

# South Plainfield Observer

VOL 11, NO. 37

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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MAY 16, 2008

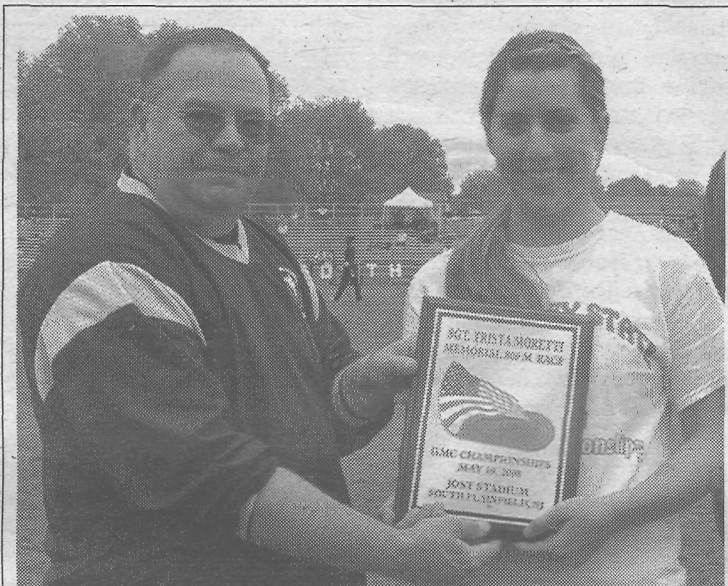
## Nominees Sought for Cappy Award

The Police Athletic League, along with the Recreation Commission, are seeking nominees for the 2008 Cappy Award. Recommendations for nominations are now being accepted through June 1. Recommendations may be made by anyone from the public by sending a letter stating the qualifications of the candidate. Once recommendations have been received, two Police Athletic League and/or recreational peers will approve the recommendations for consideration.

The nominees must have 10 years of service in youth sports and/or recreation; not just serving as a parent-coach to his/her own children, but will be judged on a case by case basis. During the nominee's period of volunteer service, he/she must also have been a resident of South Plainfield.

Nominee must exemplify high moral values and ethical judgment and never have been convicted of a felony, and must possess dedication and commitment to the youth of South Plainfield.

Nominations should be sent to the South Plainfield Police Department, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, Attn: Chris Colucci, PAL president or directly to the Recreation Department, 1250 Maple Ave., Attn: Kevin Hughes, recreation director.



East Brunswick HS senior Naomi Stahl placed first at Saturday's Greater Middlesex Conference Track & Field Championship 800M race to become the first recipient of the Trista Moretti trophy. The award, presented by Mike Buggey, SPHS director of athletics, is named for SPHS graduate Trista Moretti who was killed last year in Iraq, and will be presented annually to the winner of the 800M race, which was Trista's favorite. Kyle McMahon (below left), pictured with coach Richard Fonti, won two first place medals at the championships—the 100M dash with a time of 11.2 seconds and the 200M.



## Council's Nod Paves Way For Boulevard Trucks

The Borough Council, voting along party lines, approved two ordinances Monday night that will repeal the truck weight limits on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. The council meeting was moved to the Senior Center in anticipation of a large turnout of residents who are opposed to truck traffic on their roadways. Four Republican councilman voted for the ordinance and the two Democrats voted against it.

Truck traffic has been an issue in South Plainfield for many years, but in recent years the argument of where trucks should and should not travel is discussed at almost every council meeting.

The Republican councilmen say that New Market Avenue is a dangerous truck route. They refer to several traffic studies, one by South Plainfield Traffic Safety Officer Lt. Kevin Murtagh, who presented his report to the council on two different occasions. There was also a study done by the trucking industry. In ad-

dition, members of the Traffic Safety Commission voted last month to put trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard after hearing Murtagh's report, which sited the six turns trucks are forced to make, the additional 2.5 miles they have to travel and the condition of New Market Avenue, as just a few of the reasons to put them back on Hamilton Boulevard.

Councilman Ray Petronko reported Monday night that there were problems with the truck route in 2006 and 2007 before turns at the intersections were improved. He said that the intersection of New Market, Hamilton Boulevard and Spicer Avenue are still in need of improvements, but the council has prevented the work from being done. He added that in 2008, there were no tractor trailer accidents on New Market Avenue, while there were four tractor trailer accidents on Hamilton Boulevard, despite the fact they are

(Continued on page 12)

## Graf Gets Job She Sought 23 Years Ago

At a special meeting of the Borough Council on April 28, Joann Graf was appointed to a one-year term as municipal clerk. With one hand raised and the other on the Bible, she recited the oath of office by herself.

"Last night I repeated the words. I had memorized them. When I was on the council and Bill DeSabato [the third borough clerk in the history of South Plainfield] would give the oath of office, I would just say it along with him. It's like being in church, repeating the Mass in your mind because you know the words," said Graf, who is a Eucharistic Minister at Sacred Heart Church.

Graf, who served as the first woman councilwoman elected to the Borough Council from 1982-1984, now has the distinction of being the first woman municipal clerk in the borough.

It's an appointment Graf expected to receive 23 years ago. Then retiring borough clerk Bill DeSabato recommended Graf as his replacement. She had already completed classes at Rutgers to become certified for the position, but the 4-2 Republican council voted to install Jim Eckert as clerk, who at the time was the Republican party chairman and the former publisher of the independent local newspaper, "The Reporter."

Graf is again taking courses to receive certification since Rutgers wouldn't give her credit for the classes taken 23 years ago.

"The credits are too old. The laws have changed, so I now have to retake the classes," Graf said. She expects to be able to take the state test, which



Municipal Clerk Joann Graf

is given twice a year, in October and become officially certified.

When Municipal Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri resigned on March 5 to accept another position in Ocean Township, Graf was appointed acting municipal clerk and also continues working in her position as director of the Senior Center and Office on Aging. According to CFO Glenn Cullen, by combining these two positions, the borough will save approximately \$70,000 in salaries and benefits. Marie Dudek and Diane Janus assist Graf in the clerk's office.

Graf held elected office as councilwoman for one three-year term from 1982 to 1984. During that first term she served as council president for two years and authored the borough's personnel handbook, initiated the creation of the Cultural Arts Council with her brother John, and along with Councilman Michael English, obtained

(Continued on page 12)

## Bengivenga Joins Fight for Muhlenberg

Borough Council President Rob Bengivenga joined elected officials from throughout Central Jersey who lobbied state health officials to keep alive Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. The hospital has applied for a "certificate of need" that would allow Solaris Health System, its owners, to close the acute-care facility as soon as next month.

Bengivenga joined more than 1,200 people—many from South Plain-



Rob Bengivenga

field—who begged the state panel considering the closure to think about the fate of the more than 100,000 residents who rely on Muhlenberg. In addition to Bengivenga, other South Plainfield officials attending the hearing were Board of Education members John Markham and Bob Jones. Later that

week the Board of Education passed a resolution asking the state to prevent the closure.

Bengivenga asked the panel to

think about the health and safety of South Plainfield residents and to consider the staggering economic impact of the closing on the Park Avenue medical corridor.

He also asked how shutting the hospital's doors would affect the borough's schools, many of which are within minutes of Muhlenberg's emergency room. "In an emergency, where will an ambulance rush these children?"

Speakers had three minutes each during the two-hour hearing, which meant only a handful of those wanting to talk got a chance. The state later announced it would schedule another hearing soon.

"South Plainfield needs to be there in full force," Bengivenga said. "Once these doors close, they'll never open again. Too many residents rely on the hospital to let that happen."

The full text of Bengivenga's testimony follows.

"Good evening. My name is Robert Bengivenga, Jr., and I am the council president in South Plainfield.

"Like other public officials who will speak this evening, I represent constituents who will be devastated by Muhlenberg's closing.

"South Plainfield's 23,000 residents depend on Muhlenberg and have

(Continued on page 14)

## Save Muhlenberg March & Rally

Saturday, May 17  
12:00 Noon

March Begins Corner Of East Front  
& Park Avenue, Plainfield

Contact Plainfield Branch People's Organization for Progress  
(908) 731-1518 or (973) 801-0001



**COUNCIL MEETINGS** air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.**AGENDA** and/or Other **SPECIAL** Meetings air every Saturday at 8 p.m.**BOE meetings** Thursdays at 7:30

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



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**

<b>Agenda Meeting</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>
Monday, May 19 .....	May 27 (Tuesday)
Monday, June 9 (7 p.m.) .....	Immediately Following
June 16 .....	June 23
July 7 .....	July 14

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

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

June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov 18\*, Dec. 9\*.

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

May 22, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28, September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30\*, December 11\*.

**boardofeducationmeetings****Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted**

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 8.

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

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

June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14.

**business advisory group****Meets once a month (first Wednesday)****Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100****trafficsafety advisory commission****Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall****boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings****Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.****IN MY OPINION***The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.***To the Editor,**

First, I would like to thank Rob Bengivenga, council president for speaking on behalf of the residents of South Plainfield at the public hearing on May 6 before the Commission of Health and Senior Services regarding the closure of Muhlenberg Hospital. For those of you who did not attend, you missed a great opportunity to see over 1,200 people of different races and religions come together for a common cause—Muhlenberg Hospital. Doctors, nurses, religious leaders, elected officials and residents from Plainfield and the surrounding communities were given three minutes each to speak. Because of the overwhelming support and lack of time to hear all the people who wanted to speak, the State Commission will hold a second hearing in Plainfield on Thursday, June 7 at 6 p.m.

I saw very few South Plainfield residents there. The closure of Muhlenberg Hospital will significantly affect you. Time to other hospitals in an emergency such as a heart attack or stroke could mean the difference between life or death, and the quality of your life. Area hospitals, including JFK, will not be able to treat all the additional patients in the emergency rooms, or hospital admissions. Waiting times in emergency rooms will increase, as well as increased times for critical tests and procedures that patients may need.

I grew up in South Plainfield, graduated from Muhlenberg School of Nursing, and raised my family here. In my 37 years of nursing in labor and delivery at Muhlenberg, I have cared for many residents in our town. As a registered nurse and resident of South Plainfield, I am very concerned over the possible closure of Muhlenberg. I want a hospital with an excellent reputation nearby to go to. We have many senior citizens in South Plainfield, residents are employed at Muhlenberg and will be without jobs. Businesses along Park Avenue will be affected.

Muhlenberg Hospital Cares for everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of race, religion, or their ability to pay. Help to stop the State from closing an essential hospital. South Plainfield residents, please come in full force for Muhlenberg Hospital at the public hearing on June 5. Your support is needed. Strength is in numbers!

**LINDA PELOQUIN****Dear Editor,**

A little over a month ago, Rob Bengivenga, Tim McConville, Ray Rusnak and I voted to let you, the residents of South Plainfield, vote whether to build a new library. The concept wasn't new. It was called Democracy Day and had pretty much been forgotten for years. We renewed and improved the idea. Instead of simply making it a day, we made it a whole week giving voters more time to cast their ballots hence the new name, Democracy Week.

While some people may be happy with the result and others disappointed, I want to focus on the process. Residents got a say on one of the biggest purchases South Plainfield would be making in decades. I don't know of any other town where that happens. In the end, more than 1,150 people voted. That's a couple of hundred votes shy of the turnout for this April's school board election.

Thank you to Joann Graf, Glenn Cullen and most importantly our hard-working team at Borough Hall. They rose to the occasion and got this project up quickly and efficiently.

When Ray Rusnak announced Democracy Week in a letter to the editor a few weeks ago, he said that we'd be listening. I want to add to that. We'll continue to listen even now that the first Democracy Week votes are in. So please, continue to help us build a better South Plainfield. We're listening.

**COUNCILMAN MATT ANESH****Dear Editor,**

Now that the non-binding Democracy Week vote on the new library project has been cast, and the fate of the new library apparently decided, I would like to make a few observations.

First of all, I am obviously disappointed with the outcome of the vote. I continue to believe that a state-of-the-art library is something that the Borough of South Plainfield needs for

**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.

the future of our children, in particular, and the Borough, as a whole. It is unfortunate that 669 voters, which represents approximately one-half of one percent of all registered voters, will determine the fate of the new library.

