

South Plainfield Observer

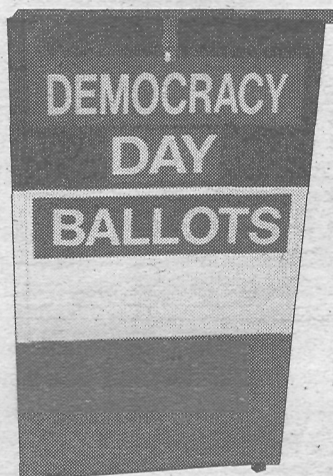
VOL. 11, NO. 34

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

APRIL 25, 2008

DEMOCRACY WEEK IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK



The ballot box to be used for Democracy Week was constructed by members of the Public Works Department.

LIBRARY OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MAY 1

By Libby Barsky

During the week of May 5, residents will be asked to cast a non-binding ballot on whether the council should adopt a bond ordinance of up to \$4.5 million to finance the construction of a new library building.

Members of the Public Works Department banded together to build a ballot box—a special red, white and blue cabinet—for voters to place their secure paper ballots during the upcoming Democracy Day week vote. The design and plans were created by David Donatelli, a public works employee. The ballot box was on display at Monday night's council meeting.

Residents who have questions or would like to see plans for the new library building are invited to a special open public meeting on Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the library. The library's building engineer, along with members of the library board and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

"Democracy Week" voting will take place May 5 through May 10 in the

Borough Hall courtroom. No voting will take place on Wednesday. Votes will be cast on paper ballots similar to those used in some local, state and national elections. Residents' names will be verified by checking the voter registration book or taxpayers list. All residents who are registered voters or are listed as property owners are eligible to vote. Those unable to vote during the week will have an opportunity to cast their vote on Saturday.

Hours for voting are as follows: Monday, May 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, May 6, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, May 8, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, May 9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Once a resident is vetted, they will receive a paper ballot and check off either "yes" if in favor, or "no" if opposed. Half of the ballot will go into the box; the other half will be threaded onto a spindle outside the box. According to Acting Municipal Clerk Joann Graf, with someone standing next to the box at all times and having the same number of paper slips collected outside the box

as inside, there is no way for the ballot box to be stuffed.

Time Line for the Proposed Library

A study conducted by consulting firm Grimm & McPherson in 1990

concluded that South Plainfield Public Library is too small for the size of the community and also revealed that the library could not add an addition because it is located in a flood zone
(Continued on page 10)

Three Arrested for Prostitution at Health Center

The Private Health Center, located at 5001 Hadley Rd., second floor, was closed last Friday following the arrest of Gregoria Mendoza, 35, of 605 West 177 St., New York, N.Y. and Ana Mohalley, 38, of 10 Ridgeway Rd., Carmel, N.Y. on charges of prostitution. Also arrested on charges of promoting prostitution was Joanna Wieruszewski, 39, of 44 Golf St., West Long Branch. All three were released on their own recognizance.

An investigation began after police received information from area businesses regarding activity at the Health Center. Police intelligence led to the arrests.

The investigation is ongoing, and police ask anyone with information regarding The Private Health Center to contact Detective Vincent Campagna at (908) 226-7669.



Middle School Principal Steve Novak, on behalf of the entire school, presents flowers and best wishes to Sodexo employee Victoria Guillen who was recently granted U.S. citizenship. Victoria came to the United States from El Salvador 16 years ago.

Pop Warner All-American Scholars

The South Plainfield Eagles produced 13 Pop Warner All-American Scholars, all of whom attend Grant Elementary School. All of the football players and cheerleaders qualified for recognition by maintaining a minimum GPA of 96% and being active within the school and their community. They were chosen among the top one percent of all Pop Warner participants in the nation.

Taylor Brinks won the title of the "Best of the Best" by being named to the First Team All-American list for Pop Warner at the National level. Taylor also received recognition for being named top scholar at a recent banquet at the Eastern Region level. Taylor cheered on the Pee-Wee team and maintained a 100% GPA.

The following football and cheer participants received Second Team All-American Scholar honors: Christopher Graves, Kyle Dickerson, Brian Schillaci, Jennifer Teece, Chelsea Housel, Taylor Majstickle, Megan Mann, Monica Spooner and Taylor Donato.

Zaire Cone, Brook Barry and Kara Podlovits also received recognition for receiving Honorable Mention.

All of the students are eligible to attend an Awards Recognition Program to be held this year at Disney World in Florida. The program commemorates their achievements on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The Eagles are honored to have not only athletic, but highly academic children within the program. Keep up the great work!



Ponytail Softball Opening Day held last Saturday. See page 7.

Seven Selected for Governor's Teacher Recognition Program

By Libby Barsky

Seven teachers, one from each of the district's seven schools, have been selected for the yearly Governor's Teacher Recognition Program.

A selection committee, headed by chairperson Fred Oberkehr and including administrators, teachers and parents, helped to make the decision to honor teachers for the program.

Special Education teacher Sharon McGrath, who has been in the district since 1991, will represent South Plainfield High School.

Joseph Blondo, social studies teacher since 1997, has been named representative from South Plainfield

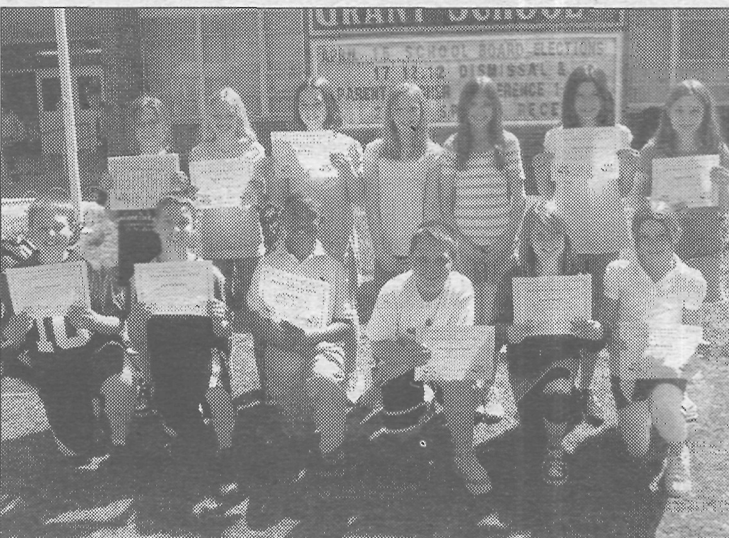
Middle School.

Nancy Donahue, a fifth grade teacher since 1971 who taught in Franklin School before the merging of fifth and sixth grades, will represent Grant Elementary School.

Sally Gillis, second grade teacher since 1989, is the representative from Franklin School.

Kevin McCann, third grade teacher since 1999, is Kennedy School's representative.

Patricia Public, kindergarten teacher since 1995, was chosen from Riley School and Elizabeth Lepri, first grade teacher who has been teaching since 1992, will represent Roosevelt School.



Pop Warner Eagles Scholar Athletes—(L to R standing): Jennifer Teece, Chelsea Housel, Megan Mann, Taylor Maistickle, Taylor Brinks, Monica Spooner and Taylor Donato. (L to R kneeling): Brian Schillaci, Kyle Dickerson, Zaire Cone, Chris Graves, Kara Podlovits and Brooke Barry.



South Plainfield Soccer Club
presents

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South Plainfield Soccer Club

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 April 9 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. until the Reorganization meeting on April 30. Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*.

council meetings

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

Agenda Meeting**Public Meeting**

Monday, April 28 (Special Meeting) 7 p.m.
Monday, May 12 (7 p.m.) Immediately Following
Monday, May 19 May 27 (Tuesday)

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

May 13, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22,

Aug. 26, 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

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.

Reorganization meeting Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m.

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.

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

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.

IN MY OPINION

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

To the Editor:

On behalf of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish and, I think, all Catholics in South Plainfield, I would like to express our heartfelt thank you to Mayor Charles Buttrico for getting the Eternal Word Television Network (channel 291) added to the Comcast lineup. We received this good news with great joy on the occasion of our beloved Holy Father, Benedict XVI's apostolic visit to our country.

**FATHER MACIEJ MELANIUK
PASTOR, OUR LADY OF
CZESTOCHOWA**

To the Editor:

I attended the April 14 council meeting and there were many residents there from Hamilton Boulevard praising the mayor for the fine job he did in making Hamilton Boulevard "beautiful." Mr. Diegnan stated that there isn't one reason to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard and he also said how beautiful it was to see mothers walking with their baby carriages and kids riding their bikes.

Well that's all very nice Mr. Diegnan, but at what cost?

