monday, May 5 and Thursday, May 15. Enrollment packets are available in the Enrollment Office in the Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Avenue and must be completed prior to enrollment.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on January 24, 2008.

Case #49-01/Amended-JSM @ South Clinton, LLC. Block 448; Lot 4.06; South Clinton Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance to permit the storage of motor vehicles inside both of the buildings together with amended preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Case # 43-07—Nigel and Mildred David. Block 193; Lot 7; 311; Edgar Avenue. The applicant's request for lot coverage and rear yard setback variances in order to erect at (2) story addition and first floor deck was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Case #47-07—101 New World, LLC. Block 474; Lot 1; 101 New World Way. The applicant's request to withdraw this application without prejudice was hereby GRANTED.

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

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February 1, 2008

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Sports

SPHS BASKETBALL

By Jeremiah Magpile

SPHS Tigers Defeat Barrons, 61-51



Tigers defeat Barrons, up record to 6-9.

The South Plainfield Tigers recorded a solid victory defeating the Woodbridge Barrons and increasing their record to 6-9 January 22.

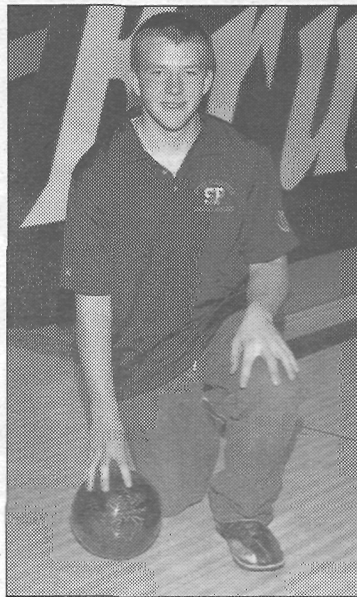
With an aggressive offense and a strong hold inside the paint, the Tigers were able to grab an early 7-0 lead in the first quarter and keep the Barrons within a safe differential. Field goals from Troy Russel, Mike Burton and a three pointer by Tremaine Miller kept the Tigers on top. Offensive rebounds by the Tigers coupled with a few messy turnovers by Woodbridge allowed the Tigers to convert and end the quarter leading 17-9.

In the second quarter, the Tigers rallied on with an unforgiving defense and smooth ball rotation. Steals by

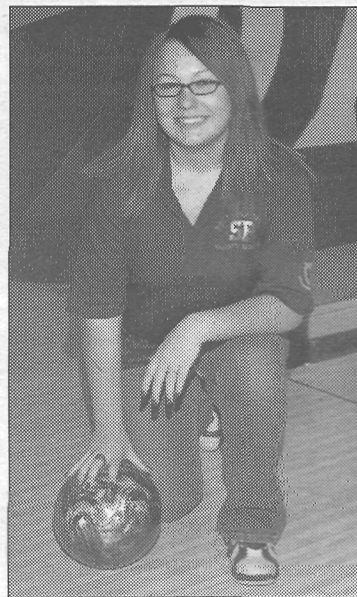
(Continued on page 10)

SPHS BOWLING

Submitted by Ralph Fech



Ryan Pauls



Katie Yon

Lady Tiger Drop Squeakers to So. Brunswick and Colonia

SPHS	1110	970	962	3042
So. Brunswick	879	973	973	2825

The girls bowling team lost a nail-biter to a tough South Brunswick squad as all three games were decided in the 10th frame. The Tigers won by 9, lost by 6 and lost the total by 25 pins.

Scoring honors were shared by Katie Yon and freshman Kelly Pauls, as both bowled solid 535 sets. Katie 160-196-179 and Kelly 177-187-171. Chipping in were Gina Curcio 179, Jackie Kukuch 175 and Katie Salvatore a 161 game.

SPHS	839	929	871	2639
Colonia	886	941	981	2728

The girls bowling team rolled their high series of the season 2639 but mighty Colonia managed to squeeze out a hard fought victory over the spirited Tigers.

Katie Yon fired games of 186 and 235 for a big 588 set. Katie Salvatore 177-195 for 518 and Gina Curcio 173-184 and 516 put the pressure on the patriots. Chipping in were Lyndsey Murtagh 187 and Kelly Pauls 163.