However, what is most disappointing is the number of voters who took the time to vote. If everyone with whom I spoke during the time leading up to Democracy Week and who expressed their support for the new library actually voted, the outcome would have been different. There was no excuse for not finding the time to vote. To those of you who voted to move forward with the new library, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Trustees. To those who voted "no," I would hope that you re-visit your decision, if and when the opportunity presents itself.

To the council majority, I ask that you keep in mind the following quote from James Freeman Clarke, the 19th century scholar and author: "A politician thinks of the next election, a statesman of the next generation." Since the vote was non-binding, I urge the majority to be statesmen.

**ERIC M. ARONOWITZ, PRESIDENT, LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES****Dear Editor,**

On May 6 I attended the hearing about the closing of Muhlenberg Re-

*(Continued on page 9)***Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.**

Attorney at Law



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**South Plainfield Observer**

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1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
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Tom McCreesh (L) and Thomas Lanza (R), president and vice president of C.O.A.C.H.E.S Care (Coaches Offering Assistance for Children's Health), accept a check for \$3,199 from Frank Ratti, owner of Frank's Automotive on Park Avenue at a recent lunch at KC's Korner. The monies raised were through a donation of a used mini van by Norm Loenser, which Frank refurbished and sold. The money will be donated to JFK Medical Center for pediatric medical services and allied services. C.O.A.C.H.E.S Care has donated more than \$150,000 to JFK since it was formed in 2001.

## Kennedy School Kindergarten "Get Acquainted" Program

It's time to register incoming Kindergarten students for the "Get Acquainted" program at Kennedy School. If your child will be attending Kennedy School in September 2008, you may sign up for the program in the school's main office. Please stop by between the hours of 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. to complete the registration form. Forms are also available at the enrollment office in the Roosevelt Administration Building. Remember, this is not kindergarten registration. It is an optional program offered by the Kennedy PTSO.

The purpose of the "Get Acquainted" program is to help your child become familiar with the school. Our hope is to ease some of the anxieties your child may have about coming to school in September. The program includes a visit with the principal, school nurse, other members of the faculty and staff, a mini-bus ride, and lots of fun!

The program will include two class meetings. You may choose either session as follows: Tuesdays, May 20 and 27 from 9-10:30 a.m. or; Tuesdays, May 20 and 27 from 12:30-2 p.m.

Parents must assume responsibility

### Tiger Sharks Meet and Greet Night

Any member of the South Plainfield Community Pool who would like to learn more about the Tiger Sharks Swim and Dive Teams is asked to attend the Meet and Greet Night on Tuesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. at the PAL. No experience necessary, for ages 5-18. Returning team members and interested new members must attend.

## Voters Reject Bonding for New Library

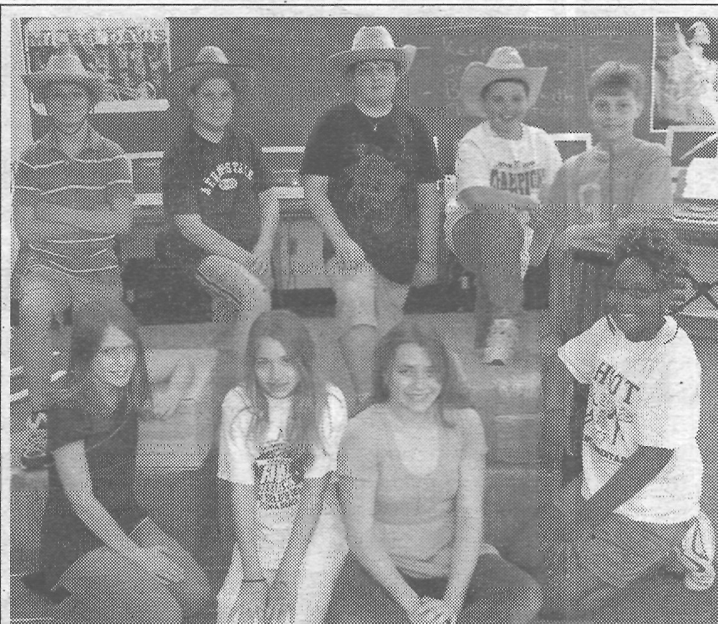
The Democracy Week vote asking residents to approve bonding up to \$4.5M for the construction of a new library ended Saturday at 3 p.m. Votes tallied immediately after the polls closed showed that voters voted against spending \$4.5M. The vote was 669 no and 489 yes. A total of 1,158 votes were cast, less than 10% of the eligible voters.

Voters had a full week to cast their votes at Borough Hall. They also had the opportunity to add their comments when voting.

Before the vote began, the council had said they would vote to bond for the library if the voters approved.

At Monday night's council meeting Eric Aronowitz, president of the Library Board of Trustees, expressed his disappointment in the outcome of the voting and urged the council to move forward despite the vote. He also asked that if the council chose not to move forward that they give him a timetable for the return of the \$290,000 already spent by the library board.

At the last Democracy Day, held in 1998, residents rejected a proposal to bond \$1.4M to purchase houses on New Market Avenue prone to flooding. Democracy Day voting took place on a Saturday, from 9 to 5 p.m. and high school volunteers tallied the vote. That year 942 residents participated.



The Grant School Drama Club production of *Oklahoma! Jr.* will take place on Wednesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and can be purchased in advance, or at the door. Pictured are lead cast members (L to R) bottom: Shayna Hodge, Alyssa Liszewski, Alyssa Kelly and Bhrianna Farmer; top: Adam Butrico, Cody Decker, William Walsh, Dominick Scalera and Charlie Butrico.

## Acupuncturist to Speak at Library

N.J. Board Certified Acupuncturist Carolyn Raiman is giving a talk on the benefits and uses of acupuncture at the South Plainfield Library on Monday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. During her talk, Raiman will conduct a brief demonstration of acupuncture. This talk is open to the public and all are welcome.

Raiman has had success in treating a wide variety of conditions including back and neck pain, headaches, stress, allergies and digestive disorders. She is the director of Tri-County Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine located at 908 Oak Tree Road, Ste. O. For more information, call (908) 477-9587.

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# around town

## UNICO Blood Drive

May 17

The Plainfields Chapter of UNICO will hold their annual Blood Drive and Community Service Day on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. They will be collecting toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, cotton swabs/balls, shampoo, etc. for soldier's homes and hospitals. Items can be dropped off at the Senior Center between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

## Cultural Arts "A Tea For Queen Victoria"

May 17

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission presents "A Tea for Queen Victoria" on Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. The program is presented by Tea Historian Judith Krall-Russo.

## "Mirage" Performing At KC's Korner

May 17

Local band "Mirage" will be performing at KC's Korner, 100 Oak Tree Ave., on Saturday, May 17 at 9 p.m.

## Blackrose to Perform

May 17

Blackrose, the band, will be performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits at Rugs and Riffy's, 493

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

E-mail your event to [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net).

What's happening at the

## SENIOR CENTER

MAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cultural Arts Program – May 17 at 1:30 p.m.  
"A Tea for Queen Victoria"

NJ Property Tax Relief Program and Forum  
May 29 at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

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

19

Bingo 10am-2pm  
Ladies Social Group 10am

20

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

21

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

22

Bingo 10am-2pm

23

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

Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, May 17 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

## Help Darfur Now Presentation

May 18

South Plainfield High School's chapter of Help Darfur Now, a presentation on Darfur awareness, will take place at Wesley Methodist Church on Sunday, May 18 from 12:15-1:15 p.m. The program will provide information about the genocide currently taking place in Darfur, a region in Sudan, which has claimed approximately 400,000 lives so far.

Please come out and support an end to genocide while learning what you can do to help the people of Darfur.

## Elks Family Carnival

May 21-25

The Elks are having a family carnival at Veteran's Park (behind the Senior Center on Church Street) beginning Wednesday, May 21 from 6-10 p.m., Thursday May 22 from 6-10 p.m., Friday, May 23 from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, May 24 from 1-11 p.m. and Sunday, May 25 from 1-10 p.m. Rides, food, 50/50's and so much more. Blue Sky Amusements and Midway.

## Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

May 26

American Legion Post #243 and VFW Post #6763 invite everyone to join them at their Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 26. Ceremony begins at the VFW on Front Street at 9 a.m. and ends at the American Legion Post on Oak Tree Avenue immediately after the wreath laying ceremonies at Veteran's Park and the three cemeteries in town. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

## SPHS PTA Meeting

May 27

The next SPHS PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27 in the SPHS Tiger's Den at 7 p.m. We will be finalizing the plans for the upcoming 2008 Project Graduation celebration. If you would like to help out, please try to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact any executive board member to find out how you can volunteer.

## St. Stephen's International Festival

May 30-June 1

St. Stephen Antiochian Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave., will be holding its first International Festival on Friday, May 30 through Monday, June 1. Admission is free. There will be a variety of delicious foods and delicacies, with special kids games and live music.

For more information visit [www.StStephenChurch.net](http://www.StStephenChurch.net).

## Summer Drama Workshop Auditions

May 30 & June 2

Auditions for the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop 2008 production of "Damn Yankees" will be held on Friday, May 30 and Monday, June 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Middle School.

Auditions are open to all students who will complete sixth through 12th grade, and one year post-graduation.

For more information, please call (908) 561-5255.

## GOP Comedy Night

June 7

The South Plainfield Republican Organization is hosting Comedy Night on Saturday, June 7 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Avenue. Three comedians will be featured. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance, \$60 per person at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert are included. Cash bar.

For information, call Cynthia at (908) 447-6980.

## — Out of Town —

### 35th Greek Festival

May 16-18

"The Best Greek Festival in New Jersey" will be held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1101 River Rd., Piscataway on Friday, May 16; Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18. Donation is \$2; children under 12 free; free admission May 16 until 4 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the church's cultural and community programming.

### People for Animals 'Walk for Animals'

May 18

People for Animals, a non-profit animal welfare organization, is sponsoring its annual Walk for Animals on Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Nomahegan Park, Linden. Refreshments for dogs and humans, contests and doggie bags filled with goodies for the canine participants.

To register, pledge or for more information call (973) 282-0890, ext. 312.

### WOW's Open Dance

May 18

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, May 18 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The Elks, 665 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge. Live music and refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Admission is \$10 members, \$12 guests. For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.

### Trash and Treasure Sale

May 24

The annual Trash and Treasure Sale will take place at Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, located at 445 Plainfield Rd. in Edison on Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or Shine!

### Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

May 28

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Debra E. Koss, M.D. at its meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:45 p.m. at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. The public is cordially invited.

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274.

### Our Lady of Mount Virgin Carnival

May 29-31

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, located at 450 Drake Avenue in Middlesex, will host a carnival May 28-May 31. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday 6 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 6 to 11 p.m. There will be rides, midway by Ace Amusements and a wide variety of food vendors.

For information go to [olmv.net](http://olmv.net), click on "carnival" or call (732) 356-2149.

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Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 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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## Come see The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian May 16-18

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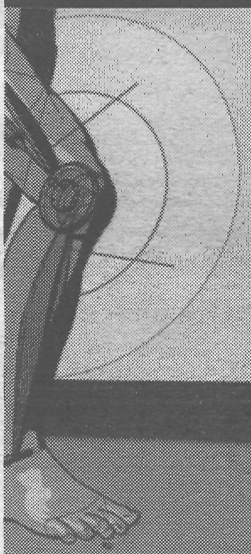
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# Milestones



Jeremiah Matthew Reels

## Reels Announce Birth of Son, Jeremiah

Warren and Kim Reels have announced the birth of their third blessing, Jeremiah Matthew Reels.

Jeremiah was born at Overlook Hospital in Summit on April 14 at 12:14 p.m., weighing in at 7 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20 3/4" long.

Jeremiah was welcomed by his big brother, Isaiah, and sister, Kimer Reels.

**Share Your Good News...  
Send us your Milestones!**

## Fry Named Softball Rookie of the Year

The Bucknell softball program earned two individual honors when freshman Lauren Fry of South Plainfield was named the Patriot League Rookie of the Year and fourth-year mentor, Heather Rakosik copped Coach of the Year honors.