Three different sources have presented facts that the New Market Avenue truck route is unsafe. This shouldn't be about the couple hundred residents on Hamilton Boulevard nor should it be about residents on New Market Avenue. It should be about the 20,000 plus residents in our town. It should be about the harm being done to the environment by having thousands of trucks travel a much longer distance to avoid Hamilton Boulevard. It should be about the financial burden the trucking companies face due to this truck route. Most importantly, it should be about the safety of all residents and other people traveling through our town. The Hamilton Boulevard residents are being selfish when they say the New Market truck route is a good thing!

It will take at least five to 10 years (if ever) before a new route is planned out. We can not afford the unsafe conditions that the New Market truck route poses to our residents for that amount of time!

Mr. Diegnan you're right, there isn't one reason to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard, there are many reasons to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard.

Mayor Buttrico, it doesn't matter how many Hamilton Boulevard residents fill your council room and ap-

plaud you for making their street "beautiful"—what matters is doing the right thing for all of South Plainfield.

**MICHELLE COLLINS
NEW MARKET RESIDENT**

Residents of South Plainfield:

I would like to thank all who supported me in my effort, posted signs on your lawns and offered me encouragement during my campaign to seek re-election to the South Plainfield Board of Education. It has been my pleasure to serve on the board for the past six years and I look forward to the next three with great enthusiasm.

I would also like to thank Carol Byrne for her many years of dedication and hard work while serving on the board.

I promise to always do my best when deciding the many issues that will come before us, always keeping in mind what is best for all of the students in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to again represent you and I look forward to meeting and talking with you during my term.

**SINCERELY,
TIMOTHY I. MORGAN**

To the Editor:

It is time now for Middlesex County residents to protest the addition of fluoride to their drinking water!

Fluoride is known to be a poison and is a waste product of the fertilizer industry. Concerned citizens, write to the governor and the health commissioner and register dissatisfaction! See the book entitled "What's Toxic, What's Not" by Toal and Ginsberg.

**PHYLLIS HAASE, RESIDENT
ARISTACARE AT CEDAR OAKS**

To the Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of South Plainfield for the three past years they gave me on the Board of Education. It was a special privilege to serve as a member, and I am pleased at the place our district schools are in now. Being allowed to give of your time to help others is something precious you can look back on with pride.

I wish the new board good luck in the coming year.

CAROL BYRNE

Dear Editor,

You can learn as much about someone by what they don't say as by what they do. Just look at the Republicans candidates release in last week's paper. Bengivenga and Anesh struggled to

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.

come up with an accomplishment for their three years on the council. The best they could come up with was putting a no smoking sign at one of our parks.

I wonder why they didn't mention their ingenious proposal to create a million dollar dog park at some unidentified location in town?

How about the fact that they haven't even bothered to apply for county open space funds? (South Plainfield is the only town in the county to fail to do so.)

How about the fact that less than a month into office they raised our property taxes by 18 points, more than the prior ten years combined!

How about the fact that they have sabotaged the New Market Avenue extension and are planning on putting tractor trailers back on Hamilton Boulevard?

How about the fact that they have replaced dedicated employees with political appointments and given them raises in excess of 30%?

And how about the fact that their candidates announcement didn't even quote their political chair whose husband and father of the Council President is the biggest developer in the history of our borough?

I guess the Republicans think they can run on smoke and mirrors but come election day the voters will remember their real record of "accomplishments."

SONIA OBADIKE

(Editor's Note: According to the Borough CFO, the exact amount of the tax increase was 8.33 points, not 18 points).

To the Editor:

If you did not see the latest production of "The Music Man," performed by South Plainfield Players Drama Club, you missed a fabulous show! I was fortunate enough to watch the production from its infancy.

(Continued on page 10)

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Observer**

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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(updated every Thursday)

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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.

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Franklin School Features Solid Geometry

By Libby Barsky

Fourth grade students at Franklin School studied geometry in their math class and learned the fundamentals of the six shapes in solid geometric figures—the pyramid, cylinder, sphere, cone, cube and rectangular prism. Students were challenged to collect six solid figures (either all six solids or six of one type of solid) and put them together.

"They needed to make the project out of six solid objects and although we give them some ideas, like a snowman, they come up with ideas on their own," explained Teacher Janet Donnelly. Students were graded on what they brought in, how it was made and their written explanation.

"When they bring in their creations, we were amazed at what they made," Donnelly added.

Tables were set up in the hallway of Franklin School and the projects were displayed so the other classes could view what the students had made.



Franklin School fourth graders showed their geometry projects where they collected six solid geometrical shapes from pyramid cylinder, sphere, cube, triangular pyramid and rectangular prism to fashion them into recognizable or fantasy items. Shown are Brennan Salvado, teachers Janet Donnelly, Crista Moritz and Zoe Nardacci.

At a recent Board of Education meeting, Franklin School Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys, with teachers Cristy Moritz and Donnelly, displayed

their projects in the Roosevelt Gym so BOE members and the public could have an opportunity to see the projects.

Cub Pack 207 Arrow of Light Recipients

Franklin School Cub Scout Pack 207's 2008 graduates and Arrow of

Light recipients were James Markey, Frank Ferraro, Zachary Henderson,

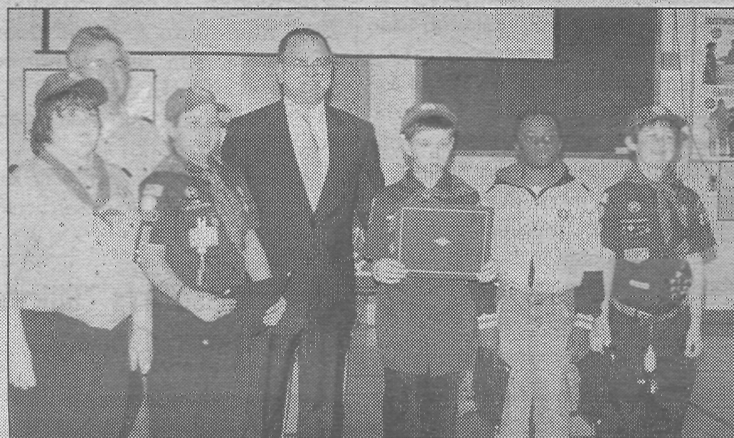
Andrew Akpan and Daniel Pacheco. The Arrow of Light is the highest honor a Cub Scout can receive.

Mayor Charles Buttrico was on hand to congratulate the scouts, as well as Troopmasters John Mocharski of Troop 207 and James Donnelson of Troop 267.

The boys received resolutions from Governor Jon Corzine, Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan and Peter Barnes, Jr. and Congressman Mike Ferguson.

Congratulations to Christopher Markey, who served the Webelos den as den chief for two years.

Cub Scout Pack 207 would like to wish all the boys continued success in their future scouting endeavors.



Mayor Charles Buttrico with Cub Scout Pack 207's 2008 graduates and Arrow of Light recipients.

Cultural Arts Presents "A Tea for Queen Victoria"

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present "A Tea for Queen Victoria" on Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Tea has been an important and well-loved beverage in Great Britain since the 17th century. During the 19th century the price of tea became less expensive and it was savored by all classes of British society. Queen Victoria, who truly enjoyed tea and sweet confections, popularized tea parties during the 1860's. Learn more about this beloved queen along with British tea history, tea customs and etiquette as we celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday. (Queen Victoria herself may even visit, or at least a replica of her!)

The program is presented by Tea Historian Judith Krall-Russo who has enjoyed a lifelong love of foods, especially embracing the rich agriculture of her home state—New Jersey. Also a tea expert and historian, she began studying the customs and traditions of this universal beverage 30 years ago and has earned certifications as a Tea Specialist by The Tea School in Pomfret, Connecticut and The Specialty Tea Institute of New York. Krall-Russo is currently studying the Japanese Tea Ceremony at the Uresenke Chanoyo Center and gong fu Chinese tea ceremony at The Tea Gallery, both in New York City.

As a result of her independent studies and knowledge of the history and trends surrounding many popular New Jersey foods and beverages, Ms. Krall-Russo is a regular lecturer and seminar organizer across the state. Her most popular New Jersey programs are The Jersey Tomato, Blueberries New Jersey's Wonder Fruit, and The New Jersey Cranberry.

She is a self-taught cook, supplementing her passion with classes in

nutrition, ethnic and Early American cooking. She has planned menus and tea parties for various private parties and art receptions.

Krall-Russo is an avid collector of tea accoutrements. Her collection includes a diverse array of English and

Turkish teapots, Russian samovars and Japanese chawans.

There is limited seating, so please RSVP to Suzanne Lyte if you would like to attend at (908) 753-0444 or E-mail lytelaw@aol.com.

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Bookmarks

By Jaimie Donnelly

With the rising prices of gas, accommodations, food and travel, finding a fun-filled vacation on a budget can be tough. My husband and I looked into the same vacation we took last year to discover the price went up 25%. One cost saving solution is to stay local and take trips in the Mid-Atlantic area. There are more beaches, hiking trails and museums in this area than you may think! A great start to Mid-Atlantic getaways is to check out the two dozen books on the subject at the library.

