

March 23 is the last day to register to vote in BOE elections - visit Borough Hall.

South Plainfield Observer

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

VOL. 11, NO. 28

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

MARCH 14, 2008

Peer Leaders Raise \$2,500

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Middle School Peer Leadership sponsored a "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser during the month of February to help raise funds for the American Heart Association and its fight against our nation's number one and three killers—cardiovascular disease and stroke. The school raised over \$2,500 with the top fundraiser, Sal Esposito, collecting \$650.

On March 6, all of the students who collected money had the privilege of participating in a three-on-three basketball game and the top winners then went on to play the teachers.

"Hoops for Heart" takes place in schools throughout the country teaching students about the importance of regular physical activity and heart health. The dollars raised support vital research and educational programs.



Mayor Charles Butrico lends a hand carrying on the mission of Theodor Seuss Geisel who influenced the lives of so many children with his rhyming books, most notably, "The Cat in the Hat," as he reads to Future Stars Preschool students in celebration of "Read Across America."

Board of Ed Candidates Night April 1

The BOE Meet the Candidates Night is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1 at 7 p.m. at Kennedy Elementary School on Norwood Avenue.

Senior Center Director Joann Graf will moderate. Candidates will have two minutes for opening and for closing statements, as well as to answer questions. The audience may submit questions for candidates via index cards.

The event will air on Comcast Channel 74 prior to the April 15 election. Check the *Observer* for dates.

No campaign literature will be distributed that evening. A map of the South Plainfield voting district will be on display, along with locations of polling places and absentee ballots. The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, March 25.

Superintendent Jose Negron will hold budget presentations at the Senior Center on March 18 at 2 p.m., Riley School on March 18 at 7 p.m. in the library, in the high school on March 25 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria, Grant School/Middle School on March 31 at 7 p.m. in the Grant School library, Franklin School on April 7 at 7 p.m. in the library and at Kennedy School on April 8 at 7 p.m. in the library.

No Tax Hike in Upcoming BOE Budget

The Board of Education 2008-2009 school board budget tentatively introduced on March 3, reflects no tax increase.

Last month the board announced that the 2007-2008 budget has a surplus and voted to retain an independent auditor at a cost of \$7,500 to establish the exact amount.

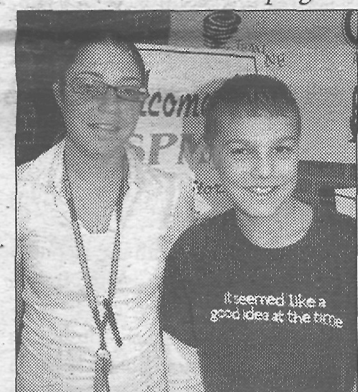
Some of the surplus will be used in the 2008-2009 budget. Three reserve accounts will be established—a capital reserve account of \$1,847,264;

an emergency reserve account of \$375,000; and a maintenance reserve account of \$500,000. An architect will evaluate what capital outlays are needed.

Even though the 2008-2009 BOE's operating budget will increase by almost \$2M, as well as an increase in debt service and a decrease in South Plainfield's ratables, an additional 10% increase in State aid this year will result in a flat tax rate. Superintendent Jose Negron

is proposing to add at least 10 new positions next year.

The budget is still a work in progress and changes could still be made. The BOE will formally vote on the new budget on Wednesday, March 26.



Peer Leader Advisor Michele Hotendorf with top fundraiser Sal Esposito.

Mixup Causes HSPA Testing Delay

By Libby Barsky

The discovery of English test booklets mingled in with the math tests caused South Plainfield High School to suspend the New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) testing program on March 6.

On March 5, SPHS juniors took the math portion of the test, but some of the test booklets held a surprise.

"Some of the test booklets were bundled incorrectly and the English portion of the second-test was in the first day's booklet—invalidating our test booklets [because the content of the test was known and could be relayed

to other students]," explained Principal Dr. Kenneth May.

Dr. May immediately contacted State officials to report the problem.

Two more test days, March 5 and March 6, had been scheduled to complete the language arts portion of the test, but because of the "bundling" mishap new tests were needed. The scheduled early dismissal was held on Wednesday, but students had full school days on Thursday and Friday.

On March 6, the high school received new language arts test booklets, along with protocols to hold the test on Friday, March 7 and Monday, March 10.

Concerned that the interruption of a weekend between test days would create a hardship by interrupting the student's preparation and concentration and possibly resulting in lower test scores, Dr. May proposed that the testing dates be held on Monday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 11.

Passing the HSPA is a requirement for graduation. The HSPA test consists of one part mathematics and two sections devoted to language arts. HSPA testing begins in a student's junior year. If a student fails to pass, the testing is repeated in the fall during senior year.

Freshmen and sophomores are given a test similar to the HSPA made up by a private testing company. The tests have been administered to students for the past four years.

According to Dr. May, this variation of the HSPA is a good indicator of how the student is progressing. If a student doesn't do well, that student can take a summer class or remedial class during the school year. Students who don't do well on the HSPA can also take the Statewide Review Assessment (SRA) to receive their diploma. This is an untimed test graded by classroom teachers. Last year 34 students took a SRA in math and 10-12 students in language arts. Since the program started four years ago, all of the students taking the HSPA and SRA graduated and received diplomas, Dr. May said.



In honor of Read Across America the South Plainfield Middle School Reading Department and Information Center held a "Design Your Own Bookmark" contest. Students were asked to create their own design based on a favorite character in a novel they had read. Everyone participated in voting for their favorite bookmark and the top vote-getters from each class were displayed in the case in front of the Information Center. Pictured (L to R) are first place winner Nayab Jadoon, second place winner Richard Duong and third place winner Jeanna Bovee. The winners received certificates acknowledging their accomplishments and a gift certificate to Applebee's.

Historical Society Seeks Photos for Upcoming Book

The South Plainfield Historical Society and Dr. Richard F. Veit, member of the Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University, are seeking photographs of South Plainfield for a forthcoming pictorial publication.

The photo-essay book will be the second volume on South Plainfield published by Arcadia Press in its popular "Images of America" series which chronicles the history of communities all across the United States. Volume one, published in 2002 and also authored by Dr. Veit, sold out immediately.

Anyone interested in contributing vintage photographs of South Plainfield that help define the people, places and events in the community are to contact either the Historical Society at sphistorical@southplainfieldnj.org or Dr. Veit at rveit@monmouth.edu or Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073. Photographs will be copied and returned.

Arcadia, headquartered in Charleston, S.C., is the leading local history publisher in the United States, with a catalog of more than 5,000 titles in print and hundreds of new titles released every year.



WEATHER WOES—The Mother Nature-inflicted high winds Saturday uprooted a huge oak tree on Sprague Avenue. There were no injuries.

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 17 | Monday, March 24 |
| Monday, March 31 | Monday, April 7 |
| Monday, April 14 | Monday, April 21 |

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 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 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, 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 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. 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

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.

Dear Editor,

There appears to be an affliction, for lack of a better word, which affects our children and of which many people don't realize or accurately understand. It causes a variety of issues such as depression, anxiety, physical and emotional oversensitivity and low self esteem.

This situation can cause considerable strain on relationships and families and even lead these children to withdraw from school. Frequently it is misdiagnosed as OCD, ODD, ADHD, or an emotional disturbance, yet symptoms are not treatable by medicine or behavioral therapy/modifications. In some cases, the children suffer silently, only to recognize the ill effects as they reach junior high age. The pathology is neurological and affects the way the child's brain processes information. It may not affect all areas of development evenly. If not properly addressed, it can be a stifling experience in which, research has shown, neural connections are permanently lost. If not addressed early in development, children will not "catch up" with their intended peers later on.

The "affliction" is giftedness. The good news is that with appropriate, medication free, academic intervention these children can go on to be happy, productive citizens—possibly the great problem solvers, innovators, and major contributors to modern society.

March is Gifted Education Month in New Jersey and this is the experience of too many of our gifted students in the U.S., New Jersey and our town. New Jersey defines giftedness as those children of high ability who require classroom modifications in order to achieve in accordance with their potential. The State requires all districts to identify, test and provide appropriate programming. If you suspect a child you know fits the technical definition of gifted—and, yes, we all know all children have gifts and these high-ability kids didn't choose this terminology—you need to educate yourself, your school and those children about the reality of giftedness and everything that goes along with it. For further information, start at njagc.org or hoagiesgifted.org.

SINCERELY,
JOAN O'BRIEN

Dear Parents/Guardians of
Roosevelt Elementary School,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for all your support and donations for the Student Council

"Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. Your donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society have made a positive difference in the lives of children afflicted with leukemia or lymphoma.