Fry, who is Bucknell's first Rookie of the Year winner since the award was instituted in 2002, put together an outstanding rookie campaign. She was one of two Bison freshmen to be named First Team All-Patriot League. The last Bucknell freshman to earn that honor was Jenna Demetriades in 1999.

Fry hit .343 with two home runs and 30 runs batted in during the regular season. The 30 RBIs are the most by a Bucknell freshman since Demetriades drove in 31 nearly a decade ago. Fry ranked second on the Bison in batting average as well as RBIs.

A left-handed hitter, Fry predominantly hit in the top third of the lineup, pounded out 46 hits and scored a team-best 32 runs during the regular season. She posted a team-best 13 multiple-hit games and accumulated seven multiple-RBI outings. She had 10 RBIs over the season's final five games and 13 over the final eight.



Lauren Fry

Fry's 10 doubles this season put her atop the team in that category, along with Colmenero. That figure is tied for 10th on Bucknell's single-season list.

One of four Bison to start all 20 Patriot League contests, Fry hit .380 with one home run and 18 RBIs against conference competition.

A strong leftfielder, Fry committed just one error in the final 48 games of the season. Overall, she had a fielding percentage of .959 to rank second among Bucknell's regular starting outfielders.

## Curves Partners With Avon for Fitness Study

With over four million members worldwide, most would think the Curves women's fitness franchise has nothing to prove. But the company is going above and beyond and looking for participants in the South Plainfield area to be part of the Curves/Avon Fitness Study to ensure that everyone knows the power of the Curves workout program.

For \$30, participants will be asked to complete 12 workouts over a 30 day period with a minimum of three workouts per week. In addition, participants will receive a start and finish fitness evaluation 30 days free on CurvesComplete.com, an online diet and fitness solution, and supervised training from a Curves trainer. "With so many fitness membership choices, it's imperative that we demonstrate how serious we are about weight loss and an active lifestyle. This study allows us to further differentiate ourselves from the competitors," said Elissa and Jerri, owners of Curves of South Plainfield. "And Avon, a company that is so passionate about women, is the perfect partner for this initiative. We encourage South Plainfield residents to be part of this study. What is there to lose except a few

pounds?

The Exercise and Sports Nutrition Lab at Baylor University will be evaluating the research that is gathered in the fitness clubs and analyzing the results which will then be published in various journals.

For more information on the Curves/Avon Fitness Study, please contact Elissa or Jerri at (908) 757-4422 or visit the South Plainfield location at 27 South Plainfield Avenue. Additional information about Curves is available at [www.curves.com](http://www.curves.com).

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## South Plainfield Soccer Club Tryouts

5/19, 20, 21, 22, 2008  
Kenneth Avenue Soccer Fields  
Information: 908-755-3550  
<http://www.sopflsoccercub.com>

Boys and Girls from age 7

\*\*\*See date range below for age group\*\*\*

Proof of age and parental permission is required.

**Please arrive at 5:30 to complete the pre-registration paperwork.**

Dates	Birthdates	Age Group	Time
5/19 & 21	Aug 2000 - July 2001	U8	6:00 - 8:00 pm
5/19 & 21	Aug 1999 - July 2000	U9	6:00 - 8:00 pm
5/19 & 21	Aug 1998 - July 1999	U10	6:00 - 8:00 pm
5/19 & 21	Aug 1997 - July 1998	U11	6:00 - 8:00 pm
5/20 & 22	Aug 1996 - July 1997	U12	6:00 - 8:00 pm
5/20 & 22	Aug 1995 - July 1996	U13	6:00 - 8:00 pm
5/20 & 22	Aug 1994 - July 1995	U14	6:00 - 8:00 pm

It is suggested that you attend both dates of tryouts for your age group.

Bring water bottle, wear cleats and shin guards.  
Please be on time.

## Motorists Advised to Click It or Ticket In Campaign to Save Lives

Law enforcement officers from the South Plainfield Police Department will be cracking down on unbuckled motorists and their passengers as part of the national "Click it or Ticket" campaign.

During the program which runs through June 1, local police agencies will conduct a zero tolerance seatbelt enforcement campaign and will issue tickets to motorists who are not buckled-up.

"Using a seatbelt is the simplest way for a motorist and his or her passengers to protect themselves when on the road," said Pam Fischer, director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "Motor vehicle occupants who buckle-up are between 45 and 75 percent less likely to face life threatening injuries in a car crash. That's a statistic that should make everyone buckle-up, every ride."

Last year, the seatbelt usage rate in New Jersey rose for the 11th consecutive year to 91.4%. Fischer noted that while seat belt usage rates continue to increase in New Jersey, law enforcement and safety officials

will not rest until the state achieves a 100 percent compliance rate.

"We've seen the seat belt usage rate steadily increase during the past decade with the help of focused enforcement efforts such as Click it or Ticket," Fischer added. But our work isn't done. We'll continue to use both enhanced enforcement and public outreach efforts to educate all motorists on the life-saving value of seat belts."

Nationally, between 1975 and 2000, seat belts prevented 135,000 fatalities and 3.8 million injuries, saving \$585 billion in medical and other costs. Seat belt use particularly critical for teens and young adults, with motor vehicle crashes cited as the leading cause of death for people age 15 to 34 in the United States.

"We are committed to the Click it or Ticket strategy," added Tom Loulzon, Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Tickets are a strong deterrent and the results are meaningful: fewer deaths on our roads."

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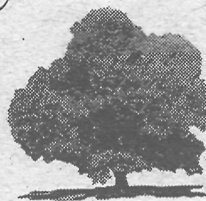
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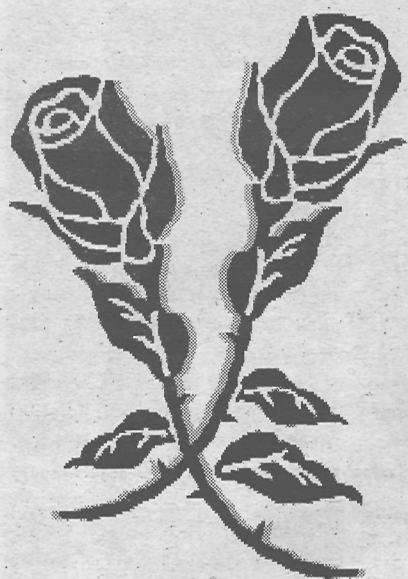
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# The Rose Patrol

## Mohn's Drops In to Surprise Fifteen Lucky Moms & a Grandmother

Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods has been honoring South Plainfield moms for Mother's Day in a very special way for the past 11 years. Each year they take time out from their hectic schedule just prior to Mother's Day when Mohn's "Rose Patrol" heads out to visit the lucky moms. Armed with bouquets of colorful roses, Georgeann DiGrazi delivers a lot more than just flowers to these 15 lucky moms (and this year, a lucky grandmother). The moms were nominated by their children or grandchild through a poem or essay submission at their school for Mohn's annual Mother's Day Essay Contest. Elementary school-age children were asked to write a poem or essay to their teachers describing their love for their moms. Each school chose three winning entries and submitted the winners' names to Mohn's.

Most winners were equally surprised as their moms when Mohn's co-owner, Georgeann DiGrazi, showed up at their doors to present the moms with a delivery of a dozen roses and a copy of the student's winning essay.

The *Observer* had the privilege of joining the "Rose Patrol" as it made its delivery to the lucky moms and witnessed the joy and love in the eyes of the moms, along with the delight of the students who authored the essays.

DiGrazi and co-owner Bill Cochrane are nearly brought to tears as they read the winning essays and poems and are grateful they don't have the responsibility of selecting the winners. Mother's Day is one of the busiest times of the year for Mohn's and this year they were especially busy with the high school's junior prom, confirmations and a local dance recital. Both DiGrazi and Cochrane donate their time, and the roses, for this special Mother's Day tribute each year. This year was especially difficult for DiGrazi, who lost her mom a few months ago.

Thanks to the teachers who encouraged students to submit their essays. The contest had the participation of all the elementary schools in the borough.

The essays and poems were written by Ryan Marston, Isaiah Feeley-Sudeall (not pictured), Joseph Heilman, Sam Campell, Mikayla Jones, Charles Hunter, Alexia Wargacki, Sarah Adlassnig, Madison Zieger, Brandon Ozbalik, Jessica Neal, Isaiah Hendricks, Jillian Holoboski, Vena Viran, Daniel Ramotowski and Madison Faustini.

### Grammie's Eyes

By Alexia Wargacki

When I look I see nothing  
but love in her face.  
There is nothing that could  
change that look of love.  
She is everything a granddaughter  
could hope and everything I need.  
Thank God for that look of  
love in Grammie's Eyes!



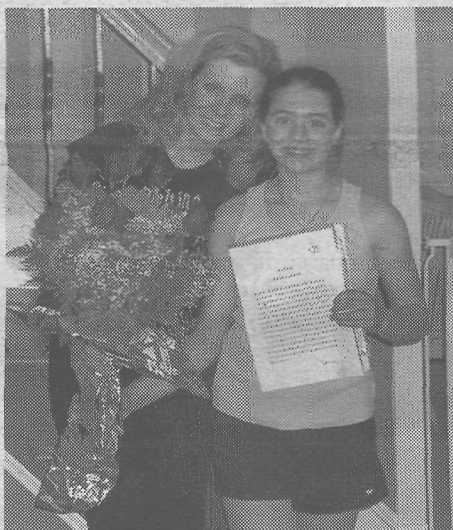
Toni Campbell with son Sam



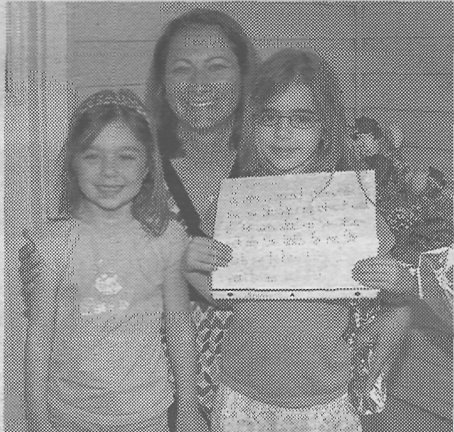
Kathleen Wargacki and granddaughter Alexia



Renata Ramotowski and son Daniel



Christine Faustini and daughter Madison



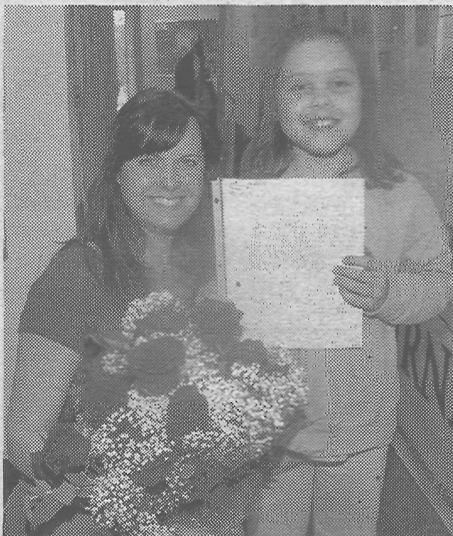
Michele Adlassnig and daughter Sarah with sister Kaitlyn



Regina Hendricks and son Isaiah



Raywater Viran with daughter Vena



Kelly Holoboski with daughter Jillian



Teresa Steele-Hunter with son Charles



Pam Heilman and son Joseph



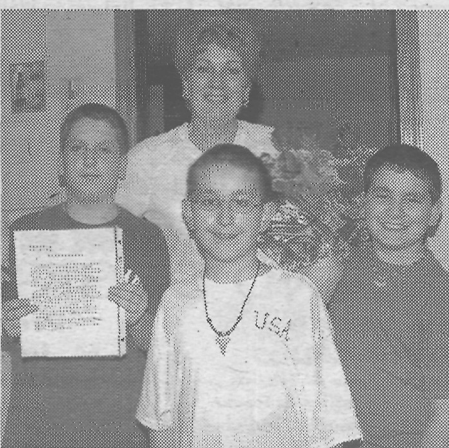
Susan Zieger with daughter Madison



Sue Marston and son Ryan



Debbie Neal and daughter Jessica



Patricia Ozbalik with son Brandon and brothers Chris and Matthew



Lisa Jones with daughter Mikayla





Sacred Heart School seventh grade class with teacher Mrs. Lukas, who also teaches sixth, seventh and eighth grade science, and Dante, the students' Earth Day project.

