

Set your clocks an hour ahead Saturday night; Daylight Saving time starts 2 a.m.-on-Sunday.

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 28

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

MARCH 7, 2008



Current and former council members came out to offer thanks for seven years of service and to bid farewell to Municipal Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri (center) at Monday night's council meeting. From the left are former Councilwoman Kathy Thomas; former borough attorney, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan; Councilman Joe Scudato, Mayor Charles Butrico; Buttiglieri; former Mayor and Councilman, Dan Gallagher, former Councilman Dennis Cerami, Councilman Ray Petronko and former Councilman Ed Kubala. (Inset, left) - Joined by assistants Marie Dudek (center) and Diane Janus (right), Buttiglieri cuts the cake at his farewell gathering in the council chambers on Tuesday.

Friendship's a Valuable Asset at Middle School

By Libby Barsky

South Plainfield Middle School Principal Steve Novak is proud of his students and speaks enthusiastically about their behavior and how they interact with each other.

"These kids have respect for everybody and their behavior gives us more time to spend on academics," said Novak.

Novak devised a special friendship assembly on February 14 to honor the closeness and respect the students have for each other by highlighting the friendship of eighth graders Casey

Butrico and Miranda Garcia.

Both girls went to different South Plainfield elementary schools and met for the first time when they were in the same sixth grade class at Grant School. They became friends and the friendship deepened as they continued to have classes together in seventh and eighth grade. They also had the same interests—both run track, play flute and are members of Peer Leadership. Their schedules differ since Miranda is a member of the chorus and Casey is president of the student council. As close friends, they often

(Continued on page 12)



Middle School Principal Steve Novak, Kelly Butrico (mom), Casey Butrico, Miranda Garcia (mom), Tracy Garcia and Superintendent Jose Negron.

Graf Named Interim Municipal Clerk

South Plainfield Senior Center Director Joann Graf has been appointed acting borough clerk, replacing Vinnie Buttiglieri, who resigned.

Graf will divide her time between both offices until the position is per-

manently filled. Her appointment is effective March 6 and expires in 60 days.

Graf, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield whose family's roots here date back to 1887, served as a Bor-

ough Councilperson from 1982 through 1984.

The Borough has advertised for the job opening and will be interviewing to fill the position in the near future.

OBSERVER ASKS - WHAT DO YOU THINK??

Truck Traffic a Hot Topic

There is no hotter debate in the Borough right now than that of truck traffic. While all agree that South Plainfield is an industrial town dependent upon the business sector to keep the tax rate low, the importance of local trucking companies that supply goods and services to the state, and in some cases, to the rest of the country, should not be overlooked.

So, how do we live in harmony with the 1,500 trucks that pass through the borough each day? While the mission of developing an alternative truck route is in the hands of an ad hoc committee headed by Joann Graf, residents have been

equally vocal about their concerns for safety and the quality of life in all areas of the Borough, not just on Hamilton Boulevard, Belmont or New Market avenues.

An opinion poll posted at spobserver.com during the last few weeks asked site visitors: "Should trucks be allowed back on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue?" Of the 311 votes cast, 45% (140 votes) indicated "yes" and 55% (171 votes) indicated "no."

Whether or not trucks are allowed back on the boulevard, one thing is for sure—the trucks are here to stay and a safe route that will alleviate truck traffic must be found.

Ad Hoc Committee Studies Truck Route

More than 35 residents attended the first meeting of the Alternate Hamilton Boulevard Bypass Ad Hoc Committee last Thursday evening at the senior center.

Members of the committee introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds. Committee Chairwoman Joann Graf told the audience that the committee was not formed to decide whether trucks should go back onto Hamilton Boulevard, but rather to find a route where trucks could be rerouted before they get to Hamilton Boulevard.

The Edison Wetlands Association's (EWA) involvement was one of the first subjects discussed. Committee member Jack Pedersen thought EWA Executive Director Robert Spiegel should be included in any decision made on an alternate truck route. Pedersen said he is still convinced that the Helen Street Project is the best route. He reminded

everyone that EWA strongly opposed the route, holding up the necessary permits until time ran out to receive federal funding and the council was forced to vote to scrap the project. He strongly suggested that Spiegel be made a member of the ad hoc committee. However, the committee voted against the suggestion, saying only residents should be members. Spiegel is already on the list to assist in an advisory manner.

Graf said that she and Frank Mikorski attended a recent meeting of the EWA to get a better insight into the importance the Dismal Swamp is to the group. She also agreed that the EWA should review truck route plans the committee considers in order to have their support and ease the way to obtain the necessary permits to build a road.

Graf asked the audience to provide input and several of the suggested routes where discussed at length. Building a road through the soccer fields is just

one proposal the committee plans to consider. That location was once used as a landfill and could present problems when constructing a road. Graf stressed that if a decision is made to route trucks there, nothing will be done to the present facility until the facilities are relocated.

Also discussed was the fact that in all likelihood the truck route would have to go through a section of the Dismal Swamp and/or a parcel of green acres and possibly through the railroad siding which runs along Metuchen Road.

The next order of business for the committee is to divide into subcommittees dealing with environmental issues, routes, funding and land acquisitions. Members of the public will be able to serve on a subcommittee.

The ad hoc committee will meet on Thursdays, March 13 and 27 at 7 p.m. in the senior center. The public is welcome to attend.

Special Meetings

BOROUGH COUNCIL
March 10

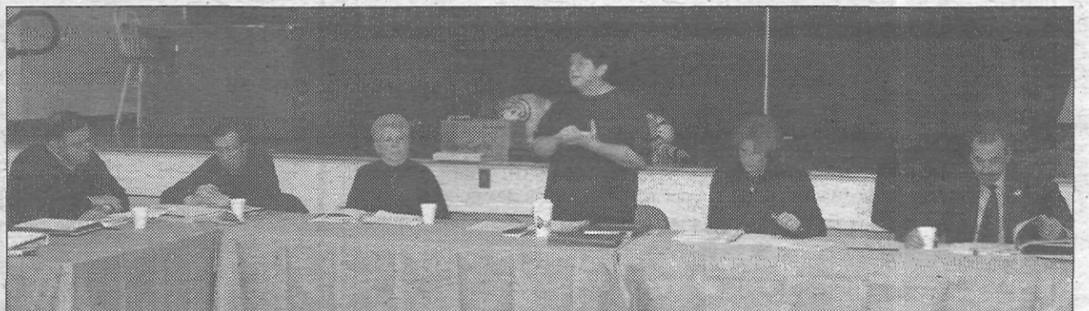
BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 10 &
March 12



Please be advised that the Governing Body will hold a Special Public Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6 p.m. for the following purpose: 1. To conduct interviews for the position of Municipal Court Judge. Said meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

The South Plainfield Board of Education special meeting scheduled for Monday, March 10 to discuss the tentative 2008/2009 budget has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 12 at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Roosevelt Administration Building.

The Committee of the Whole originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 12 has been changed to Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in Roosevelt Administration Building gymnasium.



The Alternate Hamilton Boulevard Bypass Ad Hoc Committee at their initial meeting last Thursday. Committee members are, from the left, Paul Kavka, Frank Mikorski, Virginia O'Brien, committee chair Joann Graf, Sue Krystopik and Michael DiMeglio. Committee members not pictured are Jack Pedersen, Debbie Boyle and Councilman Joe Scudato.

COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air every Saturday at 8 p.m.

(Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)



The February 20 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. until the next public meeting on Wednesday, March 19. Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

Dates to View the BOE Budget Presentations Upcoming.

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, March 10

Monday, March 17

Monday, March 31

Monday, April 7

Monday, April 14

Monday, April 21

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

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

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. March 12, April 2

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. 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.

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

March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8,

November 12, December 10 and January 14.

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.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

IN MY OPINION

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

To the Editor:

On February 24, "The Art of Illusion" show starring Gary Carson and Kelsey Kara appeared at the South Plainfield High School. All proceeds from ticket sales went to benefit the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SPSDW).

The show was a smashing success. Over 300 attendees enjoyed the amazing magic and illusions as well as the clever comedic aspect of the show.

I would like to thank all of the people who worked hard to make this show possible. Thanks to all the SPSDW board members for the hours spent selling tickets and ads for the show. Thanks to all the businesses who advertised. Thank you to the custodial staff, especially Mr. Lewis and Jeff at the high school for all of their cooperation and help. Also, thank you to Lori Jackson for her help with preparing the stage, lighting and sound for the show and to Kathy Slattery for volunteering her time to help on the day of the show. Finally, a special thanks to Nancy Grennier and her entire staff at the Observer for the excellent publicity and for taking the time to sell tickets from their office.

**SINCERELY,
KAREN LINICK, VICE PRESIDENT
SOUTH PLAINFIELD SUMMER
DRAMA WORKSHOP**

To the Editor:

On February 25, I attended the Borough Council meeting to urge the council to move forward as quickly as possible with the new library project. With the exception of the financing, the project is basically ready to go out to bid.