A great start to all-things Mid-Atlantic is the "Mobil Travel Guide To The Mid-Atlantic." This book has chapters on inexpensive activities, hotels, food and other amenities from Virginia to Connecticut. Another great book you should check out is "Away for the Weekend: Mid-Atlantic-52 Great Getaways Within 250 Miles of Washington D.C., in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia" by Eleanor Berman. For anyone looking for an exciting adventure for the whole family check out "Going Underground: Your Guide to Caves in the

Mid-Atlantic" by Sharon Silverman.

On Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. young adult author and New York Detective Marco Conelli will be doing a reading, discussion and signing of his new young adult book "Matthew Livingston and the Prison of Souls." There will be copies of his book for purchase and light snacks will be served. There is no pre-registration and it is open to the public. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Miss Jaimie at the library at (908) 754-7885.

Miss Linda and Miss Mija will have their regular story time programs this coming week. For children three years old and up, join us on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Time for 2s and 3s is on Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. On Friday at 10:30 a.m. join us for Books & Babies.

Do not forget to vote for the library's future during Democracy Week May 5 to 10. You can find more information on our Web site or by visiting the library.

If you have any questions about our programs, democracy week or services, visit: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

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around town

Sacred Heart School Tricky Tray

April 26

The Sacred Heart School fourth annual tricky tray, "Wild West Round-up," will be held on Saturday, April 26 in the school cafeteria. Doors open at 6 p.m. and drawing begins at 7:30 p.m. Prizes include gift certificates, electronics, sports memorabilia, baskets, a 50/50 raffle and more. Admission of \$15 includes five raffle tickets for basic level section. Free coffee, tea and light sweets. Adults only.

For information or tickets, contact Susan at (732) 321-0554 or Michele at (908) 757-2523.

EVP Presents "The Musical..."

April 25-May 11

Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd., presents "The Musical of Musicals, the Musical!" beginning Friday, April 25 through May 11.

Created for everyone who loves musicals and directed by David Christopher, it contains five mini-musicals, all telling the same basic plot ("You must pay the rent!" "I can't pay the rent!" "I'll pay the rent!") Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 students/seniors; dinner package available.

For tickets call (908) 755-4654 or visit www.evplayhouse.com. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Blackrose to Perform

April 26

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Rd., on Saturday, April 26 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Girl Scouts Silver and Gold Dinner

April 29

Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc. will honor Linda Maggio, Westfield United Way's longtime executive director, at its Silver and Gold Dinner on Tuesday, April 29 at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance from 6-10 p.m.

For more information visit www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

APRIL/MAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Golden Isles of Georgia Trip
May 3 through 9

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
"Last of the Red Hot Lovers" May 14

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

28

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social Group 10am

29

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

30

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

1

Bingo 10am-2pm

2

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

Photography Exhibit by Local Photographer

May 1-30

South Plainfield Library will host an array of photos reflecting life in Italy by local photographer Dorothy F. Bellew, lifelong resident of South Plainfield and former chairwoman of the Cultural Arts Commission.

The exhibit will be on display from May 1-30. An opening reception is planned for Sunday, May 4 from 2-4 p.m. at the library. The artist will be available to answer questions and will have matted photos for sale. Ten percent of the proceeds will benefit the South Plainfield Library Fund.

For more information contact the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Yard Sale at American Legion

May 3

The Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold a yard sale on the American Legion lawn, 243 Oak Tree Ave., on May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rain date will be May 4. Many, many tables, low prices, and many bargains. Come one and all!

Spaghetti Dinner

May 3

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 3 from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 years and under. Dinner includes spaghetti with freshly made sauce, a choice of meatballs or sausage, fresh salad, homemade dessert and beverage. Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 756-8655.

Soccer Club's Evening of Comedy

May 3

The South Plainfield Soccer Club will present its truly outstanding "Evening of Stand-up Comedy" on Saturday, May 3 at the PAL building on Maple Avenue.

Headliner for the evening is Delaware's fastest-rising young comedy star, Keith Purnell, who recently appeared in the Cameron Diaz movie, "In Her Shoes."

Also appearing is Stan Stankos, a regular at major comedy clubs throughout the Midwest and who was a featured performer at the 2007 New York City Underground Comedy Festival.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Comedy begins at 8:30 p.m. \$20 per person (purchased in advance). B.Y.O.B., B.Y.O.F. and 50/50 raffles. Must be 21 years of age to attend.

For tickets, call Donna at (908) 753-6175. Come out and help support the South Plainfield Soccer Club!

Grant Stokes Fundraiser

May 5

A Grant Stokes fundraiser will be held all day on Monday, May 5 at Gabriele's Bar & Grill, located on Centennial Ave. in Piscataway.

Ten percent of the bill will go towards the Stokes Fund if you present the flyer.

Raffle tickets available from 4-8 p.m. for two bikes (boy/girl), raffle baskets, 50/50, face painter for the kids from 5:30-8 p.m.

Any questions, call Barbara Bythell at (908) 754-9629.

— Out of Town —

Photography Exhibit at Menlo Park Mall

April 25-27

The Edison Arts Society presents the seventh annual "Scenes & Gardens of the Garden State" art and photography exhibit at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Menlo Park Mall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25, 26 and 27, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

For info, call (908) 753-2787.

Firefighters Mass

April 26

The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, will be the principal celebrant at the 2008 annual Firefighters Mass on Saturday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at the St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral. Professional, volunteer and retired firefighters of all faiths have been invited. Reception afterwards in the cathedral

community room.

For more information, call (732) 562-2461 or visit the Web site at www.diometuchen.org.

St. Frances Cabrini Yard Sale

April 26

St. Frances Cabrini School, 2300 Cooper St. in Piscataway, is holding their annual yard sale on Saturday, April 26 at 9 a.m. (rain or shine). Donations of any used or new items such as clothing, dishes, old bikes, furniture, old holiday decorations, etc. would be appreciated.

For more info, call (732) 885-1066.

Morristown Madams Roller Derby Benefit

April 26

The Morristown Madams roller derby team second game of the season will be held on Saturday, April 26 at the Morristown Rink, 38 Dumont Place, Morristown at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Bring a chair because they are packing them in!

To buy tickets, visit www.morristownmadams.com.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at Stockton College

April 26

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey presents Mendelssohn's "Elijah" on Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Stockton Performing Arts Center. A full orchestra and professional soloists will be under the direction of Dr. Beverly Vaughn, professor of music. Tickets are \$8 general admission; \$6 students with ID and senior citizens.

For tickets, call (609) 652-9000 or visit www.stockton.edu/pac.

Annual White Mass

April 27

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Diocese of Metuchen's Annual White Mass, honoring healthcare professionals, on Sunday, April 27 at noon at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen. Light refreshments and a presentation on "Spirituality and Healing in Medicine: Then and Now," led by Fr. Manning, immediately after the mass.

Diabetes Day at

TWIN CITY PHARMACY & SURGICAL

Friday May 16th, 2008

10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Guests will be given:

- Information on diabetes
- A chance to sign up for a free newsletter
- Answers to questions/concerns on diabetes
- Sugar free snacks and refreshments
- Best of all a FREE Diabetes Monitor.

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To receive your free monitor: Bring this ad to your physician & obtain a written prescription for the monitor, test strips & lancets. Bring that prescription into Twin City Pharmacy & Surgical.

Join us in bringing you the best of South Plainfield

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. Make your event more successful by publicizing it in AROUND TOWN. Mail, fax or e-mail.

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

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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South Plainfield
Observer



Barbara and Neil Rothweiler at a celebration in their honor.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Rothweilers Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Barbara and Neil Rothweiler renewed their wedding vows on March 29 in celebration of their 50th anniversary at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield. The couple was married February 8, 1958 by the Reverend Clayton Maud of the First Baptist Church of New Market.

Mr. and Mrs. Rothweiler have lived in South Plainfield since February 26, 1959. They have four children, Larry N. Rothweiler, Jr., Diane E. Marasigan, Steven G. Rothweiler and Daniel H. Rothweiler.

The vow renewal was attended by all 13 of the Rothweiler's grandchildren. The ceremony was presided over by the Reverend Gordon Braun of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield and the Reverend Kenneth Mart, retired pastor of New Market Baptist Church.

William Cathcart, Barbara's brother, was the best man for Mr. Rothweiler, as he was 50 years earlier. Diane Marasigan was Mrs. Rothweiler's matron-of-honor. Master Rusty Marasigan, age five, presented Barbara to her husband during the ceremony. More than 100 of the Rothweiler's relatives and friends enjoyed the piano accompaniment of Larry Rothweiler during the ceremony.