## Students Adopt a Tiger for Earth Day

Sacred Heart School 7-A class recently finished a massive project—a model of a Bengal Tiger named Dante, that the students adopted from Pop-corn Zoo.

The model was made out of recyclable materials. The project was their contribution to Earth Day to promote recycling.

The students used materials that included shredded paper, cans, bottles and boxes to shape the structure and spray paint to color the tiger.

The project was completed in a

timetable of one week, a tremendous achievement for a seventh grade class.

The students' ideas were purely original and creative. The sculpture is five to six feet long and is complete with a specialized landscape for the tiger's surroundings.

The sculpture can be viewed in the seventh grade classroom. It will be on display at the 2007-2008 annual school science fair as a symbol of creativity, intelligence and above all, the willingness of the students to help keep the Earth green and healthy.

## LAMP Performance Wows Public

By Libby Barsky

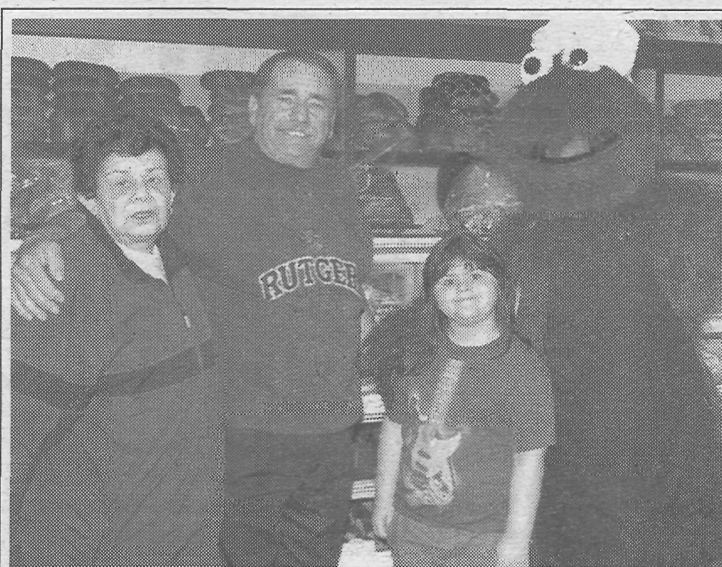
At a recent Board of Education meeting 21 Kennedy School students took center stage. Spotting the musical results of the LAMP program, they received a standing ovation for their performance from the audience.

The third and fourth graders are students of music teacher Barbara Habeeb, who conducts the school's LAMP (Language Art Music Program) for gifted children. Usually LAMP classes are held separately for each grade, but Habeeb has been training both classes together for five weeks for the performance. Habeeb is a professional musician who also composes many of the songs she performs under her stage name, Barbara Harley.

The first song, "Front Row Seat," was written by Habeeb and Anne Freeman and Al Lind. The second, "California Dreamin'," was recorded by the 60s rock group The Mamas and The Papas. "It showed the students' ability to sing harmony," said Habeeb. The last song performed was "Meant to Be," written by Barbara Harley, Kim Jakubicki and Al Lind.

Two weeks before the BOE concert, Habeeb learned American Idol was holding a song contest. She entered a recording of "Meant to Be" on which she sang and played the guitar. Unfortunately, she recently learned that it wasn't selected as one of the top 20.

Fourth grade students who participated in the program were Alexes Aquilina, Katherine Dolinski, Jamie Donato, Kylie Donnelly, Olivia George, Nicole Geradi, Carly Miceli, Scott Pietschker, Samantha Ratti, Emma Regan and Sydney Shaw. Third grade students were Gregory Forbes, Patrick Kopolka, Megan McDermott, Lawrence O'Neal, Sierra Passquarella, Katie Reo, Samantha Reo, Scott Ricardi, Owen Sprigle and Zach Wolpin.



## Salsons Bakery Celebrates Grand Opening

Salsons Bakery, 4315 New Brunswick Ave. across from Stop 'N Shop, held their grand opening on May 3. Long-time South Plainfield residents Maryann and Phil Aiello (above) stopped in to visit with the Cookie Monster and sample from the more than 1,000 items baked fresh daily. Councilman Ray Petronko stopped in to congratulate owner Anthony Gaetano (right) on the successful opening after three years of planning. A stream of customers filled the bakery, including those who followed Salsons from Metuchen, where they were previously located. Salsons Bakery is open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



## police report

• On May 6 Joseph J. Lammi, 19, of South Plainfield was charged with theft for unlawful taking of signs and for receiving stolen property.

• Bruce Edward Simpson, 20, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• Dennis W. Crossman, 57, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to exhibit a driver's license.

• A Grove Street resident reported unauthorized charges on his credit card to an Internet company in the amount of \$1,176.

• On May 7 David Marsh, 24, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

• An Amboy Avenue resident reported that the rear window of their vehicle had been damaged by a BB gun.

• On May 8 a Clinton Terrace resident reported that eggs had been thrown at their vehicle.

• On May 9 a Durham Avenue resident reported that the driver's side window of their vehicle had been broken and a Omnitel GPS was taken.

• On May 10 Anthony W. Dungee, 32, of South Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, public intoxication, possessing an open container of alcohol in public and an outstanding warrant.

• On May 11 a Geary Drive resident reported the theft of their vehicle's license plate and bracket.

• A New Market Avenue resident reported that a copper sun was taken off the wall in the rear of their yard.

• On May 12 a Sherman Avenue resident reported that their home had been burglarized during the night while they were asleep. A rear window had been pushed open and three credit cards and \$375 cash were taken from a purse and wallet. The house keys were taken and found in their vehicle which was unable to be started.

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# Kennedy School Enthusiastic Readers

By Jane Dornick

Kennedy School's Library Media Specialist Amy Carlos proudly announced her Enthusiastic Readers for 2008. Students were chosen by Carlos who demonstrated respect for the library by returning books on time, finding their own books and being excited about what they were reading. All of the students nominated received a certificate, a Reading is Magic bracelet and ate lunch with author Audrey Penn during her all-day visit to the school.

The recipients were entered into a statewide drawing of Enthusiastic Readers sponsored by the N.J. Association of School Librarians and the N.J. Reading Association. Matthew Waters was selected to represent over 2,000 Enthusiastic Readers from Central Jersey region in grades kindergarten through five. He received a framed certificate, a savings bond and other prizes including autographed books at a ceremony on April 12.

Fourth grade Enthusiastic Readers are Jacob Alba, Brian Cullen, Katherine Dolinski, Amanda Duffy, Marianna Fahmy, Matthew Gallant, Nicole Gerardi, Robert Gwiazda, Paul Melillo, Jr., Melissa Novak, Timothy Nuber, Jason Petriello, Nicholas Polizzano, Samantha Ratti, Emma Regan, Maximilian Rohrer, Sydney Shaw, Nicholas Spadavecchia, Matthew Waters, Lea Wietrzykowski and Emily Zawadski.

Third grade Enthusiastic Readers are Amanda Cavaliere, Sydney Christian, Nicholas Farinella, Gregory Forbes, Melissa Gallant, Christa Iazzetta, Hamza Jadoon, Christopher Jefferys, Chace Jones, Phillip Malavarcha, Megan McDermott, Heather Melendez, Claire Nagel, Grace Ochoa, Meagan Praul, Joseph Reo, Katherine Reo, Samantha Reo, Scott Riccardi, Kayla Santiago, Cody Soper and Kevin Soper.

Second grade Enthusiastic Readers are Michael Behr, Cara Capone, Austin Feltham, Sarah Regan, Jack Scrudato and Brandon Wiza.

1ST ANNIVERSARY IN HEAVEN

Archie L. Dean III

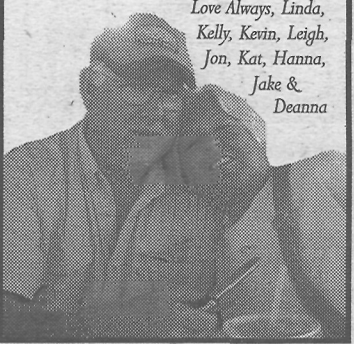
"Sandy"

May 15, 2007

When I must leave you for a little while, please do not grieve and shed wild tears and hug your sorrow to you through the years, but start out bravely with a gallant smile; and for my sake and in my name live on and do all things the same, feed not your loneliness on empty days, but fill each waking hour in useful ways, reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer and I in turn will comfort you and hold you near; and never, never be afraid to die, for I am waiting for you in the sky.

I just can't seem to find the words to express how much you are missed. I know that if you knew you were leaving you would have given us one last kiss. I can replay almost every moment I have spent with you in my mind. You were the most loving, caring and giving person, you were truly one of a kind. It seems like only yesterday you walked me down the aisle, and now that it is Jon's turn I wish you could be there with your smile. To so many people you meant so much, you were a Son, a Brother, a Husband, a Daddy, a Grandpa and the best friend anyone could ever have. We Love You and We Miss You.

Love Always, Linda,  
Kelly, Kevin, Leigh,  
Jon, Kat, Hanna,  
Jake &  
Deanna



INMYOPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)

gional Medical Center. As a South Plainfield resident, I have been following with concern the news stories about Muhlenberg's possible closing. It's by far the closest hospital for residents, and any attempt to shut it down would have a drastic impact on the health and safety of our community.

To my surprise and pleasure, one of the first to speak that night was South Plainfield Council President Rob Bengivena. Rob spoke powerfully about the need to keep Muhlenberg open and about the dire impact closing the facility will have. He talked not only about the health and safety of residents, but also about the staggering financial consequences closing the hospital would have on residents who work there and on the medical corridor along Park Avenue.

I was proud to be there among more than a thousand people clapping and cheering for our council president. Of the public officials who spoke, which included mayors, assemblymen, and others, Rob received one of the most excited responses. In fact, the moderator had to interrupt him and ask the crowd to stop cheering so loudly, because the stenographer could not hear!

A big thank you to Council President Bengivena for his help with this important issue.

VERY TRULY YOURS,  
DERRYCK C. WHITE

To the Editor:

Thank you! Our spaghetti dinner was a great success. Boy Scout Troop 207 would like to thank the following vendors for all of their support with our dinner: Roma Foods, VA Tramatano, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Restaurant Depot, Sherban's Diner, Haisch's Bakery, Foremost Fire Protection, Columbia Bank, Flanagan's, Target, Party City, Mohn's Florist, Hometown Heros, Rescare, Fountainbleau Diner, Stop & Shop, Spain Inn, Dynasty Kitchen and a special thank you to the South Plainfield American Legion for all of your support and sponsoring our troop.

All monies raised through this event will go to help the boys offset the cost of purchasing and/or replacing equipment and for trips.

Any boy between the ages of 11-

17 interested in learning a new experience, likes to camp and make new friends, please come visit us on Thursday nights at the South Plainfield American Legion between 7:30-9 p.m. or give us a call at (908) 757-3369.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 207

Dear South Plainfield Residents,

We would like to say thank you to everyone who donated party supplies towards our Bronze Award project. We put together 40 party boxes to donate to the children at the Resource Center for Women and Their Families. All the children and women really appreciated them. People in the shelter do not get parties and we thought this would be a good way to help them. We would not have been able to do this without the generosity of all of you. When we visited the shelter office we realized that if we were in a shelter and did not get a party how happy we would be with the donated supplies. We just want to say thanks to each and every one of you who generously donated.