Boys Shock So. Brunswick, Colonia

SPHS	966	1022	1088	3076
So. Brunswick	1030	986	922	2938

Trailing by 66 pins after the first game, the boys bowling team exploded and stunned red division rival South Brunswick.

Ryan Pauls blasted games of 207-232-237 for a big 676 set while Mike Dandola tumbled the maplets with 201-247-227 and 675 set. Chris Esposito added 236-224 and solid 633, Kevin Revellio 213, Jeff Pryor 188-190 and

(Continued on page 10)

RECREATION WRESTLING

Submitted by Joe Sacco

Raritan Valley Rec Team Beats Hillsborough

The Raritan Valley Recreation Wrestling Team scored its first victory of the year by beating Hillsborough 45-33. The young Tigers struggled to get their first win since they were forced to forfeit five weight classes every match. Despite giving the Raiders 30 points by way of forfeit the young Tigers lost only one bout while winning 10.

At 45 lbs. Tommy Fierro started things off with a quick pin of his opponent. He was followed by David Loniewski's 14-2 major decision and

Joseph Sacco's 4-2 decision. At 57 lbs. Ricky Pellegrino kept things rolling with a 42-second pin of his opponent, Michael Marrero scored a technical fall at 60 lbs., while Kyle Davisson dropped a tough one point decision at 63 lbs. At 67 lbs. and 70 lbs., Vinnie Vetuschi and Desmond Santos both scored a pair of decisions before George Pittenger pinned his opponent at 73 lbs. Kyle Dickerson followed with a 5-1 decision win at 80 lbs. and Divon Pender wrapped up the win with his pin at 95 lbs.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

We are one month away from March 1 tryouts at the PAL. Please join us at the clubhouse for our monthly meeting this Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Your participation will make this season more enjoyable and successful.

Managerial selections are underway and those selected will be contacted when decisions are final. Remember, that you have to be Rutgers certified and an active club member to be considered. A Rutgers certification class will be held on Feb. 7. Sign up by call-

ing the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090. If managing is not your passion, there are many other ways to help out at the club. Contact any board member with your interest or just call the clubhouse at the number above. For further information on all current activities, please visit our website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc for details. See you at the meeting.



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Greg Norman Shiraz Limestone Coast 2005 11.99 750 ml A strong leafy character runs through the currant and spice aromas and flavors of this lively, open-textured Shiraz. Not for everyone, but it's distinctive. Drink now through 2010.	Concha Y Toro Marques de Casa Concha Merlot 2005 13.99 750 ml This Merlot has an ample layer of sweet, mocha-infused toast, but plenty of plum and blackberry notes as well. The long, fleshy finish lets the fruit and mineral notes hang together nicely, with an encore of toast. Drink now through 2009. Chosen as a Smart Buy by the Wine Spectator on October 31, 2007.	Chono San Lorenzo Estate 2004 14.99 750 ml Has medium-weight, with notes of loam, tobacco and currant fruit that linger on the moderately juicy finish. Carmenere, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on May 31, 2007.	Robert Mondavi Napa Valley Chardonnay 2005 14.99 750 ml What's so nice about this wine is that it has full-throated Chard personality while keeping everything so balanced that it's also a versatile food wine. Mainly it's the acidity, but also the complex, subtle interplay of fruit and oak. A very nice job. - Rated by the Wine Enthusiast.
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Obituaries

Leonard E. Diamond, Jr. 54



Leonard E. Diamond, Jr.

Leonard E. Diamond, Jr. died on Thursday, Jan. 24 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Edison, Len was raised in South Plainfield and lived in Kendall Park before settling in Branchburg.

He was employed as a consultant to the transit security industry and an adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck. Prior to leaving the N.J. Transit Police with 20 years transit security experience, in 2005 Len was the director of intelligence, system security training and the Office of Emergency Management for N.J. Transit Police.

He began his law enforcement career as a police officer with the Middlesex County Department of Police and Public Safety, MCC, Edison in 1973.

In 1985, he started his transportation career with the N.J. Transit Bus Operations Security Department. With the creation of the N.J. Transit Police Department in 1992, Mr. Diamond assumed responsibility as manager, police support services, and emergency management division of the Transit Police Department.