Roosevelt Elementary School was able to contribute a total amount of \$1,080! The money you have raised will help children with blood cancers in Northern New Jersey by supporting research, advocacy, community service, patient aid and public and professional education. Because of this kind of support, modern treatments have greatly improved cure rates of remission duration for some patients with leukemia and offered more hope than ever before to those affected with blood cancers.

For more information regarding the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Northern New Jersey, you can call (908) 654-9445.

SINCERELY,
MRS. MOSLEY, M. ED, MSW, LCSW,
STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISOR

To the Editor:

On February 25, I attended the Borough Council meeting, as I do most of the time.

I heard Eric Aronowitz, president of the Library Board of Trustees express his remarks to the council, urging them to move quickly on a new library project and then I read his letter to the newspaper on March 7 urging residents to express their opinion. This is my opinion as you requested:

Your remarks to the council were that the library was built over 40 years ago and it was too small at that time.

Mr. Aronowitz, I don't recall you being in town at that time, so how would you know if the library was too small? A council member at the time the library was built heard your remarks but choose to hold his comments. For your information, the library was constructed to handle an increase in population. That was the Library Board's request.

Mr. Aronowitz, please take note of the newspaper reports about the economy, job losses, plant closures, bankruptcy and stock market results. Also, read about the foreclosures in our area alone.

During the council meeting you heard about the shortfall in our budget—that in the year 2009 we will be in better shape because of our debt being paid off. No one objected to the new library; we would all like to ride around in a new car or own a new home. We can't afford it at this time.

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.

You are asking us to go further in debt, four million plus, and that doesn't cover books and furniture. When you live in rough times, you learn to make good of what you have. Don't place a hardship on other people. The library can handle tough times, as we are. Make good of what you have.

The bottom line Mr. Aronowitz: be realistic. We can't afford it at present and I do not want another tax increase. And many others feel the same way. A more important issue than the library is to keep our citizens in their homes they worked so hard for. Don't spend someone else's money.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
JAKE CATALDO

Dear Editor,

I am proud of what was accomplished during my years on the Borough Council. The Democratic Majority worked hard as a team to build the beautiful senior housing complex on Morris Avenue and a modern senior center on Lakeview Avenue. We improved every park and playground in the Borough and were the first administration to preserve open space on an annual basis.

The one accomplishment that I am most proud of is that we kept the municipal portion of the property tax bill under control. In fact in half of those years, there was no tax increase at all. I don't want to blow my own horn, but as they say, "I think we done good" for the residents of South Plainfield.

The comparison with the Republican Majority is mind boggling. In two months in control, they have held secret meetings to put party loyalists in positions they are not qualified to hold and increased their salaries. They have not proposed one plan to improve the quality of life in our Borough except for a half-baked dog park at some unknown location with an unidentified funding source. The dog park in East Brunswick cost over a million

(Continued on page 10)

Enjoy a made to order breakfast and more at the

LIONS PALM SUNDAY GOURMET BREAKFAST

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club

Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947...

When: Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008
Where: South Plainfield High School Cafeteria
Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
Ticket Price: \$6.00

Tickets can be purchased from a Lions member, or at the door.

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

\$1 OFF with this Coupon

Only 1 coupon per family (Good only for 2008 breakfast)



Riley School Cub Scout Den 1 was given a detailed demonstration from volunteer firefighter Kevin Bulla at the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. It is important for the Scouts to experience first-hand what a real firefighter looks and sounds like with all the important safety equipment used in a fire.

SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES

Correction (my apologies to Mr. Weiss and the district music department): The All District Music Festival will be held at the high school on Thursday, March 27 starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 per segment; after March 20, tickets will be \$5 each. Check with your district school for more information on how to get your tickets. Tickets will be sold at the door for each segment on March 27.

The evening will be divided into three parts: orchestra, concert band and chorus. During intermissions, you can visit the high school gym to see the Winter Guard perform, or peruse the halls to see the various artwork created by talented students. Hot food and other refreshments will be available for sale in the cafeteria, as well as mugs for \$6 and drawstring bags for \$10.

Music department seniors take note! Your opportunity for scholarship is almost due. Scholarship forms are available and due by Friday, April 25 for consideration. You can download the scholarship form on the high school music department website (<http://www.spnet.k12.nj.us/HS>

Departments/HSMusic/index.htm). Anyone applying for a scholarship has to complete an application and essay. Check with your music director for more information.

The Jazz Ensemble competed on Friday, March 7 at South Brunswick High School. Congratulations on another exciting performance! The "Silver Dreams" Winter Guard performed on Saturday, March 8 at South Brunswick High School. They were up against a lot of competition and continue to shine.

The annual elections for the Executive Board will be held on the first Wednesday in May. If you received a booster membership card and attended at least three meetings, you are eligible to vote and encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in leadership opportunities will need to come to our next meeting and be considered with our nominating committee.

Our annual music department banquet will be held on Friday, June 13 at the Italian-American Club on Somerset Street in North Plainfield. The banquet is for all the students and parents in the entire music department. Price is \$30 per person. Student account funds can be used for this event. Forms are outside Mr. Vroom's office and must be turned in no later than May 20.

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

Muhlenberg Hospital Rally Announced

A rally to save Muhlenberg Hospital will be held on Saturday, March 15 at noon on the corner of Randolph Road and Park Avenue. The rally is sponsored by the Plainfield Branch People's Organization for Progress.

For information, call (908) 731-1518.

Unlicensed Sale Of Alcohol Leads to Arrests

On February 29 South Plainfield Police arrested Yong Park, 28 of 26 Wheeler Rd. in Kendall Park; Duk Chung, 45 of 2303 Timber Oaks Rd. in Edison and In Kil, 53 of 12 Allison Court in Edison at Kimchi Hana Restaurant, located in the Middlesex Mall. All three were charged with the unlicensed sale of alcoholic beverages. Bail was set at \$1,000 with no 10% option and all posted bail.

According to Lt. James Parker, criminal investigations division, police intelligence led to an investigation regarding the sale of liquor from the restaurant without a State liquor license. Several cases of alcohol were also confiscated. The business remained open following the arrests.

South Plainfield Police have turned over their evidence to the Division of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). It is not clear if the restaurant ever applied for a liquor license nor how long they have been serving liquor without a license.

Curves Member to Appear on Tyra Banks TV Show

The Tyra Banks Show and Curves International has chosen South Plainfield's Curves owners Elissa Bennett and Jerri Hochron to host a contestant from their Curves Challenge.

Shantal Lee, a resident of Elizabeth, has been training at Westfield Curves, South Plainfield's sister club, for five weeks and following the Curves weight-loss program. Bennett has worked closely with Shantal in hopes of helping her overcome her battle with diabetes. She is one of five contestants who will share their experiences on an hour-long segment which will air on Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m. The show will highlight the life changing experiences, successes and failures and the winner of a \$5,000 gift package will be revealed.

Tune in to find out the winner and hear their amazing stories.

To find out more about South Plainfield Curves and their current local food drive special call (908) 757-4422.

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Picture of the Week

Submitted by Vincent and Melina DiNizo



Proud father Vincent DiNizo holds the adorable little feet of his first-born daughter, Liliana Marley, in his hand.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Everyone is Irish for St. Patrick's Day. If you want to learn more about St. Patrick, Ireland or drinking, the South Plainfield Public Library is the place. The library has books on Saints (270 or 282). There is a book called "The Ultimate Beer Book" (641.23). There are travel DVDs and videos on Ireland, "Rick Steeves Ireland and Scotland 2000-2007." Don't forget to wear green next Monday.

The South Plainfield Library will be closed on Friday, March 21 for Good Friday. The library will be open on Saturday, March 22 and closed on Sunday, March 23 for Easter.

The South Plainfield Public Library now has equipment that will read microfilm or microfiche. The library has just purchased a machine that connects to a computer so the microfilm or fiche looks even better than on the old machine.

In an effort to make space for the new materials that the library's customers

want, the library has been discarding books and we have recently had a number of donations. The books sale shelves are full. If you are interested in any old or new books, paperback or hardback, come in and check out the selections available on the books sale shelves.

Spring is coming soon, hopefully. If you like to walk outside, consider listening to one of our Playaway MP3 players. Each Playaway is loaded with one book. The library has fiction and non-fiction titles. The Playaway is so small it will fit in your pocket. You can listen to a book as you walk. You may stay outdoors walking longer just so you can finish listening to a chapter of the story. Everything that is good for you—fresh air, exercise and using your brain.