Linda Sticco sang the couple's wedding song, "Always," in honor of the occasion. Mr. Rothweiler sang

"Through the Years" to his wife during the renewal; however, his beautiful wife also joined her husband in singing this Kenny Rogers song.

Scripture readings were read by Ronny Marasigan, 13; Kelsey Marasigan, 10 and Kassady Marasigan, 8. Ushers were Randy Marasigan, Ricky Marasigan, Lawrence Rothweiler III, Brandon Rothweiler, Justin Rothweiler, Ronny Marasigan and Rusty Marasigan. Flower girls were Regina Marasigan, Kelsey Marasigan, Kassady Marasigan, Natalie Rothweiler, Mallory Rothweiler and Madeleine Rothweiler.

Mr. Rothweiler retired from Ethicon, Inc. in 1993 after 36 years with the Johnson & Johnson organization. The Rothweilers met at Ethicon where they were both employed. Mrs. Rothweiler, after five years at Ethicon, became a homemaker for her husband and four children.

Mr. Rothweiler graduated from Rutgers University College in 1969. Since his retirement he has officiated baseball, softball and football in New Jersey. He and his wife have been avid campers for the past 36 years.

All of the couple's children were educated in South Plainfield. Larry is employed as an actuary, Diane is a school teacher, Steve is an engineer and Daniel is a district manager for Mazda Motors of America.

Knights Present Awards at Quarterly Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus held their quarterly Communion Breakfast on March 30. Awards were presented to honored members Neil Towey, Joe McGeehan, John Weakley, Greg Gaydos, Lenny Kleczkowski, Eugene Baker and Joseph Archutowski.

The Knights held their annual Basketball Free Throw Competition, and recognized the following winners: on the local level, winners were Alexis Cargill and Brian Sporman; regional winners were Ryan Riccardi and Justin Marks. Justin advanced to the state level and will compete on Saturday, April 26. The winners were presented with a basketball.

Winners of the Drug Awareness Poster Contest were: in the age 8-11 year contest, Samantha Diaano first place, Nicholas Spadavecchia second place and Vincent Savoca third place; in the 12-14 year old contest Tanvi Patel placed first and Diamond Pender won both second and third place.

First place winners were presented with a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, second place winners received a \$75 bond and third place winners received a \$50 bond.

The Knights would like to thank all of the community members and businesses who support our various fund raisers enabling us to continue our charitable works.

Long Time BOE Staff Members Retiring in June

By Libby Barsky

Four staff members whose service totals more than 140 years in the district are retiring in June.

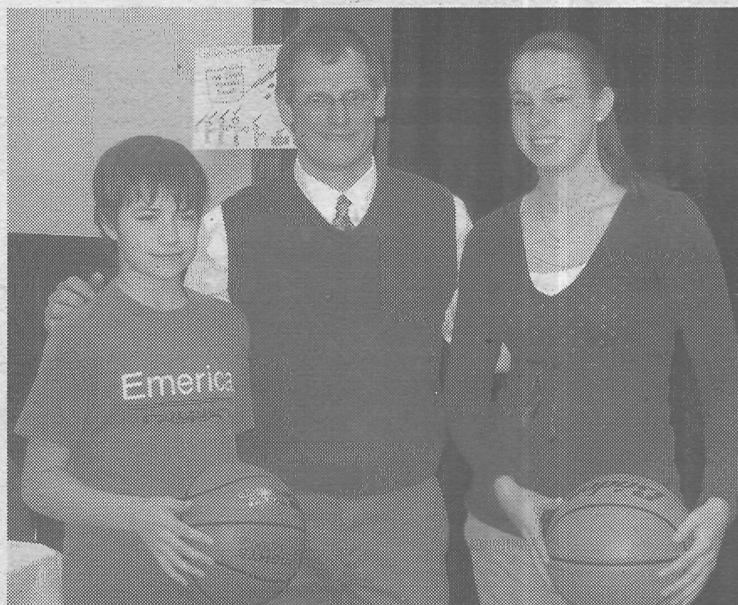
Elementary school teacher Diane Boyle is retiring after 37 years at Kennedy School.

High school staff members retiring include Tom Baker, student assistance counselor for 35 years; Ann Brown, English teacher for 35 years and Denise Timinski, art teacher for 36 years.

High School Principal Dr. Kenneth May noted that with the upcoming three retirements, just three of the original staff who taught when the newly built high school opened remain: woods teacher Dan Radakovich, science teacher Thomas Seiz and business teacher Ann Zajkowski.

Roberta M. Aiello, secretary in the guidance department, officially retired last month.

Two teachers also resigned from their positions—Shannon Lorenzo, SPHS Spanish teacher who taught in the district for five years and is currently on maternity leave, and Jodie Fishbein, special education teacher who taught in the district for two years.



Grand Knight Bill Butrico with free throw winners Alexis Cargill and Justin Marks.



Grand Knight Bill Butrico with poster winners Diamond Pender, Samantha Diaano, Nicholas Spadavecchia, Vincent Savoca and Tanvi Patel.

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franksautomotiveservice.com

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Custom Creations' storefront window was boarded up after a motorist plowed into it on April 17.

Reckless Motorist Plows Into Downtown Storefront

A driver plowed into the storefront of Custom Creations & Gifts, Inc. at 24 South Plainfield Ave. on April 17 around 10 p.m.

Police Officer Gary Cassio was on patrol heading east on South Plainfield Avenue from Hamilton Boulevard when he observed a green 1995 Oldsmobile Aurora heading towards him. The vehicle crossed the eastbound lane and struck the building, causing major damage to the front end of the vehicle, the store window and the building facade.

Brian D. Petrusevich, 23, of Oakmoor Avenue was taken to Robert

Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick where he admitted to taking a large quantity of the narcotic pain reliever, Percocet, during the day. He was charged with driving under the influence, reckless driving and failure to wear a seatbelt.

The South Plainfield Building Department inspector responded to the scene and deemed the structure safe for the upstairs tenants and surrounding stores.

Petrusevich was arrested again two days later while riding his bike on Plainfield Avenue on another outstanding warrant out of the borough.

Freeholders Buy 69 Acres in Dismal Swamp

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders authorized the purchase of a 69-acre parcel of land in the Dismal Swamp area of South Plainfield for the County's Open Space Preservation Program.

"My freeholder colleagues and I are committed to purchasing as much open land as possible to ensure natural areas remain that way and are saved forever from development," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabiel. "The actions we take tonight are purchases that make good environmental sense and will benefit all the residents of Middlesex County."

The purchase of the Dismal Swamp land from South Plainfield Holdings LLC is expected to be completed this spring. The Freeholders are using \$1,807,500 from the Middlesex County Open Space and Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

The forested land is part of the environmentally sensitive Dismal Swamp. Area environmentalists strongly support this purchase, which they said is a significant natural area, whose preservation will benefit residents as well as wildlife.

"I am very pleased that the county has once again worked with the Borough of South Plainfield to preserve open space in our community," said Mayor Charles Buttrico.

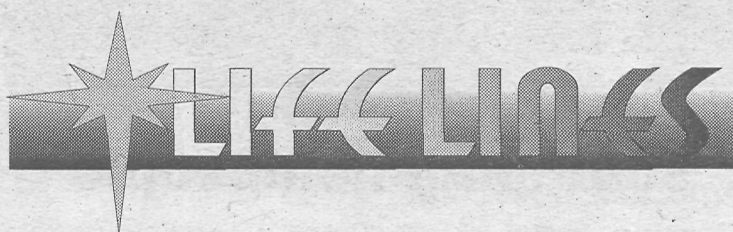
"The county has worked hand-in-hand with South Plainfield over the years to preserve many acres of open space. The borough worked very hard over the past year on this specific piece of property because of its location in the middle of the Dismal Swamp and its environmental importance."

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority, which performs legal and technical due diligence for the County's Open Space Program, is applying to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for a portion of the purchase price.

The Port Authority's Harbor Estuary Program buys natural land for preservation, and this land has been determined to fit the criteria.



Plainfield Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs came out to support Nychole Hunt, Miss Champagne Springs/Miss America contestant (left), for her platform, Sickle Cell Anemia Blood Drive. Lovely You/Modeling, Etiquette and Mentoring School sponsored the event and it was a great success. South Plainfield resident and school director Elise Counts (right) continues to support events to help the community.



Are you feeling a sense of relief now that the stress of preparing your tax return is behind you? With the April 15 deadline and its preoccupation with financial records just past, perhaps it's time to refocus on our most valuable asset: our families. Certainly, we love them, but do we really know them?

Quite naturally, our first response is, "of course." But do we really make time, not just to talk, but to communicate? Sadly, for many families, the answer is, "seldom." I've found that there is no better time to actually connect to one another than around the dinner table: no television, no internet, no video games; just us.