While individually expressing their support of and acknowledging the need for a new library, the controlling majority indicated that they needed additional time to consider whether to subject the new library to a Democracy Day vote. Since a delay in making a definitive decision will only cause the new library to increase in cost (assuming, that is, that the project goes forward), once again, for the reasons set forth below, I implore the council to move forward with the project now!

Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit the library can see the seri-

ous limitations of the current building. A study in the early 1990's determined that, at 6,400 sq. ft., the current building was 50% too small when it was built over 40 years ago. When school lets out and students come to the library and when our ever popular children's programs are taking place, it becomes almost impossible for anyone else to use the library.

The new library project has been in the works for a couple of years. The Borough has already expended hundreds of thousands of dollars for this project. The Library Board of Trustees has also given the Borough \$290,000 for the project, not counting the \$41,000 it spent to have a feasibility study undertaken a few years ago. During that process, the library board solicited input from residents and businesses to gauge the sentiments of the taxpayers for a new library. The responses were overwhelmingly positive.

The new library is a project that will benefit every citizen of South Plainfield. It will have state-of-the-art technology, quiet study rooms, an expanded children's room and crafts area, a public meeting room which can be utilized by other civic groups and a drive-up window where one can drop off and pick up materials without having to park one's car. It is a facility that will only enhance the image of our community.

There is no reason to subject the new library to a Democracy Day vote. We elect our representatives to make these decisions. In my opinion, by putting the new library to a Democracy Day vote, the council will be derogating its responsibilities and duties to the citizens who elected them.

However, if the council is, in fact, still determined to hold a Democracy Day vote on the new library, it must act now. While I would disagree with such a decision, the worst thing that the council can do is to either delay, or worse, take no action at all.

I urge all residents of South Plainfield who want to see the new library become a reality, to express their opinion.

**SINCERELY,
ERIC M. ARONOWITZ, PRESIDENT
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of our entire family we would like to express our sincere appreciation to those of you who remembered Lorraine on her passing. Whether you sent flowers, a card, made a donation to our church, sent a mass card in her memory or took the time out of your busy day to come to the funeral home to pay your respect, and many of you traveled a considerable distance, it was appreciated more than you will ever know. If we could thank each and every one of you individually, we certainly would. We were simply overwhelmed by the response.

A special thank you to Pastor Charles Mingle, to Pastor Clark-Olsen Smith of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and to Jim Gustafson of McCriskin-Gustafson Funeral Home, all three caring and compassionate individuals.

Lorraine was a 1963 graduate of South Plainfield High School and convinced me to return here in 1968. Over the next 40 years we raised our family of four children with Lorraine being involved in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club, the South Plainfield Pop Warner Football Eagles, the South Plainfield Ponytail Softball and don't forget the PTA's, the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts. There is no doubt Lorraine's joy was her children and the activities the town of South Plainfield provided them. She was so happy when three of our children chose to remain in South Plainfield and raise their families and she was able to watch her seven grandchildren, Quinn, Ben, Jack, Charlee, Wren, Skylar and Emma grow.

Our grief of her passing will be eased by the knowledge of the many people who loved, cared about and will remember Lorraine.

**WITH SINCERE AND
DEEP APPRECIATION,
THE COCHRANE FAMILY, BILL,
BRIAN, BILLY, CHRIS AND
MICHELLE**

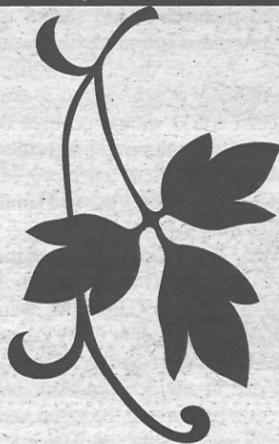
To the Editor:

What a shame that "Love Letters" had such a short run at the Edison Valley Playhouse. It was a very moving show, staged and performed magnificently. The audience sighed, laughed and shed tears. The Sunday, March 2 show, sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission, was free for South Plainfield residents.

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission has, in the past, put on wonderful events and should be applauded for their presentations. They

(Continued on page 7)

**IT'S THE ISSUE YOU'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR...**



**March 21
South Plainfield
Observer**

The March 21 South Plainfield Observer will be mailed to every home and business in the borough. It's a great opportunity for advertisers to reach the 10,000 homes and businesses here. And it's a great resource for readers. To reserve your space (by March 7) or to get more information, call (908) 668-0010.

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Corporate Accounts Welcome





Kennedy Elementary School was a field of yellow for "respect" at their monthly pep rally representing February's Character Education Pillar. Each month students participate and perform characteristics of good behavior and kindness toward others. The fourth grade provided plenty of examples of respect with encouragement and enthusiasm from the audience.

Sampton Avenue Handicapped Improvements Approved

At a special meeting held after last week's regular council meeting, the council considered what projects will be funded by the \$80,000 Housing Community Development Block Grant. Previously the money was put aside for the library.

CFO Glenn Cullen said that since the council isn't sure what their plans for the library are, the funds could be used to make Sampton and Franklin avenues handicapped accessible at a cost of approximately \$50,000. The rest could be put aside for the library or other projects. Sampton Avenue has 17 intersections that need handicapped accessible curbing. According to Councilman Tim McConville, there is a veteran who travels to the Quick Chek frequently and it would be a great benefit to him.

Mayor Charles Butrico asked if the funds could be reallocated after they were awarded and Cullen said he wasn't sure, but thought it could be.

The council voted 4-2 to allocate funds to make Sampton Avenue handicapped accessible and to hold off on a decision on what to do with the rest of

the grant money, at least until they make a decision on the fate of the new library. Joe Scudato and Ray Petronko voted no, saying they wanted the money to go to the library and funds for Sampton could be found elsewhere.

NEWS FROM THE Suburban Woman's Club

The General Federation of Women's Clubs, in response to the National Parks' establishment of a memorial to honor the six million women known as "Rosie the Riveter," asked the member clubs to try to find these women. For the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield (SWCSP) it was an easy job. Right here in our own midst was a member, Rose Cucurella who was a riveter during WW II.

Cucurella has been a member of the SWCSP for 20 years. Cathie Wells, club historian, conducted an interview with "Rosie" in which she recounted her work at the GM plant in Linden riveting wings on Navy Wildcat planes. Cucurella took the job over her families objections. Her family said it was not what "ladies" did.

Whether it was ladylike or not she stayed riveting until the end of the war when they were unceremoniously told to pick up their unemployment packets in the cafeteria as they were no longer needed.

Cucurella has many keepsakes from those historic days, including a complete program booklet (yellow with age). Inside was a program from the Army/Navy Commemoration in

1944 for the "Rosie the Riveters" of the plant. The program was held outdoors and all the women attended. They were each given a pin that Rose still has. What memories! These items will be on display in the South Plainfield Public Library during the month of March.

Cucurella will be honored by Mayor Charles Butrico and the Borough Council on Monday, March 10. The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. Please join us to honor Rose Cucurella.

Our club is still selling tickets to the Circle Players presentation of "The Playboy of the Western World" on Sunday, March 9. The Circle Players are located at 416 Victoria Ave. in Piscataway. The cost of a ticket is \$17. Proceeds will be used for our scholarship fund and various local charities. If you need additional information, call (908) 757-3680.

Also, keep your sharp eye out for the upcoming yard sale which will be conducted in May at the American Legion, 243 Oak Tree Ave. There will be lots of terrific bargains!

-Submitted by Gloria M. Breuning, Publicity Chairman

AARP #4144 Celebrating 20 Years

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP #4144, who will be celebrating their 20th year of charter, will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, March 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Speaker for the meeting will be Jack McDade, radio personality and entertainer presents a St. Patrick's Day program.

IRS and AARP trained tax aides will be available Monday and Thursday through April 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Senior Center. Priority will be given to those aged 60 and above.

Needlecrafters meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. They are currently knitting 130 lap robes for the Highlands, and premie hats for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. Wool yarn donations and finished projects are welcome. Refreshments served; new members welcome.

For more information call Judy Hannah at (908) 769-6553.

Democracy Day Vote May Decide Fate of Library

The council is scheduled to vote on a resolution at Monday's Borough Council meeting to set the date of Saturday, May 3 for a Democracy Day, non-binding vote on bonding for a new library.

At the February 25 council meeting, Eric Aronowitz, president of the Library Board of Trustees, asked the council what was happening with the the plans for the new library. Council President Rob Bengivenga answered that he would like to see a Democracy Day vote before bonding approximately \$4.5M needed for construction.

Aronowitz told the council that the permits and plans are in place for construction, and added that plans have been in the works for years and all that is needed is the funding.

It has been years since an issue has been placed on a Democracy Day ballot.