Children's programs will be as usual next week except for Friday when the library is closed. Call the library to check on days and times or look at the library's Web site: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Special Borough Council Meeting

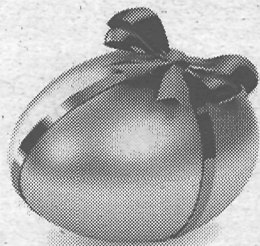
There will be a Special Public Meeting of the South Plainfield Governing Body at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008 for the following items.

- 1) Resolution awarding a contract to Dallas Construction Company, Inc. for the grinding of materials at the former Suburban Bus Company.
- 2) Resolution related to the position of Project Coordinator-Construction.
- 3) Hiring a computer service technician effective March 31, 2008.

Adelines RISTORANTE

www.Adelines-Restaurant.com

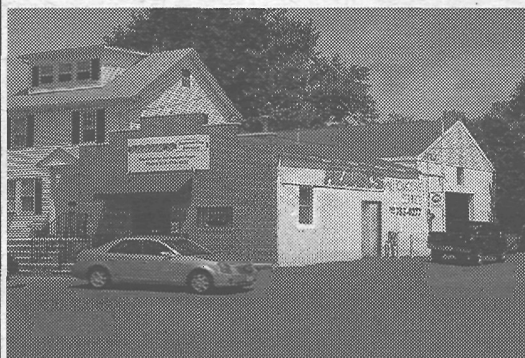
Accepting Reservations for Easter Sunday-March 23
Starting at 2 p.m.



Happy Easter!

(908) 755-8520

2243 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield



1st Time Customers receive \$5 off on a Lube, Oil, and Filter Service or \$20 off any service over \$100.00

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An Invitation,
From Our
Family
To Yours!

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around town

Lenten Fish Dinners

March 14

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Church will hold their final Lenten fish dinner on Friday, March 14. Dinners are served in Sacred Heart cafeteria, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

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 at 6 p.m. Food will be provided by Flanagan's Restaurant and Hometown Heros. Cost is \$30 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.

Pinewood Derby District Championship

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.

Franklin School Auction/Raffle

March 15

The Franklin School PTO auction/raffle will be held on Saturday, March 15 in the SPHS gym. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Prizes include a 50-inch flat screen TV, a \$3,000 certificate from First Class Travel, a Wii and Playstation 3.

For tickets, 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.

What's happening at the

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

MARCH

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>UPCOMING EVENTS</p> <p><i>Leadership-Path to Political Power</i> <i>Citizens' Campaign Class March 26 at 7 p.m.</i></p> <p>... ..</p> <p><i>Golden Isles of Georgia Trip</i> <i>May 3 through 9</i></p> | | | | <p>Bingo 10am-2pm</p> <p>14</p> |
| <p>Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am</p> <p>17</p> | <p>Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am</p> <p>18</p> | <p>Aerobics 8:45 am Computer 10 am 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm Exercise Class 1:15pm</p> <p>19</p> | <p>Pathmark Shopping 9am Crafts Class 10am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Claridge trip 9am</p> <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CENTER CLOSED</p> |

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

ner 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, call Lou Peralta at (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 the local Lions Club. Monies raised are used to assist local residents in need, Camp Marcella (camp for the blind), eye banks, seeing eye dogs and International eyeglass.

VFW Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

March 17

A corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held at the VFW, located on Front Street, on Monday, March 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. The regular monthly dinner will be held on St. Patrick's Day. Come and join us.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

SPBA Meeting

March 20

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 20 at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner on Front Street. Guest speaker is Nathan Rudy, CEO, Tri-County Red Cross who will discuss how the Tri-County Red Cross can work with the SPBA to provide better services to our community.

To be a guest speaker at the April meeting, contact SPBA President Debra Anne Leporino at SPBA Pres@aol.com by Friday, March 28.

Recreation Annual Easter Egg Hunt

March 22

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is proud to announce the annual Easter egg hunt. All residents ages 1-10 are welcome to join in the fun. Remember to bring a bag for the eggs and a camera to take pictures with the Easter Bunny. The hunt takes place on Saturday, March 22 at 1 p.m. behind the PAL building. Call (908) 226-7657 after 9 a.m. in the event of inclement weather.

Mark Twain Coming to Senior Center

March 30

The South Plainfield Historical Society is sponsoring "Mark Twain: Wit and Wisdom" presented by David G. Kennedy on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located on Maple Avenue. The program is free of charge and the facility is handicapped accessible.

Class of 1982 Reunion

April 5

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

— Out of Town —

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.

Easter Egg Hunt at Parker Gardens

March 15

An Easter egg hunt will be held at Parker Gardens on Terrill Road in Scotch Plains on Saturday, March 15 for children ages 3-6 at 1:30 p.m. and ages 7-10 at 2 p.m. Rain or shine.

For information, call (908) 322-5555 or visit our Web site: www.parkergardens.com.

N.J. American Indian Program

March 15

Learn about the American Indians who never left New Jersey at the next meeting of Intertribal Indians of New Jersey on Saturday, March 15 in Thompson Park from 2-4 p.m.

For information contact Mary Anne Ross at (732) 238-3792 or E-mail IntertribalIndiansNJ@yahoo.com.

St. Patrick's Dinner

March 15

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Rd. in Dunellen, is hosting a St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, March 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert. Adults \$12; children under 10, \$7.

For more information, call (732) 968-6781.

Inspirational Choir

March 16

The Inspirational Choir of the Union Baptist Church, 1088 E. Grand Ave. in Elizabeth presents "The Crucifixion" on Sunday, March 16 at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Free admission; free-will offering.

For information, call (908) 527-8066.

Ostomy Assoc. Meeting

March 18

The Ostomy Association of Somerset County (OASC) will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Conference Rooms C & D at Somerset Medical Center, Rehill Ave. in Somerville.

The OASC is a support group for ostomates and their families and loved ones. All are welcome to attend.

(Continued on next page)



Do You Want a Say in Decisions That Affect You?

Seminar #4 – March 26, 7 p.m.
 South Plainfield Senior Citizens Center
Leadership-Path to Appointed Power Forum

Learn how to take a leadership position on a South Plainfield board or commission. Represent your organization or community on one of these influential decision-making bodies. Make a substantial impact in your community. Lend your expertise to fellow leaders in South Plainfield.

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

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Easter Egg Hunt at Greenbrook Manor

March 22

Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, 303 Rock Ave. in Green Brook, is hosting an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m. for children ages 2-9. The Easter Bunny will make a visit. Registration required.

For more information or to register, please contact (732) 424-5216.

Depression/Bipolar Support Group

March 26

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Howard Rudominer, M.D., board certified in child, adolescent and adult psychiatry and psychoanalysis, at its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 26 at 7:45 p.m. in the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. The public is cordially invited.

For information, call (973) 994-1143.

Spelling Bee

March 28

SCORE! Educational Centers is holding a free spelling bee event for area students in grades K-10 on Friday, March 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Metuchen YMCA on High Street. Students will be asked to spell grade-appropriate words in a group setting. Prizes awarded in each age group.

For more information call Patricia Garcia, (732) 516-9620.

Diocesan Youth Day

March 29

The annual Diocesan Youth Day, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, will be held on Saturday, March 29 at Immaculata High School in Somerville. It is open to students grades 8-12. The day includes prayer, workshops, food, fun and music, with featured performances by Ceili Rain and musician/speaker Greg Walton. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bootkoski.

For information, call Carol Mascola at Sacred Heart Parish, (908) 756-0633, ext. 43 or visit www.yandyam.com.

Antique Fishing/Hunting Flea Market

March 29

The seventh annual antique fishing and hunting flea market will be held on Saturday, March 29 at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave. in Scranton, Pa. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$4; children 12 and under with adult are free. Early bird admission (8 a.m.) is \$10. Food concessions and free parking. For information, call Bob Kester at (570) 587-0214.

Auction to Benefit Camp Discovery

March 29

An auction will be held on Saturday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. to benefit "Camp Discovery" in Plainfield. This fundraiser will provide eight week scholarships to 40 local youngsters in need. Included are gift baskets valued at over \$250 and both weekend and one-week vacation accommodations.

Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. Auction will be held at United Church of Christ, 220 West Seventh St. in Plainfield. For tickets contact Bill at (908) 531-4979 or Peg at (732) 996-7359.



Pictured (L-R): District Americanism Chairman-Daniel Uken, PER, Exalted Ruler-Debra Czech, Citizen of the Year Lynn Spurrier with husband Doug, and Central District Vice President Peter D. Smith, PER

Lynn Spurrier Named Elks Citizen of the Year

On March 1 the Elks Central District held their annual Citizen of the Year dinner. Each lodge in the district honored their choice for "Citizen of the Year." Honorees are citizens who have dedicated themselves to serving their communities and the public.