SINCERELY,  
THE GIRLS OF TROOP 120

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Education Foundation and the South Plainfield Business Association held their annual Emil Leporino Memorial Golf Outing on May 6. It was another huge success. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the outing as well as all of our sponsors:

Boyle Memorial Foundation, Central Jersey Federal Credit Union, Columbia Bank, Cornerstone Architectural Group, Integrity Consulting, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, New Pak, Grotto Engineering, Rydel Volkswagen, Steve Cecchetini Insurance, Lee Nestel Centric Insurance, Schwartz, Simon and Edelstein, South Plainfield Funeral Home, Centric Insurance, DiCara Rubino Architects, Bett-A-Way, Halls Warehouse, Cindy Michaels Jewelers, Commerce Bank, Fire & Safety, Frank Mikorski, Global Products and Solutions, Lanza & Lanza, McManimon & Scotland, Pinto Bros., Plainfield Animal Hospital, R&C Auto Body, Sanchez, Sanchez & Santoliquido, Straight Edge Striping, Unity Bank, Adeline's,



Winning golf team members Tom Lanza, Warren Tamaroff, Chris Bono and Anthony Moretti.

A New U Fitness, All About U, B&C Deli, Bagel Pantry, Ciccio's Pizza, Dress Barn, European Hair, Flanagan's, Fugazzi Electric, Haisch's Bakery, Hometown Heros, Imperial Deli, Just Packaging, KC's Korner, Kreation Specialties, Mei Haus Restaurant, Mobile Storage Group, Munchies, Oak Tree Farms, Oak Tree Liquors, Paulo's BBQ, Rita's Italian Ice, Sherban's Diner, Sherwin Williams, Twin City Pharmacy, Vail Hardware, Rich's Pharmacy, T&T Nail, Curves, Graingers, Sal's Spirit Shop, Dominoes Pizza, Graphix One and White Star Diner.

We would also like to thank the members of the committee who worked very hard to make the golf out-

ing such a big success! They are Bob Longo, Carolyn Allen, Kelly Stashko, Andrew Ohriska, Rick McCriskin and Tom Lanza.

The winning team members were Tom Lanza, Warren Tamaroff, Chris Bono and Anthony Moretti.

Without all of our sponsors and golfers, the outing would not have been such a success.

We have already scheduled the date for next year's outing—Tuesday, May 12, 2009—so save the date!

SINCERELY,  
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT-  
SP EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND  
DEBRA LEPORINO, PRESIDENT-  
SP BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

South Plainfield Gas Price Check

Gasoline prices are rising every day. To keep readers informed, the Observer will be publishing the latest price of gasoline at our local stations.

Station	Location	May 6 6:00 PM	May 13 6:00 PM	See Note
Jersey Oil	Park Ave & E. Golf Ave	\$3.419	\$3.539	1*
Citgo	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.419	\$3.539	
Raceway	Clinton & W. 7th	\$3.439	\$3.539	2*
Enrite	Durham & Texas	\$3.489	\$3.559	
Jersey Oil	Hamilton & Amboy	\$3.459	\$3.579	
Exxon	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.459	\$3.579	
Gulf	Front St. & Oak Tree Ave.	\$3.499	\$3.639	
Gulf	Stelton & New Brunswick	\$3.499	\$3.659	
Shell	Plainfield & Lane	\$3.479	\$3.679	
Lukoil	Durham & 287	\$3.539	\$3.699	
Lukoil	Hamilton & Stelton	\$3.659	\$3.699	
*1	Jersey Oil Credit Card Price-	\$3.519	\$3.639	
*2	Raceway Credit Card Price -	\$3.519	\$3.619	

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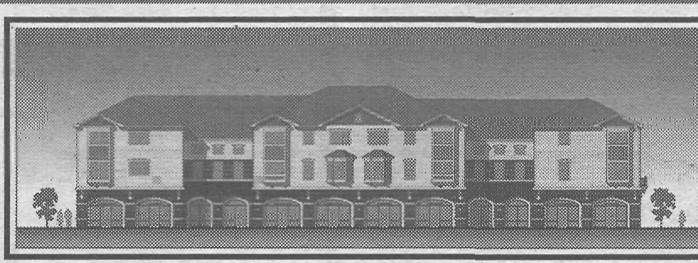
Christopher H. P. Abbott

May 14

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# Sports

## TRAVELING SOCCER

Submitted by Chris Paez

### Bullets Win Another Game for Their Moms

The moms of the boys U-14 traveling soccer team received a wonderful gift from their sons last Sunday when they beat the Blades from Somerset Hills 4-1. The game started out in favor of the Blades, but that quickly turned around when the second half began.

After some much needed regrouping at halftime, the Bullets started the second half knowing they had work ahead of them since they were down a goal. It

didn't take much time to turn the game around after Tony Franczak scored the Bullets' first goal shortly after the second half began. Joe Krawiec followed, scoring two goals to give the team a little "cushion" over Somerset Hills. With only a couple minutes left in the game, Ryan Riccardi scored the fourth goal to give the team their 4-1 win.

The phenomenal passing and communication skills of the rest of the team, which includes Anthony Quad-

rel, Marc Paez, Alex Valladares, Edgar Callegas, Ryan Marcoux, Kevin Flanagan, Zach Noll, Jelani Pta, Austin Jenkin, Jimmy Gerber, Shaun Alers and Jose Cruz, just keeps getting better every week. Unforgettable was the terrific job that David Forero did in net.

The Bullets have three more games left this season. Their next game is on Sunday, May 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kenneth Avenue fields.

### A Mother's Day Win for Arsenal

The boys U-9 traveling soccer team took on the Bridgewater Cosmos and defeated them with a score of 2-1 on May 11. The team knew they had a tough game ahead of them since Bridgewater was undefeated up to that point. Arsenal just stepped up their game and went in playing hard.

Both teams were equally matched and this made the game extremely exciting to watch because it could have gone either way at any time. The com-

munication between the players of Arsenal and their fantastic ball handling put them in the lead.

The first goal of the game was scored by Jake Hoffman in the first quarter. The Cosmos turned around and scored their only goal at the beginning of the second quarter. That is when Alec Paez scored Arsenal's second goal to put them in the lead. They couldn't have stayed on top if the rest of the team, which includes Jose

Arrubla, Jake Smith, Ricky Pellegrino, Samardhi Jeedigunta, Jake Giordano, Nicholas Pezzolla, Tyler Curtis, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Caleb Kuberiet, Jared Marks and Nicholas Plate, didn't play so hard and strong.

Arsenal's next game is Sunday, May 18 at the Kenneth Avenue fields at 4 p.m.

If any one is looking to join the soccer club, tryouts are being held the week of May 19-22.

## SOCCER CLUB

Submitted by Michele Billich

### U-16 Fusion Defeats Berkeley Heights and South Brunswick

The South Plainfield Soccer Club's U-16 Fusion picked up two more wins back to back, increasing their record this season to 6-1.

The first victory came last week on the turf field at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. Goals were scored by Mike Zelasko, William Mott and two each were made by Gary Pastuna and Jason Pattison, resulting in a 6-0 win. Agu Ufodu tended to the net, while the remaining players kept the ball in play at the opposite end of the field throughout the majority of the game.

South Brunswick visited the Kenneth Avenue home field for a Mother's Day game this past weekend. Scoring in the first half were Mike Zelasko, Steve Lanza and Sam Tejada, with Will Mott as goalie.

Once the second half began, Fusion picked up three more goals delivered

by Sam Tejada, Gary Pastuna and the combined effort of Jake Salerno and Jason Pattison. Within the last fifteen minutes of the game, South Brunswick managed to drive two goals past goalkeeper Agu Ufodu ending in a final score of 6-2.

As always, the victories would not have be possible without the teamwork of the rest of Fusion, which includes Jesse Allen, Ryan Billich, Mike Dispenziere, Jeff Gillen, Lucas Gointanda, Edwin Molina and Kyle Pompilio.

Tryouts for the Soccer Club's 2008-2009 season are as follows: U-8-U-11 Monday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. and U-12-U-14 Tuesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 22 from 6 to 8 p.m.

All tryouts take place at the Kenneth Avenue complex. Please report to the snack stand at 5:30 p.m. to sign in.

By Jack Brady

### JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES-C-LEAGUE

**C-league Red Sox:** Jagger Mendez had two nice hits. James Moore pitched a solid inning. Christian Butrico and David Chatel each had a nice hit. Jake Giordano had three hits and pitched two solid innings and Jake Hoffman had three hits including a home run. Noah Lynch pitched his first inning this year.

**C-league Athletics:** Played great all three games this week with each game going right down to the wire. Great pitching by Nicholas Plate, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jean Sapici, Billy Keane and terrific hitting from Jacob Rivera.

TJ Scott, Alex Kelly and Ben Lundy were keys to the victories.

**C-league Rockies:** Every player contributed this week with a hit or walk. Leading the way was the "Wiz Kid" Brandon Wizda going three for four with two RBIs; Billy McLaughlin added two singles and drove home three runs. Vinnie Savoca reached base safely in four at bats and Anthony Lacasale got his first hit of the season a line drive into center field. Connor Adams pitched two scoreless innings, highlighted by six strikeouts.



## SOCCER CLUB

Submitted by Margaret Pezzola

### Magic Vs. Cougar United Highlights

Magic, the girls U-13 traveling soccer team, has moved up two divisions. They are having a very challenging season.

They are doing their best to hold their own. Magic has improved on their communication and passing skills. They are progressing well and the competition is very competitive.

South Plainfield Magic vs. Cougar United on Sunday, May 11 at 3 p.m. at home-This was a very intense game to watch. Magic really had to be on top of their game. They worked hard

to come together as a team. The offensive and defensive players had played a real tough game. They were Marissa Smith, Danielle Butrico, Kaitlin McHugh, Jackie Dvorak, Jessie Bishop, Allyson Ratti, Marie Lanza, Annie Pezzolla, Kim Walsh, Alex Doras, Emily Skula, Taylor Crews, Brooke Penik, Carlee Gonzalez and Daisy Castro. Captains were Kaitlin McHugh and Brooke Penik. Goalkeeper Jackie Dvorak made some nice saves.

In the first half Cougar United scored the first goal. Magic players Annie Pezzolla scored a goal on a penalty kick and Emily Skula made an incredible goal. Soon after Annie Pezzolla scored another goal which put Magic in the lead, 3 to 1.

In the second half Cougar United tied up the game three to three giving Magic a 1-4-3 record.

Magic's next game will be held at Livingston at 3:15 p.m. Please come out and show your support.

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# Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

The Hackers narrowly squeaked by 2 Buds, 2 Dubes, 11-9, to maintain their unblemished record atop the American Division. Captain Kevin Boyce led the way for the victorious Hackers with a solid round of 36 and Bill Mann once again provided good support with a 39.

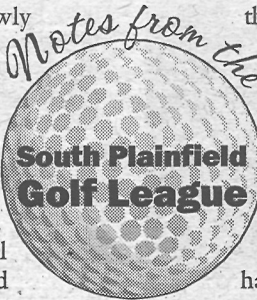
Dale Dube's 38 and Jeff Orth's 39 fell just a little short of pulling off an early-season upset.

Last year, the Hackers got off to a terrible 0-4 start. The story is totally different this season and it now looks like they're going to be the team to beat for championship honors in their division.

John Gavin's 39 helped Buy-Rite gain a 14-6 triumph over Twin City. Bob McDonald was the only golfer for the losing Twin City squad to break 40, as he turned in a 38.

Steve Schock posted a 36 and Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar came through once again with a nice round of 37 to spark Plainfield Animal Hospital to a surprisingly easy 16-4 win over the Roughriders. Andy "The Florida Feather" Hayward continued his fine play for the Roughriders, carding a nifty round of 36 in a losing effort.

The league leaders in the National Division, the B-Datt Squad, edged out last year's champions, Pornovets, 11-9, to remain the only undefeated team in their division. Danny McCreesh and Kyle Kurczeski both shot sparkling 1-over 34's for the B-Datt Squad, and



they got good support from Tom McCreesh who chipped in with a 39. Marty "Mr. Amazing" Van De Vaarst carded a 38 for Pornovets who slipped to a record of 1-2.

Now that three weeks have gone by, all league members will be getting new adjusted handicaps for this season. B-Datt Squad has been shooting lights out while some golfers have been struggling and that means that the red-hot B-Datt Squad will be giving away a significant number of strokes in future matches. The way they've been playing, they could very well be really eager to meet this new challenge.