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FOR CHILDREN
AGES:
4 - 10

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around town

Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart

March 7 & 14

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring fish dinners during Lent on Friday, March 7 and 14. Dinners are served in Sacred Heart cafeteria 5 to 7 p.m. 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 and dessert.

For info, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

"Love Letters" at EVP

March 7, 8 & 9

"Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney has been extended at the Edison Valley Playhouse, Oak Tree Road. Tickets are students/seniors \$12 and adults \$15.

For more information or reservations call (908) 755-4654.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

March 8

The South Plainfield High School PTA will be hosting their annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 8 from 6 to 11 p.m. in the SPHS gym. Proceeds go toward Project Graduation for the Class of 2008. For tickets, contact Pat Fabino at (908) 757-6843. Tickets will be sold at the door. To make a monetary donation, contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461.

American Legion St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance

March 8

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 will host a St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance on Saturday, March 8 from 6 to 11 p.m. It will be an evening of fun, food and entertainment, featuring DJ and Piper. Tickets are \$15

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

MARCH

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

AARP Defensive Driving Class
March 13 at 1 p.m.

Leadership-Path to Political Power
Citizens' Campaign Class March 26 at 7 p.m.

Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am
Yoga 10:30-11:30am
Art Class 11:30am

10

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social Group 10am

11

Aerobics 8:45 am
Computer 10 am
11:30am, 1pm
Crocheting 1pm
Tai Chi 2pm

12

Pathmark Shopping 9am
Crafts Class 10am
Computer Class 10am
11:30am, 1pm
Exercise Class 1:15pm

13

Bingo 10am-2pm

14

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

per person. Children under 12 are half-price. Proceeds benefit the S.A.L. Squadron 243 scholarship fund. For info, call (908) 668-9414.

Blackrose to Perform

March 8

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Rugs & Riffy's, located at 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, March 8 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Pancake Breakfast

March 9

Boy Scout Troop #267 will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 9 from 8 a.m. until noon at the Elks Lodge, 1254 New Market Ave.

The menu will feature pancakes, eggs cooked to order, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. Prices are \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors; \$4 for children age three to 12. Under 2 are free.

Any questions, please call (908) 668-9750 after 4 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner at St. Stephen's

March 9

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, located at 3145 Park Ave., will be hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 9 from 5-7 p.m. Free-will offering will be taken (suggested is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children). Beverage and dessert are included. No reservations needed. Proceeds will benefit charities. For information please call (908) 757-4474.

Suburban Woman's Club Theatre Party

March 9

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield is sponsoring a performance of "The Playboy of The Western World" by J. M. Synge, an Irish comedy, on Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. by the Circle Players at 416 Victoria Place in Piscataway. Tickets are \$17. Proceeds go towards the scholarship fund and local charities. For more information, call (908) 757-3680.

Pilgrim Covenant Open House

March 12

Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, Inc., located at 3121 Park Ave., is holding an open house on Wednesday, March 12 from 9 to 11 a.m. The Learning Center, a state certified preschool and daycare with 37 years of experience in childcare, offers a variety of programs for children ages 2½ to 5 years. Programs include both full and part-time classes, kindergarten

enrichment and summer camp. Hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For directions and information, call Gina Birath at (908) 756-4879.

SP Education Assoc. Wine Tasting

March 14

The South Plainfield Education Association will be holding a wine tasting event on Friday, March 14 at the Italian American Club beginning at 6 p.m. Food will be provided by Flanagan's Restaurant and Hometown Heros. The cost is \$30 per ticket in advance and \$35 at the door.

For tickets call Marge Reedy at (908) 561-5800, ext. 302 or Carolyn Allen at (908) 561-3275.

District Championship Pinewood Derby

March 15

Cub Scout Pack 207 will be hosting the Raritan Valley Pinewood Derby District Championship Races on Saturday, March 15 at the PAL. All local area Cub Scouts are welcome to

participate. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$7 per car. Come and enjoy the races.

Franklin School Auction/Raffle

March 15

Auction tickets are on sale now for the Franklin School PTO 12th annual auction/raffle to be held on Saturday, March 15 in the SPHS gym. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$12. Prizes include a 50-inch flat screen TV, a \$3,000 gift certificate to First Class Travel, a Wii and a Playstation 3.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call Dorothea at (908) 753-7117 or Lynn at (908) 753-5532.

Elks Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

March 15

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee will be sponsoring their annual corned beef and cabbage dinner at the Elks Club on New Market Avenue on Saturday, March 15 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Adults \$12, children \$5. All you can eat, includes soda and dessert, cash bar.

For more information, please call Lou Peralta (908) 756-6406.

Lions Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast

March 16

The South Plainfield Lions Club will hold their annual gourmet breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 16 at the SPHS cafeteria from 8 a.m. to noon. The menu includes pancakes, omelets to order, French toast, sausage, bacon and orange juice. Cost is \$6 a person. Come support your local Lions Club. Monies raised are used by the South Plainfield Lions Club to assist local residents in need, Camp Marcella (camp for the blind), eye banks, seeing eye dogs and International eye-glass.

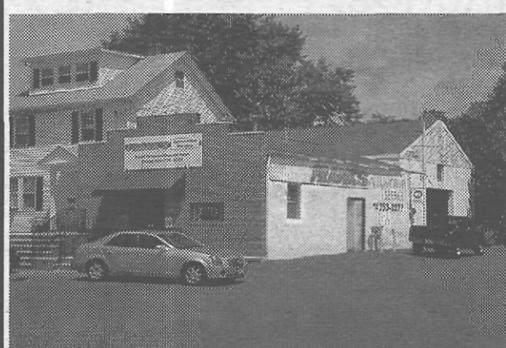
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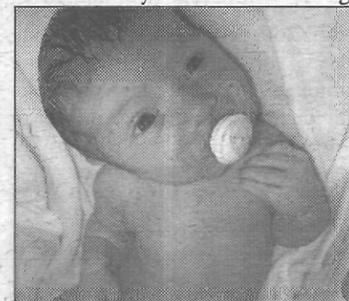
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

DiNizos Welcome First Child, Liliana Marley

Vincent and Melina DiNizo are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Liliana Marley DiNizo, on February 20. She weighed 7 lbs., 3 ounces and was 18-3/4 inches long.

Liliana was welcomed into the world by her loving family, making many of them proud first-timers, including first-time grandparents, Peter and Anna DiNizo, Sue Lemay, and Guy and Amy Genest; first-time great aunts and uncles, Steven and Lori Tangorra, Kevin and Linda Garvey, Paul DiNizo Jr., Al and Jo Ebbe, Tony and Betty Porcile and great-grandparents, Paul and Mary DiNizo. As amazing



Liliana Marley DiNizo as it is, Paul's brother Frank and wife Eileen of Scotch Plains also became great-grandparents on the very same day. Liliana was also happy to meet her first-time uncle, Mark from Maine and new aunt, Darla, and Uncle Eric Slade of Maryland.

Liliana is an absolute blessing and the DiNizos are looking forward to raising their wonderful little girl!



Honoree Frank P. Licato (holding plaque) with wife Fran; son Jeffrey Licato, grandson J.R. Licato; son-in-law John Meiman and cousin Tom LaMarca.

Frank Licato Receives Citizenship Award

The Watchung-Warren Rotary Club awarded its First Annual Citizenship Award to Frank P. Licato of South Plainfield.

Licato is a Jerseyan through and through. He attended Seton Hall and served eight years in the Naval Reserve before starting his own insurance business. He's become prominent in the industry as a teacher of programs focusing on integrity and excellence in insurance practices. Along the way, he's served as president of the South Plainfield Board of Education and

Chairperson of the Planning Board. Licato has obtained large contributions to Mountainside Crippled Children and was a prime mover and fundraiser for the South Plainfield Community Pool. He's also served in the Jaycees, the Elks and as president of the Rotary Club. Licato founded the Plainfield Chapter of UNICO, a national service organization. Ultimately, he became president of the national organization, where he initiated and chaired the funding of Hope University for the Gifted Mentally Retarded. Licato is well-known as chief for UNICO's annual pig roast which benefits special needs children. Licato is president of the Frank P. Licato Agency, an insurance brokerage firm. In making its award, Rotary found that Licato had eminently met and surpassed its standard of "Service Over Self."

Gray Named to Dean's List at Lehigh University

Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. has named Zachary Gray to the dean's list for the Fall 2007 semester with a 3.7 GPA on a scale of 4.0. He is a sophomore majoring in business.

Zack is a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School where he served as class president for four years, was named a Bloustein Scholar, was inducted into the National Honor Society and graduated in the top five percent of his class.

He is the son of Jeff and Janice Gray of South Plainfield.

able. Cost is a \$5 donation. Food will also be available. Snow date is Saturday, March 15. For further information please call (732) 873-1731 or (732) 752-5741.

Prayer Shawl Knitting

March 10

The community is invited to participate in Monday Night Prayer and Prayer Shawl Knitting at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. through April 2. Come to knit or crochet and pray together. Those who want to learn to knit should come at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Elaine Schleifer at (732) 388-1258.