The South Plainfield Elks honoree was Lynn Spurrier, a fellow Elk and chaplain from Watchung Hills Lodge. Lynn, a retired nurse, is dedicated to many of the charities the Elks support. She can always be found working with veterans and special children. She per-

forms as a clown entertaining the young ones at events, is an Americanism chairperson and is a highly respected chaplain for the lodge. She is currently working toward a degree in ministry. She wholeheartedly supports our troops by sending many boxes of necessities and goodies overseas. She works with the American Legion and her passion for giving is boundless.

The Central District Americanism Committee congratulates all the recipients of the Citizen of the Year award.

Submitted by Exalted Ruler, Debra Czech

Pamela Cianfrocca Makes Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force

Pamela Cianfrocca recently graduated from Ramstein Airman Leadership School. Only individuals who possess skills necessary for increased responsibility are selected to attend this school. It is an intense five-week academic program that challenges students on communication skills, leadership skills and military airmanship. The program requires weeks of hard work, determination and dedication.

Pam is stationed at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany and is already in charge of her own troop along with many added responsibilities.



Pam is a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School. Her family is very proud of her and congratulates her on her awesome accomplishments!

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Jennifer GaNun Serving in AmeriCorps NCCC Program

On March 3, Jennifer GaNun of South Plainfield deployed to begin work on her first service project of the year with the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), an AmeriCorps program. Founded in 1994, AmeriCorps NCCC is a residential national service program created to assist with disaster relief, improve the environment, enhance education, increase public safety and address unmet human needs.

Jennifer has begun training for 10 months of full-time service with AmeriCorps NCCC. Training emphasizes teamwork, leadership development, communication, service learning and certification by the American Red Cross.

As a Corps member, Jennifer will be responsible for completing a series of six- to eight-week-long service projects as part of a 10-12 person team. Her first service project will end in mid-April, at which time she will change locations and begin a new project.

Twenty-nine teams composed of 309 Corps members and team leaders began service projects. Fifteen of the teams will travel to continuing hurricane recovery projects on the Gulf coast. Ten of the teams will travel to service projects throughout the central United States. The remaining four teams will work on projects in the greater Denver area.

Before joining the NCCC, Jennifer graduated from South Plainfield High School, attended Springfield College and graduated in May 2007. She said, "I chose to do a term of national service because I want to learn how I can effectively make a positive change in our world."

Jennifer is the daughter of Cindy and Alan GaNun.

AmeriCorps NCCC members, all 18-24 years old, must complete at least 1,700 hours of service during the 10-month program. In exchange for their service, they receive \$4,725 to help pay for college.

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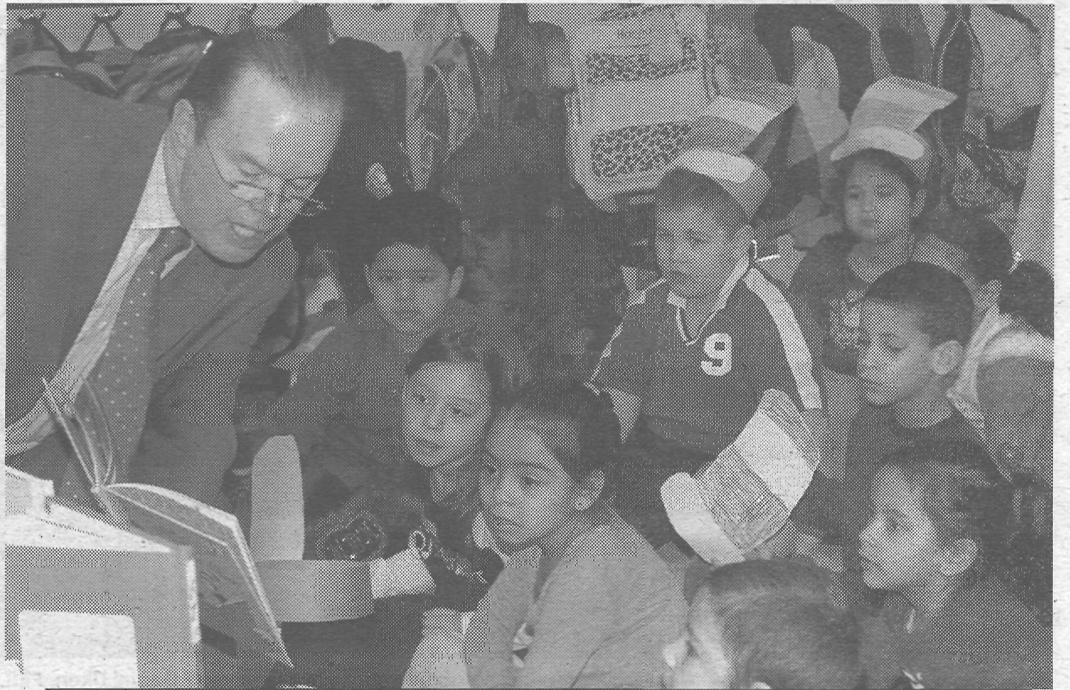
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200 PERRINE ROAD
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CAT IN THE HAT

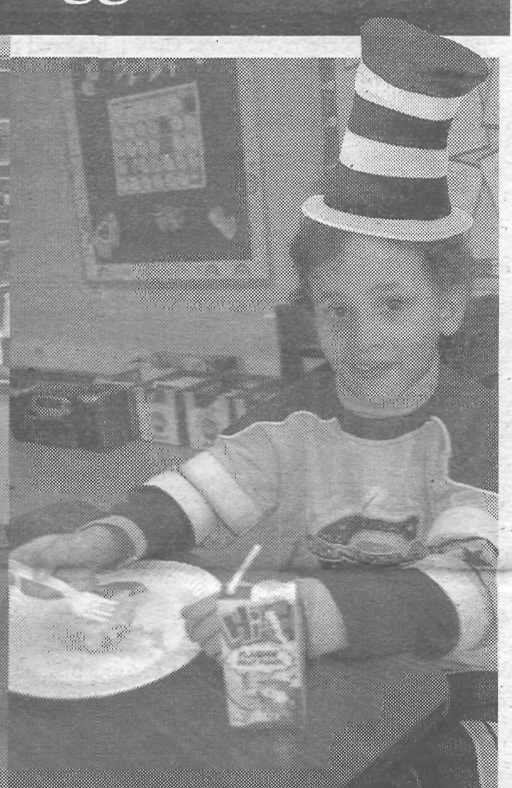
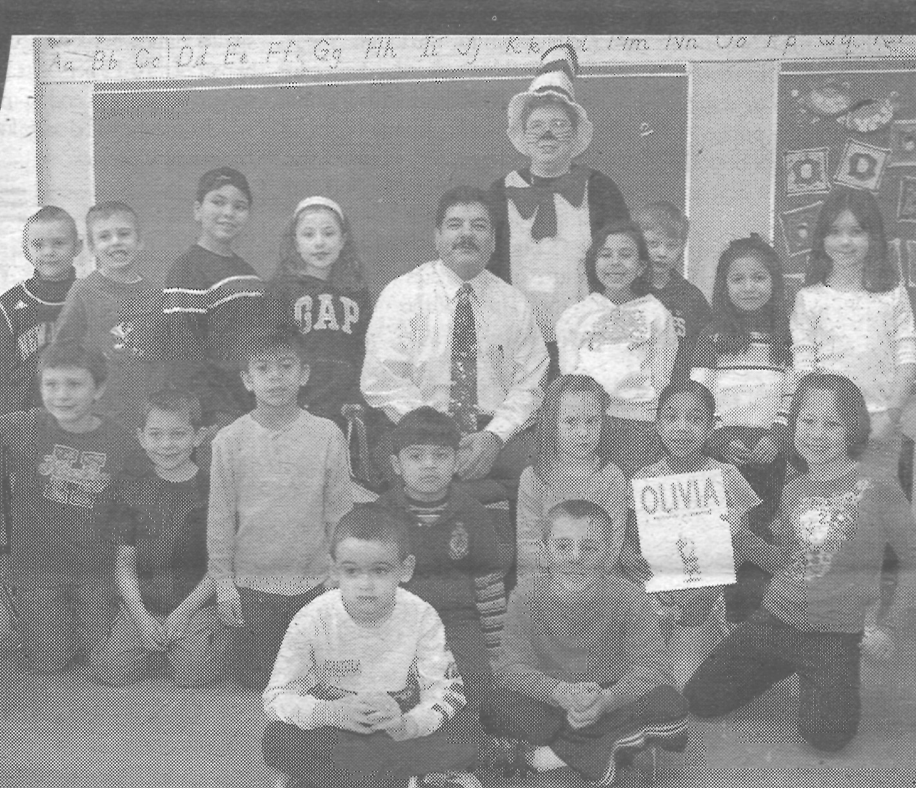
PAYS A VISIT TO

SOUTH PLAINFIELD SCHOOLS



Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan reads to Roosevelt School first graders.