KC's Korner came to life and showed some of their old firepower as they blew out Unique Sports Accessories, 19-1. Mark Dugan had his old touch back as he shot a terrific 2-over 35. He got a lot of help from Greg Kilmer who shot a 38 and Dan Conti who registered a 39. USA only fielded three men and they all struggled.

Kevin Bickunas and teammate Marty Simpson shot a pair of 38's as Witty's easily handled Sport & Social, 13-7. Dennis Bibby seems to be back on track for Sport & Social as he recorded a 37.

**Low scores for the night:** Danny McCreesh, 34; Kyle Kurczeski, 34; Mark Dugan, 35; Kevin Boyce, 36; Andy Hayward, 36; Steve Schock, 36; Dennis Bibby, 37; Mark Chichvar, 37.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

### American Division

	W	L	T
Hackers	3	0	0
Buy-Rite Liquors*	2	0	0
Witty's*	1	1	0
PAH	1	2	0
Pornovets	1	2	0
USA	1	2	0

\*Results of Buy-Rite - Witty's match to be determined

### National Division

	W	L	T
B-Datt Squad	3	0	0
Roughriders	1	2	0
Sport & Social	1	2	0
2 Buds, 2 Dubes	1	2	0
Twin City	1	2	0
KC's Korner	1	2	0

## SPHS GOLF TEAM

Submitted by Mike Kavka



Robbie Hoffman

## Golf Team Wins Three More!

The Tiger Golf Team began the week with an easy win 154-198 at home against Woodbridge on May 5. They were led by two seniors, Brad Martin and Vinnie Padula, who both shot 37's at the West Nine.

The team traveled to Hyatt Hills in Clark on May 6 to face a strong Johnson Regional team. The team came away with a close 168-172 win. Low score was turned in by senior Vinnie Padula. Coach Kavka was able to bring four extra players and they all turned in good scores.

Next up was Division Four Woodbridge and the Tigers won again. This time due to a threat of lightning in the area, the match was only five holes. The team was disappointed with only playing five holes, but safety always comes first.

On Monday, May 12 the team competed in the South Central Jersey Group II Tournament at Centerton. Results will appear next week. The team also has matches every day from May 13-16.

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## Obituaries

### Andrea Barletta, 63

Andrea Barletta of Toms River died on Sunday, May 4 at home, surrounded by her loving family, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in East Orange, Andrea was a longtime resident of South Plainfield before moving to Ocean County. She was an office manager for the family business for many years and a parishioner of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. Andrea was a master gardener and enjoyed decorating, crafts, and most of all, spending time with her twelve grandchildren.

Andrea is survived by her loving husband, Michael A. Barletta of Toms River; three sons, Alex Barletta and wife Susan of South Plainfield, Michael Barletta and wife Patrice of Readington and Thomas Barletta and wife Karen of Bridgewater; a daughter, Susan Boekholt and husband James of Brick; a sister, Olivia Johnson of Toms River and twelve grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at O'Brien Funeral Home in Brick.

### Eleanor (Olsen) Doherty, 77

Eleanor (Olsen) Doherty died on Wednesday, May 7 in The Genesis Eldercare Network at The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Doherty resided in South Plainfield and North Plainfield for most of her life.

A devoted and highly active member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in South Plainfield, Eleanor was also a member of the church choir.

She was predeceased by her husband, Frank, who died in 1986 and a brother, Christian Olsen.

Surviving is a daughter, Kathleen Pellicane and husband Joseph of Middletown; two sons, Jeffrey and wife Kathy of Raritan and Richard and wife Joanna of Arizona; a sister, Gladys Monnard of Pt. Pleasant and six grandchildren, Sean and Megan Doherty, Michael and Nicole Pellicane and Tani and Kiley Doherty.

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

### Agatha "Ida" Pellegrino, 91

Agatha "Ida" Pellegrino passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, May 8 at her home.

Born in the Bronx, Ida was a resident of South Plainfield for most of her life.

She enjoyed cooking and having friends and family visit with her at the Jersey Shore.

She was predeceased by her husband, James, who passed away in 2000; a brother, Vincent Benicassa and three sisters, Lee Guarnieri, Christina Mazza and Mary DeCarlo.

She is survived by a loving sister, Antoinette Nappe of South Plainfield; several nieces, nephews and friends; and her special caregiver and angel, Puhti.

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

### Kevin Lawlor, 49

Kevin Lawlor died on Sunday, May 11 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Plainfield, Kevin was raised in South Plainfield and lived in the Pompono Beach and Wellington area of Florida for 30 years before moving back to South Plainfield three years ago.

A devoted family man, Kevin was an avid car and motorcycle enthusiast. He owned a car and motorcycle customizing business.

He was predeceased by his wife, Jaime, who died in 2004 and by his parents, Cecil and Mary Lawlor.

Surviving is his daughter, Amanda Lawlor of Cortland, N.Y.; two sisters, Elizabeth Mudrick and husband Glenn of South Plainfield and Gail Bottone of Florida and a brother, Ernie Temple and wife Georgia of South Plainfield.

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

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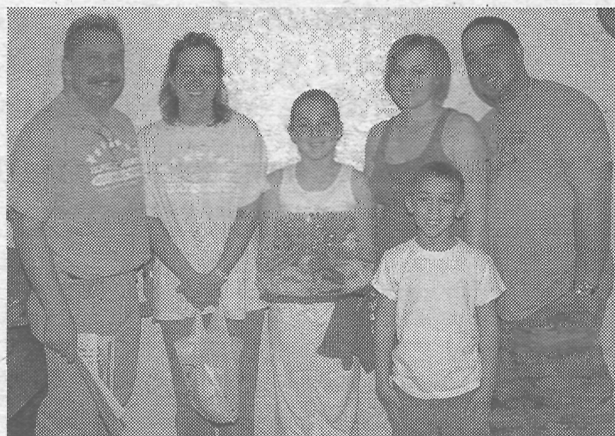
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2007-08

## JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist Kayla Rivera pictured with parents Angelo and Margaret and brother Jacob.

## 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.

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# Graf Gets Job She Sought

(Continued from page 1)

\$100,000 through the Community Development Block Grant to purchase the Queen City Bank Building on the corner of South Plainfield Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard. The building was used as the senior center and is now used by Emergency Management. She was also the first woman appointed to the Recreation Committee.

After one term on the council, Graf chose not to seek re-election. "I retired after one term because I did not enjoy the politics," said Graf. "I'm a public servant, not a politician—there is a big difference. Public service is being assigned responsibility and doing that job. Politics is playing games—it's a sport."

"I didn't want to play political games, I wanted to do my job. I wasn't going to be told how to vote, so when I was asked to run for re-election I said 'no.' That's who I am," Graf said.

Graf had worked for the Park Travel Agency in South Plainfield for 25 years.

In 1998 she opened her own travel agency, Dreamweavers Travel. In October 2002 she became Senior Citizen Program Coordinator, replacing retiring Sue Mischka.

Graf broadened the scope of the senior program from recreation to outreach. "It was under the Recreation Department within a year. I created a brand new department, The Office of Aging, which addressed all the needs of seniors—not just recreation. We do outreach work. We help seniors with filing their property tax, energy assistance forms and other papers. We work with adult protective services in New Brunswick and social services with nursing homes. When someone leaves a nursing home, we follow-up so we can start

Meals on Wheels for them," she said.

Two assistants help Graf at the Senior Center; Sandy Connelly with transportation and Linda Fiore with Meals on Wheels. Graf is grateful for the many volunteers who help at the center.

While recuperating from a kidney transplant she wrote a resource directory for seniors. "We published 100 copies with grant money," Graf said.

Graf finds ways to provide for the needs of the seniors through grants. Two buses for transporting seniors by bus drivers Angelo Paradiso and Michael Kurilew were purchased with grant money. She is presently in negotiations for a new bus that has two wheelchair options since more seniors are using wheelchairs.

Grant money was used to make the kitchen into a full commercial kitchen. She arrives early most mornings boiling eggs to make egg salad sandwiches for the lunch program she started to provide both an opportunity for a nutritious meal and social interaction at the center. Another grant brought in six computers to the Senior Center.



Nearly 75 Girl Scouts of all ages from throughout the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's 25-community jurisdiction kicked off Girl Scout Week by attending an open house on March 10. The open house took girls back in time, with an old-time popcorn maker, 1950s display and portrayal of Girl Scout founder Juliette Low all taking place. Participants all came away with GSWRC's 50th Anniversary patch and worked towards the Discover and Connect rockers that accompany it.

## Council Paves Way for Trucks on Boulevard

(continued from page 1)

banned from the road. He said the safety of the children walking to Roosevelt School should be the number one reason to keep trucks off the boulevard.

Lt. Murtagh disputed some of Pen-tonko's facts. He also read a memo which he has submitted to Chief John Ferraro listing improvements that needed to be completed on Hamilton Boulevard to make it safe. He added that he had already met with Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron to dis-

cussed his suggestions.

Council President Rob Bengivenga agreed that some of the items Murtagh suggested would have to be implemented before trucks are allowed back on Hamilton Boulevard. He did not elaborate on which items, how long the improvements would take or what the cost to the Borough would be.

One resident after another got up and gave their opinion on where the trucks should travel. Those living on New Market said "not here" and those

on Hamilton said "not here." All agreed that the answer was to find a route that would take trucks off the residential roads, such as Helen Street or Hollywood Avenue. The meeting lasted more than four hours.

An ad hoc committee was formed earlier this year and has been studying possible truck routes. Joann Graf, who chaired the committee, resigned at the last meeting. She recommended that former Mayor Mike English replace her and told the committee she had already walked several routes with him and showed him maps of the area. However, at Monday's council meeting, the resolution to appoint English was tabled at the suggestion of Councilman Tim McConville. He wanted to see if there were other applicants. That vote was 4-2 along party lines.

The final vote for the ordinances will take place at the next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. Next week's Observer will have more detailed information on both New Market Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard as well as the improvements submitted by Lt. Murtagh.

### WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

#### FROM A BUSY

#### BUSY MOM *jd*

The Middle School seventh grade picnic is Thursday, June 5; rain date Friday, June 6 at the community pool. The eighth grade dance is Friday, June 20 at the high school. The chorus and orchestra concerts are on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at the Middle School. The eighth grade Washington, D.C. trip is Tuesday, May 27 through Thursday, May 29. Family Math Night took place on Tuesday, May 6 in the library which involved advisors/teachers, parents and students that make learning algebra fun with puzzles, shapes, games and prizes.

The PTO Yankee Candle fundraiser donated \$981 towards this year's eighth grade trip. A music program fundraiser was held at the Somerset Patriots game on May 11 with 575 tickets sold. The chorus sang "God Bless America," the band played "The Star Spangled Banner" and SPJBC player Bobby Eggert threw out the first pitch.

Eighth grader Kenny Criley was selected as a winner in the Law Day Creative Expression Contest with his essay "Why is the Rule of Law Essential in Sustaining a Free Society?"

Franklin School fourth grade orientation at Grant School takes place on Tuesday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trista Moretti playground dedication is Thursday, May 22 at 10 a.m. and Fun and Fitness Day is Thursday, May 29.

Kennedy School Kindergarten Get Acquainted Program will be on Tuesday, May 20 and Tuesday, May 27; a puppet show on Wednesday, May 21; and on Thursday, May 29 is the third grade Highland Woods trip.

Riley School Carnival Day is Tuesday, May 20; kindergarten orientation is Wednesday, May 28 from 9-11 a.m. and 12-2 p.m.

Roosevelt School Spring Concert is Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.; Family Math night is also Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the library; kindergarten through second grade fun day Thursday, May 22; kindergarten picnic Wednesday, May 28 and Field Day is Thursday, May 29.