Willow Grove Stretches for Health

March 11

A new course of stretching exercises is being offered in Alexander Hall at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Tuesday mornings, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Connie DiDario of South Plainfield, certified Yoga Instructor, will teach many different techniques and aspects of exercise.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678.

St. Frances Cabrini Tricky Tray Auction

March 14

St. Frances Cabrini School, 2300 Cooper St. in Piscataway, is holding their fifth annual tricky tray auction on Friday, March 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. Free admission, free entertainment and great prizes!

For more information, call (732) 885-1066 or visit www.cabrini.com.

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

E-mail your event to spobserver@comcast.net.

Out of Town

Watchung Arts Center/Art Exhibition

March 8

The Life Drawing Studio Group will hold an exhibition at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Rd. in Watchung, on Saturday, March 8 from 4-7 p.m. Show will be open for visitation through March 30.

For more information, contact Brian at (973) 857-3098.

Annual Schlachtfest Dinner Dance

March 8

Come and join us at Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield for our famous Schlachtfest. Pork roast with all kinds of sausages with all the trimmings will be served. Music by the Eddy Zee band. For reservations, call Joan at (908) 647-0819 or Victor at (908) 276-8572.

Experience Jewish Sunday School

March 9

Visit I.L. Peretz Community Jewish School on Sunday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Rutgers Prep, 1345 Easton Ave. in Somerset. Meet our welcoming, inclusive and diverse community and find out how our children develop a Jewish identity without being affiliated with a synagogue.

For information, call (732) 5450-9691 or visit www.ilperetz.org.

Resurrection Church Tricky Tray

March 9

A tricky tray will be held at Resurrection of Christ Church, 649 Bound Brook Rd. in Dunellen on Sunday, March 9. Doors open at 12 p.m. and the drawings begin at 1:30 p.m. Gift certificates, a variety of items for all occasions and much more will be avail-

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Magic Show Was an Illusion

By Patricia Abbott

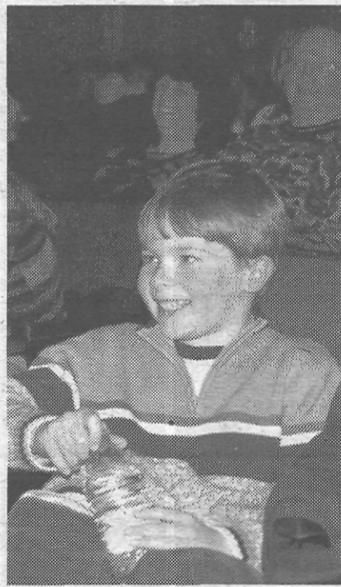
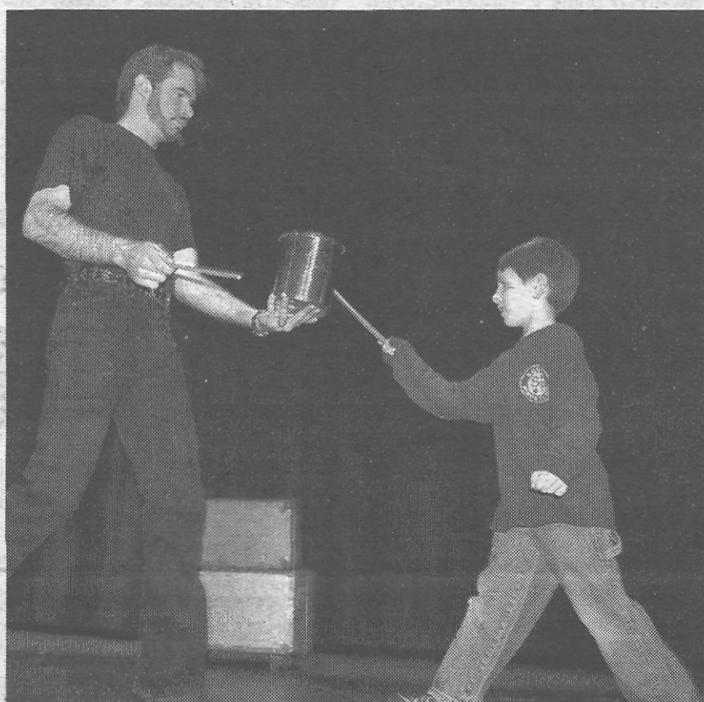
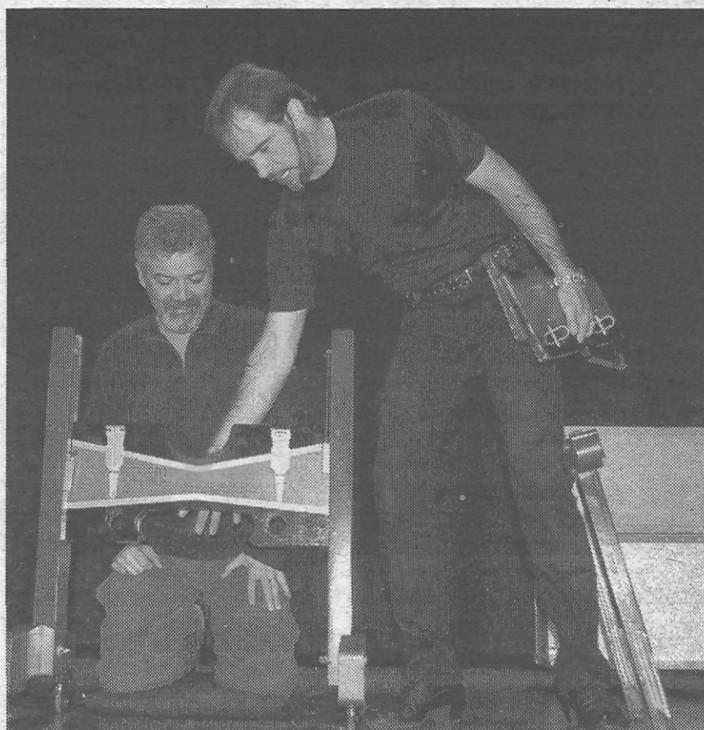
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The "Art of Imagination" show was presented by illusionist Garry Carson and his assistant, Kelsey Kara. More than 300 adults and children were entertained at their February 24 performance.

Carson's illusions and feats of magic kept the audience on the edge of their seats throughout the entire show. He not only brought people up on stage to assist him, he also wandered into the audience talking with people and selecting more volunteers.

The Summer Drama Board and the show committee are to be commended. They performed their own brand of magic, locating the fantastic duo and organizing the successful event.

This year, SPSPDW will present their 36th performance, "Damn Yankees," on July 31 and August 1 through 3. Watch the *Observer* for audition dates and other information, or visit their Web site at spsdw.com.



SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES

Congratulations to the Winter Guard on another amazing performance on February 23 at JP Stevens High School. The guard placed third with a score of 66.9, which is three points higher than their previous outing. Their next performance is Saturday, March 8 at South Brunswick High School.

The Jazz Ensemble competed at Scotch Plains Fanwood High School on February 29. As usual, they did a fantastic job. The next jazz competition is scheduled for Friday, March 7 at South Brunswick High School.

On Wednesday, March 12, the Jazz Ensemble will be competing in the NJIAJE prelims at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. We encourage everyone in the community to come to one of these local shows to see just how amazing our students are. Check the high school music department Web site for updates on times—<http://www.spnet.k12.nj.us/HSDepartments/HSMusic/index.htm>.

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Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. in the chorus room—join us!

Submitted by Pam Hussey

Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.
Attorney at Law

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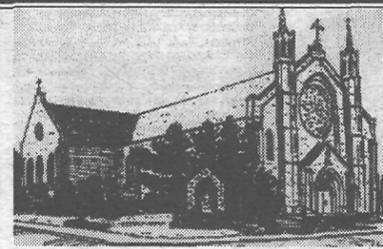
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Where: **South Plainfield High School Cafeteria**
Time: **8:00 am to 12:00 noon**
Ticket Price: **\$6.00**

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For information, please call (908) 753-3850.