Franklin Celebrates with Green Eggs and Ham

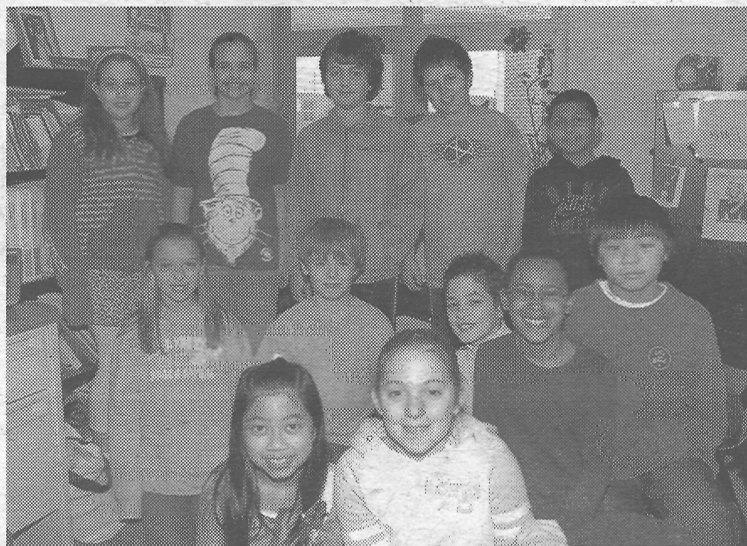


On February 29, Franklin School second graders celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with several fun-filled events. The classes enjoyed listening to Superintendent Jose Negrón read "Olivia Forms a Band." After the reading session, it was on to another classroom for a special treat that came from a Dr. Seuss favorite. Teachers and class mothers cooked a breakfast of "Green Eggs and Ham." While some youths were a bit hesitant over the odd looking scrambled eggs, most giggled and dug right in. The first graders enjoyed watching Dr. Seuss cartoons.

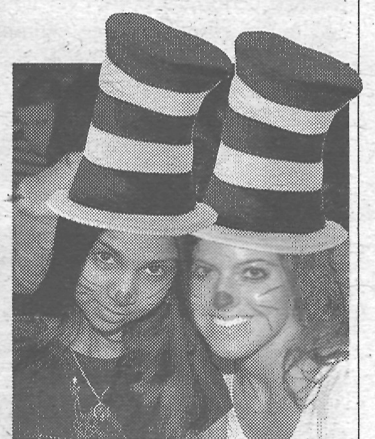
In 1936 Dr. Seuss, whose real

name was Theodor Seuss Geisel, wrote, "To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street." The book was rejected by 43 publishers. In 1937 a friend published the book for him. He went on to write 44 more children's books which are loved worldwide. Geisel was born March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Mass. He would have been 104. Each year, his birthday is celebrated in the South Plainfield schools when guest readers, including the superintendent, educators, dignitaries, high school students, parents and employees from many local companies, take time out to read to students.

Roosevelt Celebrates Seuss!

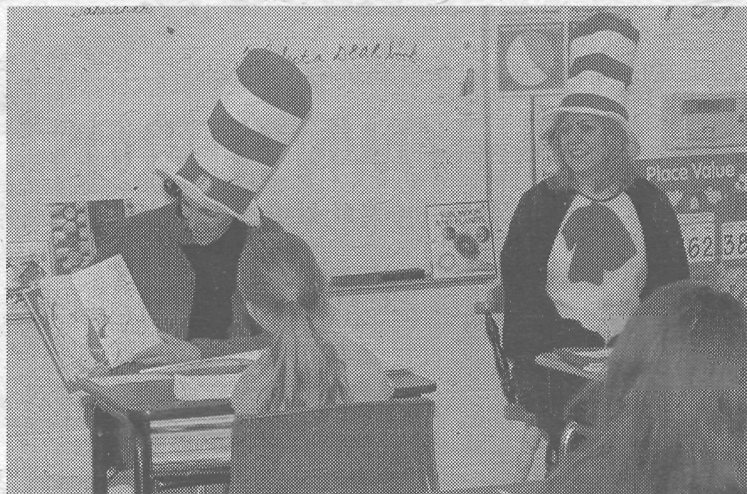


Roosevelt Elementary School Student Council members (above) who escorted readers to classes. Pictured are Lindsay Celentano, Brianna Leonard, Karan Patel, Nicholas Battista, Sarah Walsh, Kayla Rivera, Zachary Severini, Kyle Wong, Christopher Kuberiet, Thalia Alfaresa, Kaitlyn Gray and Nick Ruzicka.



Guest readers, SPHS seniors Vinal Patel and Nicole Cuccaro

Roosevelt School students celebrated Read Across America with guest readers from schools, government and businesses. Student Council members escorted the guest readers to the various classrooms.

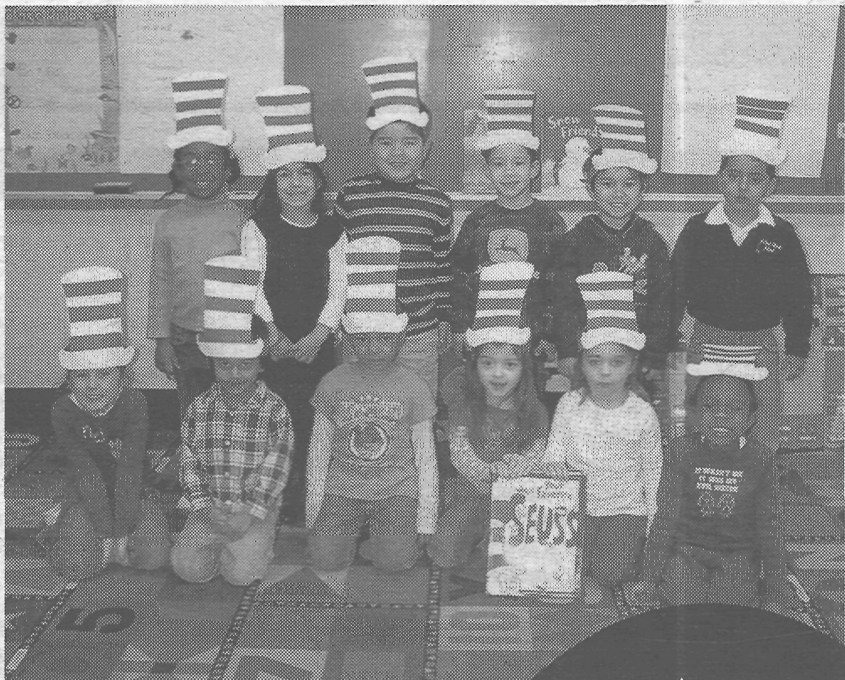
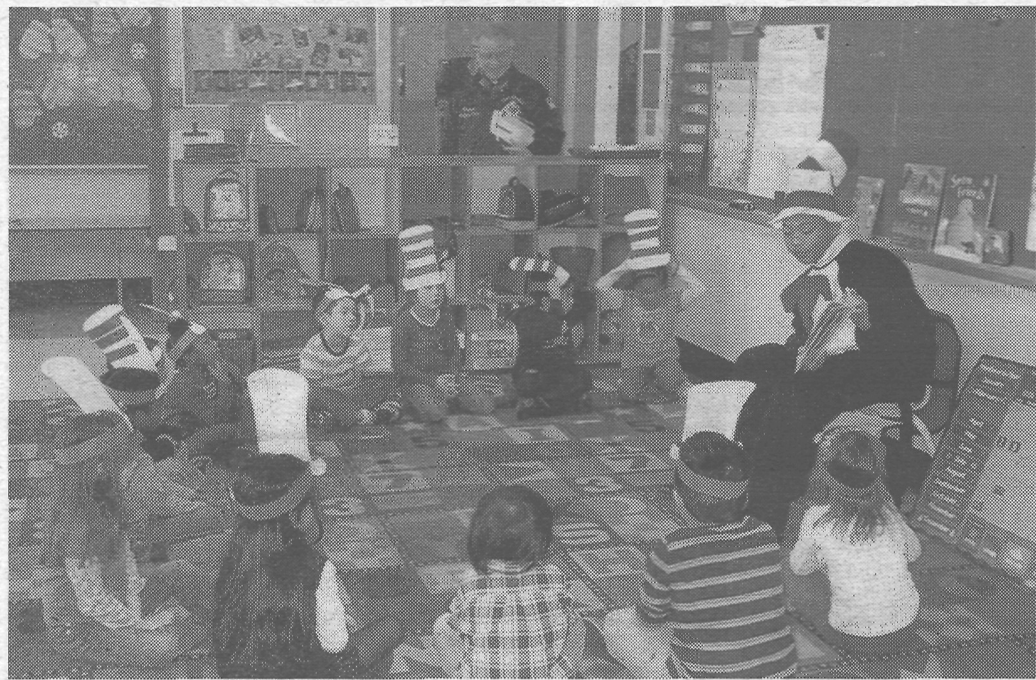


Target employees Wanda and Sheila (left) read to Roosevelt School students.