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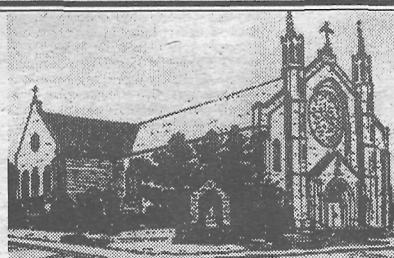
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South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor



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Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.  
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.  
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.  
Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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# South Plainfield High School Honor Roll

## Third Quarter

### Grade 9

Adam J. Buck, Agupunam I. Ufodu, Alyssa L. Aiello, Amanda D. Calvi, Amanda N. Pileggi, Andrea Sierra, Angela M. DeSantis, Angelina M. Tamburri, Anthony M. Pisano, Astrid J. Mendoza, Bacilio Alvarado, Brandon K. Downes, Brian D. Tjong, Brigitte M. Kelly, Carly H. Ashnault, Celene Torres, Chante N. Martin, Charles J. Huber, Chelsey M. Colucci, Christopher F. Hebreo, Christopher O. Anyamene, Cindy (Veronica) V. Ruiz, Connor R. Gillis, Constance Caldrony, Daniel F. Sticco, Daniel J. Hansen, Daniel J. McNeil, Daniel J. Reno, Danielle M. Schaaf, Danny S. Valladares, Daria W. Approvato, Deanna S. Dean, Denzel J. Mensah, Devina K. Budhan, Edward P. Sullivan, Ellen P. Zinsky, Eric Niemeyer, Erin E. O'Connor, G. Bjorn F. Delacruz, Gabrielle M. Guancione, Glenn F. Edridge, Griffin A. Lynch and Heather L. Calderone.

Hieu Q. La, Iris N. Ivaniuc, Isaac Espinal, Jaclyn M. Handwerger, Jake A. Salerno, Jamie L. McLean, Jayme A. Bishop, Jeffrey G. Bodyl, Jeffrey R. Gillen, Jennifer I. Saravia, Jesse M. Allen, Jessica Frank, Jillian N. Cortese, Joana E. Sa, Joelle D. Butrico, Joseph K. Ifrach, Julie Tran, Justin P. Lesky, Kaitlyn M. Graziano, Karly M. Sanko, Katelyn J. Scarinci, Katherine M. Stilo, Kayla C. Cotone, Keely A. Joaquim, Kelly R. Pauls, Kenneth J. Calderoni, Kerry L. Yorkanis, Kiara A. Orellana, Kishan S. Patel, Kristina G. Jewkes, Kyle M. Pompilio, Lauren A. Conrad, Lauren E. Annetta, Lauren K. Keane, Lauren M. Nichuck, Lewis R. Quevedo, Lisa Alfano and Lucas P. Goitiana.

Mahima P. Patel, Marina T. Lam, Matthew I. Sward, Matthew R. Little, Megan Whitney, Megan J. Kaczka, Michael Dispenziere, Michael A. Parello, Michael J. Simone, Michael M. Krusinowski, Michele A. Schuetz, Michelle Nguyen, Michelle A. Miller, Michelle R. Hernandez, Nicholas J. Savoca, Nicholas J. Tuyp, Katherine M. Stilo, Kayla C. Cotone, Keely A. Joaquim,

Kelly R. Pauls, Kenneth J. Calderoni, Kerry L. Yorkanis, Kiara A. Orellana, Kishan S. Patel, Kristina G. Jewkes, Kyle M. Pompilio, Lauren A. Conrad, Lauren E. Annetta, Lauren K. Keane, Lauren M. Nichuck, Lewis R. Quevedo, Lisa Alfano, Lucas P. Goitiana, Mahima P. Patel, Marina T. Lam, Matthew I. Sward, Matthew R. Little, Megan Whitney, Megan J. Kaczka, Michael Dispenziere, Michael A. Parello, Michael J. Simone, Michael M. Krusinowski, Michele A. Schuetz, Michelle Nguyen, Michelle A. Miller, Michelle R. Hernandez, Nicholas J. Savoca, Nicholas J. Tuyp, Nicholas L. Koszko, Nicholas M. Ross, Nicole D. Firmin and Nicole M. Disch.

Olivia J. Butler, Patricia M. Robles, Rachel M. Alexa, Raja H. Patel, Raveena Maniapien, Rebecca A. Smith, Richard J. Rotella, Riley J. Hubner, Ruchi D. Patel, Ruchi N. Patel, Ryan C. Abarabar, Ryan J. Billich, Ryan J. Hutchison, Samantha Haughton, Samantha D. Hoang, Samantha J. Pukash, Samuel E. Alvarado, Sarah A. McCarthy, Sarah E. Hageman, Sarah M. Roibal, Shana A. Tom, Sharif S. Ross, Shruti S. Patel, Sten Sutt, Stephanie K. Christian, Tara L. O'Day, Tatiana A. Guzman, Taylor N. Jarema, Thalia I. Lopez, Thi Quan H. Pham, Thu A. Tran, Toni J. Teller, Tori L. Huber, Troy A. McNair, Vanessa Granados, Vasant T. Persaud, Vincent Phan, William C. Hartmann, William C. Mott, William F. Whitefleet, Yadybel J. Ayala, Zakia Ahmed, Zalak R. Pathak.

### Grade 10

Alana M. Franco, Aleksandra W. Blazejowicz, Alexander J. Horn, Alexandra M. Skula, Alexandria Santos, Alyssa Cirilli, Alyssa M. Scrudato, Amanda J. Plum, Amanda K. Freitas, Amanda M. Cerini, Amber M. Miller, Amber M. Rogers, Andrew Muhlgeier, Andrew J. Ritchie, Andrew T. Nguyen, Angela M. Ang, Ashley Aya, Ashley Nguyen, Ashley K. Pierce, Bianca DiDolce, Brian M. Palma, Brian T. Babinetz, Brittany L. Pasquarella, Brittany M. Alvarado, Bryant Villamarin, Candice N. Grevious, Christie L. Capparelli, Cesar L. Luque, Cassie A. Nau, Christopher A.

Marrone, Christopher J. Oprysk, Christopher R. Gualano, Conner J. Keane, Courtney E. Wedderburn and Courtney M. Schaefer.

Daniel Smith, Danielle Campanella, David J. Stogoski, Dharam G. Soni, Dylan J. Papa, Elizabeth A. Balon, Elizabeth M. Fasullo, Emily R. Piekarski, Eric M. Hernandez, Felicia A. Mulhearn, Francisco M. Dias, Frank DeBiase, Freddy Almanzar, Frederick E. Reichert, Gareth W. Teece, Gregory M. Herbst, Heba S. Younes, Hena M. Yagnik, Jacqueline A. Conte-Ainsworth, Jacquelyn A. Mascolo, Jaimie Handwerger, James E. Gorman, James T. Seyffart, Jenae A. Keith, Jenna M. Alexander, Jenna M. Heckel, Jeremy C. Brown, Jessica A. Napolitano, Jhemarr J. Anderson, Jimmy R. Bijlani, John S. Duran, Jonathan G. Sukenik, Joseph Gonzalez, Joseph A. Vedutis, Juliana M. Agrillo, Julie A. Stilo, Justin DeOliveira and Justin Sealy.

Kairav M. Parikh, Kaitlin A. Muglia, Kaitlyn Zielinski, Karthik R. Marpadga, Katelyn J. Rems, Katelynn M. Morgan, Katherine A. Douglas, Kayla X. Prins, Kellen E. Naranjo, Kevin A. Lopez, Kevin D. Coffey, Kishan G. Patel, Kristie Crilley, Kyle J. Junge, Kyle P. Hughes, Laurie R. Ascencio, Leiloni N. Chepulis, Logan R. Green, Luisa Cepeda and Lynn K. Do.

Maher A. Khan, Manraj Singh, Marilyn J. Cruz, Mark A. Benak, Mathew T. Santos, Matthew Brazza, Matthew M. Schaefer, Megan A. Cerini, Meghan E. Makowski, Michael Sullivan, Michael F. Jefferys, Michelle E. Gustafson, Monica A. Toca, Morgan T. Bethea, Natalie Colucci, Natalie C. Rittinger, Nicholas A. Montuori, Nicole A. Slatky, Nicole L. Herrador, Nicole S. McDonough, Paige L. Herriott, Parin C. Mody, Ray A. Coletta, Raza B. Shafqat, Ricardo J. Robles, Richard A. Szeliga, Robert M. Pasternak, Ryan Harrington, Ryan J. Sacco, Sheena B. Higgins, Shyam D. Amin, Stephanie Nieves, Stephen Coppi, Stephen J. Balzer, Steven Acosta, Steven P. Grzenia, Syryen G. Toro, Teresa A. Gustafson, Thang (Anthony) Q. Nguyen, Thomas J. Zazzara, Tyler Driscoll, Tyler P. Whalen, Zachary T. Bishara.



Audrey Penn talks about her books to elementary school students.

## The Writing Penn Visits Kennedy and Franklin

By Jane Dornick

Children's book author Audrey Penn brought her highly acclaimed lecture series, "The Writing Penn," to Franklin and Kennedy Elementary Schools students recently. She talked about how and why each of her 10 books came to be written, the research behind them and how they can create imaginative stories of their own.

Penn started her career as a ballerina dancing with the National Ballet, New York City Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet and the Danny Diamond Dance Theatre. In 1980 she fell ill with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and was unable to continue dancing. Through her experience in children's theatre and dance and her enjoyment of children's literature, Penn turned to writing children's book as a creative outlet. She has been visiting schools in the Washington, D.C. area since 1982 and her lecture series became

a national education series in 1989. In addition to her work in public and private schools, Penn is a participating author and lecturer at the Kennedy Center's Very Special Arts Festival, and the Reading is Fundamental program, as well as their spin-off reading and writing programs. In 2002 she won the Helen Keating Ott Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Literature. Her book, "The Kissing Hand," was a New York Times number one best seller.

Kennedy School Library Media Specialist Amy Carlos incorporated Penn's visit with her Enthusiastic Readers for 2008 program. All of the lucky students had the opportunity to have lunch with the author during her all-day visit at the school.

The author's presentation was sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission, Kennedy School PTO and Franklin School PTO.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1817

Ord. 1817 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #1748, THEREBY AMENDING THE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON HAMILTON BOULEVARD WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 16, 2008 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

ORDINANCE No. 1817

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1748, THEREBY AMENDING THE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON HAMILTON BOULEVARD WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2006, the Borough of South Plainfield adopted Ordinance No. 1748, which established a weight restriction of four (4) tons gross weight vehicles on Hamilton Boulevard, between St. Nicholas Avenue to Spicer Avenue within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, as Hamilton Boulevard is a County road, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.2, Ordinance No. 1748, was reviewed and consented to by the County of Middlesex by way of Resolution No. 06-1616; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 1749 was approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation ("NJDOT"), however, no truck route was established and approved by the NJDOT pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:67-16.1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the weight restriction, signage was placed throughout the Borough setting forth a truck route for vehicles exceeding the weight limits of the Ordinance, to proceed throughout the Borough; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Ordinance and the establishment of the weight restrictions, there has been an increase in traffic issues and concerns along said route; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield now finds it to be in the best interest of the Borough to amend Ordinance No. 1748, along with eliminating the corresponding truck route throughout the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Ordinance No. 1748 is hereby amended by amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1748 as follows:  
  
Trucks over four (4) tons gross vehicle weight are hereby excluded from the following described roadways, except for the pick-up and delivery of material on said roadways:

Name of Street	Location
Hamilton Boulevard	Belmont Avenue to Spicer Avenue

2. The truck route established by the placement of signage throughout the Borough as a result of the

weight restrictions set forth in Ordinance No. 1748, herein repealed, is hereby eliminated.

3. Any and all signs, posts, bolts, or other materials erected or posted in connection with the establishment of the weight restrictions pursuant to Ordinance No. 1748, except as herein amended, or the corresponding truck route, shall be removed upon the effective date of this Ordinance.

4. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

5. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, publication according to law and upon approval of the same by the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New Jersey, as appropriate.

7. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to submit a certified copy of the within Ordinance to the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New Jersey immediately upon passage.

8. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of the within Ordinance to the County of Middlesex.