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By Patricia Abbott

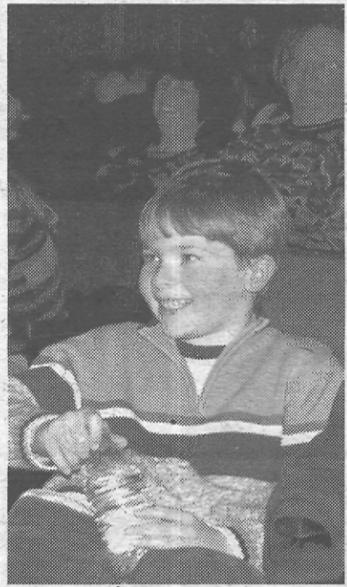
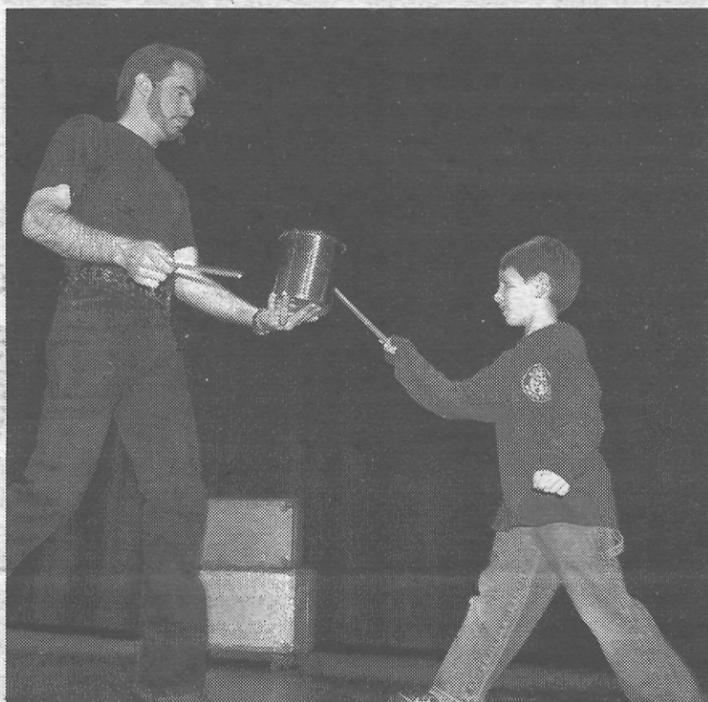
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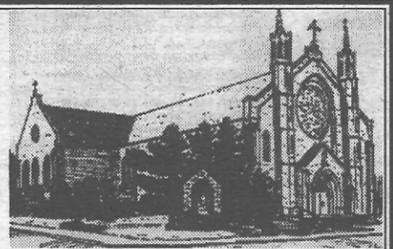
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IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

have upcoming events this year and will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with a gala event on September 20.

Having recently joined this group, my wife and I are not only overjoyed with the dedication they exhibit in the selections for the public, but wish others would join in for this opportunity to bring culture and joy for all to enjoy.

KEN AND AUDREY REISCH

To the Editor:

No need for an introduction, I'll just get right up on the soapbox. I'm writing about the lax environmental standards and provisions mandated by our municipalities and governing bodies. The issue has been troublesome for quite some time but as of late I just find it unbearable. It really became

evident when I learned there is no recycling program accessible for local businesses. So even when companies want to reduce their impact, they cannot. I noticed this on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Web site: "The requirement that municipal master plans be revised to require that provisions for recycling be incorporated into new residential, commercial and industrial development"-(N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.16). Glad this is being upheld.

I'm just tired of this backward mind set that if it was good for me its good for you. Well, it wasn't good for you, it's not good for me, and it certainly is not good for the next generation that has to pay for our fallacies. Also this defeatist attitude of "their not doing it, why should I?" is appalling, just an

excuse for being lazy. I've watched as various "open space" signs appear and disappear only to be replaced by a variety of constructional efforts. This laissez-faire attitude is numbing; it is honestly disgusting the disregards we adhere to on a daily basis. I know this is a small-scale issue, but there is no one fix for our universal quandary.

A million tiny degrees of change is a focus we should recognize. The bottle of water that took you less than a minute to drink, well the plastic will slowly decompose, leaking toxins for the next 500 years. That's like finding garbage from the medieval era. The following is a quote from architect and author of "Cradle to Cradle" William McDonough, whose awards are far too great to list: "The systems we inherited from the Industrial Revolution are built on a ubiquitous, cradle-to-grave manufacturing model that generates products designed for a one-way trip to the landfill. In fact, as much as 90 percent of the materials used to create today's products are cast off as waste, much of it toxic."

There is no political affiliation associated with this commentary as we all have a hand in this. As humans we were designed to adapt; well we need to adapt to ourselves. Little things people, that's all it takes. Recycle that bottle, or that electronic equipment which is filled with lead, mercury and numerous other carcinogens. The Internet is packed with resourceful information. Recycling can also be an excellent way to save money. A nice one would be to eliminate the styro-foam trays in our school cafeterias and replace them with recycled cardboard trays, which would also save money in disposal costs (just found some money for that squeezed budget). Just because someone is ignorant and lazy doesn't mean everyone else should pay the consequences.

**CHRIS CASSIO
HUMAN BEING**

To the Editor:

On behalf of the South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to assist with the snack stand during wrestling districts held on February 22.

Thank you to Kurt Ullom, Carol Ullom, Mickey Wrublewski, Pat Fabino, Patty Martin, Patty Remsing, Paul Remsing, Pio Pennisi, Lyn Pennisi, Debbie Boyle, Pat Muglia, Glen Gross, Barbara Whitefleet, Mary Sacks, Mike Alvarez, Laura Ferguson, John Ferguson, Bill Thomas, Chet Czaplinski, Sherry Hardy, Holly Weakley, Elise Cosma, Cathy Pompilio, Pam Heilman, Rosemary Petriello and Gail Wylam.

For those who are not aware of our Booster Club, we help support all of our student-athletes at South Plainfield High School by purchasing or assisting in the purchase of equipment needed to enhance our teams and an end of the year senior letter awards dinner. These items are not included in the school budget and are raised at our snack stands during home football games, basketball games, wrestling matches and track meets. We can not do this without the support of our members who volunteer their time by working at our events.

Track season is right around the corner and our events are May 10, 23, 24, 30, and 31 and June 4. We are always in need of extra help! If you are interested, please contact me at (908)754-4620, ext. 248.

For those who are looking to become members or just learn about our club, meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in cafeteria C/D. The meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend and we always welcome new attendees.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. This meeting will start with a budget presentation from our Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron.

In closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our student-athletes for their accomplishments this year and my sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped out during our home events. Go Tigers!

**SINCERELY,
TERI PILEGGI, SECRETARY-
ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

Dear Editor,

I am sending this letter as a veteran. Serving in the military was an honor, and like my fellow veterans I respect and admire our colleagues who've fought and died for our country, often making sacrifices nobody could ever imagine.

Because of these strong feelings, I need to comment on something that happened at a recent council meeting. Up for a vote was a grant to fix curbing and sidewalks to provide handicapped access along a small portion of Sampton Avenue.

These upgrades were in front of the

home of a wounded veteran confined to a wheelchair, and they would have allowed him to leave the confines of his property, something he now has difficulty with. I find it hard to think of something more important than helping our wounded veterans and I am pleased to report that the council, upon the recommendation of Councilman Tim McConville, passed this measure.

I'm less pleased to report that two councilmen voted "no." The council was told where the grant money would be going before the vote, but even after hearing that, Democratic Councilmen Raymond Petronko and Joseph Scudato voted against helping this man. Apparently they had other plans for the money that took priority over a wounded veteran.

I think these two gentlemen should remember that this man fought for our country and paid a steep price to protect people like them. I'm proud of the council for its decision, but unfortunately the "no" votes by Scudato and Petronko are a black mark against them and our town.

**RICHARD FRANK,
MARINE VETERAN**

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for the latest news from the South Plainfield Library.

First of all, be advised that the Sunday, March 16 program, "9 Tips to Avoid Financial Fraud," has been cancelled.

We'll follow the normal schedule of children's programs next week. For those of you who are new to this column, here's what "normal schedule" means: "Storytime" for children ages three and over is held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's" for children ages two and three is held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. And "Books & Babies" for children ages three and under is held on Friday morning at (all together now!) 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour and features songs, stories, and a craft activity for older kids. No pre-registration is required. For more details, please call us and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 7. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn more about the library's present and future plans, including the proposed new library building and important matters of library policy.

In the light of our recent weather-related closing, and with the possibility of another weather-related closing (it ain't spring yet, folks), here's a reminder. If we do close, we've arranged to have the closing announced over WCTC (1450AM) and NJ 101.5 FM. It will also appear on their Web sites, as well as the Web site for WAWZ

(99.1FM). As for our own Web site, click over to the events calendar for a daily update. Oh, and in case you're tempted to risk life and limb to return your library items in the middle of a blizzard, be advised that we take inclement weather into account when it comes to returns. So, don't knock yourself out if you don't have to.

The latest group from the Video Circuit is now available. (Unfortunately, the full list of titles in this group was unavailable at press time.) DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Yet again, we've done some rearranging of our collection. The non-fiction VHS tapes (remember those?) in our adult collection have been moved to a new rack back in our magazine section. Also, we recently moved the juvenile audio selections (CDs and audiobooks), along with the juvenile CD-ROMs, to new storage units alongside of our adult CD section. We'll notify MapQuest of the changes at the appropriate time.