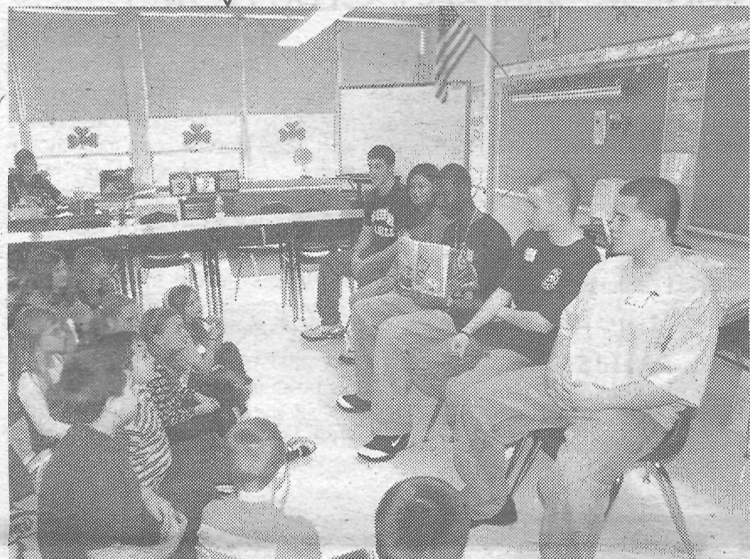


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High School Peer Leadership Celebrates Read Across America Day



(At right) High school students Alexandra Petronko, Diana Naser, Danielle Lennon and Brittany Penevolpe helped first graders Taylor Santamaria, Kaitlyn Smith and Jillian Holoboski make cupcakes decorated with M&M's and pretzels representing the book, "If You Give a Moose a Muffin."



South Plainfield High School Peer Leadership students visited Kennedy School on March 7 in honor of the National Education Association's 11th annual Read Across America Day. In conjunction with Read Across America, the nation's largest reading event, many teachers dressed as The Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss's famous feline.

The high school students paid special visits to each classroom reading and acting out stories and getting the children involved in interactive projects related to a particular children's book.



Dr. Seuss Visits Sacred Heart School

Fr. John, Sacred Heart pastor, enjoys listening to The Cat in the Hat (Rhel Lapitan) read to Sacred Heart preschool students in celebration of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Students in the program made hats to wear for the reading. The Cat in the Hat also paid a visit to kindergarten students as they worked on a special project for the celebration.

HOLY WEEK

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Saturday, March 15
9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Prayer Vigil in Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, March 16
9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service
10:00 a.m. - Palm Sunday Worship-Children's Choir
5:30 p.m. - Confirmation Reunion

Thursday, March 20
7:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist in Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 21
6:00 p.m. - Meditation on the Cross in Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. - Tenebrae at Sacred Heart Church

Sunday, March 23
6:30 a.m. - Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Spring Lake Park (rain site - Wesley at 7 a.m.)
9:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship
10:30 a.m. - Easter Celebration

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Sports

SPHS - BOYS TENNIS

Spring Showers Signal the Start of Tennis Season

By Jeremiah Magpile

The South Plainfield boys tennis team started running on March 7. The forecast was dreary—a high of 43 degrees and a 95 percent chance of precipitation. But for third-year veteran and high school junior Aedan Bayona, the cold March air and puddle laden pavements of Spring Lake Park meant the beginning of another year of boys tennis in South Plainfield.

"I like running very much," said Bayona, with a noticeable tinge of sarcasm as he walked to his first day of practice. "But I just want to start hitting."

Like most sports in the high school,

the first few weeks of tennis season entail a daily regimen of drills, runs and exercises before players can hope to practice with their rackets. In an effort to make the message clear to the team, Coach Natalie Zeno-Carr announced the day before that bringing rackets to the first day would result in extra miles.

"You have to be able to run to play tennis," she said, "and with challenge matches coming soon you have to be in shape."

Only two weeks away from their first match of the season against Woodbridge, the tennis team determines its members' rankings through challenge matches that usually consist

of an eight game pro-set. Rankings depend on the number of challenge matches lost or won and although the lineup may change throughout the season, only the top seven play as the varsity team.

"It's really competitive and everyone wants a spot, including the new guys," said Bayona. "But some want it more than others," he said smirking.

As of right now, however, Bayona, along with his fellow teammates, is more concerned with getting home dry and not drowning in the next puddle he steps in.



Members of NJSIAA North 2 Group III Finalist Football Team: Kyle McMahon, Bennie Gibson, Kyle Smith, Kyle Darr, Tarmene Miller (GMC All White Division) with Troy Russell (GMC White Division, All Area Home News-Tribune Defensive Player of the Year Third Team All-State.) Not pictured are Philip McGuane, William Hamilton, Brian Bilal, Joseph Cirigliano, Rom Rizk, Matthew Connell, Willard Schulte, Anthony Guida and Greg Genz.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Rain comes and goes... that's what makes the grass grow...

Preseason Field Work Detail—Cancelled last weekend due to rain and can be made up any weekend.

Nine-year-old and 14-year-old parents report to the clubhouse at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 15. Make sure you sign in.

Snack Stand Sign-up—Wednesday, March 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. Get there early to pick a date and time that accommodates your schedule. Dates and times will be assigned to those parents not present that night.

Assistant Commissioner of Concessions—We welcome Greg Lind in his newly appointed position and look forward to a gastronomic season for all.

Opening Day, April 5—The parade will be followed by opening ceremonies at the fields. Advertise your business or send out a proud message to your favorite ballplayer in the 2008 baseball program. Ads for the program are due by March 21.

Call the clubhouse at (908)754-2090 or consult our Web site at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc for more details.



SPHS Girls' Volleyball Team 2007-Varsity: Jamie Ensel, Kayla Quadrel, Christina Nieves, Allyson Paterk, Bianca Didolce, Jaimie Handwerger, Kathryn Paterek, Alexa Kunch, Jackie Kukuch, Brittany Alvarado, Chelsea Ng, Toni Hudak, Synyen Toro and Sheena Higgins. Junior Varsity: Noelle Aguilar, Kim Werner, Monica Toca, Harley Bottigliere, Pierina Asenjo, Jackie Conte, Jenae Goodson, Kaitlyn Graziano, Jackie Handwerger, Veronica Ruiz, Tatiana Guzman and Priya Patel.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 1811

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

Ord. 1811 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S DEVELOPMENT REVIEW ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A RECYCLING PLAN IN CONNECTION WITH LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk

\$24.70 March 14, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 1812

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

Ord. 1812 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REVISING CHAPTER 151 OF THE CODE THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "RECYCLING" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk

\$21.85 March 14, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Michael Obadike requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit rear addition. Addition lacks 8' side setback, 6' being proposed, and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 170 North Madison Drive, Block 126, Lot 19 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 14, 2008