Setting time aside to come together with our loved ones lets us realize what's really important. In today's hectic world, both young and old are experiencing so much stress that sometimes we may feel we will explode without the opportunity to "let it out." Gathering as a family serves as an outlet to provide emotional security and comfort.

The Bible often talks about the importance of "reasoning together," together being the key word, and goes on to say that "with all our getting," it is most important to "get an understanding."

Or family members deserve that we try to understand them: to know of their true characters, their ideas, fears and goals. This most essential information can only be gained through sharing in open, honest conversation. But when anxiety-producing problems or concerns come up, there are so many chances for us to become angry,

alarmed, sensitive or indignant! In the Bible's Old Testament, the Prophet Samuel reminds us that "man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." As difficult as it may be, we should never judge one another based on surface behavior. The best approach in these situations is to work hard on separating our own emotions from whatever problems might arise in our discussions.

This all brings me to the point of my message, the importance of coming together for family dinner. A time to laugh, reminisce, and when necessary, to feel free to talk about things that are bothering us. If you can come together nightly, that's fine. If not, do it as regularly as time permits, and stick to "family night" as often as possible. Communicating as a family by freely expressing ourselves in an atmosphere of love and acceptance provides lifelong intangible rewards: the opportunity to bond, to connect, to understand and to love. That's why family dinnertime is the most meaningful, most significant event of our day.

LifeLines is a monthly Observer column, written by area churches. This article comes from Rescue House of Prayer.

Grant School Car Wash Saturday

Grant School will hold a car wash to support Stokes 2008 in the Middle School parking lot on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cars will be washed squeaky clean for \$5, trucks and vans for \$8. Any questions call (908) 753-3977.

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Questions? Call 908-668-0010 ** We now accept VISA and Mastercard **

To find out what's happening in **South Plainfield**

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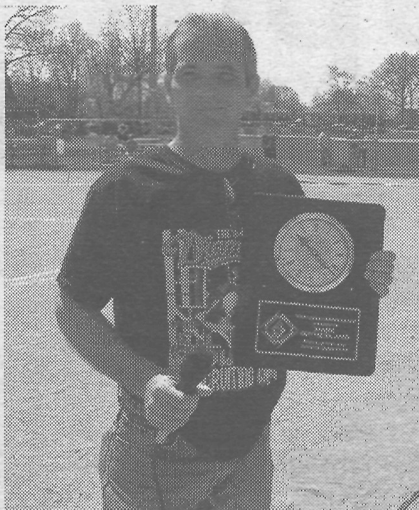
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Ponytail Softball Players Shine on Opening Day



Past board president and vice president Mark Sutherland received an appreciation plaque.



This year's Ponytail president, Rick McMahon, with Kevin Hughes, Recreation Department director.



(L to R) Last year's board president Jim Bishop with past president and vice president Mark Sutherland and current president Rick McMahon.

Soggy fields delayed opening day ceremonies of the South Plainfield Recreation Ponytail Softball for a week, but crystal blue skies were abundant last Saturday for the season opener.

The official ceremony began with an invocation by Recreation Commission member Calvin Gross and the singing of "The National Anthem" by A League player Lainie Harris. Lainie

will also be singing "The National Anthem" at the Somerset Patriots baseball game on August 3. Recently elected Executive Board President Rick McMahon thanked everyone for attending and introduced new board members Dave Delair, vice president; Patti Ratti, treasurer; Jane Bishop, secretary; Nancy McMahon, public relations and trustees Jim Bishop, Pat DeSantis and Tom Gratta.

The South Plainfield Fire Prevention Bureau donated tickets for an entire team to attend a June 8 Somerset Patriots game which were raffled off and won by the C League Syracuse team coached by Nanette Babinetz. PAL Director Kevin Hughes presented a plaque to former board president and vice president of the league, Mark Sutherland, to commemorate his service to the organi-

zation.

Attending the ceremony were Borough Council President Rob Bengivena, Councilmen Joe Scrudato

and Ray Petronko and Mayor Charlie Butrico, who threw out the first pitch of the day to his niece, Danielle Butrico.

Notes From AARP Chapter 4144

The speaker at the May 19 meeting will be Suzanne Corveyn from Somerville Medical Center talking about "Care Giving." We will also be holding elections for officers and board members. The meeting takes place at the South Plainfield Senior Center at 12:30 p.m.

On Thursday, June 19, Chapter 4144 of the AARP will be at the Vic-

torian Manor for a luncheon meeting. Present to install the newly elected officers will be State AARP President Larson and his wife, Lee. We invite all members of AARP, even if you are not a member of the chapter, who wish to attend this meeting to contact Sylvia Boyd at (908) 561-1899. The cost of the luncheon is \$25.

The Chapter will run a charter bus to Hudson Valley Resort August 18 to 22. Transport, tips, taxes, rooms, meals, use of all facilities, including pool, gym, spa, games and live enter-

tainment is included in the cost of \$530 double occupancy. Call (732) 752-3764 or (732) 752-8506 for registration or for further details.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the senior center. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. They take lap robes to Roosevelt Care Center and N.J. Veteran's Home in Menlo Park; mini blankets, hats and booties for newborns to Muhlenberg Hospital; sweaters, hats, scarves etc. for DYFS and items of wool clothing are sent to the South Dakota Indian Reservation.

Avtech Institute Announces Grand Opening

Avtech is proud to announce the grand opening of its new state approved licensed practical nurse program. After 11 successful years as a leader in technical training in New Jersey, Avtech is now prepared to move forward with the development of its latest curriculum.

The scheduled grand opening event is set for Thursday, May 8 with the honorable Mayor Butrico of South Plainfield cutting the ribbon at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Attendees will include the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, various business organizations and friends of Avtech. All who would like to celebrate with us are welcome; food and refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.avtechusa.com.



South Plainfield Soccer Club
Presents an Outstanding Evening of Stand-up Comedy by Comedy Blast, Inc.

Featuring Keith Purnell & Stan Stankos

Saturday, May 3, 2008
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
Comedy begins at 8:30 p.m.
Held at: South Plainfield Police Athletic League
1250 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ

Donation: \$20 per person in advance
Includes B.Y.O.B., B.Y.O.F. and 50/50 raffles
You must be over 21 years of age to attend.

Tickets & Information: (908) 753-6175 (Donna)
Proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Soccer Club

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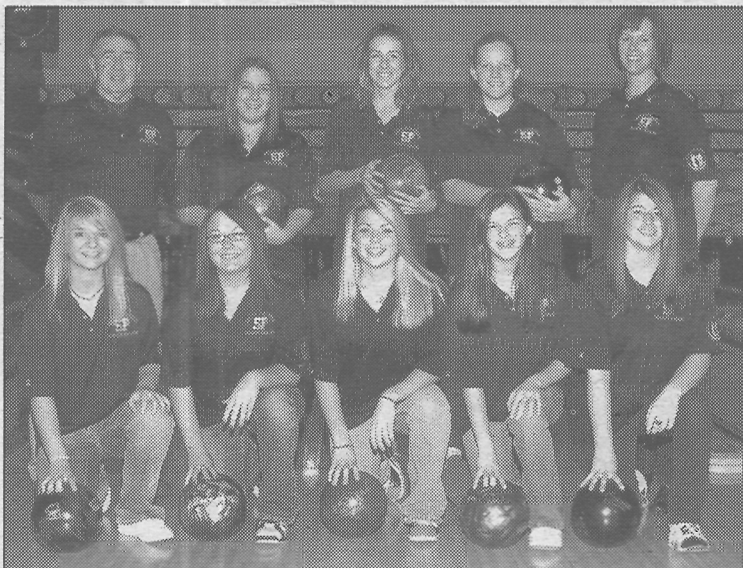
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Sports

SPHS BOWLING

Submitted by Ralph Fech

Highlights/Recap of Lady Tigers 2008 Season



(Kneeling L to R): Gina Curcio, Katie Yon, Lyndsey Murtagh, Kaitlyn Salvatore, and Jackie Kukuch. (Standing L to R): Coach Ralph Fech, Heather Thomas, Nikki Disch, Kelly Pauls and Asst. Coach Lori Gerstl.