Finally, a computer advisory: for security and convenience reasons, patrons are not permitted to save their work on our computer hard drives. You should, instead, bring along your own storage medium (floppy discs, CD-ROM discs, flash drives). Discs may be purchased at the Circulation Desk for \$1 each. Be advised, though, that some computers are not equipped to handle all storage media; check with the reference librarian for more information.

That wraps it up for this week. For more information, you can check our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us or call us at (908) 754-7885. Catch you next Friday.

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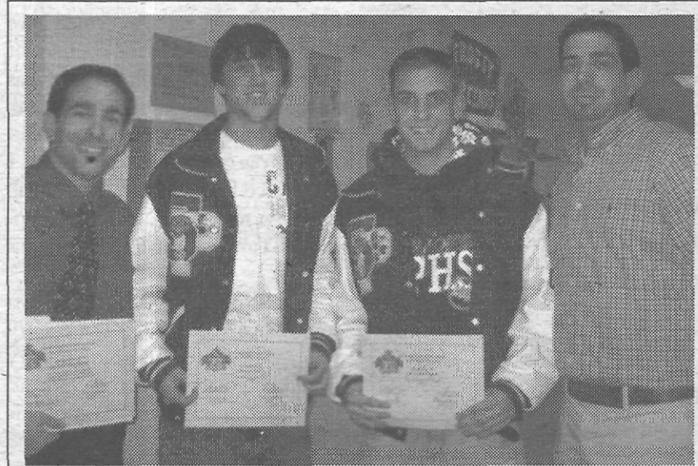
Vinnie Brand

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Sports



Members of the boys soccer team with Coach Anthony Perfillio (left), GMC White Division Coach of the Year, Courier News and Star Ledger Middlesex County Coach of the Year and players Brendan O'Shea and Christopher Pennisi, both All GMC White Division and All State, and Assistant Coach Paul Correia (right).

RECREATION WRESTLING Submitted by Joe Sacco

Season Ends at League Tournament Fierro and Sacco Win Gold

This weekend the South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling team finished the season at their year end league tournaments. Wrestling in the Central Jersey Midget League Tournament was Joe Heilmann, Jacob Painton, Jake Giordano, Jake Hoffman, Joe Penyak, Ryan Walsh, Kyle Bythell, Danny Hedden, Christopher Maszszak, Ray Jazikoff, Christian Gonzalez, Antunee Adams, Matt Hurst and Dakota Pauls. The young Tigers placed sixth among the twenty teams participating, just eights point out of third place. Finishing in second place for South Plainfield was Joe Heilmann, Jake Hoffman and Ray Jazikoff. Third place went to Ryan Walsh and Dakota Pauls; fourth and sixth place to Jacob Painton and Jake Giordano, respectively.

On the same day, wrestling in the Raritan Valley League Tournament were Tommy Fierro, Sebastian Santos, David Loniewski, Jake Smith, Joseph Sacco, Ricky Pellegrino, Alex Amato, Jeff Plungis, Michael Marrero, Brendan Hedden, Kyle Davisson, Vinnie Veruschi, Desmond Santos, George Pittenger, Kyle Dickerson and Dion Pender. The team finished sixth among the 11 participating teams despite not entering a full team. Winning league championships were Tommy Fierro at 45 lbs. and Joseph Sacco at 53 lbs. Third place finishes went to Sebastian Santos, Desmond Santos and Kyle Dickerson. Finishing in fourth place was Ricky Pellegrino and Michael Marrero.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

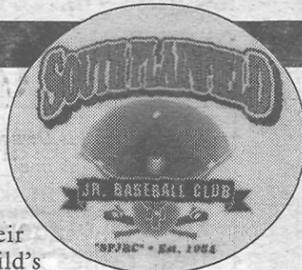
Can you smell the grass growing? We're four weeks from April 5, Opening Day! Ad sponsorships are still available.

Team selection for Small Fry A, B and C are complete. Managers will be contacting all players to arrange practice schedules. They will also be informing you about your game schedule, field duty, canning and snack stand sign-up.

For parents interested in assisting

their child's manager, you must be Rutgers Certified and have a SPJBC Membership Card to be on the field during games. Our last Rutgers Certification class will be held on Thursday, March 13. Please call the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090 to register.

For information on upcoming events, please visit our Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.



All About Pets....

By Dr. Anthony Loomis DVM
Veterinarian: Pfld. Animal Hospital

Small mammals such as hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, mice, rats, rabbits, chinchillas and ferrets are now becoming common household pets. They are ideal for a variety of pet owners because of their small space requirements, quiet nature, ease of handling and relatively simple husbandry requirements. Diet is an important part of the care of these pets and each species should have its own specific nutritional needs met. Most health issues in these pets are due to inappropriate nutrition, not due to a lack of care, but misinformation.

Clean water must be accessible to these pets at all times. It can be provided in either a bowl or a sipper bottle. The best choice is a sipper bottle if your pet is accepting, because it cannot be contaminated with bedding, food, feces and urine. No matter the water source it is important to change it at least daily. Many people often assume adding vitamins to the water ensures their pet gets its proper nutritional requirements. However, it is not necessary to add vitamins to the water for any of these species if the recommended diets are followed. The disadvantages of adding vitamins to the water include making the water taste bitter decreasing their intake and promoting bacterial growth leading to infection. In addition, many vitamins are inactivated shortly after they are exposed to air, water and light which reduce their effectiveness.

Rabbits are the most commonly kept small mammal. They are strict herbivores and have continually growing teeth that are designed to tear through leafy foods. The most important part of the house rabbit diet is an unlimited supply of grass hay which provides essential fiber as well as proteins, vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates. Hay should be stored in a cool, dry area in an open bag to allow for good air circulation. Hay should have a fresh smell.

Damp hay can become moldy and should be discarded. Another important part of a rabbit's diet is fresh, leafy greens. Some examples of nutritious greens are: dandelion greens (and flowers), kale, mustard greens, collard greens, beet greens, carrot tops, parsley, turnip tops, romaine and cabbage (red and green). Other vegetables and fruits that can be fed are carrots, apples, pears, peaches, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, squash, tomatoes, papayas and mangos. Stay away from starchy and high sugar content foods such as bananas, peas, corn, beans, grapes, white and sweet potatoes. Commercial rabbit pellets are designed to promote rapid growth, weight gain, and ease of feeding. Because of this pellets should be a limited part of your rabbit's diet not the main component. Feeding too much pellets can lead to obesity, liver disease and intestinal problems.

Ferrets are strictly carnivores. They require a high fat content in their diet because their main source of energy is fat. There are many commercially available ferret pellets, the most common being made by Marshall Farms. Allow your ferret constant access to a fresh clean source of a high quality ferret specific pellet, as cat food is not an equal alternative. Some ferrets enjoy bits of fruit and vegetables such as green peppers, bananas, cucumbers and melons. They cannot digest fiber well, and if these items are fed in excess, your pet may develop diarrhea. Foods such as breads, breakfast cereals, cakes and cookies should not be fed. Many of these items contain high levels of sugar which can cause damage to the ferret's pancreas resulting in diabetes. Unfortunately, ferrets love sweet foods and may beg for these treats, but you take a serious risk with your pet's health in offering them.

Guinea pigs, rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, and chinchillas are all rodents,

but they have some distinct differences in their dietary requirements. Guinea pigs are herbivores and require a similar diet as rabbits with plenty of grass hay and greens and limited commercial pellets. Dark leafy greens are particularly important to guinea pigs due to their requirement for an external source of vitamin C. Some particularly high vitamin C foods are kale, dandelion greens, parsley, collard greens, green peppers and mustard greens. Supplementing vitamin C in the water is not very effective due the rapid breakdown of the vitamin when it is exposed to light and heat and the fact that some vitamin C products have a very bitter taste. Commercial guinea pig pellets can be fed in limited quantities. Guinea pigs can become overweight on unlimited pellet feeding, particularly if they are not allowed to exercise daily. Rats, mice, hamsters and gerbils have similar dietary requirements. They all eat primarily plant material but rats, mice and particularly hamsters are also known to eat some meat products and are considered omnivorous. The basic diet for this group should consist of a good quality rodent pellet. All of these species love grains, nuts and seeds, but these foods should be offered in very small quantities because of their high fat content. If these 'treat' foods are given free choice, the pet will eat them exclusively, and not eat the balanced pellets and develop nutritional disease such as obesity. Meat and cheese in small amounts may be safely offered to mice, rats and hamsters as treats.

Feeding your pet will take some thought and preparation, but once a routine is established it should be easy to accomplish. Good nutrition is the basis for a healthy pet. Feeding your pet in a proper manner will help to prevent many potential disease problems down the road.



LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Joseph Glowacki requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit construction of a single family dwelling. Proposed dwelling is contrary to the Ordinance in the following: (1) Lot width 100' required, 75' exist; (2) Lot area 10,000 s.f. required and 7,500 s.f. exist; (3) Front setback from Kenneth Ave., 30' required and 9' being proposed; (4) Lot coverage 25% allowed and 30% being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at Loraine Street and Kenneth Avenue, Block 362, Lot 6.01 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 10, 2008 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50 March 7, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

February 29, 2008—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its' meeting held on February 28, 2008.