In 2002, Mr. Diamond was the first senior security and emergency management specialist for the Federal Transit Administration in Washington D.C. post 9/11 coordinating the FTA "Connecting Communities" national program with the transit and first responders. He was also a certified train-the-trainer instructor for the Division of the N.J. State Police and was a senior associate staff member for the DOT, FTA/TSI in Oklahoma City.

His instruction specialties included effectively managing transit emergen-

cies with the National Incident Management System (NIMS); Transit System Security and Threat Management & Emergency Response to Bus and Rail Hijackings.

He held a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Administrative Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck. He also served as chair of the American Public Transportation Association Committee on Public Safety representing transit police chiefs and directors of transit security. Mr. Diamond was also a member of the Fairleigh Dickinson University Emergency Services Higher Education Committee.

In addition, Len was member N.Y.-N.J. Detectives Crime Clinic in N.Y.C., the N.J. State Traffic Officers Association and during his younger years he was a member of both the South Plainfield and Plainfield rescue squads.

On August 24, 1974, Len married Marie R. (Bornheimer) Diamond.

In addition to his wife, Marie, he is survived by three children, Colleen Diamond, Anthony L. and James E., all of Branchburg; his parents, Leonard Sr. and Mary E. of Fla.; three sisters, Elizabeth Baldwin of Pa., Mary Ellen Diamond and Bernadette Elias and husband Julius, all of Fla. and a brother, Anthony also of Fla. He is also survived by a host of relatives and friends.

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

Florence M. (Barnett) Neumann, 89

Florence M. (Barnett) Neumann died on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at her home in Hamilton Township.

Born and raised in Jersey City, she settled in South Plainfield in 1955 and resided there until 2006, when she relocated to Hamilton Township to be closer to her family.

A homemaker for many years, Flo had been a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, a communicant

of Sacred Heart Church and especially enjoyed time with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed crocheting and knitting many items that will be treasured by her family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward E., who died in 1998 and a son, Edward J. Neumann, who died in 1997. She is also predeceased by a sister, Estelle and brother, James.

Surviving are two daughters and their husbands, Patricia and Joe Bisogno and Lorraine and Carl Wolf, both of Hamilton; a sister, Lillian and six grandchildren, Brian, Gary, Jessica, Carly, Jennifer and Kara.

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

Michael A. Santy, Jr., 54



Michael A. Santy, Jr.

Michael A. Santy, Jr. died on Sunday, Jan. 27 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Mike was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

Mike graduated from South Plainfield High School class of 1972.

He was friend to many and an avid N.Y. Yankees and N.Y. Jets fan.

He was predeceased by his father, Michael A. Sr.; a sister, Phyllis Santy, and by a step-sister, Nancy Senia.

Surviving are his mother, Isabel (Welsh), as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Ann D. (Spinelli) Mondoro, 93

Ann D. (Spinelli) Mondoro died Thursday, Jan. 24 at her home.

Born in Bronx, N.Y., she resided in Barbertown before settling in South Plainfield during the early 1930's.

Mrs. Mondoro was a homemaker, a long-time communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a former member of their Rosary Altar Society. She was also a member of the South Plainfield VFW #6763 Women's Auxiliary, and had been a volunteer with UMDNJ's COPSA Program.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Sr., who died in 1990 and a son, Joseph "Bear," who died in 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Maryanne Costa and husband Gary of East Brunswick, Michelle Geene and husband Paul of Edison, and a son, Carl and wife Darlene of Mobile, Ala. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Mark Costa and Jennifer Harbaugh and husband David, and three great-grandchildren, Tyler, Brady and Emily.

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

Robert E. Stark, 51

Robert E. Stark died on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Haven Hospice in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Orange, Robert grew up in South Plainfield and lived in Dunellen prior to moving to Tampa, Fla. 20 years ago. He had worked as a salesman for Mattress Giant in Tampa, Fla. In 2006, he moved back to New Jersey and had resided locally since.

Robert loved the outdoors. He enjoyed camping, canoeing, fishing and, in addition, playing the guitar.

He was predeceased by his father, Jacques E. Stark, who died in 2002.