- 29th winning season in past 33 years.
- Overall record (9-9-2).
- Upset strong Piscataway. Lost close matches to Group II champion Carteret, Colonia and So. Brunswick. Tied tough Sayreville and Cardinal McCarrick.
- The Lady Tigers were tournament tough finishing in the top ten in four out of the six major tournaments:
 - Bishop Ahr holiday classic-14th/32
 - Westfield Invitational- 6th/11
 - Car/Obr Baker Shootout-10th/16
 - Central Jersey Winter Classic-12th/32
 - Joe Romer Baker Memorial-7th/22
 - Central Jersey Group II Sectional-3rd/8
- High Team game 935
- High Team series 2669
- Team Average 804/Game, 161/Girl

Grade	Name	#Games	High Game	High Set	Avg.
Sr.	Katie Yon (MVP)	76	244	619	170
	GMC Coaches Bowling Assn-First Team; GMC All-Division-First Team; Courier News All-Area First Team; GMC Individual Finalist-NJSIAA State Finalist				
Jr.	Jackie Kukuch	73	232	633	166
	Courier News All-Area-First Team; GMC Coaches Bowling Assn.-Second Team; GMC Individual Finalist				
Jr.	Gina Curcio	73	247	553	161
	GMC Coaches Bowling Assn.-Second Team; Courier News All-Area-Second Team				
Fr.	Kelly Pauls	71	230	568	157
	GMC Coaches Bowling Assn.-Second Team; Rookie of the Year				
Jr.	Lyndsey Murtagh	70	190	479	143
Jr.	Katie Salvatore	62	199	518	138
Fr.	Nikki Disch	10	156	335	111
Jr.	Stephanie Dicindio	– Playing/Mgr.			

SPHS BOYS TENNIS

Tennis Team Claims Third Home Victory

By Jeremiah Magpile

The South Plainfield High School Tigers boys tennis team defeated Colonia on April 14 at Spring Lake Park, increasing their record to 3-1.

Rebounding from a recent loss against an undefeated Sayreville team, the Tigers swept their doubles matches and won a crucial third singles match to squeeze in a 3-2 victory over the Patriots, who now stand 0-5.

In the second doubles match, SPHS's Pem Lasota and Chris De

Oliviera defeated Colonia's Seri Patel and Fernando Hurlao 6-2, 7-6, winning the second set tiebreak 7-4.

In the first doubles match, Kenneth Breslau and Mike Dezmin defeated Colonia's Parth Sha and Dharm Patel in their second straight set victory of the season.

Third singles player Tim Oppelt faced Colonia's Snehann Kapnadak in two tight sets but was able to grab a 7-5, 6-4 win in the end ensuring a Tiger victory.

In the first and second singles

matches, however, match point belonged to a tenacious Colonia.

Colonia's first singles, PJ Dupra, defeated Tiger captain and first singles Bobby Harrington 6-1, 6-1 through well-placed backhands and consistent first serves.

Patriot second singles Sagar Patel defeated the Tiger's Jem Magpile 6-3, 6-2 by winning crucial points through consistent forehand winners and swift first serves. For SPHS's Harrington and Magpile, unforced errors played a significant role in the outcome of matches and a consistent Colonia team was able to capitalize.

Despite these losses, South Plainfield Coach Natalie Zeno-Carr saw signs of progress for the team.

"I like what I saw today," she said. "There were some really good points and some bad points. We just have to keep working to do our best in the next match."

Soccer Association Offering Scholarships

The South Plainfield Soccer Association (SPSA) is offering two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. To qualify, applicant must be a current resident, graduating this June, and have played four seasons with the SPSA.

Applications, available at SPHS guidance office, should be returned to the guidance office or mailed to: SPSA Scholarship, P.O. Box 543, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Deadline to submit application is May 19.

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By Jack Brady

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Notes from C-League

The C-League Athletics finished a great week of baseball. The team's bats really came alive, led by Jean Sapini (six hits including a HR, two triples); Nicholas Plate (6 hits, a triple and two doubles); TJ Scott (four hits, triple) and Jason Cieszkiewicz (four hits, a HR, and triple).

C-League Red Sox game one: Jake Giordano pitched two scoreless in-

nings and drove in two runs. Noah Lynch reached base three times, Noah Chainey pitched well and Donnie Grabinsky and Christian Butrico had nice hits.

C-League Red Sox game two: Jake Hoffman had a triple, single and pitched two scoreless innings. Jagger Mendez and David Chatel had base hits, and James Moore had two RBIs.

Boyle Hits Three-Run Home Run



Megan Boyle

Softball player Megan Boyle, a freshman at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa., hit a three-run home run on April 8 during a double header against Delaware Valley College. The Moravian Greyhounds won the game 14-8. This season Megan has scored four runs and

had three hits—a double, a three-run home run and five RBIs.

America's sixth-oldest college, Moravian delivers a values-based liberal arts education in a caring environment.

Megan, a 2007 SPHS graduate, is the daughter of Robert and Debbie Boyle.

SPHS GOLF TEAM

Submitted by Mike Kavka

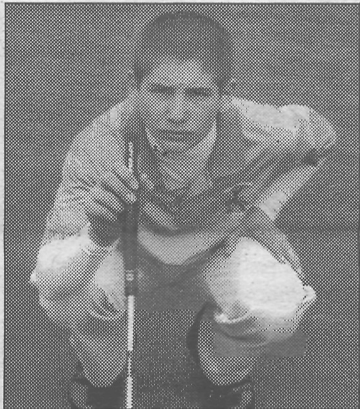
Golf Team Wins 3, Loses 3

Needing a 600% winning record to qualify for the state tournament, the Tigers feel confident on their chances of qualifying.

On Monday the golf team traveled to Warrenbrook where a strong Watchung Hills Team knocked them off. Even with Brad Martin's even par 36, the well-balanced Watchung Hills team won 201-214.

On Tuesday the Tigers went to Colonia Country Club and knocked off the undefeated Colonia High School team 185-189. This course has been a tough course for the Tigers for many years. This win leaves only South Plainfield undefeated in their division of the GMC.

Wednesday the Tigers traveled to Quailbrook and lost to a good Franklin Township team, 210-200. This is the



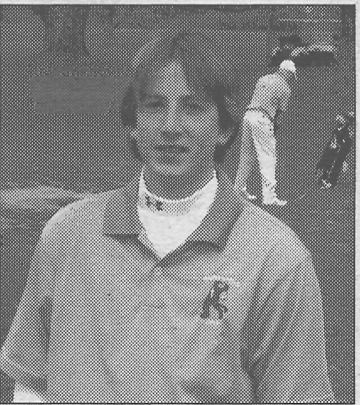
Richie Szeliga

Brunswick fell to the Tigers, 163-183 and 163-209. This time Rich Szeliga led the team with a 3-over par for 39. Rich has shown a lot of improvement and is expected to help win more matches.

On Friday and with great weather, the Tigers lost a close one to Group #4 Power South Brunswick, 162-156. Everyone on the team had a good score; low score was turned in by Vinnie Padula, shooting a 2-over par 38.

This week the Tigers played two conference foes on Monday at The West Nine. Coach Kavka felt confident that they would win both matches.

Next on the agenda for the Tiger Golf Team is the annual trip to Myrtle Beach for spring break. Each year the fathers and team members play golf at the premier golf destination in America. The fathers look forward to the trip, just as much as the team members.



Riley Hubner

first time Franklin Township beat South Plainfield since Kavka's tenure as coach.

Thursday the team went to Tara Greens where Piscataway and New

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Sports

Traveling Soccer

By Chris Paez

Victory for U-14 Bullets

Last Sunday the boys U-14 traveling soccer team took on the Rahway Crew and defeated them by a score of 2-1. It was a very aggressive game and each goal the Bullets scored was hard-earned.

The first goal of the game was scored by Tony Franczak in the first half only to have Rahway tie the game on a penalty kick. The entire game was played back and forth with both teams never getting the chance to dominate.

The Bullets next goal was scored by Kevin Flanagan in the second half

on a volley kick. It was a beautiful shot that was well deserved.

The coaches want to congratulate Tony and Kevin and the rest of the team including Jelani Ptah, Anthony Quadrel, Ryan Riccardi, Marc Paez, Edgar Callegas, Jose Cruz, Jimmy Gerber, Austin Jenkin, Zachary Noll, Alex Valladares, Ryan Marcoux, Joe Krawiec, Shaun Alers and David Forero on a job well done.

The Bullets next game is away in Linden on Sunday, April 27 at 11:30 a.m. Wish them luck.

Another Win for U-9 Arsenal

Arsenal took on the Rebels from Cranford last Sunday in what proved to be a very equally matched game. The game wasn't dominated by either team so Arsenal had to fight that much harder for this win.

Jason Cieszkiewicz scored the first goal of the game in the second quarter. The second goal was scored by Nicholas Pezzolla in the third quarter. The incredible passing skills by the rest of the team assisted Jason and Nicho-

las on their wonderful performance. These players included Nicholas Plate, Jake Giordano, Alec Paez, Jared Marks, Jake Hoffman, Jose Arrubla, Tyler Curtis, Caleb Kuberiet, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Ricky Pellegrino and Jake Smith.

Arsenal has this weekend off. Their next game is at the Kenneth Avenue field on Sunday, May 4 against Clark. Go Arsenal!