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| Altanuta Pinot Grigio 11.99 750 ml Better Than Santa Margi | Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Series Cabernet, Merlot, Malbec, Syrah, Zin. 12.99 750 ml Exceptional Value! |
| Yellow Tail Shiraz 2006... 6.99 750 ml This Shiraz is soft, ripe and appealing for its green olive-shaded black fruit flavors, finishing with a thin veil of firm tannins. Less sweet than previous vintages. Drink now through 2008. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on October 15, 2007. | Casillero Del Diablo Cabernet 2006... 8.99 750 ml This is a modestly structured Chilean red, with cocoa powder, currant paste, briar and tobacco notes backed by nice grip on the finish. - Chosen as a Best Value by the Wine Spectator on March 31, 2008. |
| Nobilo Sauvignon Blanc 2006 - Marlborough... 10.99 750 ml This wine is tangy and tart, with lime, green apple and grass flavors accented by grapefruit and stone nuances. Drink now. - Rated by the Wine Spectator on April 30, 2007. | Ruffino Chianti Classico Riserva Gold Label 2003... 27.99 750 ml This wine has an attractive prune and berry character. Full-bodied, with round tannins and a medium finish. Needs a little more time in the bottle. Best after 2009. |
| Turning Leaf Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay... 6.99 750 ml | Glen Ellen White Zinfandel... 6.99 1.5 liter |
| Rancho Zabaco Dancing Bull All Types... 7.99 750 ml | Yellow Tail All Types... 6.99 750 ml |
| Beringer Founder's Cabernet, Merlot Chardonnay... 7.99 750 ml | Barefoot Cellars Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot... 8.99 1.5 liter |
| Fish Eye All Types... 9.99 1.5 liter | Nando Chianti, Pinot Grigio... 8.99 750 ml |
| Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Series Chard., Sauv. Blanc... 10.99 750 ml | Serenity Pinot Noir... 14.99 750 ml |
| Bolla All Types... 9.99 1.5 liter | Mezza Corona Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio... 11.99 1.5 liter |
| Chono Carmenere... 12.99 750 ml | Carlo Rossi Paisano, Rose, Rhine, Blush... 8.99 4 liter jug |
| Almaden Mountain Chablis, Blush Burg., Rhine... 10.99 5 liter box | FRANZIA Merlot, Cab., Chardonnay, White Zinfandel... 12.99 5 liter box |
| Cooks Brut or Extra Dry... 5.99 750 ml | M & R Asti Spumante... 9.99 750 ml |
| Heidsieck Monopole Blue Top NV... 26.99 750 ml | St. Patty's Day Favorites... |
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| JOHN JAMESON Irish Whiskey 80... 20.99 750 ml | CAROLANS Irish Cream... 10.99 750 ml |
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- STOCK Dry or Sweet Vermouth... 4.99 1 Liter
- CHRISTIAN BROTHERS Brandy... 7.99 750 ml
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- MAJORSKA Vodka 80... 12.99 1.75L
- BACARDI Party Drinks... 13.99 1.75L
- CLAN MACGREGOR Scotch Whisky... 15.99 1.75L
- RON RICO Silver or Gold Rum... 15.99 1.75L
- COURVOISIER Cognac VS... 24.99 750 ml
- SOUTHERN COMFORT 75 Cordial... 25.99 1.75L
- SAILOR JERRY Spiced Navy Rum... 26.99 1.75L
- DALMORE 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky... 27.99 750 ml
- STOLICHNAYA Vodka 80... 31.99 1.75L
- GLENFIDDICH 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky... 32.99 750 ml
- REMY MARTIN Cognac VSOP... 33.99 750 ml

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GREY GOOSE
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DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL
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JACK DANIEL'S
Whiskey... 37.99 1.75 liter

Beer Specials...

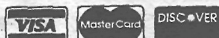
- GUINNESS DRAUGHT 16.9 oz. Pils Cans... 5.99 4-Pack
- HARP LAGER 2/12 Packs 12 oz. N.R. Bottles... 22.99 Case
- BASS ALE 2/12 Packs 12 oz. N.R. Bottles... 23.99 Case
- MILLER LITE & MGD REG. or LIGHT 12 oz. N.R. Bottles or Cans... 11.99 18-Pack
- HEINEKEN & HEINEKEN LIGHT 5 Liter Keg... 16.99
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Obituaries

Rose D. (Didieo) Daley, 78

Rose D. (Didieo) Daley of Fair Lawn, died on Wednesday, March 5 at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood.

Born in Paterson, she moved to Fair Lawn 45 years ago. Rose was a parishioner of St. Anne R.C. Church in Fair Lawn and a member of the Fair Lawn Chapter of the Valley Hospital Auxiliary.

She was predeceased by a brother, Andrew, and a nephew, Andrew.

Surviving are her husband Joseph Daley; a daughter, Jane Dornick of South Plainfield; a son, Thomas Daley of Chatham; a sister-in-law, Pauline Didieo of Wayne; a nephew, James Didieo and wife Rita of Morris Plains and two grandchildren, Alex and Kimberly Dornick.

Funeral services were held at Vander Plaats Colonial Funeral Home in Fair Lawn.

Filomena Cusanelli-Viola, 78

Filomena Cusanelli-Viola passed away on March 4 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, after a brief illness.

She was a teacher in the Newark school system and resigned from teaching to raise her four children.

She returned to teaching in the

South Plainfield School System on a part-time basis for many years.

Mrs. Cusanelli-Viola was a Webelos Scout leader and a Catechism instructor at Sacred Heart Church. At one time, she tutored a young student, as well as an adult student of foreign descent, helping him to study for United States citizenship. Mrs. Cusanelli-Viola has said that her proudest achievement was that her four children were all college graduates and are now successful professionals.

Mrs. Cusanelli-Viola was active in the following clubs and held office in many, including president of the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield; president of the past presidents' General Federated Women's Club; president of the Travelling Seniors; member of the Advisory Board of the Aged; member of the Altar Rosary Society of Sacred Heart Church; a Smithsonian associate member; member of Friends of the Library; member of the Committee to Preserve Social Security (NCPSS) and a member of the Macroglobulinemia Foundation.

She was born in Newark in 1929 and lived in South Plainfield for the past 43 years.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 25 years, Dominic Cusanelli; and by her beloved second husband of 23 years, John Viola. She was also predeceased by three brothers, Anthony, Dominick and Thomas Laudati.

Mrs. Cusanelli-Viola is survived by

her daughter, Donna Egan and husband Thomas of South Plainfield; son Dominic Cusanelli and wife Diana of Maryland; daughter Maria Cusanelli and husband Steven Thoman of Maryland; and son Michael Cusanelli and wife Alice Shiao of California. She is also survived by her loving sister, Anne Lungren of Nutley; nine grandchildren and five step-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and other loving relatives.

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

Jean Strang, 83

Jean Strang of Nashville, Tenn. passed away on Tuesday, March 4.

She resided in South Plainfield with her family for 11 years, from 1958-1969.

Preceded in death by her husband, Robert Y. Strang, Jr., she is survived by a son, Robert C. (Susan) Strang; a daughter, Janice (David) Fleming; a brother, Ronald Crawford; a sister, Ethel Eckwert; five grandchildren, Bob Strang, Amy Morse, Susan Stamey, Megan and Dan Fleming and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her

name may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Frank Vakerich, 79

Frank Vakerich died on Friday, March 7 in the Haven Hospice Unit of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in South Plainfield, Mr. Vakerich is the last surviving sibling of nine children born to John and Ann. He had been a lifelong resident of the borough.

A carpenter by trade, Mr. Vakerich had been self-employed locally for many years.

Predeceased by eight siblings, he is survived by his wife of 58 years, Anna (Cremone) Vakerich; four children, SueAnn Gaster and husband John of South Plainfield, Frank Jr. and wife Jean of Pennsylvania, Debra Mohan and husband Gene of South Plainfield and Linda Smith and husband Dennis of South Plainfield and seven grandchildren, John Eric Gaster, Hollie Gaster, Sean Mohan, Bryan Mohan, Ryan Vincent, Emily Falluchi and Jesse Falluchi.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Diabetes Foundation, P.O. Box 11454, Al-

exandria, Va. 22312 or the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, 429 River View Plaza, Trenton, N.J. 08611.

Oma Dundi, 42

Oma Dundi died on Friday, March 7 at her sister's home in South Plainfield, surrounded by many loving and dear family members.

Born in Guyana, Mrs. Dundi came to the United States in 1997, residing in South Plainfield before moving recently to Plainfield.

Oma had been employed in the packaging department of NBTY (Nutro Labs) of South Plainfield before recently falling ill.

She is survived by her husband, Dindial; two children, Sandia and Derek; four sisters; two brothers and numerous family members.

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

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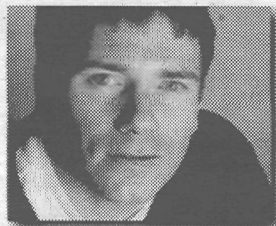
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New Children of America Daycare Center Receives Preliminary Approval

By Libby Barsky

Children of America, a growing child care franchise, received preliminary site plan approval from the Planning Board to erect a 10,000 sq. ft. daycare center adjacent to Big Lots in the Golden Acres Shopping Center, situated in back of Columbia Bank on Case Drive.

Chris Weiss, project manager for Children of America, presented plans of the proposed building saying his company has 16 established centers, 11 in Virginia and five in Pennsylvania. They also have two pending openings in New Jersey—Aberdeen and Oakhurst—

all "built similar to each other."

The daycare center would be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and have an estimated enrollment of 195 children from six weeks old. The center will have individual programs for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and kindergarten. The staff of 21 will include a director and assistant director.

When questioned about a drop-off lane for cars, Weiss explained there was no drop-off lane. "The children will have to be physically brought in and taken out."