Surviving is a daughter, Adrienne Stark; a son, Derek Stark, both of Warren; his mother, Grace E. Stark of South Plainfield; a sister, Linda Innes and husband Russell of South Plainfield; three brothers, John and wife Kathleen of Edison, Gary and Glenn, both of South Plainfield; his former wife, Cindy Stark of Warren, and several nieces and nephews.

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

Robert W. Lyons, 90

Robert W. Lyons, loving husband of Grace Roehm Lyons, died peacefully at home in his sleep on Friday, Jan. 25 surrounded by his loved ones.

Born in Newark to Elese and Timothy Lyons, he dedicated his life to the people of Newark. A Newark firefighter for more than 33 years with truck number 1, Bob retired in 1981. He was a life member of the Police and Fireman's Retirement Association as well as the Exempt Fireman's Association.

tion.

Bob Lyons also served his country in WWII with the 8th Air Force and served as crew chief on P47's and P51's "Mustangs" with 352nd Fighter Group from May 1942 to September 1945. A technical sergeant, he was stationed overseas in England and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Continuing his dedication to the Air Force, he proudly served as an original member and on the executive board for the 352nd Fighter Group Association, as well as a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society.

For many years he and his wife, Grace, traveled to reunions throughout the states where they renewed old friendships as well as made new ones.

He was active in the Plainfield Chapter of Deborah Hospital, South Plainfield VFW Post 6763 and was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church for over 50 years.

Besides his parents, Bob was also predeceased by a brother, Frances and a sister, Ann Lyons Gorman.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Grace (Roehm); a sister, Dorothy Lyons of Edison; a son, Robert William Lyons Jr. and wife Pat of Savannah, Ga.; two daughters, Margaret Lyons Ponzio of Watchung and Susan Lyons Bou Chamoun and husband George of Sergeantsville and eight grandchildren, Robert Lyons III, Joseph and Timothy Lyons-Ponzio, Jennifer, Danielle, Aline, Kristine and Elias Bou Chamoun.

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

Donations in his name can be made to the charity of choice.

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JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Zachary Prehn, his mom Kathleen, dad Edward and sister, Amanda Boronkas.

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Sports

SPHS BASKETBALL

By Jeremiah Magpile

(Continued from page 8)

Christian Cole and Mike Muglia fueled the Tiger run and a pair of three pointers from Cole improved the score to 25-13. But the Barrons refused to ride the Tiger wave, deciding to increase their pressure and their offense. They forced a few turnovers and put a pause the Tiger run. As the clock waned in the second quarter, the Woodbridge defense blocked three shots attempted by the Tigers in the paint and at halftime, the score was set at 30-23.

It seemed like a slow start for the

Tigers in the third quarter. The Tiger offense could not penetrate the paint. Careless turnovers put the Barrons only two points behind them. But it was the closest they would get to taking the lead. The Tigers soon regained control of the paint with baskets from Russel putting a halt to the Barron comeback. Mike Burton chipped in with a pair of three pointers and added to a 10 point Tiger run. At the end of the third quarter, the Tigers led 40-28.

The Tigers remained aggressive in the fourth quarter. Russel continued

to dominate the paint, opening up the court and maintaining control of the game. Timely shots from the arc by Miller helped secure a Tiger victory. In the end, the Tigers won 61-51. The top scorers included Mike Burton, 16 points; Troy Russel, 15; Tremaine Miller, 11 points and Christian Cole, 8 points.

When asked about the key behind his team's win that night, Tiger Head Coach Bill Schulte said, "The team is playing together, playing unselfish and going for the extra pass. They simply have a strong will to win."

SPHS BOWLING

Submitted by Ralph Fench

(Continued from page 8)

Dandola tumbled the maplets with 201-247-227 and 675 set. Chris Esposito added 236-224 and solid 633, Kevin Reviglio 213, Jeff Pryor 188-190 and Tim Moska 182. After a slow start the team upped its record to 7-6 and 1.

SPHS	1059	980	1052	3091
Colonia	1061	901	1116	3067

Even though they dropped the first game by two pins, the boys bowling team rolled at a blistering pace to win the second game and the total pins, to stun powerhouse Colonia and come out with a tie match. Scoring honors went to Chris Esposito who exploded with games of 245-201-264 for a sparkling 710 set. Teammates Mike Dandola 257-202 and 648, Jeff Pryor 248-193 and 623 set and Ryan Pauls 216-211-608 all joined in the scoring parade.