Fusion Triumphs Again

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-16 team Fusion won two more games in row, bringing their spring record to 4-1.

Last week's game was played at the home field against the South County Scorpions. It was a battle well into the last minutes of the game and ended with a score of 5-3.

Goals were earned by Mike Dispenziere, Mike Zelasko, Gary Pastuna and two by Sam Tejada. In the net for the entire game was Agu Ufodu. Rounding out the roster for Fusion were Jesse Allen, Ryan Billich, Jeff Gillen, Lucas Goitanda, Edwin Molina, Jason Pattison, Kyle Pompilio and Jake Salerno.

This past Sunday, Fusion traveled to Hillsborough to take on the NJ Force. Despite having no substitutes on their side, the boys proved their endurance and conditioning throughout the game. The game was scoreless going into the second half, showing how evenly matched these two teams

were. Agu Ufodu showed his consistency as goalkeeper, frustrating NJ Force's attempts to score.

After briefly leaving the field with an injury, Sam Tejada took to the field once again and scored the only two goals of the game. Great play by Jesse, Ryan, Jeff, Edwin, Gary, Jason, Kyle, Jake and Mike Z. resulted in a 2-0 victory.

—Submitted by Michele Billich

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Obituaries

Louis A. Alexander, Sr., 85

Louis A. Alexander, Sr. died on Monday, April 14 at Genesis Eldercare-The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, Louis resided in the city for most of his life. In 1990 he relocated to Toms River before recently returning to Plainfield.

Employed as a teamster for local #408 of Union, he worked for many years with D.O. Evans Construction Company of Hillside before retiring in 1986. He was a WWII veteran of the United States Army, serving in England in the M.P. unit.

His wife, Vivian (Monaco), died in 2005.

Surviving is a daughter, Vivian Alexander of Toms River; three sons, Sam and wife Linda, Lou and wife Sue and John and wife JoAnn, all of South Plainfield and six grandchildren, Sam, Elaine, Jenna, Stephanie, Anthony and Dominick.

Funeral services were private. Committal services were at Brigadier General William C. Doyle's Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Arnetown under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Sidney Tenney, 82

Sidney Tenney died on Monday, April 14 at home.

He was born January 30, 1926 to Max and Ceilia Rudolf Tenney in Albany, New York.

He was a resident of South Plainfield since 1965.

Sidney graduated from Albany High School and served as a corporal in the United States Army Air Corps during WWII where he flew as a crew chief in B-17 and B-25 aircraft. After being discharged from the Air Corps, he earned a degree from Utica Tech in Utica, New York and later earned a private pilot's license.

He worked for General Electric for 40 years in Schenectady, New York, Wyoming, Arizona, Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela.

In retirement, Sidney extensively traveled the United States, Canada, Alaska and Mexico. He loved camping with his wife in their Airstream Trailer and was active in the Airstream Club as an officer.

He was a member of the Air Force Association Shooting Star Chapter in New Jersey, American Legion Chaumont Post #243 and Elks B.P.O.E. Lodge #2298. Sidney was known for his sense of humor, jokes and his sparkling blue eyes. He also assisted with volunteering for many years with Deborah Hospital.

He was predeceased by a sister, Sarah Tenney Olshan.

He is survived by his wife, Annette (Levin) Tenney, whom he married in 1952; three children, Sandra Tenney,

Matthew Tenney and wife Kim and Laura and husband Mark Rutkowski and four grandchildren, Stephanie and Ashleigh Millman, and Sophia Spector and Max Tenney.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to Deborah Heart and Lung, P.O. Box 820, Browns Mills, N.J. 08015.

Harry Scott Reid, 91

Harry S. Reid died after a brief illness on Friday, April 18 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born October 31, 1916 in Quebec, Canada, Harry had been a South Plainfield resident for over 70 years.

He served as a second lieutenant bombardier in the United States Army Air Corps during WWII. He had a long successful career as a sales executive in the plastics and optical industries.

Harry enjoyed his family and being outdoors savoring nature. He always enjoyed the beautiful sunsets from his front porch, the sound of birds singing and the wonder of the full moon. His positive attitude and love for living was an inspiration to those he touched. He was known for his sense of humor and always had a quip to offer everyone he saw and was beloved to many.

Harry was predeceased by a daughter, Heather R. Christensen.

Harry leaves behind his wife of 68 years, Jean Jacobsen Reid; a son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Jill Reid; a son-in-law, Carl Christensen; a grandson, Justin Scott Reid and Desiree McKernan and her daughter, Courtney Bohl.

He was an active 55-year member of the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, 525 E. Front St. in Plainfield, where relatives and friends are invited to attend the memorial service on April 26 beginning at 2 p.m.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, 525 E. Front St., Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

Sonia Romanovsky, 88

Sonia Romanovsky of Edison passed away on Sunday, April 20 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune.

Mrs. Romanovsky was born in New York and resided in Edison most of her life.

Sonia was a homemaker and substitute teacher for many years. She was an active member of The Edison Seniors and enjoyed all of the activities that she participated in at the center.

Sonia was predeceased by her beloved husband of 51 years, William

L. Romanovsky, Sr., who passed away in 1985 and a sister, Natalie Sinisgalli, who passed away in 1991.

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, John M. and Jeanne Romanovsky of Howell and William L., Jr. and Joan Romanovsky of Florida; a daughter, Janet Romanovsky Moran of Bayville; a brother, Lester Semenuk of Edison; seven grandchildren, William L. Romanovsky, III of Florida, Michael J. Romanovsky of Lebanon, Deborah J. Wilson of Edison, Deanna J. Terrone of Toms River, David S. Romanovsky of Highbridge, John M. Romanovsky, Jr. of Colonia and Jill M. Romanovsky of Howell; six great-grandchildren, Meghan Romanovsky, William L. Romanovsky, IV, Michael A. Terrone, Alexa L. Terrone, Nicholas A. Terrone and Mia A. Romanovsky and a great-great-grandchild, Ava Marie.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Mrs. Romanovsky's name to The Alzheimers Association Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, N.J. 07834.

Joseph James Younack III, 62

Joseph James Younack III died on Tuesday, Feb. 5 in Alaska.

Born in Plainfield, Joe lived in South Plainfield and Hopelawn before moving to Alaska in 1992.

He attended East Brunswick Vot-Tech and served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1964 to 1969. During those five years, while stationed in Sitka, Alaska, Joe met his wife Patricia.

From 1970 to 1991, Mr. Younack worked for the former Rickel Home Center Warehouse in South Plainfield, where he was active on the company's first aid team. He was also a 15-year member of the Hopelawn Rescue Squad.

He was predeceased by his father, Joseph Jr., and his adopted father, Patrick Paul.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia; a daughter, Sharon and two sons, Joseph E. and Paul Jay and a granddaughter, Veronica, all of Alaska; his mother, Wanda Recheck Younack; a sister, Patricia Bennekamperl; two nephews, John and Steven Tokarzewski and a niece, Lisamarie Boehm, all of New Jersey. Also surviving are his adopted family members in Alaska, Irene Paul and siblings.

A memorial gathering will be held Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. in McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Joe was active in the Special Olympics and the fight for veterans rights. The family requests that donations be made to the veteran service organization of your choice.

After all, you "shop" for other things.

We apologize for using the word "shop," but the fact is, for most people a funeral service is a major purchase and families want to prevent overspending. Preplanning is the best thing a family can do to avoid spending too much. Let us answer any questions you may have.

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INMYOPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

To see it from the beginning and then watch the end results was truly amazing. The students, ranging from age 10 all the way to 18, worked really hard learning all the music and the many dances. This was a big production with a lot of songs, dialogue and old fashion dancing. Watching how each student fit into the whole picture was like watching a puzzle being put together. On opening night the big picture became complete.

I would like to thank the following people for all their help. If I have forgotten anybody, please forgive me, as I still have not caught up on my sleep!

Thank you to Dr. Ken May and Mr. Errico for all their support and for being there for the students; to Mr. Diehl for all his help getting volunteers to help out on show days and being there at the performances; to all the teachers who volunteered their free time handing out programs and staying in the chorus room during performances; the A&P for their donations of gift cards for the cast cake; Marianne's Catering for their delicious food; Mr. McConville for letting us have our cast party at the American Legion; Bob from Extreme Excellent for being a superb DJ; Diane Seesselberg for props and lending us her husband to direct the play; and to all the parents who volunteered their time during the week of the show.

A big thank you to my River City mothers, Laura Maino, Lydia Stanczak, Maggie Temple, Chris Schulte, Donna Kasmer and Janet Kline, who worked continuously by my side and did jobs before I even asked them. Without you mothers, I would not have been able to get through it all.