- A. Case #08-07V—Shimon, LLC. Block 528; Lot 48; 1764 New Durham Road. The applicant's request for site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- B. Case #45-07—Jordache Enterprises. Block 480; Lot 1; 200 Helen Street. The applicant's request for a use variance to permit retail sales and site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- C. Case #01-08—John Snogans. Block 137; Lot 31; 113 Elizabethtown Ct. The applicant's request for a lot coverage variance was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- D. Case #81-03V—American Steel Erectors. Block 255; Lot 23.02; Metuchen Rd. and Somogyi Ct. The applicant's request that this application be dismissed without prejudice for lack of prosecution was hereby GRANTED.
- E. Case #85-03—Penyak Properties, LLC. Block 332; Lot 13; Pulaski Street. The applicant's request that this application be dismissed without prejudice for lack of prosecution was hereby GRANTED.
- F. Case #32-06—Skyline Mgmt. Co. Block 254; Lots 1 and 2.02. Oak Tree Rd. The applicant's request that this application be dismissed without prejudice for lack of prosecution was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$49.40 March 7, 2008

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Diocesan Youth Day To be Held

Teens in grades 8-12, this one's for you! Check out the annual Diocesan Youth Day at Immaculata High School to be held on Saturday, March 29.

Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, Youth Day aims to support teens in living the Gospel in their lives and gives them opportunities to meet new friends who have similar faith connections, or are exploring their beliefs.

The day includes prayer, workshop sessions, food, fun and music. Featured artists include Ceili Rain, a rock group with a Celtic/Irish flair led by guitarist/vocalist Bob Halligan, Jr. Halligan, who wrote for Judas Priest, Kiss, Pat Benetar, etc., says the current band's mission is to "bring faith-based music to people of all faiths (and no faith) ... to mix rock'n roll and Celtic flavors in a way that is exciting and musically solid."

Also highlighted will be musician/speaker Greg Walton, a Vision Artist Associate. Walton, who has performed around the world, is affiliated with World Visions, a Christian humanitarian aid organization that serves more than 80 million people in nearly 100 countries.

More information about either of these artists can be found at www.ceilirain.com or www.gregwalton.com. General event information can be found at www.yandyam.com, or by calling Carol Mascola at Sacred Heart Parish at (908) 756-0633, ext 43. Registrations should be made by March 10 to allow attendees to select their preference for workshops attended.

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Edward G. Lotkowitz, 79

Edward G. Lotkowitz died on Friday, Feb. 22 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in South Amboy, Mr. Lotkowitz resided in South Plainfield for 50 years.

He worked as a clerk for 20 years with the United States Postal Service, retiring in 1990.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Ed served during the Korean Conflict.

He played the accordion with "The Cavaliers" band that often played at various charity events and holiday parties as well as weddings.

He was a former little league baseball coach and was also known to be a handyman fixing just about anything around the house.

Mr. Lotkowitz was predeceased by his wife, Mary, who died in 1996; two sisters, Agnes Soos and Helen Schlacht and a brother, William.

Surviving are a daughter, Lorraine M. Lotkowitz of South Plainfield; a son, Robert E. and wife Susan of Skaneateles, N.Y. and three grandchildren, Emily, Jenna and Joshua Lotkowitz. Also surviving are one sister and three brothers.

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

Marie G. (Brennan) Noll, 82

Marie G. (Brennan) Noll died on Friday, Feb. 29 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Newark, Marie lived in Irvington before moving to South Plainfield in 1968.

She worked in the former Strand Department Store in Plainfield and she was also a cafeteria cook at Roosevelt Elementary School in South Plainfield.

Mrs. Noll was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and enjoyed playing bingo.

She was predeceased by her husband, John; a daughter, Patricia

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Gloria Y. Galvez, 69

Gloria Y. Galvez died on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in the Philippines, Gloria resided there for most of her life before coming to the United States in 1997.

She worked for Nathan's in Bridgewater and in the house-keeping department at Somerset Medical Center.

Gloria enjoyed cooking and was very faithful to Catholicism and will be missed by her many friends.

Surviving are two daughters, Marissa Zychlinski and husband Ted of South Plainfield and Christina Joves and husband Fernando of Natick, Mass.; two daughters and three sons of the Philippines and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

Surviving are two daughters, Marissa Zychlinski and husband Ted of South Plainfield and Christina Joves and husband Fernando of Natick, Mass.; two daughters and three sons of the Philippines and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

Surviving are two daughters, Marissa Zychlinski and husband Ted of South Plainfield and Christina Joves and husband Fernando of Natick, Mass.; two daughters and three sons of the Philippines and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

William J. Price, 81

William J. Price died on Sunday, March 2 in the Haven Hospice of JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Cranford, Mr. Price had resided in Elizabeth and Garwood before settling in South Plainfield 51 years ago.

A veteran of the United States Navy, he served during WWII as a seaman first class.

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Obituaries

tion master mechanic for the operating engineers Local #825, he had worked for many years with Halecrest Construction of Edison. He later worked as the van driver for the Borough of South Plainfield for 14 years until February of 2004.

A long time active member of Sacred Heart RC Church, he also enjoyed his time bowling and playing horseshoes.

He was predeceased by three sisters, Mildred O'Donnell, Evelyn Hay and Annette Kaeser.

He is survived by his wife, Margie (nee Pender); four sons, Timothy, Michael and wife Monica, Patrick and wife Marilyn and William and wife Janet; a sister, Lyda McClement and eight grandchildren, Colin, Moira, Michael, Patrick II, Peter, Willis, Shea and Tanner.

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

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Haven Hospice, c/o 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08820.

Anne. M. (DeSantos) Granata, 69

Anne M. (DeSantos) Granata died on Saturday, March 1 at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark.

Born and raised in Newark, Anne resided in Woodbridge and in Elizabeth before settling in Plainfield.

Mrs. Granata worked as a dietician at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Cen-

ter in Plainfield retiring in 1988. She was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church and the Ricochet Health and Racquet Club.

She was a loving wife and mother who enjoyed to cook.

Surviving is her beloved husband of 34 years, Eugene; a son, Donald of Tucson, Az., and a nephew, Michael Belle of Plainfield.

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

Robert F. Raisch, 79

Robert F. Raisch died on Saturday, March 1 at home.

Born in Newark, he was raised in Union.

For 38 years Bob worked for IBM and retired as a systems engineer. After working for IBM he worked as a sales associate for Weichert Realtors in Metuchen.

A former member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Mr. Raisch served with the Navy during WWII. He was a member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and the Ricochet Health and Racquet Club.

Bob was an avid fisherman and enjoyed boating.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Janice (Faas); two sons, Robert F. Jr. and wife Sandra of Brick and David and wife Barbara of Helmetta; a sister, Marlene Pittman and husband Edmund of Clinton Twp. and a grandson, Dylann Robert Raisch.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

February 27, 2008-Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its' meeting held on February 26, 2008.

A. Case #02-01-A-Ferraro Construction, Block 255; Lot 34; Delancey, Good Luck and Spring Streets. The applicant's request for preliminary major subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #06-02-Ronald Russomanno, Block 26; Lot 5; Bullard Place and Plainfield Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary major subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Planning Board

\$26.60

March 7, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by William Simmons requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit front porch. Porch lacks 30' setback; 27.5' proposed; side yard setback required is 8'; 6' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 168 South Madison Drive, Block 127, Lot 7 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 27, 2008 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

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

\$38.50

March 7, 2008

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HIGHLIGHTS

From South Plainfield High School PTA

By Sharon Miller

It's finally auction time. The event you have all been waiting for is tomorrow! The SPHS PTA Project Graduation auction/raffle will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the high school. All proceeds go towards Project Graduation. 2008 will mark the South Plainfield High School

PTA's 20th year of providing our graduating seniors with a Project Graduation celebration.

Auction Info—Auction begins at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Tables will be reserved for all ticket holders. The reservation will be in the name of one person from your group. There will be paper products on the tables (plates, cups, napkins). You may want to bring extras. As far as food goes, the sky is the limit. You can bring anything from snacks and desserts to complete dinners. Non-alcoholic beverages only are permitted. We will have a small amount of water, soda and cookies for sale, as well as coffee and tea (at no charge). Plastic bags to hold your tickets will be provided at the door. We will also be providing pens at the door, as well as some other goodies. Please remember no one under the age of 18 will be admitted.

Ticket Info—Tickets are available and can be purchased at the door. We will have extra tables set up to accommodate anyone who buys tickets tomorrow night.