Committee to Review Truck Routes

(Continued from page 1)

on the Dismal Swamp wetlands.

The ad hoc committee is being assembled by Senior Center Director Joann Graf, who initially suggested the formation of the committee. She is fielding resident requests to be part of the committee.

According to the resolution, the committee will consist of nine members who will select a chairperson from the members appointed. Four will be appointed by the council and include representatives from the Borough Council, Board of Education, Traffic Safety Commission and a local trucking company, as well as five at-large members. The meetings will be held in Borough Hall.

"We will have an uneven number

(nine members) so if we vote on something, we won't have a tie," said Graf. She confirmed that two members of the committee will be Lt. Kevin Murtagh from the South Plainfield Police Department and Sue Krystopic, owner of KKK Trucking and vice president of the N.J. State Truckers Association. Murtagh is also a member of the Traffic Safety Commission.

The public will be invited to attend the meetings.

"This is an open working committee where the public is invited to speak. We'll have meetings with all the trucking companies in town, meetings with the public and with the Edison Wetlands Association. We're starting from scratch and looking for a new route that can be funded immediately. Right now, we are going to appoint the committee and have our preliminary meeting with all groups having an effect and go over what we did wrong before, and what we can do right," explained Graf.

Graf emphasizes the role of the committee as an advisory one. "We don't make the decisions—that's up to the mayor and council. I'm not in charge of putting trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard. My domain is to keep trucks off Hamilton Boulevard by building an alternate route. For me the Helen Street Project is dead," Graf said.

School Board Candidacy Info

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield BOE is Monday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15.

Prospective 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 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.

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Cullen Replaces Buttiglieri as Business Administrator

The Borough Council voted 4-2, along party lines, to remove Vinnie Buttiglieri as borough business administrator and to appoint CFO Glenn Cullen to that position. Cullen will receive a yearly salary of \$25,000-\$3,800 more than Buttiglieri was being paid.

The position of business administrator is not one of tenure. The appointment is made at the pleasure of the council. Some of the business administrator's responsibilities in-

clude overseeing the day-to-day running of the departments, working with outside contracted entities, contracts with unions and negotiation of contracts. Buttiglieri will receive three months salary.

Several residents questioned giving Cullen a pay increase immediately after raising taxes. Council President Rob Bengivenga defended the increase, saying that Cullen has a masters degree and deserves merit pay for his experience and education.

Tri-County Red Cross is Looking for Local "Heroes"

The Tri-County Red Cross is looking for a few good men and women to get involved in their "Heroes" of the Tri-County Red Cross fundraiser.

"Heroes" is a great opportunity for the community to get involved, have fun, and raise money to help prepare for, prevent and respond to disasters in our area," says Nathan Rudy, CEO of Tri-County Red Cross. "This fundraiser is quick, easy and has the chance to make a big impact in our community."

"Heroes" is a grassroots campaign in which local business people, school

groups, church groups, civic clubs, and individuals pledge to raise \$1,000, through any legal means they choose, for the Tri-County Red Cross.

All funds raised will be used to support local Red Cross services, such as disaster relief, assistance for fire victims, emergency military communications, first aid and CPR training and disaster preparedness information for our community.

For information on becoming a committee member or hero, contact Corinna Krauskopf at (908) 756-6414 ext. 20 or krauskopf@usa.redcross.org.

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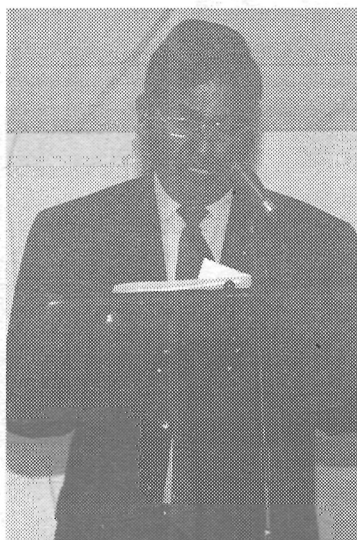
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Coming Together to Celebrate Our Diversity



On January 21, the South Plainfield Coalition of Cultural Diversity became a reality, as they hosted their first festival of culture celebration at the Senior Center.