Thanks to Emma Fulton, who tirelessly worked night after night teaching the kids dances they did not even know existed; Mr. Murray for teaching the vocals to all the students, which was not an easy task; Mr. Vroom and the orchestra members for their terrific music; Mrs. Tansey for all the days and nights helping with the tickets and the programs; to Bill Seesselberg for involving me in the day-to-day operations of putting on the play; it was wonderful and exhausting at the same time; and a big thank you to our district printer Rich, who was given so much printing to do at the last minute; you did a terrific job.

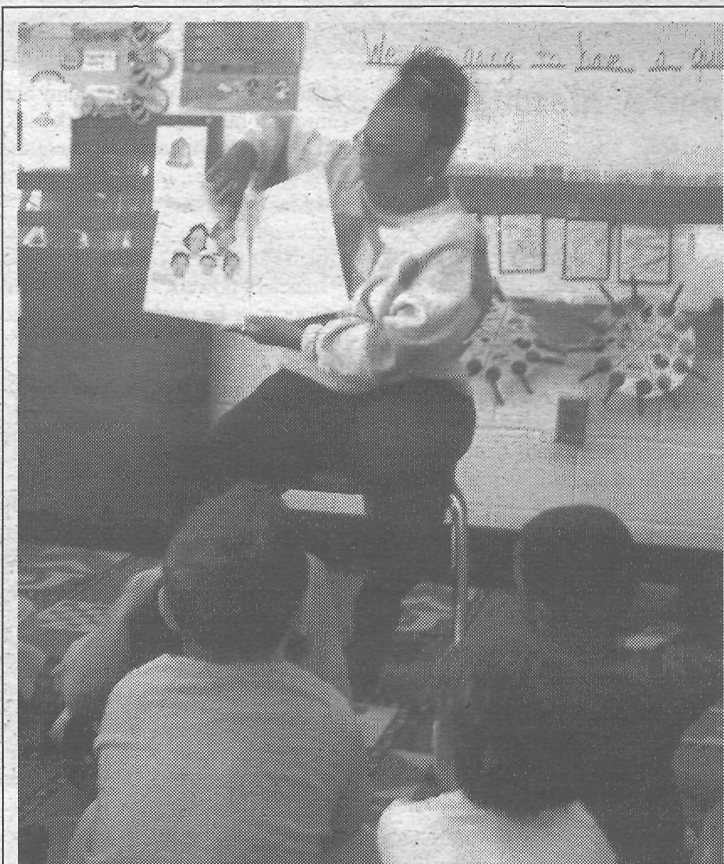
I would also like to thank my husband Walter for taking up the slack at home when I had to be at the high school all those nights and to my son Troy, who surprisingly did all his homework and studying when I asked him, which helped things run a lot smoother.

To all the students in the cast and crew, I want to thank you all for giving me the joy of working with all of you. I know it was rough sometimes and I did tend to raise my voice occasionally, but you guys took it on the chin and put on a terrific show. I want to thank Dan Nigro and Beth Penelope for all the hours they both volunteered to build and paint the sets, for giving your shoulders for the kids to cry on and chocolate kisses to make it all better.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my daughter Taylor (Marion the librarian), for sharing all her adventures with me. I am truly blessed, for you are such a caring, selfless, kind, beautiful and humble young lady. Thank you for including me in your life and I pray you continue to stay the way you are as you head off to college next year, while you continue your music career.

The Wells Fargo Wagon made a stop in South Plainfield last week and left something special for everyone.

GWENN KURILEW



Mrs. Butrico's Future Stars class had a special visit from author Alpha Deanna Langlais, aunt of proud student, Isaiah Drisker. Langlais read the children her story entitled, "Deanna's Delightful Day." The story revolves around her life as an eight year old striving for independence while growing up in the coal mining town of Pemberton, West Virginia. Langlais is a former educator who volunteers her time to promote literacy in schools throughout New Jersey.

Referendum to Build Library

(Continued from page 1)

and current government regulations prohibit expansion on this land.

In 2003, with grant money available from the state, plans to build a new library began in earnest and the library staff compiled a survey of how residents were using the library and what they wanted a library to provide. Members of the library's board of trustees and Sundra Randolph, director of the library, visited other newly built libraries to view what concepts they incorporated in their buildings.

In 2004 the council presented the library with a lot on Plainfield Avenue, located between South Plainfield Funeral Home and Unity Bank.

In 2005 Architect Robert Almodovar from the firm of Nadasky Kopeson of Morristown appeared before the Planning Board with the proposed library plans with floor space of 15,000 square feet, more than twice the current floor space of 6,330 square feet. Plans included a main floor with 10 rows of stacks, a computer at the end of each row, and a reference and circulation desk. The main floor also included a 22 by 30 foot children's room, quiet study rooms for group study and a young adult area. The library design includes an upper area, separate from the main floor and accessible by an elevator or stairs. The area will be available for use after hours for meetings in a large 30 by 32 foot room. The upper area also contains space for a library staff room, bathrooms and a records room. It is designed so that a second floor can be added to accommodate future growth.

The library will also have a drive-up window for both drop off and pick up of materials.

To date \$850,000 has been expended for the library, including the building lot and architect's plans. In March of 2007 the Planning Board gave its final approval. If the referendum is approved, the library will be ready to begin the process of going out to bid.

The potential impact on the average taxpayer will be approximately \$2.50 per month, or \$30 per year.

Next week the *Observer* will publish detailed information on the new library, including drawings and plans. Those wishing to express an opinion on the library should send your comments (no more than 75 words) to: spobserver@comcast.net, fax to (908) 668-8819 or mail to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Comments longer than 75 words will not be published. Include your name and phone number.

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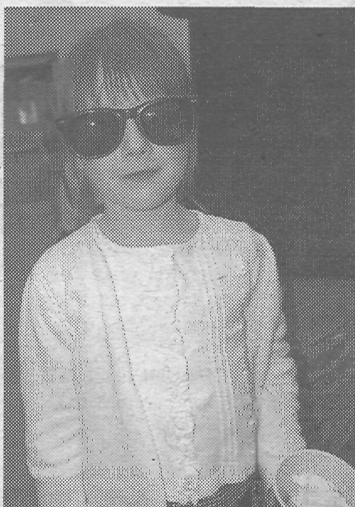
- On April 15 Microsoft Inc. on Kennedy Road reported receiving bad checks from a Phillipsburg resident for several computers that were purchased.
- Franklin School reported that two classroom windows on the north side of the building had been broken.
- A Foster Terrace resident reported the theft of the passenger and driver side doors of their Jeep that was parked at Shell gas station on Plainfield Avenue.
- On April 16 an employee of Hanssem Corp. on Helen Street reported that the passenger side door lock had been popped and the truck opened and a Sony CD/AM/FM radio was taken.
- A Perkasi, Pa. resident reported that their driver side window had been smashed and a Mio GPS was taken while parked on Clark Lane.
- On April 17 Misenga A. Lukabu, 20, of Rahway was arrested at Macy's for shoplifting \$156 worth of clothing.
- On April 18 Damien Earl Banks, 30, of Winchester, Va. was arrested outside Commerce Bank on Plainfield Avenue for forgery.
- On April 19 Ragaci S. Azzer, 51, of East Brunswick was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding and careless driving.
- On April 20 a Quebec resident reported that the driver side door of their vehicle had been kicked and dented while parked at the Ramada Inn.
- Hillside Cemetery reported that small cups and candles had again been left in front of various grave sites.

Borough to Receive Clean Communities Grant

Senator Barbara Buono, Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan and Assemblyman Peter Barnes announced South Plainfield will receive a \$24,999.92 Clean Communities grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Clean Communities funds can be used to purchase or rent equipment and receptacles, as well as to provide trash

bags, gloves and other protective clothing to encourage municipalities and volunteers to clean up solid waste in their localities.

The Clean Communities funding offers New Jersey's cities and towns some of the necessary resources to educate residents about the environmental hazards associated with the improper disposal of waste.



50's Dance Celebrates Franklin's 50th Anniversary

By Patricia Abbott

On April 4 Franklin School celebrated the school's 50th anniversary with a 50's style dance. Students, siblings and parents filled the gym, decked out in 50's garb. There were dozens of poodle skirts, ponytails and scarves, bobby sox, jeans, tee shirts, black jackets and of course, sunglasses. A few attendees who actually remember the era hit the floor with jitterbug moves.

The crowd danced to a DJ who

played a wide assortment of songs, including some not quite from the era, such as the Macarena. They also participated in a limbo dance and a hula hoop contest. The decorations turned the gym into a large malt shop. An extra special touch were the 45 records hung on the wall behind the DJ, some were original 50's records.

Goodies included cold drinks, snacks and ice cream. At evenings end the 50's quietly vanished and 2008 returned and the bobbysoxers headed home to sleep.

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