ATTEST:  
Joann Graf, Municipal Clerk

\$125.40	May 16, 2008
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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1818

Ord. 1818 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1749, THEREBY

REPEALING AND ELIMINATING THE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON BELMONT AVENUE WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 16, 2008 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

ORDINANCE No. 1818

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1749, THEREBY REPEALING AND ELIMINATING THE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON BELMONT AVENUE WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2006, the Borough of South Plainfield adopted Ordinance No. 1749, which established a weight restriction of four (4) tons gross weight vehicles on Belmont Avenue, between Hamilton Boulevard and Spicer Avenue within the Borough; and

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1819

Ord. 1819 entitled: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS PROHIBITING "ENGINE-BRAKING" THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Chapter 187 entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" is hereby amended to include provisions prohibiting "engine-braking" as follows:  
  
PROHIBITION OF "ENGINE-BRAKING"

Definitions.

a. "Engine-braking" shall mean the use or operation of any mechanical exhaust device designed to aid in the braking, decompression, or deceleration of any motor vehicle which results in the excessive, loud, unusual or explosive noise from such vehicle.

Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for the driver of any motor vehicle to use or operate or cause to be used or operated, at any time and on any road within the Borough of South Plainfield, any mechanical exhaust or decompression device which results in the practice known as "engine-braking."

Exceptions. The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to "engine-braking" where necessary for the protection of persons and/or property, which cannot be avoided by application of an alternative braking system. Noise caused by the application of "engine-braking," which is effectively muffled or if the application is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the community is exempt from the provision of this Ordinance.

Posting of Signs. The Borough shall post signs indicating the prohibition of "engine-braking" at reasonable locations within the Borough.

Violations and Penalties. Unless otherwise provided by New Jersey Statute, any person convicted of a violation of this Ordinance shall be punished for a first conviction thereof by a fine of not more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed ten (10) days, or both; for a second conviction by a fine of not more than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed twenty (20) days, or both; and upon a third or any subsequent conviction by a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both.

2. Any and all signs, posts, bolts, or other materials

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 1749 was approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation ("NJDOT"), however, no truck route was established and approved by the NJDOT pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:67-16.1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the weight restriction, signage was placed throughout the Borough setting forth a truck route for vehicles exceeding the weight limits of the Ordinance, to proceed throughout the Borough; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Ordinance and the establishment of the weight restrictions, there has been an increase in traffic issues and concerns along said route; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield now finds it to be in the best interest of the Borough to repeal Ordinance No. 1749, along with eliminating the corresponding truck route throughout the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Ordinance No. 1749 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

2. The truck route established by the placement of signage throughout the Borough as a result of the weight restrictions set forth in Ordinance No. 1749, herein repealed, is hereby eliminated.

3. Any and all signs, posts, bolts, or other materials erected or posted in connection with the establishment of the weight restrictions pursuant to Ordinance No. 1749, herein repealed, or the corresponding truck route, shall be removed upon the effective date of this Ordinance.

4. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

5. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, publication according to law and upon approval of the same by the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New Jersey, as appropriate.

7. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to submit a certified copy of the within Ordinance to the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New Jersey immediately upon passage.

8. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of the within Ordinance to the County of Middlesex.

ATTEST:  
Joann Graf, Municipal Clerk

\$112.10	May 16, 2008
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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1819

Ord. 1819 entitled: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS PROHIBITING "ENGINE-BRAKING" THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Chapter 187 entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" is hereby amended to include provisions prohibiting "engine-braking" as follows:  
  
PROHIBITION OF "ENGINE-BRAKING"

Definitions.

a. "Engine-braking" shall mean the use or operation of any mechanical exhaust device designed to aid in the braking, decompression, or deceleration of any motor vehicle which results in the excessive, loud, unusual or explosive noise from such vehicle.

Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for the driver of any motor vehicle to use or operate or cause to be used or operated, at any time and on any road within the Borough of South Plainfield, any mechanical exhaust or decompression device which results in the practice known as "engine-braking."

Exceptions. The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to "engine-braking" where necessary for the protection of persons and/or property, which cannot be avoided by application of an alternative braking system. Noise caused by the application of "engine-braking," which is effectively muffled or if the application is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the community is exempt from the provision of this Ordinance.

Posting of Signs. The Borough shall post signs indicating the prohibition of "engine-braking" at reasonable locations within the Borough.

Violations and Penalties. Unless otherwise provided by New Jersey Statute, any person convicted of a violation of this Ordinance shall be punished for a first conviction thereof by a fine of not more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed ten (10) days, or both; for a second conviction by a fine of not more than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed twenty (20) days, or both; and upon a third or any subsequent conviction by a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both.

2. Any and all signs, posts, bolts, or other materials

erected or posted in connection with this Ordinance shall be installed to meet state and federal specifications, and all signing shall conform to the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-198 and N.J.S.A. 39:4-183.27.

3. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

4. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, publication according to law and upon approval of the same by the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New Jersey.

6. The Acting Borough Clerk is hereby directed to submit a certified copy of the within Ordinance to the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New Jersey immediately upon passage.

ATTEST:Joann Graf, Municipal Clerk

\$116.85	May 16, 2008
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BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1794A

Ord. 1794A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1794 ESTABLISHING THE REGULATIONS OF THE OPERATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS REVISED JANUARY 16, 2008

was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 16, 2008 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

ORDINANCE No. 1794A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1794 ESTABLISHING THE REGULATIONS OF THE OPERATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS REVISED JANUARY 16, 2008

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY as follows:

Section 1. That the intersection of Ryan Street/St. Nicholas Avenue with Hamilton Boulevard shall be controlled by a Traffic Control Signal in accordance with the plan bearing the date of March 2007, and revised January 16, 2008.

ATTEST:  
Joann Graf, Municipal Clerk

\$42.75	May 16, 2008
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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CABLE SHOWS**—Producers of the South Plainfield Borough Council and BOE meetings currently broadcast on Comcast Cable Channel 74 are looking to expand their programming. Volunteers are needed to film school, sporting or other newsworthy events in the borough. High school students are needed to conduct interviews in front of the camera with the mayor and school superintendent, as well as film Council and BOE meetings. Contact Jane at (908) 668-1258 or students can speak with Rich D'Urso in SPSHS Graphic Arts Department. Owning a camera is not required.

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## Muhlenberg

(Continued from page 1)  
 depended upon Muhlenberg since before our Borough incorporated in 1926.

"The economic impact of closing this facility will be staggering. Scores of South Plainfield residents work here and will lose their livelihood during what can best be described as trying economic times.

"Moreover, with the hospital's campus a stone's throw from its border, my town has seen a thriving medical corridor develop along Park Avenue, one of South Plainfield's main thoroughfares. Without Muhlenberg, this corridor will likely wither away—taking with it not only more jobs, but much-needed tax ratables.

"More important than the economic impact, though, is the risk the hospital's closing poses to the health and safety of South Plainfield families. While I understand that a small satellite emergency room will remain, what about the more serious injuries that require in-patient care after emergency treatment?

"Where will residents go after suffering a heart attack at home on Maple Avenue or after being in a three-car collision on Plainfield Avenue or Oak Tree Road or Front Street?

"When life and death are separated by the second and minute hands on a clock, what will a fifteen-minute or half-hour diversion mean?

"South Plainfield has a high school, a middle school, and four elementary schools within two minutes of Muhlenberg. In an emergency, where will an ambulance rush these children?

"And even when a longer journey won't have dire consequences, how far away from their families will these children have to go for healing?

"When the department reviews the certificate of need for closure, I ask that it consider these hard questions.

"If I can leave you with one thought this evening it's this: The communities in this area, South Plainfield chief among them, need this hospital.

Thank you."

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OBSERVER PHOTOS TAKEN BY Patricia Abbott from 2007 graduations, plays, concerts and other events are available for purchase. All photos are in color. 2007 photos will be deleted as of the end of June. Call (908) 346 2290 or E-mail angelonly@aol.com.

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Seventh and eighth grade members of the Sacred Heart School Handbell Choir were recognized recently by Music Director Daniel Mahoney. Eighth graders pictured are Anthony Aguilar, Ivan Altamirano, Antonio Cardoso and Rhel Lapitan. Seventh graders pictured are Taylor Aljian, Jordana Approvato, Jenna Bengivenga, Erick Colonnello, Miles Dick, Janee Edwards, Stephanie Kearney, Nicholas Muglia, Devynn Nolan and Jacqueline Stenersen.

## Elks Family Carnival to Benefit Homeless Veterans

Over the years, the men and women who have served in our nation's armed services have answered the call to duty without hesitation, over and over again. Thousands of these brave veterans now find themselves homeless, and the New Jersey State Elks Association is putting out a call to give back to those who have given so much.

The Elks Family Carnival will be held from Wednesday, May 21 through Sunday, May 25 at Veteran's Park, located behind the Senior Center on Church Street. It will feature food, rides, games, 50/50's and a fireworks display on Saturday night. All proceeds from the car-

nival will benefit homeless veterans in New Jersey.

The hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 6-10 p.m., Friday 6-11 p.m., Saturday 1-11 p.m. and Sunday 1-10 p.m. Wednesday night is bracelet night; bracelets that are sold for \$25 will only cost \$20 with a coupon available at the ticket booths.

Tax deductible donations are being accepted. The New Jersey State Elks Charities is a 501-3c organization. Checks should be made payable to New Jersey State Elks Charities and mailed to South Plainfield

Elks #2298, Attn: Peter D. Smith VP, 1254 New Market Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Please mark in the check memo "National Veterans Service Committee."

This is the first of what the Elks hope will be an annual event. The Elks have made veterans causes one of their major concerns throughout the over 130 years of their existence and will continue to focus on our homeless veterans. Our veterans willingly left their home and hearth when called upon to do so. After their sacrifice for our country, they should not find themselves unwillingly without a home.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

Memorial Day, set by Congress as the last Monday in May, is coming up on Monday, May 26. It was originally called Decoration Day, a time to remember the members of the military who died defending our freedoms. Often people visit cemeteries to place remembrances on the graves and at 3 p.m. there will be a national moment of remembrance. Memorial Day also is the traditional start of the summer season (even though the actual date for the Summer Solstice is June 21). Therefore, the library has a lot of items to help you enjoy summer. We have cookbooks to help with barbecuing and grilling (641.5784). There are many books on gardening (635.9) and landscaping (712.6). If you are so inclined we have books on bird watching (598.07) including two CDs of bird sounds (489 and 491). If you are ambitious we have books on building decks (690.89) and other outside structures (690.184). However, if

summer conjures up pictures of relaxing under a shady tree and reading a good novel we have plenty of those. And we have a large selection of summer music from the Beach Boys to "Music For a Summer Evening" (CD 1385). If you have any questions please stop by the Reference Desk and we will do our best to help you.

An important note: the week of May 19-23, there will be no children's programs. Miss Linda and Miss Mija will be off on other projects. But the Children's Room will still be open for you to check out materials and for you to read to your children.

Finally, this Sunday, May 18, there will be a young adult program at the library by young adult mystery author Marco Conelli. Titled "Matthew Livingston and the Prison of Souls," there will be a reading, book discussion and signing by the author. Books will be available for purchase.

We hope to see you in the library. If you have any questions, feel free to call our friendly staff at (908) 754-7885.

## OLC's Feast of Saint Anthony is Coming!

The Feast of Saint Anthony will take place June 3-7 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. There will be plenty of homemade Italian and Polish food as well as games, rides etc.

Hours for the feast are 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on June 3, 4, 5 and 6. On Saturday, June 7, hours are until 11:30 p.m. The feast is best known for its great food (homemade pierogies, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa

sandwiches, sausage and pepper and meatball sandwiches, zeppolis, shish kabobs, etc.).

In addition, there will be more than 14 games and wheels to play, great beverages to drink, 50-50s, a super 50-50 and many more fun activities.

Contact the chairperson, Al Musmanno, at (908) 753-5970 if you need anymore information.

## The Observer & Hometown Heros salutes the 2007-2008 Junior Journalist winners!

2007-08

### JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Thanks to....

All the students who submitted entries;  
the teachers and parents who support the program;

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of

Hometown Heros, who believe so much in  
the value of reading and writing and prove  
it week after week!