The evening brought many ethnic and religious groups together in one room to learn about each others customs and cultures and to become aware of each other's ethnicities, including their differences and what they have in common. The event was well received judging by the huge turnout and enthusiasm of the audience.

The evening began with a cultural arts exhibit and ended with a stirring salute to Martin Luther King, Jr., the date this celebration took place. In between, the standing room only crowd

was treated to ethnic music and dancing from a many cultural groups living in South Plainfield.

Dignitaries in attendance included: Mayor Charles Butrico; Council President Rob Bengivenga; Councilmen Matt Anesh, Ray Petronko, Ray Ruskak and Joe Scradato; South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro and Capt. Paul Brembt; South Plainfield High School Principal Dr. Ken May; Board of Education members Carol Byrne and Debbie Boyle and Senior Citizen Director Joann Graf.

Many area churches were also represented including: Father John Alvarado and Sister Kathleen Rooney from Sacred Heart Church; Rev. Gordon Brown from First Baptist Church, Rev. Charles Mingle and Paster Dr. Irene Campbell from Rescue House of Prayer.

The program began with Boy Scout Troop 309 presenting the flag, followed by Taylor Kurilew singing the "Star Spangled Banner."

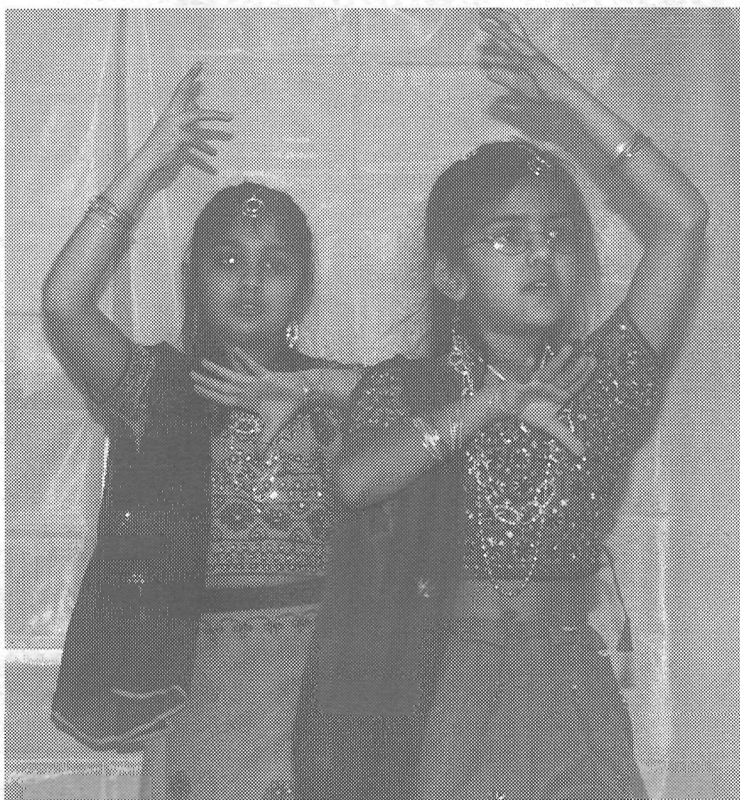
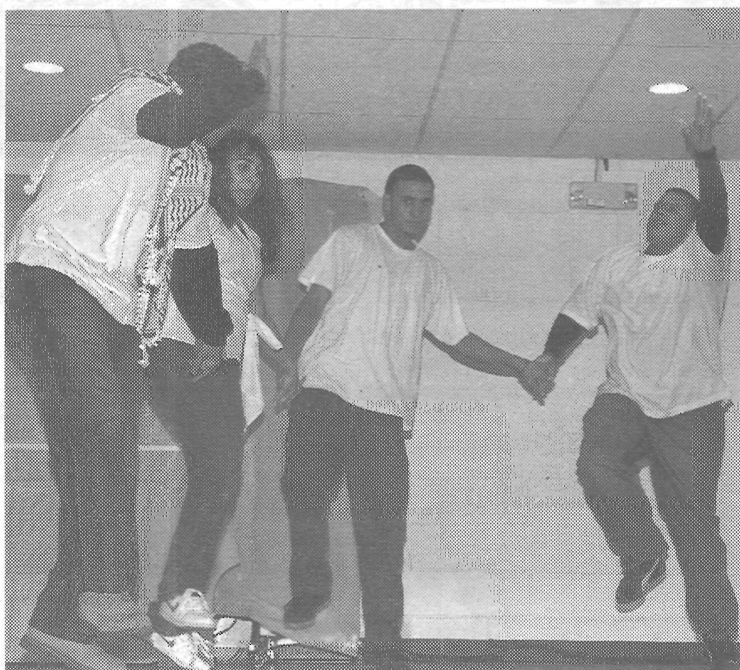
Reverend Dr. Nehemiah officially welcomed everyone and introduced the officers of coalition and the guests. "The idea of such a coalition came about when some of us felt that the hospitality of South Plainfield must be celebrated. As soon as this idea was born we had a meeting with Mayor Butrico and Council President Dennis Cerami. They supported this idea without any hesitation," said Thompson. "From the beginning we decided to be a secular organization so that people of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu or any other faiths, White Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Caribbean Americans are in one room as one American family," he added.