An admission code in the form of a Personal Identification Number (PIN) given to a caregiver will be punched

in at the vestibule to automatically sign in a child. "We know when they come in and come out," said Weiss.

Another security feature is on-line monitoring with cameras in each classroom and a play area linked to the Internet which can be viewed from any computer. There is also a six-foot vinyl fence, secured with magnetic locks, enclosing the playground area in back of the center's building.

The applicants must return to the Planning Board to receive final site plan approval.

Weiss said the building could open in November of this year, but it depends on when the building permits would be available. Bonding for improvements at the Golden Acres site must be in place before building permits are issued for the childcare center. The Board made this ruling when Golden Acres sought an amended site plan approval to insure improvements at the site are completed.

The board also heard and approved the application of John Vaccaro, owner of Bett-a-Way Beverage Distributor, 110 Sylvania Pl., to use an additional parcel of land and adding concrete runners and gravel to expand an existing parking lot for unloaded trailers.

Historical Society to Present "Mark Twain" Wit and Wisdom

The South Plainfield Historical Society will sponsor the program, "Mark Twain: Wit and Wisdom," on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

Producer/director/actor David G. Kennedy's fully memorized one-man show brings to life one of America's greatest literary icons. Dressed in a characteristic white suit and white wig, Kennedy slips into the persona of the

alter ego of Samuel Clemens to present selections that include "My Best Friend, the Poet," "How I Reached 70," and "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

The South Plainfield Senior Center is located at 90 Maple Ave., across the street from Spring Lake Park.

For further information, contact sphistoricalociety@verizon.net.

IN MY OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

dollars and has led to nothing but problems.

The Republicans just killed the property acquisition necessary for the New Market Avenue Extension and it is just a matter of time until they claim they now have no choice but to put 18-wheeler trucks back on the beautiful new Hamilton Boulevard. Imagine the safety issues these trucks will present to the residents along Hamilton Boulevard and the children attending Roosevelt School.

The new majority led by Council members Bengivenga and Anesh have stalled the library and now want to somehow hide behind "Democracy Day" which was Jim Vokral's and my campaign promise, to sabotage the project. Obviously they are afraid to make a decision. Then put it on Democracy Day and let the voters say what you already know—our children

need a new state-of-the-art library. Nothing is more offensive than the Republicans unnecessary 18-point tax increase which was passed two weeks after they took office. Do you realize that municipal taxes were not increased by that total during my entire 12 years on the Borough Council combined? This new arrogant group is just beginning to cut its teeth. They will soon be appointing a new municipal court judge. Will it be a respected, experienced jurist like Judge Jorgensen who is being appointed to the Superior Court? The same question can be asked of the process to be used for the next municipal court administrator and municipal clerk. Who knows what else they have in store.

Please come out to the council meetings every Monday. The future and integrity of our Borough government depends on the input of our citizens.

ED. P. KUBALA

Friends of the Woods Trail Maintenance

Join the Friends of the Woods for Spring Trail Maintenance Days at the Highland Woods Nature Reserve. Meet at the Sylvania Place trail head on Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, April 27 from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Individuals and groups welcome at either or both days. Gloves and light refreshments provided. Bring helpful tools (pruners, saws, shovels).

Please register by calling Alice Tempel at (908) 226-7621.

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2007-08 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Thalia Alfaresa Named Junior Journalist!



Teacher Susan Fenning with Junior Journalist winner Thalia Alfaresa.

Thalia Alfaresa, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plain-

field *Observer* sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest for poem.

Thalia 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.

Untitled

By Thalia Alfaresa

Oh, Spring! Oh, Spring! You fill me with delight,
crickets chirp songs at the time of night. Now is the time
when flowers begin to bloom, filling up my window
when I look outside my room. Butterflies fly from flower
to flower, and children watch from hour to hour.
Oh, Spring! Oh, Spring! You fill me with delight,
I think about you now, and when I sleep also every night.

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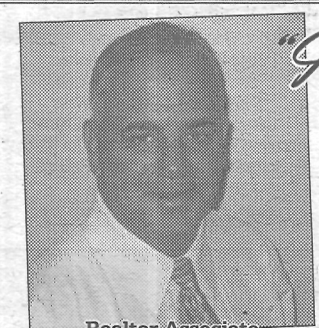
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Volunteers Needed For Clean-up Week

Are those daffodils I see poking up on the sunny side of my house? Spring must be coming soon. It's time to put Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week on your calendar!

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a borough-wide cleanup in mid-April. The main clean-up event will be on Saturday morning, April 12. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. at the PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave., to collect equipment and clean-up assignments. Roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots will be targeted. All volunteers will be invited back to the PAL at noon for a free pizza pickup picnic, complete with games, environmental displays and environmentally friendly door prizes. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own.

Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621, or E-mail atempel@southplainfieldnj.com for more information.

Glitterbug Club Presents Children's Program at Library

The South Plainfield Clean Communities/Glitterbug Club will present a free children's program entitled, "Whales, the Ocean Environment & Litter" at the South Plainfield Public Library, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23. Registration is required.

Since 1981 the Doves have led Whale Watch trips and studied whales. Hear some whale tales, take a pretend whale watching trips through slides, enjoy a song or two and explore hands-on items on discovery tables set up on rotating stations.

Upon request, each grade level's marine theme may be emphasized; a brief musical slide show may be included featuring close-up glimpses of a variety of marine life. Students will learn how litter affects marine life and people and ways "kids can help" improve their environment.

For more information or to register, call the library at (908) 754-7885.

Affordable Housing Agency Meeting

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss the Affordable Housing Program.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield.

Happy Birthday Davey

~ MARCH 17TH ~

"Is this the little boy @ play?"
"I don't remember growing older...
when did he?"

Happy 21st Birthday.
You make us proud.

We love you,
Mom, Dad, Jackie, Dan, Alyssa,
Brooke, Danny & Christopher



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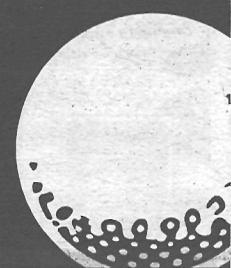
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2007-08 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Thalia Alfaresa Named Junior Journalist!



Teacher Susan Fenning with Junior Journalist winner Thalia Alfaresa.

Thalia Alfaresa, Roosevelt School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plain-

field *Observer* sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest for poem.

Thalia 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.

Untitled

By Thalia Alfaresa

Oh, Spring! Oh, Spring! You fill me with delight,
crickets chirp songs at the time of night. Now is the time
when flowers begin to bloom, filling up my window
when I look outside my room. Butterflies fly from flower
to flower, and children watch from hour to hour.
Oh, Spring! Oh, Spring! You fill me with delight,
I think about you now, and when I sleep also every night.

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Don't Make a Move Without Me!

Volunteers Needed For Clean-up Week

Are those daffodils I see poking up on the sunny side of my house? Spring must be coming soon. It's time to put Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week on your calendar!

The South Plainfield Clean Communities Advisory Board will sponsor a borough-wide cleanup in mid-April. The main clean-up event will be on Saturday morning, April 12. Volunteers will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. at the PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave., to collect equipment and clean-up assignments. Roadsides, parks, streams and vacant lots will be targeted. All volunteers will be invited back to the PAL at noon for a free pizza pickup picnic, complete with games, environmental displays and environmentally friendly door prizes. Residents are welcome to organize a crew, or to come on their own.

Call Alice Tempel, the Clean Communities coordinator, at (908) 226-7621, or E-mail atempel@southplainfieldnj.com for more information.

Glitterbug Club Presents Children's Program at Library

The South Plainfield Clean Communities/Glitterbug Club will present a free children's program entitled, "Whales, the Ocean Environment & Litter" at the South Plainfield Public Library, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23. Registration is required.

Since 1981 the Doves have led Whale Watch trips and studied whales. Hear some whale tales, take a pretend whale watching trips through slides, enjoy a song or two and explore hands-on items on discovery tables set up on rotating stations.

Upon request, each grade level's marine theme may be emphasized; a brief musical slide show may be included featuring close-up glimpses of a variety of marine life. Students will learn how litter effects marine life and people and ways "kids can help" improve their environment.

For more information or to register, call the library at (908) 754-7885.

Affordable Housing Agency Meeting

A public meeting has been called by the Affordable Housing Agency of the Borough of South Plainfield to discuss the Affordable Housing Program.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield.

Happy Birthday Davey
~ MARCH 17TH ~
"Is this the little boy @ play?"
"I don't remember growing older...
when did he?"
Happy 21st birthday,
you make us proud.
We love you,
Mom, Dad, Jackie, Dan, Alyssa,
Brooke, Danny & Christopher



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