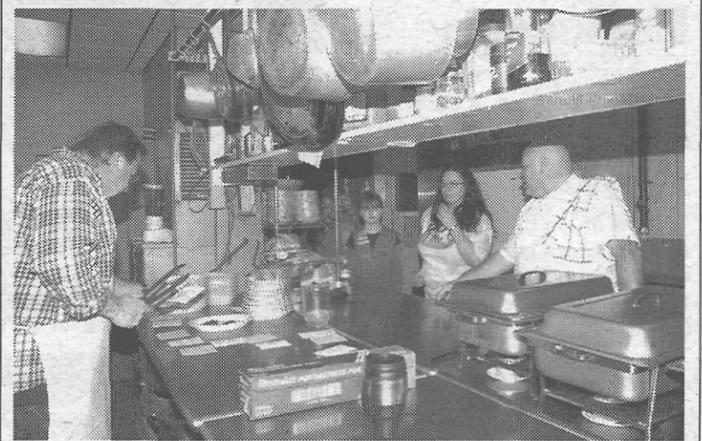
Volunteers—If you have volunteered to help set up for the auction, meet at the gym at noon. If you want to help set up, but didn't previously sign up, we will be setting up from noon until

around 3:30 p.m. We can always use extra help. If you have volunteered to help sell tickets or work at the front desk, please arrive between 5 and 5:30 p.m. You should have received a phone call during the week confirming where you will be working. Thank you to all volunteers!

Prizes—We have great prizes: A large screen plasma TV, an HP laptop computer, an iPod Touch 16 GB, a Wii, a Coach handbag, four Mets and four Yankees tickets (they are pretty good seats) and a night out in NYC (theatre tickets to any Broadway show and dinner at a top NY restaurant). These are just some of our great prizes. There is much, much more!

To Everyone Attending The Auction—Every ticket you buy could be a winner, so the more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning. But remember at the end of the night, even if you don't win a physical prize (and many of us don't!), you will still be a winner in the eyes of SPHS's class of 2008, because you will have helped give them a fun and safe graduation night. We hope everyone has a great time and we wish you all the best of luck.

The Class of 2008 and the PTA sincerely appreciate your support!



The South Plainfield Girl Scouts recently hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Elks Club. The breakfast was packed from the minute the doors opened. In fact, they ran out of pancakes before the event concluded.



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policereport

- On February 27 Jerry Eisenband, 53, of Warren was arrested for forgery at the MVC.
- Dominick Joseph Raiti, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license and reckless driving.
- Geo Global Partners LLC on Corporate Boulevard reported the theft of a trailer with assorted furniture and tools worth \$2,000.
- Casablanca is Hair on South Plainfield Avenue reported that a rear window had been smashed and \$210 in cash was taken.
- A Clinton Avenue resident reported the theft of a 1999 Honda Civic from their driveway.
- On February 28 Edward Grunberg, 60, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license and three outstanding warrants.
- On February 29 a South Plainfield resident reported that a "slim jim" had been used to unlock the drivers side door and \$40 in lottery tickets, \$7 in

- cash and six packs of cigarettes were taken.
- Hoffman Machine on Sage Street reported that five black bags of garbage had been left at the front door of the business. The building is currently unoccupied.
- An Evona Avenue resident reported the theft of his wallet at Shop Fair on Clinton Avenue. It was left on the checkout counter.
- On March 1 Alicia Ann Glasper, 40, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Jerlyn A. Veliz Pelacz, 21, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to observe a traffic signal.
- On March 3 Akmal Magruffkhodzayer, 47, of North Brunswick was arrested at Restaurant Depot for shoplifting various items worth \$179.
- Travis Anthony Tilley, 22, of Bethlehem, Pa. was arrested for speeding, driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

Friendship's a Valuable Asset



Good friends Casey Butrico and Miranda Garcia.

(Continued from page 1)
spend time together on weekends
In December, Casey and Miranda went to Roosevelt Park ice skating rink with Casey's two brothers who each brought a friend.
"It was a beautiful day. We got there at 2 p.m. for the second session and the kids were having fun. A little before 4 p.m. Miranda fell on the ice. She wasn't screaming in pain, so I didn't realize she had broken her leg in three places. I called Mrs. Garcia about the accident and to meet us at the JFK emergency room," recalled Kelly Butrico.
The rink management called EMS and they took Miranda to JFK Hospital with Casey riding along in the ambulance.
"Casey didn't come home from the hospital until 1 a.m.," said Kelly Butrico.
Miranda was in the hospital for five

days and Casey visited each day, bringing pizza, friends, homework assignments and "just hanging out."
The week before winter break, Miranda returned to school in a wheelchair and in a full leg cast.
Casey and the school nurse met Mrs. Garcia at the school entrance, put Miranda in her wheelchair and Casey stayed with Miranda, making sure they left their classes a few minutes before the bell so the halls were empty and Miranda had a clear passage.
After the winter break, Miranda returned to school on crutches, her leg in a half cast. Casey helped out by carrying her books.
Miranda has caught up with her homework and projects and is walking on her own now, but still can't wear a pair of shoes.
A short ceremony took place in the Middle School gym that was decorated with red balloons. The poem, "A Friend Like You," was read and both girls received a bouquet of yellow roses. Casey received a special Friendship Award Plaque engraved with the saying, "No person can give more to a friend than a precious part of their lifetime."
The students, who were told to wear red or pink on February 14, were seated in circular formations in the gym. When the music played "That's What Friends are For" and "We Are the World," the students linked arms and swayed to the music.
"These will be the songs you'll sing at your class reunion," Novak told them.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

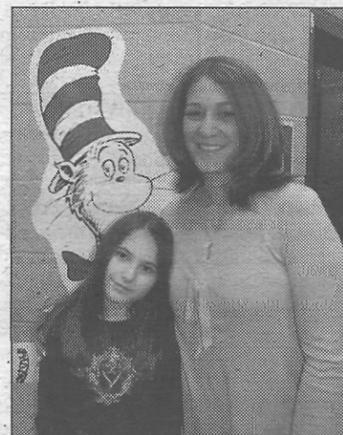
FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

The BOE meetings have changed for next week. The COW meeting is Monday, March 10. The special public meeting to introduce the 2008/2009 school budget is Wednesday, March 12. The regular public meeting is Thursday, March 20.
The Middle School PTO, in conjunction with Grant School PTO, will hold a school budget presentation by Superintendent Jose Negron in the Grant School Library at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. Any questions, call Debbie Boyle or Tree Olano.
The newly formed alternate truck route ad hoc committee will meet again on Thursday, March 13 and 27 at 7 p.m. at the senior center.
The South Plainfield Education Association will host a wine tasting fundraiser at the South Plainfield Italian/American Club from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 14. Event sponsors are Witty's Discount Liquors, Flanagan's Restaurant and Hometown Heros. Tickets are \$30 pp; \$35 at the door. This fundraiser supports scholarships and various events in town. Tickets are available through Marge Reedy, Carolyn Allen or any BOE member. Information is posted on the community bulletin board, Comcast Channel 74.
All schools will be closed for Good Friday on March 21.
Grant School spring pictures are Wednesday, March 26. Stokes fundraising pasta dinner is Friday, March 28 from 6-8 p.m.
Elementary school NJASK tests for grade three are Monday, March 10 through Wednesday, March 12. Fourth grade testing is all week.
Kennedy scoop dinner is Friday, March 28.
Franklin School Auction/Raffle starts at 6:30 p.m. at SPHS on Saturday, March 8.
Daylight Saving time begins Sunday, March 9.
Riley School Kite Flying Day is 3 p.m. on Friday, March 28.
The middle school dance has been rescheduled for Friday, March 28. Thank you to the residents who recently contributed to the used clothing drive.
Thank you to Suplee, Clooney and Co. and Bob Swisher for their generous donation to the SPHS swim team.

Correction
In last week's *Observer*, the name of the Junior Journalist Contest winner, Mieri Kim, was misspelled. We regret the error.

2007-08 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Jade Scotti Named Junior Journalist!



Teacher Allison Ferraro with junior journalist winner Jade Scotti.

Jade Scotti, Roosevelt School second grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plain-

field *Observer* sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest for her illustrated poem, "Seasons."
Jade will receive 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 *Observer* at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call (908) 755-4376.



Seasons
By Jade Scotti

On the way home, I saw a snowflake and everyone said, "W-i-n-t-e-r!"
W for walking in snow.
I for icy cars.
N for neat winter.
T for turning sleds.
E for enjoy this winter.
R for really cold.

On the way home, I saw a flower and everyone said, "S-p-r-i-n-g!"
S for super days.
P for pretty sights.
R for rainy weather.
I for interesting plants.
N for nature beauty.
G for grilled food.

On the way home, I saw a pool and everyone said, "S-u-m-m-e-r!"
S for so much fun!
U for umbrellas down.
M for mysterious things.
M for moms having fun too.
E for enjoy this summer.
R for rushing to the beach.

On the way home, I saw a colored leaf and everyone said, "F-a-l-l!"
F for falling leaves.
A for any colors.
L for lovely weather.
L for last season.

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