Mayor Butrico commented how appropriate it was that the festival of diversity was taking place on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He summed up his thoughts using one of Dr. Kings famous statements, "We may have all come on different ships, but we are in this boat together."

Several cultural groups performed, representing the Philippines, Hungary, Indian, Israeli, Turkish and Arab-Americans.

A moving tribute to Dr. King was presented by the Rescue House of Prayer Choir and included a short film highlighting some of his well known speeches and philosophies.

During the entire evening, a wide variety of food from many ethnic groups was enjoyed by all.



2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Hayley Dow Named Junior Journalist!

Hayley Dow, Grant School fifth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plainfield Observer sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest for her essay about Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hayley 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 Grant School fifth grader Hayley Dow with Principal Leo Whalen.

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

By Hayley Dow

It is important to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day because there is no one living in America today that has not been affected by the changes this man has made. Martin believed that he could settle his problems with words and speeches, not violence. He believed that all people were born equal, no matter what race you were. Martin Luther King, Jr. was treated terribly and deserves a day in which people across the world take time to think about what their lives would have been like without the changes he had made.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, the 14th day of February, 2008 in Council Chambers located in Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield will hear the application of the undersigned, at which time and place interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Said meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m.

The Premises that is the subject of this Application is located at 2991 Hamilton Boulevard in the Borough of South Plainfield and is designated on the Borough Tax Map as Block 535, Lot 1.01. The Applicant currently operates a 14x48 billboard on said Premises and seeks to change the head/face of the billboard to a

digital (LED) display. The Applicant is not seeking to change the height, location or total sign area of the billboard. The Premises is located in the RH (Regional Hospitality) Zone and billboards are a conditional use in the RH Zone. The existing billboard and the billboard as proposed does not satisfy all of the applicable conditional use standards and use variance relief is required from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Applicant seeks relief from Section 1005 pertaining to (i) billboard height as the maximum billboard height is 40 feet above the average elevation on Interstate 287 and the existing and proposed sign is approximately 46 feet; and (ii) the total number of billboard structures that are permitted within a linear mile along Interstate 287. The Applicant also seeks variance or waiver relief from Section 1005G(vii) pertaining to the use of multiple message signs. The Applicant proposes to install a digital display billboard that will change display in accordance with standards established by the State of New Jersey. The State of New Jersey issued a permit to the Applicant to operate a digital display multi-message billboard at the

proposed location on the Premises.

The Applicant is also seeking to the extent necessary or required, site plan approval together with any and all variances and/or design waivers from the zoning and/or site plan standards applicable to the RH Zone and applicable to the proposed change to the existing billboard as described above.

A copy of the application and all supporting documents are on file in the office of the Planning/Zoning Office in the Municipal Building located at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 and are available for public inspection Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CLEAR CHANNEL OUTDOOR
By: Brian J. Mulligan, Esq.
STERN & WEINROTH
Attorneys for Applicant
Date: January 28, 2008

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